

THE SCHOOL

ON THE HILL



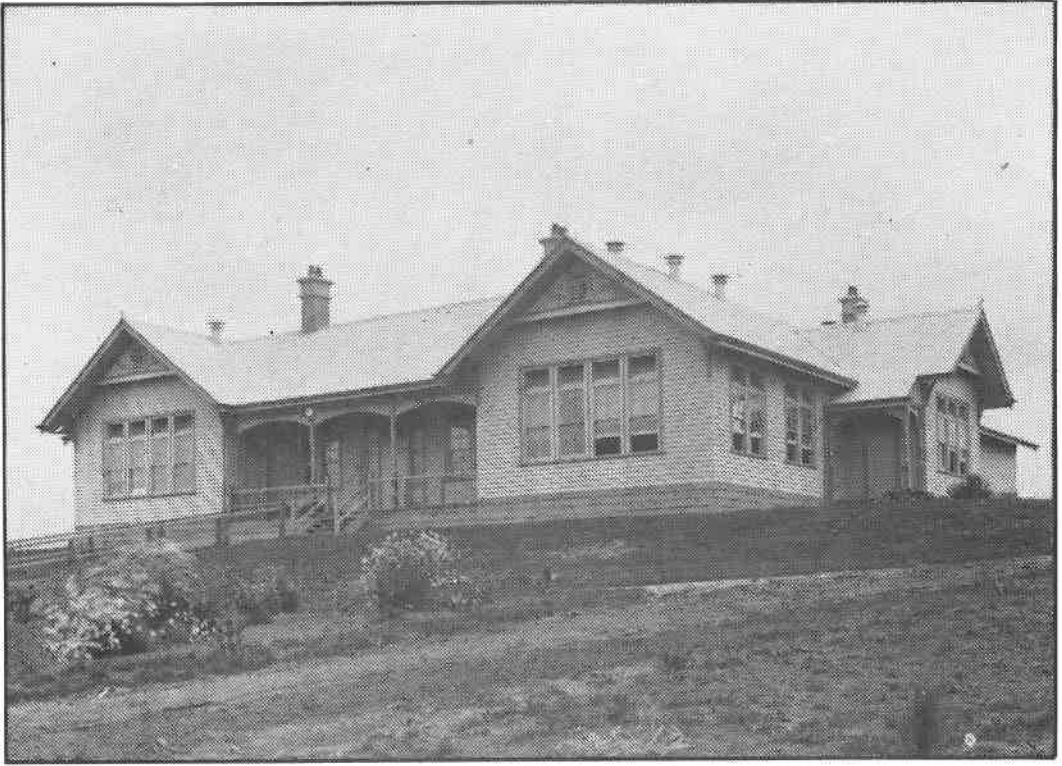
**A REVIEW OF THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS**

**WARRAGUL  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**

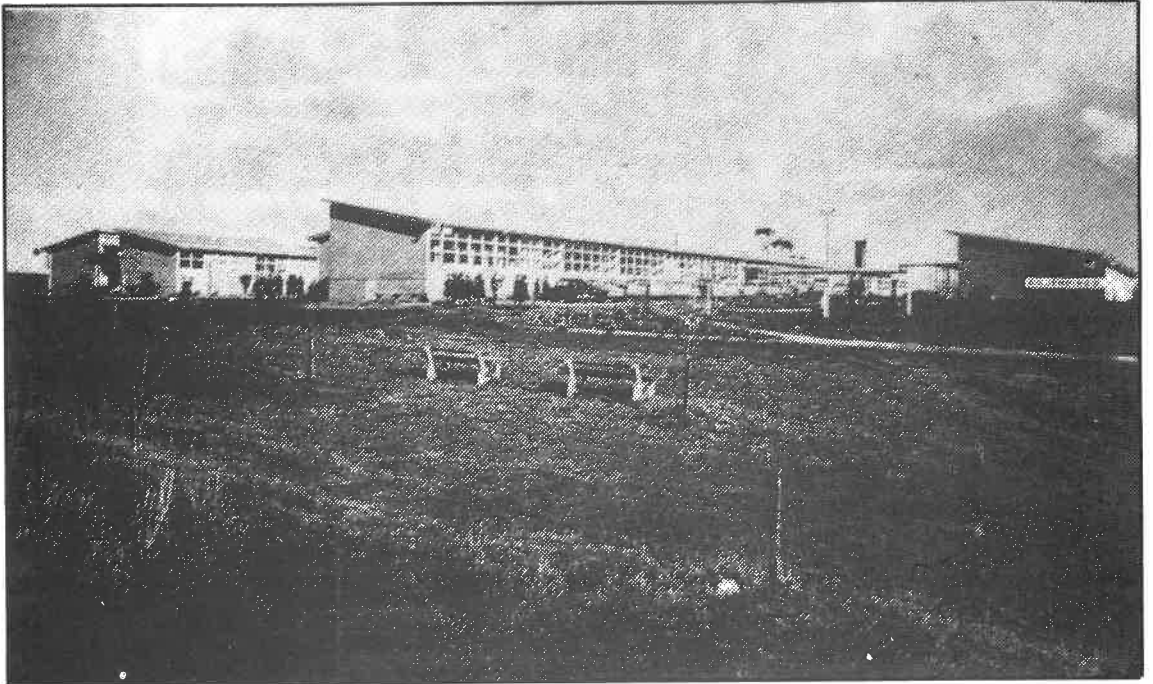


**JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

**AUGUST 10th — 13th, 1961**



THE OLD SCHOOL



THE NEW SCHOOL

# The School on the Hill

1. To Warragul High School, the pride of West Gippsland,  
The centre of learning, the School on the Hill,  
Ringed in by the mountains, Strezleckis and Baw-Baws,  
We come from the farmland, the township, the mill.
2. From Darnum, Tetoora and Nilma and Buln Buln,  
From Yarragon, Piedmont, Sea-view and Nayook,  
From Ellinbank, Neerim, and Lardner and Noojee,  
From Rokeby, Bona Vista, and far Shady Creek.
3. So here's to the school of our youth and our dreaming,  
Through life's changing fortunes, we'll honour her still,  
In lessons, in study, in sport, and in leisure,  
We pledge our life's best to the School on the Hill.

Words by M. Styles.

Music by G. Baker.

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## Acknowledgements

I undertook the writing of this history with some trepidation, not only because it was many a year since I had written at length on any subject, and I felt rather inadequate for the task, but also because there were long periods of the school's history of which I knew nothing at first hand. For these years I have been dependent on the rather dry bones of minutes of School Council meetings, inspector's reports, etc., and I know that much of interest to pupils attending at those times will unfortunately be missing from this account.

The efforts to secure the School and the first few years of its existence were quite well documented, and I must thank Miss I. Dunn for providing me with letters and copies of local newspapers dealing with that period found among her father's papers. Mr T. F. Scott also began a scrap book of newspaper cuttings referring to the school, and kept a record of pupils' names which was continued until 1925, when the task probably proved too big to handle. These records proved very useful indeed. Another stroke of good fortune was that Mr. A. P. Freckleton, an original student, and now a member of the High School staff, was able to give me his own recollections of the opening of the school, and of the original students.

An appeal to ex-students and ex-teachers brought in some interesting information, particularly from Mr T. F. Scott, Mr P. J. Wolfe, Mrs F. Thomas (Miss I. M. Steele), Miss M. Styles and Tom Colquhoun. I have used their letters freely and must thank all the writers most sincerely for their help.

I have also made frequent use of the magazines for the years 1945-1950, and have included a number of articles which I thought might give a lighter tone to the narrative. I have not asked permission of the authors, but I hope they will not be displeased to see their names in print once more.

I am much indebted to Mrs R. Michael who typed the manuscript for me, and to Mrs. D. Edwards who designed the most attractive cover. Thanks are also due to Mr R. Holley and Roylaine Studios, who are responsible for the photographs in the book.

I must also express my appreciation of the co-operation I have received from Mr A. Pettit, who has been keenly interested in the production of the book, and most anxious to satisfy the many demands made of him.

O. MARRABEL.

# ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL

The first move towards the establishment of the Warragul High School was taken in May, 1907, when Mr. B. J. Dunn gave notice of motion that he would move at a meeting of the local branch of the Australian Natives' Association, on May 28, "That steps should be taken by the branches of the A.N.A., in Warragul and district, to secure the establishment of an Agricultural High School in their district." This was the beginning of a 50 year period of service to the school by Mr. Dunn, and his name will appear many times in this account of the school's history.

At the meeting on May 28, Mr. Dunn spoke at length, setting forth the advantages that would be derived from such an institution, and the motion was seconded and carried. At a later meeting in July, it was decided that the branch should invite the co-operation of the various Shire councils, Agricultural Societies, Progress Associations, and other similar bodies in the district, and that a deputation should wait on the Warragul Shire Council to urge the need of an Agricultural High School and secure their assistance. Mr. Dunn was one of this deputation and the council promised to support the movement.

Progress, however, was slow; and in July, 1909, the A.N.A., was organising still another conference to take whatever steps be deemed advisable to secure the school for Warragul. It had been learnt that provision had been made in the estimates for a High School in Warragul, but it was apparently considered that a deputation to the Minister might persuade him to take action without delay. The Minister gave the deputation a favourable hearing, and in March 1910, the Warragul Shire Council promised a sum of £750 and took steps to secure a suitable site for the school farm.

Three sites were inspected by departmental officials and it was finally decided that the council should buy 23 acres from John Roberts and Mrs. McNeil. This block faced Bourke St., and had an outlet to King St. At this stage the department intended to erect the school on the corner of Victoria and Clifford Streets, the present site of the residence of the headmaster of the Warragul Primary School, and plans were prepared in April for a wooden building.

Shortly afterwards the department decided that the school should be built on the farm site, and the "Battle of the Sites" began. Today no one would question the wisdom of the decision,

but the council felt it had been deliberately misled. It issued an ultimatum that it would not transfer the land it had purchased to the department until it was decided that the school would be erected on the site originally chosen. The department then suggested that council representatives visit Sale, where the school was not built on the farm site, and Ballarat, where the opposite was the case, and see for themselves which was the better solution to the problem. The Departmental Architect and the Chief Inspector, Mr. Hamilton, reported unfavourably on the Victoria St. site, declaring it to be far too small to provide room for sports fields or for the stable which would be essential to such a school.

Although on July 23 a petition signed by more than a hundred ratepayers was presented to the council, asking it to reconsider its decision, the members remained obdurate.

They defended the stand they had taken by pointing out that at Ballarat only 15 per cent of the pupils took the agricultural course and it seemed likely that the same conditions would prevail at the Warragul school. It hardly seemed fair that the majority of pupils should be forced to go across to the farm to suit 15 per cent of their number. Moreover, under the new act it was proposed to hold night classes and a school on the farm site would be unsuitable for that purpose.

It was obvious to most people that if the stalemate was not resolved, the establishment of the school would be postponed for an indefinite period. On August 3, a public meeting was called under the auspices of the Progress Association. It was the largest public meeting ever held in Warragul up to that date. Councillor McNeil put the case for the council and Mr. Dunn was the chief spokesman for the opposing group. The speeches were numerous and frequently heated. The hour was growing late, but no final decision had been reached. Then the mercurial chairman, Mr. Cromie, exasperated by the criticism of the site on the grounds of its distance from the town, and of the swamp which had to be crossed to reach it, sprang on to the table. Gesturing dramatically at his gleaming boots, he declared that he had walked across to the site that afternoon in five minutes, in those very boots! (His detractors would have it that he failed to mention that he also wore galoshes). However, he achieved his purpose; the meeting then carried a resolution, put forward by Mr. Dunn, urging the council to reconsider its decision regarding the school site.

The council's reaction was to send three councillors "who had been most stubborn opponents of the farm site", to interview the Minister, so another public meeting was hastily called to organise a deputation from the opposing faction. The Minister made no final statement to either group.

Meanwhile a Shire election was impending and it was obvious from the election notices, in the local press, that it would be fought on the question of the school site. Fearful of losing their seats on the council, certain members, who had supported the Victoria St. site, now declared themselves ready to accept the Minister's decision, whatever it might be. Before the election took place he announced that the school would be built on the farm. The two candidates who challenged the sitting members on the site question, were defeated, but they had the satisfaction of convincing those members

of the necessity of changing their views, if they wished to be re-elected. All that remained to be done was for the council to rescind its decision, and this was done on October 14. "Now that the vexed question has been settled", comments the editor of the Guardian, "We hope that all differences will be sunk and all public bodies and individual residents will combine with the one object of making the school a big success and a credit to the town and district."

Preparations were put in hand for the transfer of the land to the Education Department and in June 1911, the tender of Mr. T. J. McCarthy, of Rosedale, was accepted for the erection of the school at a cost of £2,650. The Education Department was anxious to start classes at once, so the council offered the use of the Shire Hall. Intending pupils were advised to get in touch with Mr. J. Ross, headmaster of the primary school, who would give them a qualifying examination.



ORIGINAL STUDENTS

Back Row: O. Trumpy, E. Lyall, W. Algie, P. Freckleton W. Handley.  
Middle Row: D. Willey, H. Stevenson, E. Stevenson, U. Ley, A. Duggan.  
Front Row: M. Butler, D. Purcell, M. Brady, J. Balharrie, D. Topp.

# THE FIRST YEAR

On August 8, the first headmaster, Mr. F. C. Refshauge, reported to the department, that ten pupils were in attendance and more were expected on the following Monday.

Mr. Freckleton, one of that original group, now takes up the story.

How many of those "still on deck" will recall that memorable day, August 11. It seemed to be all so strange — the High School opened in the Shire Hall. One can well imagine the feelings of Mr. F. C. Refshauge, headmaster, when he enrolled 16 students only. His was the task of enrolling those students and then came the teaching load. No allotment of subjects was necessary — he copped the lot — Arithmetic, Algebra, English, Latin, History and Geography.

The names of those enrolled were: Gladys Brady, from Nilma; Gladys Balharrie, called "Jean" by Mr. Refshauge, to avoid confusion of the two Gladys's; Mary Butlin, Warragul (known as Polly); Daisy Willey, Moe; Daisy Topp (called Nilma to avoid confusion of two Daisys's); Dorothy Purcell, Trafalgar; Annie Duggan, Trafalgar East; Urban Ley, Warragul (known as Pooch); Os. Trumpy, Warragul (known as Boy); Howard Stevenson, Warragul; Eric Stevenson, Warragul; Walter Handley, Buln Buln; Roy Payne, Nilma (known as Tupp); Gladstone Smith; Ted Lyall, Jindivick; Perc Freckleton, Buln Buln. William Algie, Neerim South, was a late arrival. Who remembers the day Bill turned up late at school?

Sporting facilities at the Shire Hall were conspicuous by their absence. A cricket pitch of questionable surface was marked out in the Shire yard. It was a common occurrence to see a cricket ball bouncing into Queen Street. At least there was little likelihood of a car windscreen being broken. The girls had to make the best of the remaining area.

Then, in November, the day of removal to the High School took place. We at last felt that we were getting somewhere. The December vacation arrived and little did we think that on our return we would not be greeted by the man who had endeared himself to all. I refer to our headmaster, Mr. F. C. Refshauge, between ourselves known as "Ref."

1912 opening day arrived and what a change there was. We actually had a large increase in attendance and a staff, headed by Mr. J. P. McLennan. The staff consisted of Misses Secombe, Perrin and Sims and Mr. C. A. Taylor, who later became Government Analyst.

Methods of transport were many and varied. From Drouin came Bob. Walsh, with a jinker load — his sister Lily, Jim Young and Stick Kowarzik, Wallace Sunley with Annie Shillinglaw and Myra Blacker. Ruby Gaul, Ivan Brocklebank, Max Smyth, Perc Freckleton and Jim Howie arrived on a varied type of steed. I wonder if there are many who remember Jim Howie mounted on his big grey. At the luncheon period all horse owners went to the stables and attended to their animals. In spite of this slow means of transport late-comers were almost unknown.

Assemblies were generally held on Friday afternoon. The art room was large enough to hold all students. Who recalls the old song, "Bobby Bingo?" Our headmaster wielded the baton and we joined in with much gusto!

Sometimes we were fortunate enough to have one period for sport. Our inter-school matches against Sale High School were played on Saturdays. We defeated Sale at cricket twice, and they in turn, defeated us twice at football. The girls lost both hockey matches. It was something to look forward to in those days.

