

## CAMBERWELL HIGH SCHOOL

# Headmaster's Report, 1957

### EXPANSION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

Four years ago Camberwell and Box Hill were the only High Schools in our area from Ringwood to Richmond and from Balwyn to Malvern. Since then in that area six new High Schools have opened and two more will open next year. In other parts of the State, Higher Elementary Schools have been converted to High Schools and new High Schools have been built so that in Victoria the number of High Schools has doubled. The new schools have rapidly established reputations comparable with those built up by the older schools. Camberwell High School is proud to be a unit in an organisation which in a short time has achieved such results and has so established itself in popular esteem. Even this growth has not succeeded in reducing the strain on the school. At present our net enrolment is 800, a number which severely taxes our accommodation. While the Public Works Department has given us a new roof our own efforts throughout the year have been mainly directed towards improving the library and gymnasium. The former is now well furnished and adequately supplied with books of reference and fiction, while the latter is moderately well equipped and more equipment will be added when the building is complete.

### MATRICULATION CLASSES

For several years we delayed the commencement of matriculation classes, and during that time made the necessary preparations with regard to staff, equipment, and library facilities. The results in 1956 showed that this delay was wise as 35 students were successful and 16 first-class honours and 35 second-class honours were obtained.

In the first list of Commonwealth Government Scholarships the following received awards:—Clive Beed, Sigrid Beilharz, Brian Blythe, Lynette Carter, Peter Chesterman, John Clark, Judith Eltham, Graeme Galt, Brigitte Gatzke, Norman Head, Beatrice Mason, Gerald Robinson, Donald Seedsman, Geoffrey Sproat, Keith Walker and David Wilson. Many of the above relinquished these awards in favour of more valuable scholarships.

Secondary Teaching Scholarships to the University were awarded to Peter Chesterman, John Clark, Brian Firth, Graeme Galt, Norman Head, Robert Lord, Beatrice Mason, Allan Meiers, Kerry Price, Gerald Robinson and Keith Walker. Gerald Robinson won a Senior Scholarship and a Matriculation Exhibition; Brian Blythe and Geoffrey Sproat, Dafydd Lewis Scholarships; David Wilson a State Electricity Commission Scholarship; and Donald Seedsman a P.M.G. Cadetship. Twenty students obtained Studentships to various Teaching Colleges to train for primary school teaching.

## SPORT

For competitive sport Camberwell High School is a member of the Central High Schools Association, the other schools being Box Hill, MacRobertson, Melbourne, Northcote and University. From July 1956 to July 1957, Camberwell High School acted as host school and derived much enjoyment and satisfaction from assisting the Secretary, Mr. Theo. Leonard, in organising the various functions. The Association places emphasis on good