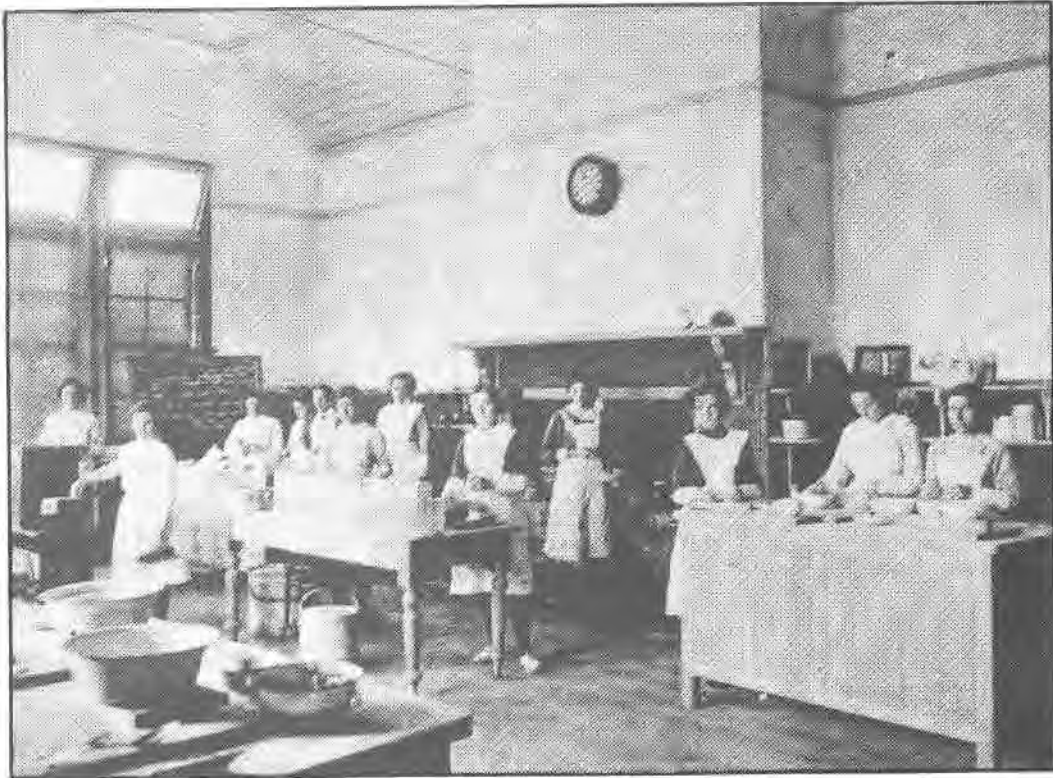
Yes, the three R's dominated school activities. Home work averaged between two and three hours per night. No excuse was accepted and it simply had to be done. Any work not completed had to be finished after school. Perhaps some will remember one errant lad calling out to his brother, "Tell Mum to put my tea in the oven." In spite of it all we enjoyed ourselves.

No early reminiscence of the early days at the school would be complete without a reference to Mr. Valpied, cleaner and caretaker, at the school. He kept the school scrupulously clean, and had that kindly approach that made him so popular with us all. We all liked "Val" as he was known to us.



MR. J. McLENNAN, HEADMASTER 1912-16





COOKERY CENTRE, 1912

After years of service at the school, he claimed to be able to identify the key of each room by touch, so familiar had they become. He lived in a small house on the site where the shelter shed stands today, and the land, which the school bought as late as 1957, was originally his.

In recognition of his vigorous and unflagging efforts for the establishment of the school, Mr. B. J. Dunn was elected president of the school council, and, during the first few months, a tremendous amount of work was done by the council and the headmaster with some assistance from the boys. An advisory committee was formed to deal with the organisation of the farm, and these men, Mr. J. Gaul, Mr. H. Gay, Mr. H. Dorrell, Mr. D. T. Jones and Count E. Killisch Von Horn, gave freely of their time and experience so that the farm should be in working order as soon as possible.

Mr. Valpied was employed to clean up the area in front of the school and removed over four hundred stumps from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres. He was kept very busy checking the growth of bracken and thistles, sowing lucerne and grasses, and planting hedges and preparing experimental plots.

At the end of the year, much to the regret of the Council who praised his work highly. Mr. Refshauge was transferred to Wangaratta and Mr. J. P. McLennan was appointed headmaster with two assistant teachers, Mr. C. A. Taylor and Miss A. P. Secomb. The school was as yet incompletely equipped, but the publicity which it had been given had paid dividends and fifty-eight pupils were enrolled.

The Council busied itself preparing plans for the farm buildings and left the lay-out of the grounds to the headmaster. During March, April and May the farm was subdivided and fenced, cleared, drained, cultivated and partly sown with crops. The grounds around and in front of the school were laid out and thirty-eight fruit trees put in. Many of the shrubs were given by local gardening enthusiasts, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Ashcroft, and Mr. Gay, while others were gifts from the Curator of the Botanical Gardens. Count Von Horn was particularly generous and presented the school with a spring-toothed harrow and a two furrow plough.

A start was made on the establishment of a school herd for the purchase of which the





Mr. F. Tate, Director of Education, opening the the School, 1912.



Department provided £60. Two cows were bought, a Jersey for £12/12/- and an Ayrshire for £11, while £50 was spent on the purchase of a horse.

The tender for the construction of the farm buildings, "stables, milking and implement sheds, feed, milk and stone rooms and a loose box", was let to Mr. McDonald of Neerim, and the arrival of the necessary equipment made possible the commencement of sloyd and cookery classes in the second half of the year.

In August, the Cookery Centre was fully equipped even to "the piece of flannel to steam potatoes (1/6)", and twenty-five representative people were invited to a meal prepared by the pupils under the supervision of Miss Pell, Departmental Supervisor of Cookery, and the new teacher of the subject, Miss Sim. The Centre had been open only for a week, but the "Gazette" reported, "the whole meal as arranged, cooked and served by the pupils was a revelation in what can be done by Australian girls under supervision." In fact, despite the distance of the school from the town, the dining room was well patronised by townspeople, and the headmaster later reported that up to thirty were served with a midday meal.

On October 25th, the official opening of the school took place, the Director of Education, Mr. Frank Tate, Mr. J. E. Mackey M.L.A., and the Chief Inspector, Mr. Hamilton, being official guests. After an inspection of the school and the experimental plots, the visitors and representatives of local bodies were entertained at a luncheon prepared by the pupils of the school, "Everything was arranged in excellent

taste, reflecting great credit on the teacher, Miss Sim, and her apt pupils," reports the "Gazette, "The cooking of all the dishes was excellent."

At three o'clock about four hundred people assembled in front of the school for the opening ceremony. The chief guests sat on the verandah, together with the members of the School Council. They looked down upon "smooth, well-kept lawns," where the visitors and pupils sat or stood. The women in huge cart wheel hats and long full skirts, the men in a variety of headgear, bowlers, strawdeckers, panamas and felt hats, worn with tailored suits. As yet there was no official uniform for students; the girls' frocks varied in colour and style but some wore straw hats with a navy band, striped with maroon and old gold.

The "Gazette" reporter, after giving a full account of the speeches which emphasised the value of an agricultural high school to a rural community, concluded with a paragraph in praise of the picturesque situation of the school and the excellent work done by Mr. McLennan, both as a landscape gardener and an agricultural expert.

The guests, the Shire Council, the High School Council and representative citizens were invited to dine with the Shire President, Councillor Copeland, at the Royal Hotel, and at the close of the meal "several good speeches made a fitting climax to the day's proceedings." As the guests had to leave on the evening train these were carried through celerity "yet in that harmonious spirit which is so essential to the complete success of such a function."

## THE SCHOOL FARM

During his visit to the School, Mr. Tate had advised the headmaster and the School Council to take every opportunity to make known to the public the agricultural experiments that were being carried out at the school farm and this advice was consistently followed. Local farmers were invited to inspect the farm every second Thursday to see for themselves what was being done. At the Agricultural Show in 1913 the High School staged a "magnificent show of root crops and cereals." Reports were published in the local papers of experiments in manuring, and a short course of instruction for farmers was offered. But the expected results did not follow. The number of boys taking the purely agricultural course was never satisfactory, and this situation was not peculiar to the Warragul High School. In fact a conference of headmasters was held during the Christmas vacation of 1913-14 to consider steps to be taken by the schools to encourage boys to take up the course. Shorter courses and night classes were suggested.

The Warragul School Council gave its opinion that a number of causes were responsible, the lack of properly co-ordinated agricultural teaching, the inability of local farmers to meet

the expenses of educating their boys, their lack of appreciation of the value of education and their desire to place their boys in what they considered to be more lucrative and less laborious professional, mercantile and clerical positions. They suggested possible methods of increasing the attendance, a residence for pupils on the farm, evening lectures at the school and at local centres by teachers on agricultural topics, and, finally, the inclusion of agricultural subjects among those counted in obtaining Junior Public, Leaving and Matriculation Certificates.

A prospectus was issued in 1914 and again in 1915 in order that the public might be made familiar with what the school had to offer. Circulars were sent to Shire Councils, branches of the A.N.A., Agricultural Societies and local newspapers requesting their co-operation in obtaining pupils for the agricultural course. These efforts were of no avail.

At the close of 1916 Mr. J. P. McLennan who had been headmaster since 1912, left Warragul to take up the position of Principal of the School of Agriculture and Horticulture at Burnley. Mr. Rowell, who had no agricultural experience, was appointed temporarily to his



HARVESTING ON THE SCHOOL FARM

position. This appointment was a recognition of the fact that the school was no longer an agricultural high school. In this situation more responsibility devolved upon the farm committee, and one of the members, Mr. H. Gay, was appointed farm supervisor. Shortly afterwards Mr. A. Munro, who had been employed on the farm since 1911, was appointed manager.

The farm committee met frequently to discuss the problems of farm management. The amount of money at their disposal was limited and the decisions they made as practical farmers were not always acceptable to the Department. They wanted sufficient money to stock the farm properly, and the right to retain all moneys received from the sale of stock or produce so as to carry on the farm in a business-like manner, but this was not departmental policy.

In March 1917, the Minister of Education, the Director, and the Senior Secondary Inspector, Mr. Hansen, visited the school to discuss the problems of agricultural education. The ten school farms throughout the state were run at a loss of from £900 to £1,000 during the previous year. The Department was not concerned about this loss if they were providing a service which the public appreciated and used, but this was obviously not the case; they were not getting pupils.

Mr. Dunn put the case for the retention of Agricultural High Schools. Farmers must be

given time to learn to appreciate agricultural education. At present farm labourers were difficult to secure and boys were needed at home. The staffing of the schools was largely on the professional side. At this Mr. Tate interjected, "The schools are staffed according to the pupil's requirements," Mr. Dunn replied, "Farmers consider it foolish to send their sons to a school which does not pay." The honours were even. No final decision was given by the Minister at that time, but apparently the arguments of the council members carried weight with the Department, because the farm continued in operation.

At the Council meeting in June, 1918, Mr. Kimber raised the question of using the farm for the theoretical and practical training of returned soldiers, since there were no agricultural students in attendance. The offer was refused by the Lands Department, but the suggestion apparently brought the farm before the notice of the Agricultural Department, because in the same month Mr. R. H. Greenwood, Inspector of Agriculture, visited it. He reported that there were no pupils taking the full agricultural course, but twenty-seven were taking Agricultural Science as a subject. No experimental work was being done, and the farm manager, Mr. Munro, though a capable farmer, had no qualifications to instruct students or to conduct experimental work. This was the third year in which there had been no students taking the full agricultural course.

Despite his suggestion that an attempt should be made to build up a herd of one of the standard milking breeds with a high strain of butter fat content, on the recommendation of the Department of Agriculture, a start was made on building up a Red Poll herd with the purchase of two cows and a calf from the Werribee Research Farm.

In 1920 Mr. P. J. Wolfe, B.Ag.Sci. was appointed senior master, and he was asked by the Council to act as executive officer in connection with the farm work. Mr. Wolfe recalls his activities at this time. "The School Farm with its small but select herd was of great interest to me. Under the efficient direction of the farm manager, Mr A. Munro and later Mr. Stephens, it ran very smoothly, but there was a good deal of interesting work for me in the Herd Test results, in recording pedigrees, and in advertising and sales. Under Mr. Scott's direction we visited quite a number of centres to speak of the functions of school farms and what they were endeavouring to do. Whatever the standard of oratory and advice given, one thing was always sure, a cordial welcome from parents and farmers with usually an ending in a social evening. During the years quite a number of interesting personalities visited the school and spoke on agriculture; these included Mr. H. A. Mullet, later Director of Agriculture for many years, and Dr. A. E. V. Richardson, later to become Director of the Waite Research Institute. However development of High Schools along agricultural lines was not to be."

By 1923, the Council was convinced that the choice of a Red Poll herd in a dairying district such as Warragul was not a wise decision because local farmers did not favour dual purpose animals. Young stock was practically unsaleable in the district, and the Council recommended the replacement of the Red Poll herd by a Jersey herd. However, Dr. Cameron of the Agricultural Department did not favour the change. The herd was of good standard, and, with systematic culling, could be built up into a first class stud. The success of the herd sire Victoria Battlefield, which won the two-year-old section at the Royal Show in 1925 supported this opinion. Again in 1927 the school herd won the Stradbroke Cup for the 1st and Reserve Champion Red Poll Bull aged two years, as well as 1st for a Type and Utility Cow aged three years, 2nd for a Type and Utility Cow aged four years and over, and 3rd for a Yearling Bull. These successes were very gratifying to the Council and particularly to Mr. Munro who was in charge of the herd until his resignation in 1929.

For some years, the Council rented 23 acres to the east of the farm from Mr. J. Meehan, since the farm area was inadequate for the growing herd. This land was auctioned in 1927, after the death of the owner, and Mr. D. T. Jones, acting on behalf of the Council, purchased it for the sum of £960. The new school is built on part of this land.



STRADBROKE CUP

Once again in 1930 the question of closing down the farm was raised by the Department but no action was taken. Then in 1937 the subject was brought up for discussion by a member of the Council itself. He pointed out that the farm was not a financial success, and served no useful purpose from the research point of view. He once again made the point that the Red Poll breed was unsuitable to the district. Those opposing him pointed out that the loss of this asset might be the cause of failure to establish a dairy college in future years and it would not be in the best interests of the district to recommend the closing. The matter was then dropped.

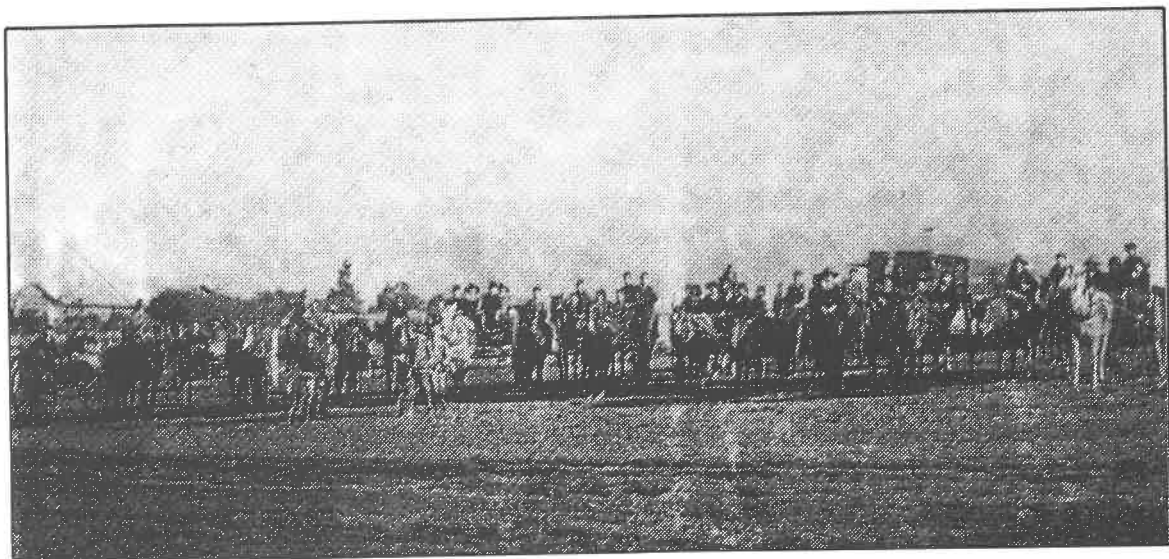
In 1938 the Department asked the Council to discuss the subject. The Minister visited the school on June 15, and, after stating that Agricultural High Schools had been a failure, suggested that Warragul High School could be developed into a dual purpose school providing, as well as the professional course, a technical course for boys to the Junior Technical Standard. This proposal was particularly attractive to the members of the Council, but they felt that the Warragul Shire Council should be consulted before any positive steps were taken to discover what would be their attitude towards repossessing the farm land. When the Council granted the land to the Education Department in 1910, it was on the condition that should it not be used for farm purposes at any future date, it should become the property of the Shire once again. The Shire Council after some discussion decided that a fresh agreement should be drawn up and signed between the Warragul Council and the Education Department regarding the occupation of the land in

question. They were prepared to hand over the land and wanted any revenue derived from leasing the land to be under the control of the advisory council of the school.

Arrangements were then made for a dispersal sale of the stud on Wednesday, August 28, 1940. All the farm plant was offered for sale together with the cow-shed for removal. What happened to Gipps Lady Rosalind, Gipps Yum Yum, Gipps Matador, Gipps Picador etc., is not recorded in either the Council minutes or the local papers, but the sale brought the farm operations to an end. Mr. Kevan, who had managed the farm after the resignation of Mr. Munro in 1929, remained in the service of the school for a further four years, as caretaker.

Had the school farm been of any educational value to the community? It had been established when farmers were not yet convinced that the scientist had a great deal to teach them, and no doubt they considered many of

the experiments carried out on the farm very impractical. Moreover, as the members of the School Council pointed on several occasions, many farmers could not spare their sons from the farm and in many cases could not afford to keep them at school, for farmers' incomes were not high. The attempts of Mr. Wolfe and of Mr. Spencer to arouse interest in agricultural science were unsuccessful and those who studied the subject at either the Intermediate, Leaving or Matriculation stage must rarely have put it to any practical use, for the majority of them went on to train as teachers. The Farmers' Course which has been introduced into the Technical School in recent years, places the emphasis on the training of boys in the many mechanical jobs which take up so much of the farmers' time today, as well as the business side of farm management. This, together with the remission of tuition fees and bus fares, once such a burden, may persuade many parents to keep their sons at school to prepare them not only to be farmers, but also, as the first prospectus put it to be "useful members of the community."



TRAVELLERS READY FOR HOME, 1922



# THE TRANSPORT OF PUPILS

An impressive feature of this school is that it has always functioned as a district high school, for the majority of pupils have always come from the surrounding areas rather than from the town itself. One of the first buildings erected on the farm site was a stable to house the horses which were either ridden or driven to school. The number of horses and vehicles rose steadily during the first ten years, and one of the subjects frequently discussed at School Council meetings was the state of the stable yard which was apparently often deep in mud. This was a cold and comfortless mode of travel in Warragul's long cold wet winter, but school attendance was remarkably regular.

Many who wished to attend the school were too far away to reach it by these means, and for these pupils, according to the prospectuses of 1914 and 1915, board was available in the town at from 10/- to 14/- per week, in boarding houses or private homes under the supervision of the Principal and his staff. The maximum number of boarders was probably 36 in 1922. The Council made several attempts to establish a hostel, particularly for girl students, but on each occasion the Department refused to give any financial assistance and the projects came to nothing.

The School Council was most anxious to give every child in the district who wished to attend the school the opportunity to do so. More than once the Railways Department was approached in an attempt to secure a daily rail service for pupils from Trafalgar and from Longwarry. It was pointed out that the children from the latter town travelled to Dandenong High School, despite the long hours such a journey entailed. The Railways Department however, required a guarantee that such services would not be run at a loss, and this the Council was not able to provide.

Finally with the improvements in roads and motor transport another solution became possible — bus services. The first of these were put into operation in 1926 by Mr. Millist, from Trafalgar, Bunyip and Strezlecki. When the Secondary Inspectors visited the school in March 1926 they declared the bus service was the envy of the District High Schools throughout the state and they commented most favourably on the splendid type of pupil admitted as a result of the establishment of the service. So successful was the scheme that at the end of the year it was decided to extend it to Neerim and Cloverlea.

In those days the trip by bus was somewhat of an endurance test, for the vehicles bore little resemblance to the coaches transporting pupils today. A couple of favoured or perhaps troublesome children sat with the driver in front, while the rest were accommodated on long seats running the length of the vehicle.

The seats were covered with hard squabs and the only back rest was a board with a thin layer of padding. Canvas blinds were let down at the sides to shut out the rain and cold winds, but did not do their job very successfully. All buses dropped and took on their passengers at the Railway bridge, "a scene of great animation both morning and evening," reports Mr. Wolfe.

As better types of buses became available, the old vehicles were gradually replaced by more comfortable coaches and the children were carried first to King Street entrance and eventually to the Bourke Street entrance to the school. During the 1930's one of the main concerns of the Council was the improvement in the standard of the bus services, but at no time did they complain of the bus drivers who were invariably praised for their careful driving, their supervision of the children and their reliability.

These services when first introduced were subsidised by the government, and parents paid only half the cost, amounting in most cases to about 5/- a week. Their appreciation of the services was shown by the fact that the number of buses steadily increased until the depression years when the government withdrew the subsidy. An immediate decrease in the number of children carried resulted, and there was little improvement until the subsidy was restored in 1936.

For some years the extension of the network of routes was continuous, particularly after free bus travel was introduced in 1944. Students were brought in from Noojee in the north, Lang Lang in the south west, Strezlecki in the south and Trafalgar in the east. Then the opening of the High Schools at Moe, Kooweerup and Drouin and of a Higher Elementary School at Neerim as well as the separation of the Technical School from the High School, caused the network to contract, and made a considerable difference to the number of pupils carried to the High School. Until recent years about 70 per cent of the students came from outside the town, but that percentage is now reduced to a little more than 50 per cent. Since 1956 the buses have operated in conjunction with a train from Tynong which carries children to Drouin High School, Warragul High School, the Technical School, and the Roman Catholic Schools in Warragul. In 1960 of the 507 in attendance at the High School, 238 travelled by bus and 11 by train. In that year twelve buses were operating from Neerim Junction, Tetoora Rd., Rokeby, Neerim South, Yarragon South, Cloverlea, Yarragon-Bona Vista, Seaview, Shady Creek, Yarragon-Ellinbank, Noojee and Yarragon; carrying children not only to the High School but also to the Technical School, the local primary school and the registered schools.



What of the "locals," those who lived in the town or near to it? For probably the first twenty years bicycles were not numerous, and pupils and staff came on foot. One of the features of the school which impressed itself most strongly on the minds of ex-teachers was the long trek in the mud of which Mrs. F. Thomas (Miss I. M. Steele) gives a graphic account.

"My first impression of the approach to the school evoked dismay. Do you remember the slimy mud of that little park where the bull frogs gave tongue joyously on warm Spring days? I remember I caused amusement by wearing tan riding boots up to my knees in the winter to negotiate this muddy belt, but Mr. H. H. Revell always managed to arrive with no speck of mud on his shoes. We never discovered by what magic they always preserved a mirror-like surface when ours all carried a pound of adhesive mud."

Despite the distance of the school from the town it was the usual practice of the majority to walk home from lunch. The midday recess must surely have been longer than it is today, or perhaps we were more expert in the use of our legs. Perhaps some of the ulcers which developed in middle age were the results of meals hastily gulped in those years.

To conclude, first a tribute to "Hazel Creek" — through whose waters we occasionally had to wade.

### The Hazel Creek

They sing of the Mississippi,  
Of the Thames some poets speak,  
So I'll sing you a local song  
Of our famous Hazel Creek.  
The last sweet "Rose of Summer,"  
You've heard sopranos squeak;  
But in summer-time no rose can smell,  
As sweet as the Hazel Creek.  
The waters may be scanty,  
And the current may be weak;  
But one sniff is enough as one passes by,  
So strong is the Hazel Creek.  
When Autumn leaves are falling,  
And morns are cold and bleak;  
There's a blanket of fog to keep it warm  
On the length of the Hazel Creek.  
The post lies grey on the mud below,  
And the ice makes poor girls shriek;  
As thin shoes don't grip and tyres slip,  
On the bridge o'er the Hazel Creek.  
When Winter's rains are howling,  
And floods are at their peak;  
We have our share of excitement  
With the muddy Hazel Creek.  
The current swirls below us,  
The bridge's timbers crash;  
And our best excuse for lateness,  
Is the flooded Hazel Creek.  
But when there comes the Springtime,  
And birds build, grass in beak;  
Amid the reeds and rushes,  
Along the Hazel Creek.

And buttercups are blooming,  
W'ed travel far to see;  
A "river" we could love so much,  
As our poor little Hazel Creek.

JACQUELINE WILLS, Form V.  
The Hill, 1952.

And finally a pupil's comments on staff transport in the 1940's.

### Peak Period

There's a rumble and a rattle, as the clock begins to chime.  
All heads are turned towards the gate — who is it this time?  
It's Mr. Ife. I do believe — Oh No! It's Mr. Hall.  
Will the engine make it? Or is it going to stall.  
He's picked up Mr. Bellingham, and Mr. Mead as well,  
The load is too much for the car as far as we can tell.  
Mr. Baker comes unnoticed, in the midst of all the bustle.  
Mr. Nielson on his two-stroke is ahead of Mr. Russell,  
Miss Christian and Miss Worthington are joined by Mr. Tozer,  
He's been running all the way, he thinks he is a dozer.  
Mr. Bissett and Mr. Lacy are pedalling up the road,  
Mr. Archer in his sports car has a very heavy load.  
Miss Bunning's coupe chugs along — be careful you don't skid.  
But look! What's tied on behind? You're right, it is her grid.  
"Be Prepared's" her slogan. She's not like Mr. Ife,  
He walks and walks and walks and walks, maybe he's getting slim.  
He'd be better on a scooter, it would save his shoes for him.  
Dr. Harris and Miss Marrabel are the last to come along,  
He never has a breakdown — his car is going strong.  
One day when we are older, and their cars are older still.  
Maybe we'll get a new school, and it won't be on a hill.  
How will they start their cars then, without the slope to aid?  
But wait! They'll be retired, and their fortunes will be made.

NANCY ANDERSON, Form IIIa.  
The Hill, 1950.

# BETWEEN THE WARS

In 1918 Mr. T. F. Scott was appointed headmaster. The Department fully recognised the fact that there was no demand for the full agricultural course, by appointing a man of fine scholastic attainment, but of no agricultural knowledge. In fact it was during this period that the adjective "agricultural" was dropped from the school name. Mr. Scott describes his five years at the school as "a period of steady advance without any distinctive features. Perhaps it is safe to say that the school established some record for sound scholarship and it was a happy institution."

This is a very modest estimate of the progress made. During this period the attendance rose from 104 in 1918 to 172 in 1922, but the most pleasing feature was the increasing number of pupils who remained at school to complete their Intermediate and Leaving Certificates. The frequent changes of staff, which had caused great concern in previous years, no longer occurred, and the teachers were well qualified and efficient. As a result the inspectors made these comments on the examination results in 1919, "These are the best ob-

tained by the school and are largely responsible for the increase in numbers at the top of the school." This standard was maintained, and even exceeded in 1922 when Betty Roberts topped the Class Lists in Agricultural Science and Geography, thus winning two exhibitions. Others winning honours were H. E. Baxter, Fred Brooks, Tom Colquhoun and Harold Solomon. All these students later joined the Education Department, but not all remained in its service.

Mr. Scott was not satisfied that scholastic attainment was the chief measure of a school's success and he was particularly interested in developing what is generally termed a "school spirit". To achieve this aim he extended the prefect system, organised school excursions and clubs and was responsible for the launching of the Gippsland Secondary Schools' Sports Association. So great was the interest in these inter-school contests that inter-house contests were introduced within the school as the best means of discovering and fostering talent. At the same time, largely as a result of Mr. Scott's efforts, the Ex-Students' Association was revived.



PREFECTS AND HOUSE CAPTAINS, 1922

Back Row: J. Ley, T. Colquhoun, H. Baxter, H. Solomon, E. Gabbe.

Front Row: A. Firmin, M. Keeble, D. Streitberg, Mr. Scott (Headmaster), B. Roberts, J. Brown, C. White.

The increased attendance necessitated extensions to the building, and in August 1922 a tender for £1455 was accepted for two rooms, divided by a sliding door. Many were the letters written to the Department in future years about that sliding door. It refused to open; it jammed shut; it slipped out of the grooves in which it was supposed to run; the hinges broke etc. etc. At the time however, the fact that the two rooms could be made into an assembly hall by opening the doors made it a great asset.

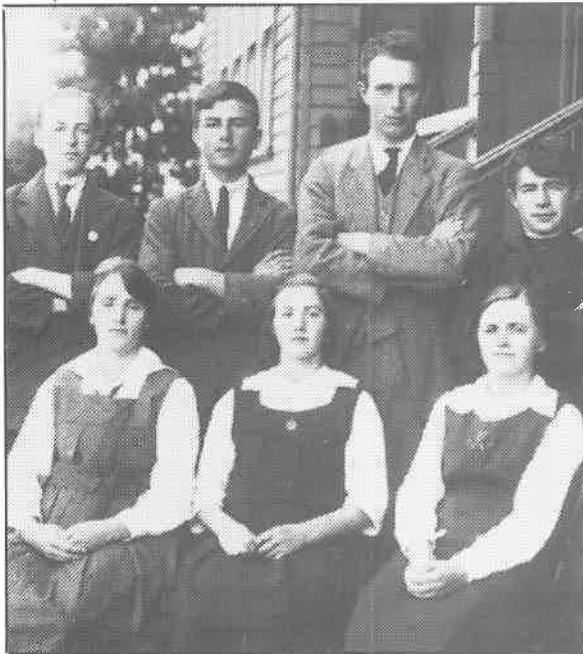
At the time of Mr. Scott's departure from the school, the council placed on record its very high appreciation of the fine services he had rendered the school in all departments, a commendation well deserved.

## THE HONOUR ROLL

In October 1918 the School Council discussed the question of an Honour Roll and some months later chose a design of a bookcase surmounted by an Honour Board. The unveiling ceremony was performed on May 23 1919, by the Hon. G. H. Wise, M.H.R., and other speakers were the Hon. J. E. Mackey, M.H.R., Mr. F. Tate, Director of Education and Mr J. P. McLennan the previous head master. Years later in 1937 the names of the two teachers and the two students who had died on service were given to the four school houses. The honour roll and bookcase still occupy pride of place in the hall of the new school.



MR. T. F. SCOTT, HEADMASTER 1918-22



### SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS, 1922

Back Row—Left to Right: Tom Colquhoun, Fred Brooks, Henry Baxter, Harry Boyes.

Front Row—Left to Right: Betty Roberts, Ruth Roberts, Thelma Davis.

Mr. Scott's successor was Mr. H. H. Revell and at his first meeting he gave evidence of the initiative and vigour that was to earn him the position of Principal of Melbourne Boys' High School in later years. He pointed out that the enrolment in the third and fourth forms was most disappointing, largely because the courses offered were suited only to those preparing to be teachers or to take up some other profession. The Council supported his suggestion that the Department be requested to establish commercial classes. The Department stated it would provide a teacher if the typewriters were secured by the school. Mr. Dunn advanced £55/10/- so that the machines could be purchased immediately and it was decided to ask the various shires to subscribe the cost of the machines. Classes began almost immediately, first under Mr. W. A. Tynan, who remained only a month, and then under Miss G. E. Mackay.



MR. H. H. REVELL, HEADMASTER, 1923-34

On March 23 1923 the new school wing was opened by Sir John Mackey. In his address, Mr. Dunn, president of the School Council, appealed to the Department to provide rail transport for children anxious to attend the High School, particularly now the commercial course had been introduced. He also mentioned the necessity for a permanent playing field.

The school was renting the land on which the oval was later constructed and this was finally purchased in 1925 for £360 from Mr. Valpied. The school held a fair to raise its share £160. Mr. Wolfe gives his account of what followed. "Active steps were taken to reconstruct it. At first it was thought this could be done by working bees, but after the first major Saturday effort at which a large number of friends of the school were present, including Mr. Mills, a local contractor with heavy equipment, it was evident that a long, long time would elapse if the work were to be done in this way. Mr. Revell and the School Council pressed the matter vigorously, funds were raised, and finally comprehensive levelling, grading and surfacing were carried out by contract. The result for the school sport was splendid and it was a great satisfaction to be able to conduct one of the early combined athletics meetings on our own oval."

Meanwhile a library room was built in the quadrangle, but was not used for its original purpose because it was required as a classroom. This was completed in 1926 and in the next year the tennis court was constructed. The Shire Council granted the school the use of two acres in the nearby park, and, in 1927, trees were planted in this area to provide revenue for the school some thirty years later. In 1928 the parade ground to the west of the school was laid out and levelled, and, in 1929, a school band was established. Such improvements were not secured without frequent importuning of the Department, and perhaps the Director, Mr. Hansen, can be forgiven for his comment, "There is a constant stream of requests from this school."

To raise the school's share of the cost of such projects and to meet the cost of equipment, such as library books, pictures etc., a series of entertainments were held, a ball, two dramatic productions "A Kiss for Cinderella" and "Make-Believe", and a fair. Mr. J. R. Lyall and Miss Beatrice MacDonald, both very interested in dramatic art, were responsible for the production of the plays which were so well received that they were repeated, not only in the local theatre, but also in other centres.

Despite all these activities the examination results remained uniformly good. The work which Mr. Revell and his staff were doing is perhaps best summed up in the secondary inspector's report in 1926. These are the comments of Miss Julia Flynn who was not one to give praise lightly.

"The inspectors desire to congratulate the head master on the excellence of the service which he renders as an organiser and as a class teacher, in the tactful management of his staff and as a force in the district. They feel that the success of the Warragul High School is due directly to his efficiency and personality. He has been loyally supported by a hard-working and efficient staff. The second master (Mr. P. J. Wolfe) in particular, deserves special mention for the willing and efficient service rendered."

It must have been a bitter disappointment to Mr. Revell to see the attendance of the school drop from 251 in 1929 to 131 in 1934, his last year at the school. During these years of the depression, the Department withdrew its subsidy to bus travellers and many parents found it impossible to keep their children at school. When Mr. Spencer took up the position of headmaster in 1935, the first signs of recovery from the depression were seen in a considerable increase in attendance. In his first year he suggested the introduction of a Domestic Arts course for girls and this was carried out in 1936. He was also anxious to re-awaken interest in agricultural studies and the subject of Agricultural Science was re-introduced in the same year.

The increase in attendance was such that the numbers almost doubled by 1938 and increased accommodation was urgently required. In that year a metal work centre and a blacksmith's shop were erected, but lack of equipment hampered the development of the proposed industrial course for boys. Two years later in 1940 the demands for accommodation were met by the addition of two new classrooms and a new woodwork room. The old blacksmith's shop was removed and became a shelter shed for girls, and the old woodwork room was to be adapted for machine shop practice when the necessary equipment was available. A gift of £100 from the Ex-Students' Association made possible the erection of a sports pavilion.

By 1940 the war had ceased to be phony one and the school was beginning to feel the effects of shortages of staff as well as equipment. In June of that year, the senior master, Mr. Lancaster ceased duty to enlist in the A.I.F., and subsequently died as a prisoner of war in Malaya.

At the end of 1941 so great was the menace of Japanese invasion that the teaching staff



MR. W. G. SPENCER, HEADMASTER 1935-41

was required to remain on duty until January 3 in case it should become necessary to carry out the planned evacuation of children from this area. Mr. Weaving and Mr. Searle were responsible for much of the detailed work required by these plans. Pupils were raising funds for the Red Cross and relief work and at the same time putting money into War Savings Certificates. Boys in the senior forms were joining the Air Training Corps and teachers returned to school at night to give instruction to boys awaiting call up to the Air Force.

At the end of 1941 Mr. Spencer left the High School to take up the position of Principal of the Brunswick Technical School. The School Council expressed their appreciation of his valuable services to the school and district and also of his exceptionally able and efficient co-operation with members of the Council in all matters connected with the well-being of the scholars and progress of the school.

## RAPID EXPANSION

During the next two years, Mr. H. W. Parker was in charge of the school. As the war situation worsened trenches were dug in the school grounds by a working bee of parents and teachers, and the whole school received instruction in the procedure to be followed in the event of an air raid. Inspired by the energy and enthusiasm of the senior mistress, Miss Styles, the girls busily knitted socks and pullovers, machined towels and handkerchiefs for the army and air force, and practised first aid during club periods.

This war work continued with unabated vigour into the next year, but perhaps the most important feature of 1943 from the school's point of view was the inauguration of the Parents' and Friends' Association with its related body, the Ladies' Auxiliary. There was much work for this organisation to do. The attendance rose from 331 in 1941 to 390 in 1943 and the accommodation was heavily overtaxed. The Council strongly supported by the Parents' and Friends' Association under the leadership of the Rev. L. Wilkinson, began its fight for a new school and for staff for the technical classes. Their efforts had met with little success when Mr. Parker left to join the staff of Coburg High School at the end of 1943.

Dr. Harris's period as headmaster was one of the most eventful in the school's history and undoubtedly the most memorable event was V.J. day.

"How vivid the scene still remains! The school assembled on the basketball court; the wireless pick-up extended to the window of room 6; the voice of Australia's Prime Minister announcing "The war has ended!" The tumultuous cheers of the assembled school; the babel of bells, sirens, whistles and motor-horns from the town; the boys clambering on to the big roller and being pushed around the oval; the abandonment of all work and the rush to join the excited hilarity in the main streets; the parading through the town in impromptu processions or on crowded trucks, with everybody cheering or singing or making noises on some hastily snatched or improvised musical instrument! And, deep within us all, beneath the tumult and the shouting the surge of relief and thankfulness that prompted us to enter a church and go down on our knees."

The Hill, 1948



INTERMEDIATE CLASS, 1935

Back Row: D. Stockdale, L. Russell, G. Gibson, H. Rowbotham, M. Limmer, H. Payne; A. Dale, J. Brown.

Front Row: W. Colquhoun, W. Hedley, N. Jorgensen, N. Harvey, J. Christian, B. Robinson, N. Gallagher.





DR. W. J. HARRIS, HEADMASTER 1944-51.

The pupils did their share to help cope with the aftermath of war by providing clothing and knitted articles for British children and refugees, and by contributing to food for Britain appeals; but for them a great cloud had lifted, fathers, brothers and sisters were coming home, and life was returning to normal.

During those seven years the lack of accommodation was so acute that Dr. Harris was instructed by the Department to restrict the intake of pupils by holding entrance examinations. As a result probably thirty or forty pupils were excluded each year but nevertheless, the attendance rose from 422 in 1944 to 683 in 1951. The conditions under which the staff and students worked at this time are best described in Miss Style's "Wail of Warragul High".

## THE WAIL OF WARRAGUL HIGH

(Without Apologies to Anyone)

Warragul town's in Gippsland,  
Just sixty-five miles from the City.  
A pleasanter spot you never spied  
With fertile country on every side,  
And dairy farms that wealth provide,  
And children come from far and wide  
To the School on the Hill, West Gippsland's  
pride,

From the town itself, and none denied  
Access, but when begins my ditty  
To see what they put up with there  
'Twould move stone hearts to pity.

Crowds!

They keep increasing, year by year,  
Brought by buses from far and near  
And where to put them we've no idea.  
So Form V. maths. to men's staff room go.  
And for Hist. and Geog. to verandah flow.  
It's fresh out there when the breezes blow  
From the nearby Baw-Baws capped with snow.  
(The Doctor wears his hat, you know).

For French (L.C.) and Eng. (Metric)  
There's still room 9, next door Miss Quick  
And nibble the biscuits baked by our cooks,

Too busy far to think of books  
And Chaucer's "Tales" and "dans" and "sans",  
This group our concentration bans  
By drowning our speaking  
By stirring and beating  
In fifteen different pots and pans.  
And oh! those appetising odours  
Almost to desperation goad us.

And while one speaks of noise and shrieks  
Remember when for countless weeks  
Before they built the three new rooms,  
We tried to learn midst bangs and booms  
In Fourteen and Fifteen?  
Sheet-met. in front of us.

Woodwork behind us,  
Buzzer to right of us  
Bellowed and thundered,  
Sitting on benches, or  
Three in a desk in four -  
Teen there we cramped and froze.  
Quite fifty of us.

"Rats!" do I hear you say?  
Speak not in slang I pray:  
Our rats have come to stay  
Till some Pied Piper may  
Arise to quell them.

Rats;

They eat the backs from off the books,  
And nibble the biscuits baked by our cooks,  
And even digest the office archives,  
Eating for their very lives.

Indeed the vermin seem to wallow  
In dry stuff you and I can't swallow.

Mud!

Nice sticky, thick, brown clayey mud  
Such clinging and affectionate mud  
From twice five hundred boots and shoes  
Plastered on every floor — O Lud!  
For ten years we've been stuck in mud,  
And even worse than mud or clay  
Is the metaphorical mud where we stay,  
When to every request the answer's "Nay!"  
Or "For such expense no justification."

So every effort meets with frustration,  
High School Council in consultation  
With Parents' and Friends' Association  
And citizens high in reputation  
Make protests bitter in deputation,  
Only to meet procrastination  
When Ministers (two) of Education  
Visit the school by invitation.

Well this is the wail of the Warragul High,  
And I've left out many a groan and sigh:  
Broken water-mains, leaking spouts  
(Stand beneath, if you've any doubts),  
Rotting window-frames, sash-cords phut  
Doors that won't open and doors that won't  
shut,

No locker-room for three hundred boys,  
Nowhere where they can make a noise  
Except the quad., and here their "Hoys!"  
Are rather distracting to our poise.

There are lockers all round the quad., you know  
And if through the milling crowd you'd go,  
You may intercept a kick or a blow.  
We haven't a hall, so wind or sun,

We assemble outside, and it's not much fun  
When it's cold and wet and there's shelter none.

We need a cafeteria, too  
Or even an army hut would do  
For we get nothing hot from morn till night.  
Now, honestly, do you think that's right?  
I think it's time we made a fuss  
For more of us come here by bus  
Than to any other High, I'm told  
And Warragul's very wet and cold.

I wish hot lunches could be sold!  
We need a gym. and a swimming pool, too  
And locker rooms have been long due.  
Why can't we have a new building — why?  
Our urgent need you can't deny.

We're weary of the old reply  
"Maybe you'll get one by and by!"  
So, parents and friends, no longer dally,  
But let's all have a mighty rally,  
And raise our voices in clamour till  
We've a fine new building on the hill.

M. STYLES, The Hill, 1947.

The unremitting efforts of the Council and the Parents' and Friends' Association met with considerable success, but the increase in attendance easily outstripped the rate at which the new rooms became available. Not a difficult matter! How frustrating and infuriating it was to see a builder take more than twelve months to erect a block of three classrooms, and even longer to refit an army hut, only those who experienced it can know. By 1951 the school had acquired one disused rural school, a detached block of three classrooms, one army hut, one prefabricated unit of two rooms and the promise that a technical block costing £25,000 would soon be built. Until that was available the Secondary Inspectors' reported, the accommodation would be inadequate.

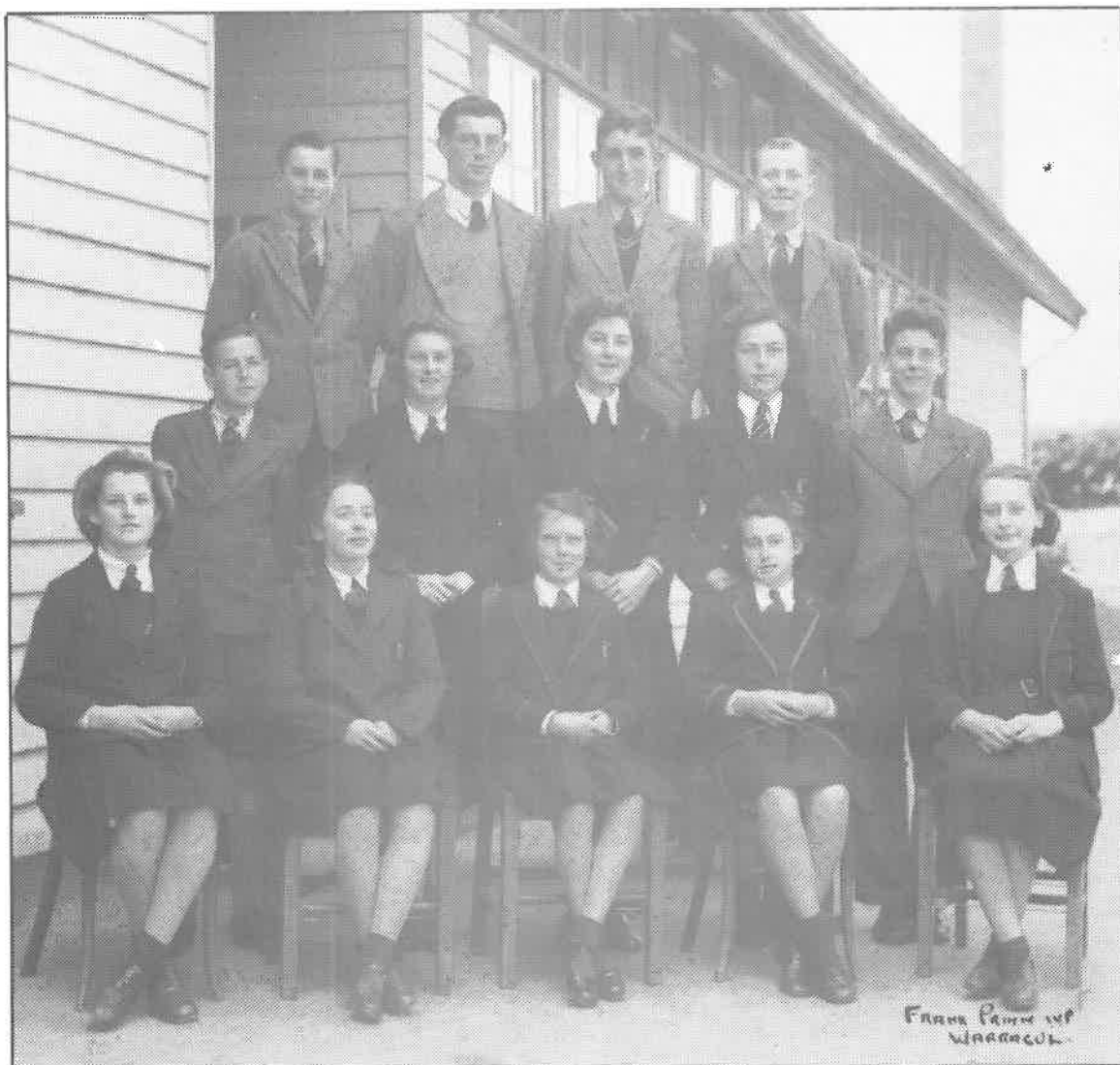
One reason for the extraordinarily rapid growth was the introduction of free bus travel in 1944, and this probably accounted for the larger number of senior pupils because more parents were able to keep their children at

#### GIRL PREFECTS, 1952



Standing: F. Wililams, M. Ronalds, W. Turvey, V. Perry, J. Telford.

Seated: F. Donelly, E. Feltscheer, N. Pratt (Captain of School), J. Evison.



MAGAZINE COMMITTEE, 1947

Back Row: J. Fawcett, J. McGregor, J. Shearn, W. Collyer.

Second Row: G. Coulson, S. Alexander, W. Smith, J. Telford, L. McDonald.

Front Row: G. Purdue, H. Deans, M. Morley, P. Saunders, A. Murnane.

school until they had secured Leaving or Matriculation Certificates. The provision of a four year Domestic Arts course for girls and of a four year Technical course for boys no doubt persuaded many others to remain longer at school.

The increased attendance created a staffing problem which was partially solved by the recruitment of three married women, Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Rushton and Mrs. Cliff. When a final solution was provided by the release of men from the services, the difficulty of securing houses arose. Finally the Department agreed to build four residences on the King St. frontage of the school block, but these were not available until 1950.

With the end of the war and the removal of many restrictions, it became possible to produce a school magazine, an innovation for which Miss Margaret Dudley was largely responsible, to enjoy C.A.E. concerts once more and to recommence inter-school sports, not only with district schools, Yallourn and Traralgon, but also with Dandenong. In 1947 Camberwell High School sent teams to Warragul for the first time, and these social visits continued until 1959. Evening classes commenced in 1949, providing tuition in Commercial subjects, Dress-making, Woodwork and Engineering and Machine Shop Practice. These services were expanded to include other subjects as the demand for them arose.

In 1947 for the first time parents were invited to visit the school during Education Week to see what work was being carried on in the school and to arouse their interest in it. Parent's Day, enlivened by Mannequin Parades, P.T. displays etc., has attracted ever increasing numbers since that first occasion.

In 1949 the Cadet Corps was established, "a motley collection at first, but eventually uniforms were issued, and the assembled company then looked a fine sight. Later, specially made hat-bands and collar badges improved the appearance of the unit." In 1950 a miniature rifle range was constructed on the Parade Ground and named after Dr. Harris, who opened it by firing the first shot, a bullseye.

Despite the difficulties under which staff and students were working during these years, the

results in the University examination results were very good indeed, and a large percentage of these senior students passed on to the University to secure degrees in Arts Science, Engineering and Medicine.

When Dr. Harris retired from the Department at the close of 1951, he had good reason to look back with pleasure and pride on what had been accomplished in those seven years. The applause which followed his report at his last speech-night, was a measure of the esteem and affection with which he was regarded by his staff, his students and their parents. His knowledge of and concern for every student, his wide learning and his kindly wisdom endeared him to all. We were deeply grieved to learn of his death in 1957 after such a short period of retirement.

## THE LAST TEN YEARS



MR. P. F. WILKIN, 1952-58

At the end of 1951, the High School was raised to the status of a Special Class School and Mr. P. Wilkin was appointed head master. It was thought that a start would be made on the new Technical Block during 1952, Mr. Wilkin's first year in Warragul, but no progress was made until the beginning of 1953. The Technical staff however was appointed to the school in the latter year and had to carry on under very adverse conditions until the new block was available at the beginning of 1954. Under the guidance of Mr. McClure the technical course was greatly expanded.

From 1952 to 1955 the attendance rose rapidly to 796 despite the opening of the Central Classes at Drouin in 1953. Accommodation was still insufficient and rooms in the new block had to be used for a variety of subjects for which they were never intended. Senior forms still used the front verandah.

Do you remember the verandah,  
Form Six?  
With its sleet and snow  
While cold winds blow,  
And the rain that poured when we were bored  
With Renaissance and Luther.

We shivered with cold while Mrs. Ward told  
Of our unclear thinking.  
Remember the front verandah,  
When the sun beat down on the hard dry  
ground  
And no cool breeze  
Or leafy trees  
Protected us from the heat.

And the "parlez-vous"  
Of Monsieur Thornton-Smith  
Je ne suis pas fou  
As we melted away.

Remember the front verandah,  
 And the stock of wood on which Wilkie stood  
 Pretending he was Hillary;  
 And the milk-bottle row  
 A dozen or so,  
 And the pussy who watched from afar,  
 Remember the front verandah.

Never more,  
 Form Six  
 For the time is night to leave the High  
 And the front verandah.

"FLIP" Form VI, The Hill, 1954.

However when the Drouin High School opened in 1957, changes in the bus routes diverted some children to that school and the numbers dropped about one hundred.

This rapid increase in attendance caused an acute shortage of staff, and, since this problem was common to all secondary schools, the Education Department could offer no assistance. Appeals were made through the local papers to ex-teachers and to anyone with qualifications which would enable him or her to take up a teaching career. George Smith, an ex-student of the school and a highly qualified teacher who had turned to farming, offered his services. His sudden death in May 1958 was a great shock to the staff and students by whom he was well liked and respected. Several married women and another ex-student, Henry Baxter, also came to the aid of the school, and, although the staff situation has shown some improvement, the women have remained on the staff while Henry Baxter has transferred to the Neerim South H.E.S.

In 1953 Miss Jean Walker joined the staff to take charge of the music and what an acquisition she proved to be. Her energy and enthusiasm was inexhaustible and inspiring, and to the great joy of students staff and townspeople alike, she produced in three successive years, "The Mikado", "The Gondoliers" and "H.M.S. Pinafore". Just a little reminder to those who took part, of the happy partnership of staff and pupils which made those shows such a resounding success.

## DID YOU SEE OR HEAR THIS?

Gondoliers practice was in full swing. Mr. H . . . was valiantly pulling the tenors through with the help of a newcomer. Suddenly our temperamental conductress stopped abruptly, "No", she screamed, turning purple. Then in no uncertain manner, she told the boys' chorus, "At the end of the first verse, you do not repeat the last phrase, you only repeat it at the end of the last verse." After several minutes of careful explanation we breathed freely as the boys tried to recover their dignity and sing the wretched thing properly. As they neared the end of the first verse we all held our breaths and stiffened hoping desperately that no one would slip. Alas! Alack! Through the still and quietude ventured one lonely voice the voice of Mr. H . . .

The Hill, 1954

The Council and the Parents' and Friends' Association continued its campaign for a new school. There was talk of an administrative block in front of the main school building, of remodelling the old school and of erecting a separate girls' school to the east of the old high school, but these projects came to nothing. However certain gains were made. The Cafeteria which had been sought for many years was finally built in 1954 with the aid of some of the boys, and Council providing the finance, and Mrs. Anderson took over the management with conspicuous success. At long last the school was connected to the town sewerage system, and central heating was installed, creating a new job for the boys.

## STOKING THE BOILER

At 8.55 the boiler is low  
 As we enter the room through ice and through snow,

And shovel the coal (how it has grown),  
 Resting a while, not forgetting to moan.

Morning recess: the drudgery continues,  
 Straining weak muscles and damaging sinews,  
 We shovel the coal till the hopper is full,  
 Then back to the classroom — a pen to pull.

Again at lunch time that shovel we wield,  
 Stopping a while, to our tummies we yield,  
 And sample the lunch that our mothers have made,  
 A lunch spoiled by dust-coal from the spade.

We'd sooner play sport than stoke up the fire,  
 But work for our mates, and P. Wilkin Esquire.  
 We shovel the coal working on to the end,  
 Hoping at maths. time our muscles will mend.

A. POCKLINGTON (Chief Boiler Stoker)  
 The Hill, 1954

Fortunately for the muscles of the stokers, two years later oil fuel was substituted for the brown coal which had never been very satisfactory.

Another gain was the final success of the Council's long fight to persuade the Department to purchase a block of land to the south west of the original oval so that there would be room for the expansion of sports fields in the future. This area was finally bought in 1957 and the new school extends into part of it. In that same year the last of the trees were cleared from the pine plantation in the nearby park, returning a profit of from £350 to £400 to the school. The present council desired to emulate the foresight shown by the Council of 1927 which had netted them this useful sum. They approached the Lands Department and were granted the use of 30 acres of Crown Land at Rokeby. The school is very grateful to Mr. W. Olsen of Poowong, who transported his bulldozer to the block and cleared some five acres which have since been planted with about 2000 pine trees, of which 1000 were a gift to the school from the A.P.M. nursery. Groups of boys regularly visit the Rokeby block to replant dead trees, to clear away rubbish and undergrowth and, incidentally, to have a thoroughly good time.

When the Secondary Inspectors visited the school in 1956 they reported that no high school building in the state was in greater need of renovation. Perhaps this report, together with the case put to the Minister by a deputation from the Council and the Parents' and Friends' Association, finally convinced him that the old school must be replaced. Everyone was highly elated when word arrived in 1957 that a new school was to be erected on the hill behind the old building.

The contractors were on the job early in 1958, and the progress of the building was watched with the greatest interest by the staff and the students. Everyone was looking forward with eager anticipation to starting the next year in fresh, bright, well lighted surroundings. In the midst of the rejoicing, Mr. Wilkin, who had played a very active part in the successful campaign for the new school, had to enter hospital for a very serious operation, and was off duty for the remainder of the year. Then like a bolt from the blue came the news that the Technical section was to become a separate unit, the Warragul Technical School. The multi purpose high school which had served the community so well for many years, would exist no longer after December 1958. The separation into two schools was the only practical means of putting an end to the almost insoluble problems of organisation which arose in the school when its attendance reached the 700

mark. Still the long association was broken with considerable regret on both sides.

The job of supervising the transfer of the school to the new building and of dealing with all the minor crises which arose, was taken over by Mr. Baker, the senior master. Mr. Wilkin was with us again for a short time when the new year began, and then had to go on leave again, leaving the school once more in Mr. Baker's charge. In June came the news of his death after a painful illness, borne with patience and fortitude. Mr. Baker paid tribute to him in the "Hill", 1959.

"The building of the new school was the culmination of a long programme of planning and working so that his return to duty in the new premises was for him something of the nature of a triumphal entry. His health permitted him to remain on duty no longer than a fortnight, and it was with sincere grief and deep sense of loss that we received the news of his death.

"His was a life of unselfish service, and he did not spare himself. His consideration for others; his deep understanding and his readiness to assist and advise; his kindly and generous nature and his genial friendliness are not lightly to be forgotten. If this school can maintain the high standards of conduct and sense of duty that he not only advocated but exemplified in his private and his school life, no better memorial to Mr. Wilkin could be devised."



DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MAJOR GENERAL  
A. H. RAMSAY, SPEAKING AT THE  
OPENING CEREMONY 1959.



# OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL



Mr. G. C. Baker and the Honourable J. S. Bloomfield at the Official Opening.

The date of August 6th had been chosen for opening the new school, so that it would coincide almost exactly with the date, 48 years before, when the first pupils were enrolled at the Warragul Shire Hall. The school was decorated with potted plants provided by the Shire Council, all arrangements were completed for an open air ceremony, and the Ladies' Auxiliary ordered vast quantities of food for the large numbers who were expected to be present. Then, on the preceding evening, one of the most violent storms that this district has ever experienced, tore down trees, brought down power lines and ripped off roofs. Early next morning gangs of men were out clearing the roads. Some buses managed to reach the school by making long detours, but others found it impossible to get through.

The weather was so unsettled that the ceremony could not be held out of doors and the arrangements had to be hurriedly revised. The children sat in their form-rooms and heard the speeches over the broadcasting system. Chairs were arranged along the length of the main corridor for visitors, while the official guests sat in the hall. The choir which took part in the ceremony was stationed in the link corridor. Quite a number of valiant ex-pupils, parents

and guests managed to reach the school, but fortunately the seating provided was sufficient to accommodate them all.

After the singing of the National Anthem, Mr. Telford president of the Advisory Council, welcomed the visitors, one of whom was Maj. Gen. Ramsay, Director of Education. He spoke of the respect which the school had earned and deserved from the community and hoped the pupils in years to come would be stimulated in such lovely surroundings to excel the school's past accomplishments. After the choir had led the singing of the school song, Mr. Bloomfield, the Minister for Education, performed the opening ceremony by unveiling the bronze plaque, now to be seen in the front hall. In his speech, he expressed his regret that Mr. Wilkin had not lived to see the new school opened, and paid tribute to him as a teacher and a man. Mr. R. Dent, president of the Warragul and District Education Committee, thanked the Minister and those organisations responsible for securing the new school. The visitors were then invited to inspect the school and were later served with afternoon tea.

Despite the adverse weather conditions, it was a memorable day and to quote the "Hill", 'a great milestone in the history of our school.'

During this year the decision was taken to construct an oval on the hill slope below the school. Since a great deal of earth had to be moved, this was an expensive project and the school had to provide a considerable sum of money as its share of the cost. It was decided to make the oval a memorial to Mr Wilkin and to appeal to ex-students, parents and pupils for donations, and a beginning was made on compiling a list of addresses of ex-students.

Towards the end of the year Mr Baker was appointed Head Master, and was to take up these duties at the commencement of the school year in 1960. He had achieved a long cherished ambition. For eighteen years he had served the school as senior master, and during that time he had won the respect and affection of the staff and students. A very serious illness in 1950 had curbed his many activities to a certain extent, and the last eighteen months had imposed a great strain upon him. To quote "The Hill" 1960 :

"Not only had he to accept the normal responsibilities of the Head Master's position, but he had also to supervise the transfer of the school to the new building, and to cope with the re-organisation necessitated by the separation of the technical section from the high school. He carried out these tasks with undiminished cheerfulness but at great cost to his health.

"At the end of the year he looked forward with pleasure to taking up his position of headmaster permanently. However, during the Christmas vacation, he failed to rally after a brief illness and died on January 19th., 1960."

This was a tragic beginning to the year, and the newly appointed senior master, Mr C. W. Morgan was faced with a very difficult task. Fortunately he was not new to the school and was familiar with its problems, and with the invaluable assistance of Mr Sinclair, he soon had the school functioning smoothly. Contrary to its usual practice, the Education Department decided to advertise the headmaster's position immediately, and Mr D. F. Macaulay of Korumburra High School was appointed, and took up the position at the beginning of Term II.

Meanwhile the School Council had decided that the Public Works Department should do the job of constructing the oval, and the organisation of the appeal for funds was well under way. As a result the ex-students and present students raised about £500 each, and about £300 was donated by parents. Since these groups overlap very considerably, it is difficult to allot an accurate total to each, but the result was a very satisfactory one.

An appeal to various firms, organisations and individuals to donate scholarships to the school also received a very good response.



MR. D. F. MACAULAY, HEADMASTER, 1960

Then in September came word that the Department intended to erect the third section of the school, a trade block and other rooms for art, music and commercial subjects. This was most welcome news, for the new buildings had never been large enough, and it had been necessary to use some of the detached rooms of the old school, the width of the oval away - a most unsatisfactory arrangement, especially in wet weather. Work on the new section began almost immediately, and is still proceeding. It seems likely that we may soon have two new shelter sheds, and a cafeteria, and for the first time for many years, will have no accommodation problems whatever. We hope to begin our second fifty years as a self-contained unit, with a hockey field and a fine oval. But much remains to be done, the erection of a pavilion, the construction of tennis courts and basketball courts, and we must rely on parents, friends and ex-students to assist in the provision of these and other amenities, and we know we can do so with confidence.

# SPORTING ACTIVITIES

As Mr. Freckleton's reminiscences indicate, matches were played very early in the school's history between Warragul High School and Sale High School on Saturdays, since sport was not permitted to interfere with school work.

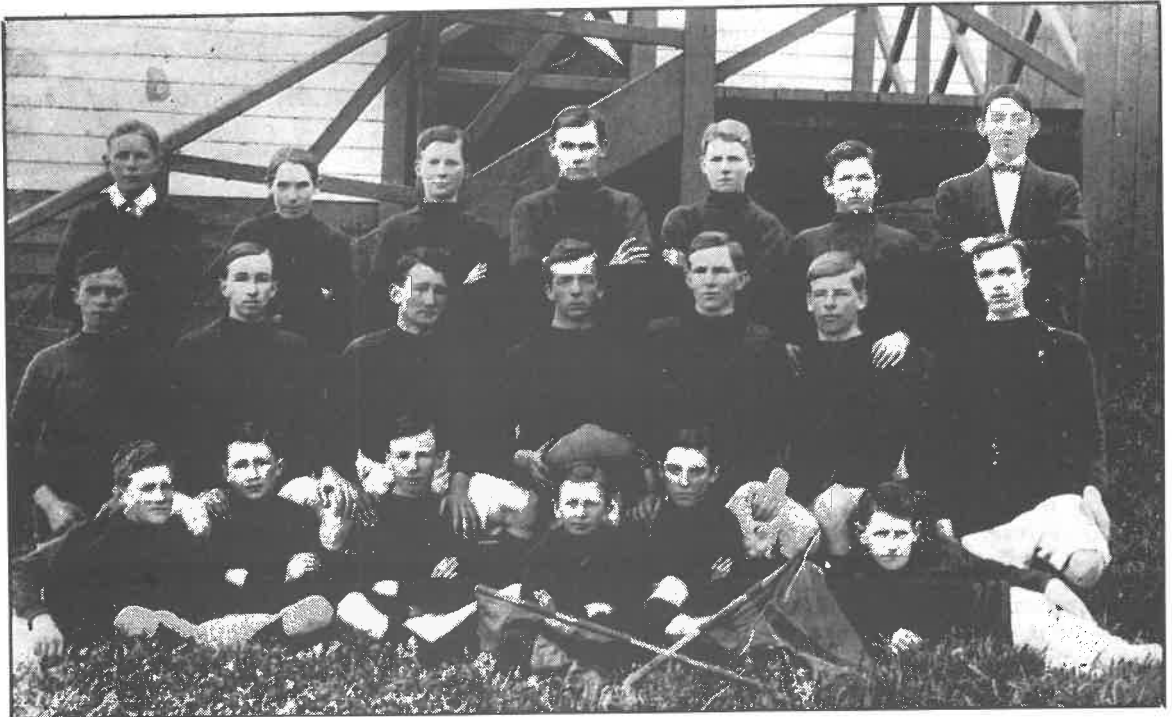
The first sports association was organised by Mr. Scott in 1922, the Gippsland Secondary Schools' Sports Association. To quote Mr. Wolfe once more, "At the first meeting (at Sale I think), Mr. Scott, Mr. E. Townsend (Bairnsdale), Mr. W. Friday (Sale) and Mr. P. Langford (Dandenong) drew up a "constitution", and the association, which later included Traralgon, Berwick Grammar School (Rev. C. H. Zercho) and Leongatha (Mr. A. Mesley), soon became a very live body. Amongst sportsmasters of the period Mr. L. Brumley, Mr. W. Gibbs, Mr. H. Tonkin, Mr. C. T. Scarff and Mr. H. M. Campbell come to mind.

"It would take up a lot of space to recall all the resounding successes, and also the sad failures of the school teams. But certainly over the years in football, cricket, athletics, basketball and hockey, Warragul High School had many notable successes, including those in the annual contests with Essendon High School and later with Coburg High School. Amongst some of the stars who come flicking into mind were Henry Weidner, Harold Solomon, Tom Colquhoun, Percy Rhodes, Fred Brooks, Alex Proudfoot, Bob

Duncan, Eddie Gabbe, Fred Keillerup . . . . . (and this very incomplete list takes no account of outstanding members of girls' teams which did so well in all competitions)."

"An incident of note occurred in one of the combined athletics meetings held at Leongatha. The special train from Warragul left early; consternation grew as departure time dwindled to minutes and seconds and still our senior boys' representative was missing. Gloom settled on the whole party when it was realised he HAD missed. On the long journey round by Dandenong much consultation on possible re-shuffles and substitutions in the team took place. But as we moved into the sports ground, gloom still prevailed, till, to the delight of all, we saw standing at the entrance to the arena, ready to go, our missing senior representative. Yes, George Keeble missed that train, but he promptly took horse and rode over the Strezleckis to join us at the Leongatha oval. It would be romantic to record that George carried all before him in the subsequent events; but a ride over the ranges is no preparation for keenly contested athletics. But for his courage and endurance, George had the satisfaction of scoring substantial points for his school."

This particular incident is clearly remembered also by Miss L. V. Horton, who was a member of the staff at that time.



FOOTBALL TEAM 1914.

Owing to the distances which separated the schools, matches were organised in two divisions, the eastern section including Bairnsdale, Sale, Traralgon and Orbost, and the western section including Warragul, Dandenong, Leongatha and Berwick Grammar School. Warragul and Bairnsdale played off in the 1921 cricket final — on a Saturday.

"The game commenced at 9.30. Bairnsdale won the toss and sent Warragul into bat. The score mounted steadily all morning and at lunch-time Warragul was all out for 118. Gallagher (40) was top scorer with Weidner (31) next. Solomon, Ley and Friend contributed very usefully.

"The superiority of the home team stood out definitely however when Bairnsdale played after lunch. The visiting team quite failed to get a grip of the bowling of Solomon, Gallagher and Weidner. The side was disposed of for a total of 38, and, on being sent in again, compiled only a score of 44."

In that same year the girls won the premiership in hockey and basketball, but the boys were defeated at football by Sale. Trophies were awarded for each of these premierships and were presented at the combined athletics meeting.

The first district association athletics meeting was held at Warragul on October 13, 1920. No account of the meeting is available, but the Secondary Inspectors' report mentions that despite difficulties it was carried out in a very successful manner. The Warragul High School Council presented a shield for the school securing the aggregate. It was to be retained by the school winning it five times, but the competition did not last long enough for anyone to accomplish that feat, and it now hangs in the hall of the High School.

The next two meetings were held at Sale in 1921 and at Dandenong in 1922. By then everyone was convinced that the association must be split into two divisions. All travelling had to be done by train, and the day was a long and exhausting one for competitors coming from the extremities of the area. The fourth meeting was held at Leongatha, with only Dandenong, Warragul and Leongatha competing. Warragul supporters and competitors travelled by train to Leongatha via Dandenong and the incident described by Mr. Wolfe took place on that day. From my recollection of that rail journey it must have been an easy matter to ride by the direct route in a considerably shorter time than that taken by the train.

These competitions came to an end in 1927 and, when they were renewed in post-war years, they were restricted to schools closer at hand, Yallourn High School and Traralgon High School. The matches with Dandenong were continued but on a friendly basis, because Dandenong had joined up with the Metropolitan Association. Leongatha, too, competed with schools in South Gippsland.

The Central Gippsland Secondary Schools' Association expanded to such an extent after the war that by 1960 it included fifteen schools, High schools, Technical schools and Church

schools. Various scheme for dividing the schools into zones have been tried during the past few years, and at present they are divided into three groups. Even so, the numbers make organisation very difficult, particularly the organisation of athletics meetings, with 3000 or more children attending, and probably some further changes will have to be made.

To cater for the greater numbers and to give more pupils an opportunity to take part in inter-school matches, a greater variety of sports has been introduced, softball for both boys and girls, vigorous baseball, soccer and swimming. This latter sport has become very popular since the construction of swimming pools in most Gippsland towns, and inter-school swimming sports have been included in the competitions.

## WEEPING WARRAGUL

When the sun shines bright in Warragul

We all turn out so gay,  
But it always starts to rain again  
By the time it's Saturday.

Bike-racing, tennis and cricket,  
Are spoilt by the soaking stuff,  
But criticise the climate,  
And the locals get the huff.

We've been learning from Mr Gibson  
So now we ought to know,  
Rain isn't caused by a high, he says,  
So it must be caused by a low.

Warragul weather's unsettled,  
That's what they always say,  
But I think it's settled properly  
For it rains nearly every day.

Whenever it's time for cricket  
And games of the summer sort,  
There's never a match that we start to play  
But it's spoilt by that damp spoil-sport.

The girls often have the same trouble  
When they plan on the porous court,  
For every tennis set they play  
The weather tries to thwart.

So now we sceptics get wary,  
And carry our coats each day,  
For if we go without them  
We're sure to get wet on the way.

—Rod Hawkins.

The Hill, 1948.

## HOUSE COMPETITIONS

In 1920 house competitions were organised within the school and the pupils were divided into three houses, Old Gold, Maroon and Blue. Six years later there were only two houses, Maroon and Gold, and these were retained until 1937. By that time there had been such an increase in attendance, that it was decided to divide the school into four houses and to re-name them.

# ORIGIN OF OUR HOUSE NAMES

(The Hill, 1945)

Colvin, Haines, Lyall and Swinburne — these four house names of Warragul High School perpetuate the memory of its four representatives who gave their lives in the First World War.

“Lest We Forget” we append a brief record of each of these soldiers:—

Private Geoffrey Haines, the son of the late Mr. Charles Haines and Mrs. Haines, formerly of Warragul, attended Warragul High School in 1912-13. Although twice rejected on medical grounds, he was so bent on serving his country that he finally succeeded in enlisting in 60th Infantry Battalion. He was killed in action at Villers Bretonneux on April 26, 1918, after a fortnight in the front line.



PRIVATE GEOFFREY HAINES

William Colvin, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Colvin, of Norong, near Rutherglen, was born in 1893, and attended Melbourne High School in 1909 and 1910. On completion of his Manual Arts course in 1913, Mr. Colvin was appointed woodwork master at our school and at Leon-gatha. He was an athlete and an inspiring and



LIEUTENANT WILLIAM COLVIN

sympathetic teacher. Enlisting as a private in August, 1914, he embarked as a corporal of the 8th Battalion on the transport “Benalla” on October 19. After serving in Egypt he proceeded with his unit to Gallipoli where, although twice wounded, he served from the landing to the evacuation. Following his return to Egypt, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant at Serapeum on February 10, and 2nd Lieutenant ten days later. In March Lieutenant Colvin proceeded to France, and was killed in action at Pozieres on July 25.

Private Edmund R. Lyall was one of the original pupils of the school. The son of Mr. John S. Lyall, once head teacher of Jindivick School, he attended elementary schools at Wau-bra and Jindivick before becoming a student at Warragul High School in the years 1911-13. After gaining his Senior Public he became a junior teacher at Berwick. He enlisted in Melbourne on July 17, 1915, as a private in 2nd Pioneer Battalion, and sailed for Egypt on November 21, 1915 with reinforcements. Transferring to 2nd Pioneer Battalion, he left Egypt for France



PRIVATE EDMUND LYALL

on March 20, 1916, and was killed in action on November 14 of the same year. In a letter to his parents his commanding officer wrote: "Private Lyall was killed while trying to get communication through after a charge . . . . Private Lyall was highly popular, both with officers and with his comrades. On several occasions when he could have obtained leave he preferred to stay on with the boys. I may state that the action of your son and his particular party in getting through saved the situation." As a teacher Private Lyall's record was that of an excellent young man in every respect.

Lieut. Harry Saffer Swinburne, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Swinburne, of Gisborne, and a Bachelor of Arts of the Melbourne University was born in 1887. He began his education as a pupil of School No. 621 Tylden. In 1907 he became a junior teacher at Bacchus Marsh. He entered the Teachers' College the following year, and was later head of Officer South and Lime Kilns. He was a member of the staff of Colac High School in 1912, Warragul High School in 1914 and enlisted from Shepparton in 1915. As a teacher he was logical, clear, forceful, and a good disciplinarian. He

enlisted as a private on July 16, 1915, and was promoted to commissioned rank on January 12, 1916. He landed with the 5th reinforcements to the 29th Battalion on the transport "Anchise" on March 14. After training in Egypt, he went to France and joined his unit on the 25th of July. Four months later he became a lieutenant and was in action at Pozieres till March 2, 1917, when he was killed by a shell after taking the last trench before Bapaume.



LIEUTENANT HARRY SWINBURNE

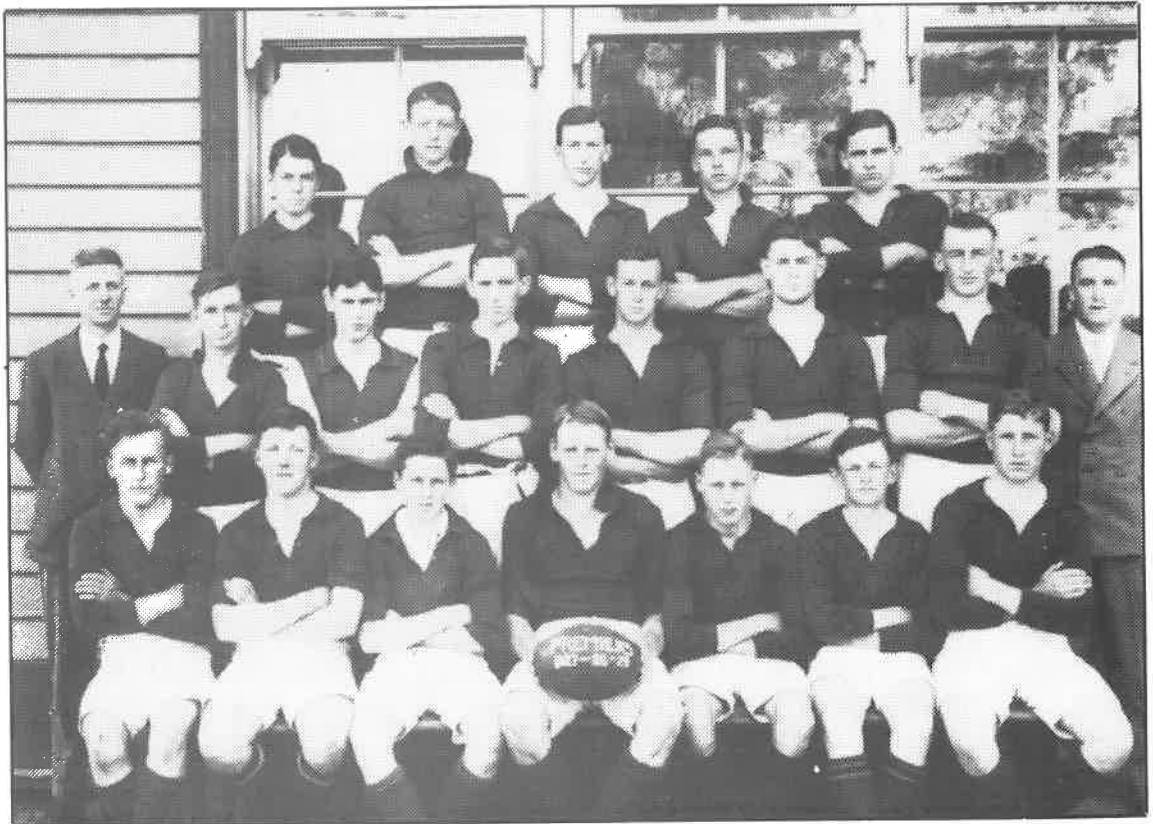
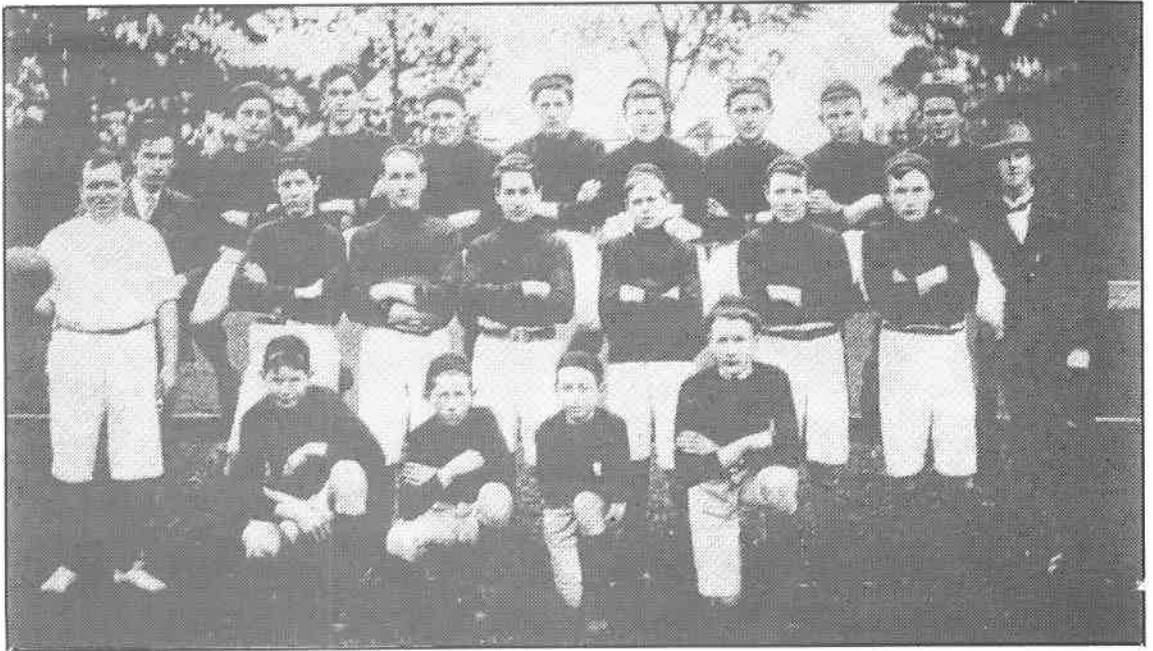
#### HOUSE COMPETITIONS

The sports played in these house competitions were at first basketball, hockey, football, cricket and tennis, but in recent years this list has lengthened and includes as well baseball, softball, vigoro, volley ball and soccer—(much to the disgust of the Australian rules fans).

The keen but friendly rivalry between the houses is one of the outstanding features of the school life. To maintain the interest in these competitions shields were donated last year (1960), the G. C. Baker Memorial Shield for House Competition in Citizenship by Mrs. D. Baker and her sons, the Jean Marrabel Shield for House Competition in Scholarship by Misses J. and M. Marrabel and the B. J. Dunn M.A., L.L.M. Shield for the House Aggregate by Mrs. B. Dunn and Miss I. Dunn.



# Football Teams of Past Years





FOOTBALL TEAM, PREMIERS, 1931

Back Row: Mr. E. Harrison, I. Gardner, W. Ware, T. Matthews, R. Hardie, G. Henry, D. Mayberry, I. Flett, K. Feltscheer, A. Ashcroft, Mr. R. Matthews.

Middle Row: I. King, I. Nicholson, N. Solomon, L. Griggs, H. Kilday, I. Brown, M. Young.

Front Row: L. Johnson, G. Hooper, S. Rushton.

FOOTBALL TEAM, 1919

ABOVE LEFT: Their contemporaries will recognise the Fullerton brothers, Frank Purkiss, Gus Gay, Jim and Ted Pask, Jim Brown, Harold Solomon, Eric Gay, Bruce Friend, Les Gallagher, Alec Bagot, Ron Matchett, Jim Walsh, and Ern Hornan, as well as the others unknown to me.

FOOTBALL TEAM, PREMIERS, 1927-28-29

BELOW LEFT: This team, captained by Charlie Brooker, had considerable success. Among the members were the Anderson brothers, Stuart Calder, Jim Saunders, Ossie Streitberg, Clem Mayberry, Norman Solomon and Les Griggs.

Teachers—Left: P. J. Wolfe. Right: D. Graham.

MEMBERS OF THE FIRST COUNCIL



PRESENTED BY  
 COUNT KILLISCH VON HORN

January 1912

# THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

## THE FIRST SCHOOL COUNCIL

The photograph in the entrance hall of the first School Council was presented to the School in November 1913 by Count Von Horn. He hoped that it would serve to keep green the memory of those who had worked so hard for the establishment of the school. It should serve too to keep alive the memory of the Count himself, who gave most generously to the school and to the town during his sojourn here.

The only surviving member of this group is Mr. D. T. Jones, whose services as a veterinary surgeon were invaluable to the school, while the farm was in operation.

Few schools can have been better served by their school councils than Warragul High School. As one reads through the reports of meetings extending over the fifty year period, one cannot but be impressed by the interest and enthusiasm of the members many of whom in the early years travelled a considerable distance in horse drawn vehicles to attend the meetings. That these occasionally lapsed for want of a quorum is not surprising, "inclement weather" often being the reason given.

For the first thirty years a great deal of time was given first to the establishment of the farm and then to its management, and on a number of occasions, the Council was called upon to fight to retain it for the school, and did the job valiantly. Their interest was not however confined to this side of the school's activities. They gave practical support to Mr Revell's efforts to establish the commercial course and gave every assistance to Mr Spencer when he introduced a domestic arts course for girls. They enthusiastically welcomed the introduction of the technical course for boys in 1939, and struggled vigorously in the next few years to secure equipment and staff. In the post war years they formed the spearhead of the long and finally successful campaign for the new school, and, while that was in progress, had hard-won victories in some minor skirmishes, securing houses for the staff, the cafeteria, the bus park and other amenities.

Outstanding among the many zealous members was Mr B. J. Dunn M.A., L.L.M. It is doubtful whether there is another instance in Victoria of a member of a school council holding that position for fifty years, and giving such invaluable service during that period. Mr Dunn made the first move towards the establishment of the school, and despite frustration and delays, continued his efforts until the school was opened. He was elected president of the first council in recognition of his ability and enthusiasm, and held that office on many occasions during the next fifty years. Circumstances had not made it easy for him to secure his own excellent qualifications, and it was his ambition to see that later generations were given every opportunity to secure the education best suited to them. It was a matter of great regret to the school that Mr Dunn did not live to take part in the Jubilee celebrations and to receive the sincere tributes that would have been paid to him as the school's oldest counsellor and friend.



MR. B. J. DUNN, M.A., L.L.M.

Other presidents whose names are familiar to parents and students, are Mr H. Hayward and Mr R. Telford, both of whom gave freely of their time and energy when the school was passing through a very difficult period in the post war years. It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that the president in office is Mr R. Dent, an ex-student of the school, and an ardent worker for its welfare.

Until 1935, the Council was a man's preserve. Then in that year Mrs Randall was elected as a representative of the parents and gave very good service during the next four years.

In 1943, Mrs E. J. Cumming and Mrs R. Dickson became members. Mrs Cumming was a most capable and enthusiastic worker for the school both as a member of the Council, and as secretary of the Ladies' Auxiliary, a position which she held from 1949 until her sudden death in 1958. We will not easily forget her cheery personality and her outstanding services to the school. Mrs Dickson is still a member of the Council, and despite the fact that her children have long since left the school, works with unabated keenness for its progress. Other women, including Mrs S. Browne, Mrs Anderson and Mrs. Buntine have been, or are, members of the Council, and have played a very active part in its deliberations.

The importance of the School Council is little realised by the parents and the public generally. It includes representatives of the three district shires, district interests and parents as well as the district inspector and the



headmaster who acts as secretary. Through these representatives the school can make direct contact with local bodies—who may assist its development, and through the council those interested in the school can communicate with the Education Department. In fact it is the only official channel of communication between the locality and the Department and, as such, well deserves the full and interested support of all parents and friends of the school.

## THE PARENTS & FRIENDS. ASSN.

This body was inaugurated in 1943, its first president being Rev. L. Wilkinson, who, in the next two years, led a vigorous campaign for more accommodation, and ultimately, a new school. His sudden death in 1945 was a deep personal loss to all who knew him. His successors in this position, Mr. A. Swan, Mr. J. White, Mr. R. Telford, Mr. W. Buntine, Mrs. Quake and Mrs. Doery have emulated him in their zeal for the welfare of the school and the students. They have been assisted by hard-working secretaries, one of whom Mr. E. V. Elli, held office for the first seven years of the Association's existence.

At all times they have co-operated with the School Council in its efforts to secure more amenities, improvements to the bus service, and a new school, and have been represented on many deputations to the Minister of Education in an effort to achieve these aims.

From their funds they have purchased much valuable equipment for the school, including in recent years, fittings for the library, an epidiascope, seats for the grounds and have made regular donations to the prize fund.

An innovation at meetings has been addresses by members of the staff on matters of interest to parents, details of certain courses, vocational guidance, scholarships etc., and, in an effort to secure a better attendance, some meetings have been held at night. A strong parents' association is of immense value to a school and the officials of this group have always been anxious to win the support of all parents. Since 1952 the membership fee has been collected together with the students' fee at the beginning of the school year, but the association, although it welcomes the great increase in membership fees, would also like to see a corresponding increase in attendance as an indication of the parents' interest in the progress of the school.

## THE LADIES' AUXILIARY

This body was created as a subsidiary of the Parents' and Friends' Association with two aims, to raise funds to purchase amenities for the school, and also to relieve the staff and students of the catering at athletics meetings and other functions. Until 1950, when a voluntary giving system was introduced, street stalls were organised as a means of raising money, and a small group of ladies led by Mrs. Dickson as president, and first Mrs. Ross, and later Mrs. Cumming, as secretary, worked very hard to make these efforts a success.

From their funds, they purchased a bed

and bedding for the sickroom, and trestle tables and crockery for use when visitors were entertained at the school. Each year they awarded prizes for cookery.

They really swung into action at the school and interschool athletics meeting. At the school sports they served afternoon tea to hundreds of visitors and provided the pupils with a bag of sandwiches, but at interschool meetings they had a much greater task, serving lunch and afternoon tea, and, at the same time selling drinks, pies and pasties to thousands of children.

Then there were many other special occasions, providing an evening meal for teams from Camberwell, organising food for the cast at rehearsals and performances of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, catering for afternoon tea at Opening Day and so on. All these jobs were carried through with such enthusiasm, and obvious enjoyment that we cannot speak too highly of their devoted services to the school.

## THE EX-STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

This body, like the proverbial cat, would appear to have nine lives. The first record of its existence is a note in the "Valley" for 1921, stating that Mr. T. F. Scott had been responsible for re-organising the Association, so apparently, it had lapsed at some time previous to that date. In 1934 it was flourishing because it was able to give £100 to the school for the erection of a sports pavilion.

Then came the war, and the association went into recess for a period of three years, but was revived in 1944. In that year it raised £100, and awarded a scholarship to a student in the Leaving Certificate year. All offices in the club at that time were held by girls, president, Heather Glen, vice-president, Joy Miles, and secretary, Hilda Randall, but, as the war was still in progress, that is understandable.

In 1946, the association organised two balls, one of which raised £40 for the Food for Britain appeal, and another, a Victory Ball, which raised £35 for the Distressed Diggers' Fund. Trips to the snow and to the beach kept interest alive. In 1947 it was still in existence and another ball was held and further trips organised. After that date, interest seemed to decrease steadily and in 1949 it was allowed to lapse once again.

In 1953 it was re-organised under the leadership of Keith Pretty as president and Ron Cook as secretary, but in this case it lasted only two years. Finally a meeting was called in April 1960 in order to re-establish the association so that preparations could be made for the Jubilee Celebrations in 1961 and an appeal launched for funds for the construction of the oval. A good deal has been accomplished towards the achievement of both these aims — ex-students have donated nearly £500 towards the oval appeal and committees of ex-students are making final arrangements for a Jubilee ball and a dinner.

We would like to think that this will be the last time that the association has to be restored to life. We must hope that the Jubilee celebrations will inspire such interest and enthusiasm among ex-students that a ball, a dinner and a re-union will become annual events and the association a permanent institution.

## THE HEADMASTERS

Of the school's eleven headmasters, three occupied the position for brief periods, and a fourth, Mr George Baker, although he received a permanent appointment, did not live to take up the position.

Mr Refshauge who was responsible for opening the school, was a vigorous and skilful teacher and an excellent organiser, who, in his few months' stay in Warragul, made an indelible impression on his pupils. His successor, Mr J. P. McLennan, a genial and capable man, remained for five years, but during that period it became more and more obvious that his skill and training as a teacher of agriculture were not being used to their full capacity, and, as a result, he transferred to the position of Principal of Burnley College where his talents could be fully employed.

Mr. J. A. Rowell occupied the position of Head Master temporarily for 12 months, and was succeeded by Mr T. F. Scott, who, with quiet efficiency, transformed the Agricultural High School into a Secondary School, with the emphasis on the professional course, for this was quite clearly what the parents were demanding. Under his wise guidance the school developed a sense of unity and purpose which had been somewhat lacking in the previous years, largely as a result of frequent changes of staff.

When Mr H. H. Revell took over in 1923, the school had an excellent tone and was rapidly increasing in attendance. This growth gave him scope for his outstanding administrative ability, and under his just and tolerant control, the school made impressive progress. None of his staff or his students will forget his long, lean, immaculate figure, and his steely glance, all that was needed to subdue the most recalcitrant pupil. The news of his impending departure from Warragul aroused widespread regret in the town and district at the close of 1934, not only because of his valuable services to the school, but also because of his active participation in sporting activities and other community efforts.

Mr W. G. Spencer took over just as the depression was lifting, and had to cope with a rapid increase in attendance which soon outstripped the accommodation available. His vigorous efforts to widen the curriculum to provide courses to suit the abilities of all pupils, were partly frustrated by the outbreak of war, but when he left Warragul in 1941, a start had been made on the task of transforming the secondary school into a multi-purpose school.

Mr H. W. Parker's brief stay coincided with the most troubled period of the war, and the ever-growing problems of over-crowding and staff shortages were inherited by his successor, Dr. W. J. Harris, and reached a climax during his term as headmaster. He firmly believed that the High School's doors should be open to everyone, regardless of their ability, for the experience of being a member of a large school community was, in his opinion, as valuable as any lessons learnt in the classroom. The necessity to restrict the entry of pupils was a negation of his ideal of education, and this spurred him on in the fight to secure more accommodation.

His idealism, his love of the country side, it bird, plant and animal life (an enthusiasm he tried to cultivate in his pupils), and his ability to mix on equal terms with all men despite his intellectual superiority made him a memorable and endearing personality.

When Mr. P. F. Wilkin took over in 1952, the school's accommodation problems were well on the way towards a temporary solution, but upon his shoulders fell the intricate task of organising a multi-purpose school, complicated by a rapidly increasing attendance and an acute shortage of staff. This job was accomplished with the minimum of friction, while the battle for a final solution of the accommodation problem, a new school, continued with unabated vigour. Mr Wilkin's untiring labours in this regard, as well as his valuable services to all community efforts, will not be forgotten by the school and the townspeople.

Giving unwavering support to Dr. Harris and Mr Wilkin during this period, was Mr Baker, the senior master. That he was not able to take up his appointment as headmaster was a matter of great regret to all who knew him.

The present headmaster, Mr D. F. Macaulay, has assumed his responsibilities with zeal and enthusiasm, and under his guidance the school may look forward to a further period of success and progress.

## STUDENTS AND STAFF

I have been closely connected with the school for twenty-six years of its fifty years, six as a student and twenty as a teacher, but obviously there are certain periods of which I know nothing at first hand. I hope I may be forgiven if I fail to mention some teacher or student who may have made a great impact on the reader, but who is not known to me.

For the years 1911-1920, I have to depend on hearsay, but some of the early pupils were known to me in later years. Oswald Trumpey, better known to the locals as "Boy", was one of the original students of the High School, where his engaging personality and lively pranks made him popular with fellow pupils and the staff. In 1913 he transferred to Scotch College, and then completed his medical course at Melbourne University. Knowing the discomforts and trials of a country doctor's life, he returned rather reluctantly to take over his father's practice. During the years that followed, his ready wit, his cheerfulness and, above all, his humanity, endeared him to everyone. Children were his special joy and no child was too ill to welcome his appearance in the children's ward. Then came the war years and an acute shortage of doctors. Long hours of work and a heavy load of responsibility took their toll. His sudden death in February 1945 cast a shadow over the whole district. We are proud to count him among our ex-students.

A number of these first students became teachers and two of them taught at the High School in later years, Daisy Topp in 1922, and Perce Freckleton from 1959 until the present time. He had a long and successful career in the Education Department from which he retired in 1958, but his energy undiminished, he refused



to give up work and joined the High School staff where his vigour and enthusiasm put younger members to shame.

Among the teachers in those early years was Miss Helen Ross, daughter of the headmaster of the Warragul primary school, and one of four sisters, all of whom became teachers. She was succeeded by Miss Ada Knowles, a most competent teacher, who later became a Secondary Schools Inspector. The senior master in those days was Mr. Frank Gallagher, popularly known as "Boof." Miss Daisy Searby, who took Miss Knowles' position in 1919, was later responsible for organising an exchange of visits between Waragul High School and Essendon High School.

During these early years, teachers came and went with such rapidity that they remain little more than names. Two we do remember, Mr Colvin and Mr Swinburne, who died on service during the First World War, and whose names have been given to two of the school houses. Not until the war was over did the staff situation become more stable. In 1920, Mr P. J. Wolfe came from Ballarat, rather unwillingly, he admits, but he soon settled in as senior master, and remained in that position until 1930. His thin stooping figure, his pipe and his benevolent twinkle are affectionately remembered by his students to whom he was known by the obvious nick-name of "Loup" (pronounced "Loop", despite any rules regarding French pronunciation taught in the class room).

In 1921, Miss Lillian Horton replaced Miss Searby as senior mistress, and during the next five years taught French and History and ruled with great kindness over the girls. Miss Phyllis Vickery's term at the school, coincided with Miss Horton's, and she combined the teaching of mathematics with enthusiastic instruction in the art of playing hockey. Mr Dougald Miller, later to be well known as secretary of the Metropolitan High Schools' Sports Association, was art master and a physical fitness enthusiast.

In 1923 and 1924, Mr J. R. Lyall, assisted by Miss Beatrice MacDonald, who later became his wife, put on two dramatic performances which have been referred to previously. The development of their romance was of course observed with the greatest interest by all pupils, as was another a few years later which culminated in the marriage of Miss Isobel Steele and Mr Fred Thomas. In the 1940's, when Mick Ife was courting Heather Drayton, this parody was overheard by Mr Baker during a singing lesson:

"Is she fit to be your wife Billy Boy, Billy Boy?  
As the Drayton to the Ife, my Billy Boy!"

The staff has few secrets from the pupils.

In 1930, Mr Harry Weaving, later to earn the nickname of "Spud," replaced Mr Wolfe as science master, and remained on the staff for fifteen years, teaching under four headmasters. A graduate of Birmingham University, he never lost certain dialectal peculiarities that intrigued his pupils. He is best remembered for his out-

standing ability as a teacher and for his kindly interest in his students. Mention should be made here of Mr Weaving's attempt to compile a Roll of Honour containing the names of ex-students who had served in the Second World War. Despite his valiant efforts and the assistance given by other members of the staff, the task became too difficult to handle successfully, and was finally abandoned.

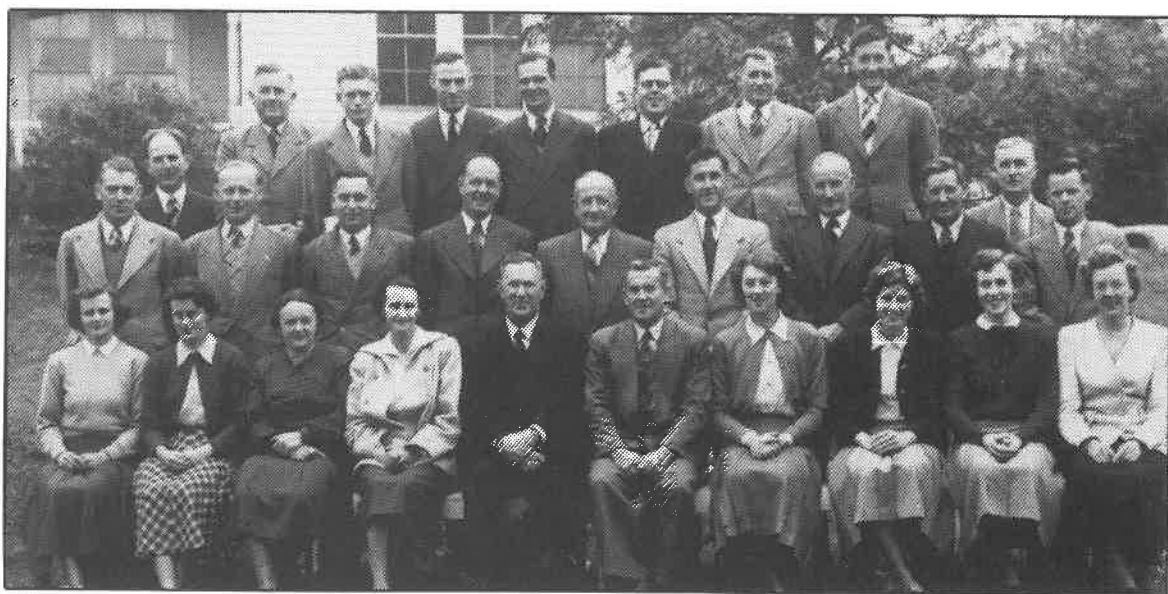
A measure of the efficiency of the staff during those years is the fact that three of the teachers later became members of the Board of Secondary School Inspectors. The first of these was Mr Wolfe, soon followed by Mr Roy Francis, a teacher of commercial subjects and a keen athlete who did much to raise the standard of athletics, not only at Warragul High School but also in the Association. Miss Ruth Coulsell, whose teaching skill and warm hearted interest in her pupils made an indelible impression, was also appointed to the Board some years later. More recently Miss Jessie Kerr, who gave such enthusiastic support to the Gilbert and Sullivan productions and whose cheery personality won her many friends during her stay in Warragul, has also become an Inspector.

A very brilliant member of the staff in the 1930's was Mr Fred Syer, now Dr. Fred Syer and a member of the staff of the Mathematics School at the Melbourne University. Many will remember Miss Dorothy Bond, her excellent work in the class-room, the transformation she achieved in the garden, and her organisation of money raising efforts after the outbreak of war.

By the 1940's the staff had become so large and changes so frequent that it is impossible to mention more than a few. Miss Myra Styles, senior mistress from 1942 to 1948, was endowed with unfailing energy and enthusiasm, and was responsible for many valuable innovations, notably the inauguration of the Parents' and Friends' Association. She gave inspiring leadership in social service and demanded and received a very high standard of work and effort both inside and outside the classroom. Some years later the position of senior mistress was held by Mrs Ward, who secured an excellent tone in the classroom, the transformation she achieved in the garden, and her organisation of money raising efforts after the outbreak of war, among the girls, and while working indefatigably in the classroom, still found time to super-vise the garden with very successful results.

The photo of the staff of 1952 is included for the practical reason that it was the clearest photograph available for reproduction. It was sheer coincidence that the student's rhyming commentary on his teachers should apply to the staff of that same year.

Among them is Jean Christian, an ex-student who joined the staff in 1948, and has done a very fine job as sports mistress as well as class teacher. It includes also Bruce Tozer, a most enthusiastic and efficient sports master who set a fine example to the boys and was extremely popular with them, Jack Greenwell, whose youthful exuberance combined with great teaching skill won him many friends and Des.



HIGH SCHOOL STAFF, 1952

Back Row (L to R): Mr. G. G. Sloane, Mr. D. Ife, Mr. M. Neilson, Mr. L. R. Maher, Mr. G. R. Mead, Mr. J. D. Russell, Mr. J. Barker, Mr. G. B. Tozer, Mr. Simmons.

Back Row: Mr. V. Bellingham, Mr. K. Archer, Mr. Charlton, Mr. C. M. Hall, Mr. A. H. Sinclair, Mr. J. Greenwell, Mr. A. C. Jordan, Mr. G. Uebergang, Mr. J. Lacey.

Front Row: Miss J. Christian, Miss Wallace, Miss O. Marrabel, Mrs. Ward (Senior Mistress), Mr. Wilkin (Head Master), Mr. G. C. Baker, Miss A. Talbot (Secretary), Miss G. Worthington, Miss J. Walker, Miss J. Hall. Absentee: Mr. A. J. Harriott.

Russell, most efficient M.C. of school socials. An then Mick Ife who presided over the book-stall for thirteen years and kept an eye on the school finances. He had a phenomenal memory for students' names, faces and careers, and was ever ready with some anecdote once a pupil's name was mentioned. We shan't forget his puns either.

The list is far too long to deal with each individually, but mention must be made of Alan Sinclair, with an eagle eye for the evil doer, Jim Barker, organiser of bus routes, and Colin Hall, whose chief claim to fame in the students' eyes seemed to be his "vintage" car. Jean Walker, producer of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas in 1953, 1954 and 1955, is also in this group. She aroused a genuine and lively interest in musical activity which unfortunately could not be maintained after her departure.

The sole representative of the Technical section in this photograph is George Mead, who instructed in woodwork, not only the boys of the school, but many husbands and husbands-to-be, who were keen to build their own furni-

ture. Jim Harriott, the genial giant who was very loath to break his ties with Warragul, is missing from the photograph although he was at that time on the staff.

The next year saw a great increase in the number of the technical staff as the work of this department was rapidly expanded with quiet efficiency by Mr. McClure. One of the new arrivals was Bob Thompson, still in charge of the motor mechanics section of the Technical School. The departure of Bert Wilkinson and Bill Margetts makes him the last survivor of the old combined staff.

To recall or comment on all the teachers during the last ten years, is an impossible task in so short an account, and I shall stop at this point by referring first to one indispensable member of the staff who has given efficient and cheerful service ever since her position was created, our first and now our only clerk, Agnes Talbot, and then to another hard-working and invaluable friend of the school, Mrs. Madill, whose efficient management of the Cafeteria has been of great financial benefit to the school.

Of the senior students of these early years and later, the majority became teachers. An imposing list of the High School and Primary School headmasters are ex-students of this school, and one, Fred Brooks, has risen to the position of Assistant Director of Education after a most successful career as a secondary teacher and as an inspector of Technical Schools. Many of these teachers have returned to serve on the staff of their old school. Two have already been mentioned, Perce Freckleton and Daisy Topp. Another was Jack Lyall, now chief Inspector of Primary Schools, and still another, "Sunny", who presided over the Cookery Centre for two different periods, and mothered both staff and students.

During later years the list has become a very long one, and includes George Smith, Henry Baxter, Archie Gibson, Jean Christian, Aline Murnane, Wendy Howells, June and Barbara Telford, Flora Dickson, Greg Cropley, Shirley Bloye and myself.

Of those who deserted the teaching profession for other fields, one of the most successful was Tom Colquhoun who after holding a position on the staff first of the Adelaide University and later of the Waite Institute, was seconded to the Department of War Organisation of Industry during the war and is now Commonwealth Director of War Service Settlement. As an executive officer for the Dairy Industry Committee of Inquiry he has made contact with Eric Roberts, another ex-student, now Chairman of the Dairy Produce Board.

Some took to the law, Laurie Friend, Ben Dunn, Dick Long and, in more recent years, Carlo Moscato. Of these Ben Dunn is now a judge of the County Court and was for a time Acting Chief Justice of the Northern Territory, an achievement of which both his family and the school are justly proud. Others have made a career for themselves in engineering, among them Jim Young, Ben Boon, Albert Ronalds, Ron Chambers, Duncan Phillips, the giant Smith brothers, Henry and Neville, Irvine Jones and Geoff Baker. Cliff Baker is engaged in research work in the laboratories of the Hume Pipe Company, while Len Dyall (Dizzy to his friends), was granted a post doctoral associateship to do research in chemistry in U.S.A. in 1960 and will spend three years between the State Universities of Florida and California.

Neville Smethurst, school captain in 1952, is in charge of the Antarctic Base at Wilkes, a position for which lessons on the front verandah of the old school were probably a useful preparation. Another school captain, Bob Gray (1941 and 1942), now Dr. Robert Gray, is on the staff of the Alfred Hospital. Others have joined the ministry, among them Don Saltmarsh, Neil Wilkinson, Fred Morrey, Steve Box and more recently Ian Rowse who is doing mission work in New Guinea.

Women's names are few in this list, for the obvious reason that most of them have married and have made their careers as wives and mothers. They are scattered far and wide. Faye Dickson, Maryln Coady and Beryl Long in New Guinea, and Mildred Garnsey in outback

Queensland, to mention but a few. Many have sent their children back to the school they once attended, and in at least one instance are represented by grand children. Others are still serving the community, as nurses and teachers, among them Nancy Anderson who is teaching in New Guinea.

## IN CONCLUSION

Of the thousands of pupils who have passed through the school, only a very small number have been mentioned here, chiefly those whom the school has prepared for tertiary education. But a school should have much more to offer than this, and I cannot do better than quote Dr. Harris's words:

"Education at the secondary stage is in a very special way a preparation for adult life — such a life as will give happiness and satisfaction to the individual and at the same time useful service to the community. The corporate life of a school should discourage selfishness, meanness and trifling, and should encourage community spirit, generosity of thought and consideration for others, all of which may be summed up as the ideal of unselfish service which is so strongly stressed at commemoration services throughout the year but which is apt to be overlooked in a world increasingly interested in material things and in many cases exalting money values above all others."

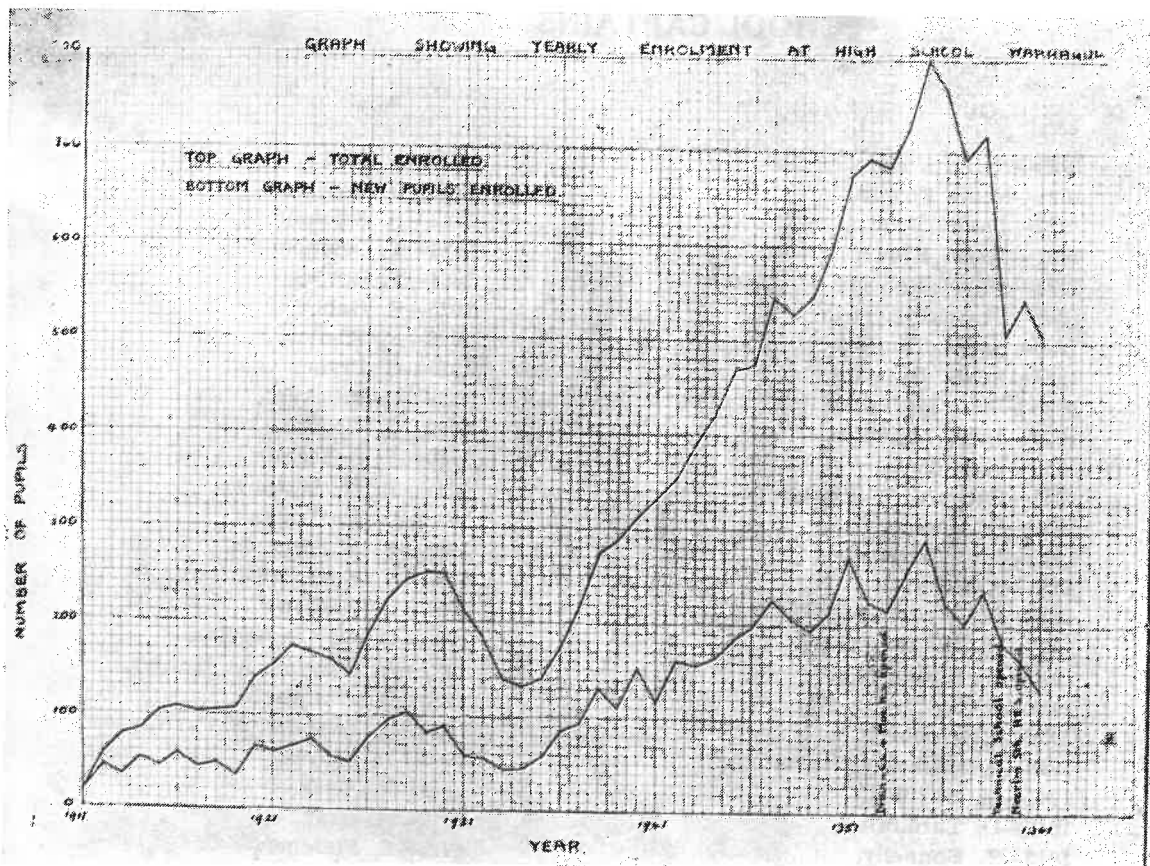
The school motto urges us to "seek a definite end" and what aim for any school could be more admirable than the moulding of men and women pledged to the ideal of unselfish service to the community. Such an achievement is difficult to attain, but should remain the ideal towards which we strive.

## WARRAGUL

When I set out for Warragul—  
 'Twas just ten miles away—  
 All I could see was grass and mud,  
 And hail was on its way.  
 What should bechance at Warragul,  
 While I did sojourn there ?  
 The blessed sun it came right out !  
 It did indeed I swear !  
 When I returned from Warragul,  
 These words rang in my ears,  
 "The sun shone bright at Warragul,  
 First time for twenty years."

"Vinnie," Form V.

The Hill, 1948.



## DUX OF SCHOOL

1919 Arthur F. Sheldon,  
 1920 George Smith,  
 1921 Cicely E. Sheldon,  
 1922 Henry Baxter,  
 1923 Elizabeth Roberts,  
 1924 Fred Brooks,  
 1925 Jean Singleton,  
 1926 Olive Marrabel,  
 1927 J. A. Gibson,  
 1928 Annie Drummond,  
 1929 Jean Marrabel,  
 1930 A. R. Moorfield,  
 1931 John Chambers,  
 1932 Leslie Griggs,  
 1933 Clifford Martin,  
 1934 M. B. Wilkinson,  
 1935 Jean Barty and  
     Bertha Streitberg,  
 1936 Jean Barty,  
 1937 Geoffrey Pelletier,  
 1938 Noel Cawthorn,  
 1939 E. Heyward,  
 1940 Dougald Moyes,

1941 Robert Gray,  
 1942 Teresa Connelly,  
 1943 Clifford Baker,  
 1944 Clifford Baker,  
 1945 Margaret Allen,  
 1946 Athol Jones,  
 1947 Henry Smith,  
 1948 Irvine Jones,  
 1949 Avon Middleton,  
 1950 William Dryden,  
 1951 Leonard Dyall and  
     Aline Murnane,  
 1952 Colin Castree and  
     Dawn Savige,  
 1953 Alwyn Jones,  
 1954 Ian Baxter,  
 1955 Gregory Cropley,  
 1956 Kevin Lethlean,  
 1957 Len Armour,  
 1958 Alan Telford,  
 1959 Sue Phillips and  
     Janet Cowden,  
 1960 Rodney Watkins.

## SCHOOL CAPTAINS

### Girl

1920—Nellie Firmin.  
1921—Nellie Firmin.  
1922—Jessie Brown.  
1923—Jessie Brown.  
1924—Mabel Roberts.  
1925—Beatrice Byriell.  
1926—Nellie Duncan.  
1927—Nellie Duncan.  
1928—Jean Marrabel.  
1929—Jean Marrabel.  
1930—Elsie Toy.  
1931—Barbara Wilkinson.  
1932—E. MacRae.  
1933—Una Tomasetti.  
1934—Kath. Flett.  
1935—G. McSweeney.  
1936—H. G. Montague.  
1937—H. Montague.  
1938—R. Smith, R. Fry, W. Balfour.  
1939—T. Webber.  
1940—J. Macauley, H. Randall.  
1941—M. Darnley.  
1942—D. Threfall.  
1943—T. Connelly.  
1944—K. Willis.  
1945—A. Connelly.  
1946—J. White.  
1947—M. Pratt.  
1948—F. Donelly.  
1949—A. Middleton.  
1950—H. White.  
1951—A. Hutchison.  
1952—D. Savige.  
1953—J. McNally.  
1954—H. Gilbert.  
1955—J. Olsen.  
1956—J. Olsen.  
1957—M. Potter.  
1958—K. Roberts.  
1959—R. Ristrom.  
1960—L. Baldwin.  
1961—H. Doery.

### Boy

1920—J. Pask.  
1921—H. Solomon.  
1922—H. Solomon.  
1923—T. Colquhoun.  
1924—F. Brooks.  
1925—F. Gabbe.  
1926—F. Kiellerup.  
1927—C. Pryor.  
1928—C. Brooker.  
1929—C. Brooker.  
1930—J. J. Maher.  
1931—T. H. Mathews.  
1932—L. T. Griggs.  
1933—E. W. Bounds.  
1934—S. L. G. Rushton.  
1935—D. Watson.  
1936—G. O. Clapperton.  
1937—A. Watson, A. Hunter.  
1938—W. Tomasetti.  
1939—A. Dawson, A. Farrington.  
1940—D. Moyes.  
1941—R. Gray.  
1942—R. Gray.  
1943—L. Fletcher.  
1944—G. Williamson.  
1945—G. Hoult.  
1946—A. Jones.  
1947—J. McGregor.  
1948—C. Lewis.  
1949—N. Henry.  
1950—W. Dryden.  
1951—L. K. Dyall.  
1952—N. Smethurst.  
1953—R. Doherty.  
1954—J. Rowse.  
1955—G. Prentice.  
1956—J. Morgan.  
1957—L. Heale.  
1958—B. Anderson.  
1959—D. Page.  
1960—J. Baker.  
1961—G. Duncan.

## THE TRIBE ON THE HILL —1952

I will tell you of our teachers,  
Of our mighty tribe of teachers,  
Of their work and of their habits,  
Tell you all I know about them.  
So, here comes the lord and chieftain,  
Stalwart Wilkin from his office,  
From his office dark and dingy,  
Wherein dwells the Typing Talbot.  
Ah, you see the learned elders;  
Strong and wise are Baker, Sinclair  
Ever working on timetables,  
Working for the good of pupils.  
Next there are the mighty war braves,  
Sloan and Harriot, strong in battle,  
And the mighty Murdock Neilson  
Riding on his little two-stroke.  
Teaching, ordering and instructing  
All the arts of modern warfare.  
All the other braves are here now,  
Simmons smoking his great peace-pipe,  
Maher expounding mystic symbols,  
Archer adding words of wisdom.  
Straightway from the muddy oval  
Comes the handsome G. B. Tozer  
Tall of stature, sturdy athlete,  
With the active Umpire Lacy.  
H'm ! you smell the rotten eggum,  
Greenwell, Barker in the stinks room  
Brew their potions, mix their compounds,  
Charlton (holding nose) beside them.  
Hark, the tapping of the hammers,  
Ube and Mead intent on woodcraft;  
And beside them, with the cash box,  
Bellingham and Ife hold pow-wow

On the cost of foreign birch-bark.  
Pointing with his finger westwards  
Jordan in his strange tongue speaking  
Talks with Hall of distant countries  
Far beyond the Big Sea Waters.  
Patiently sits cheerful Russell  
With his plans for social evenings.  
In the wigwams of the maidens,  
Ward and Marrabel are talking  
Of the girls who wear no head-dress,  
Watching Christian running races  
With her squaws on the far oval.  
From room twenty comes sweet music,  
Choirs of little braves are singing  
Harkened by the tuneful Walker.  
In the art room Margaret Wallace  
In her wisdom teaches students  
All the arts of picture-writing;  
Worthy with her skins and wampum  
With 4g is making dresses.  
Last but not the least of teachers,  
Skilful Kerr is busy cooking  
Haunch of deer and hump of bison  
For the Tribe upon the Hill.  
Should you ask me whence these stories  
I should answer, I should tell you,  
From the library and ovals,  
From the quadrangle and lockers,  
From the corridors and form rooms.  
I have told you of our teachers  
Of our mighty tribe of teachers  
Who have pledged their life's best effort  
To the School upon the Hill.

(All characters are entirely imaginary and no reference is intended to any living person.)

—Peter Allan, Form V.



—Autographs—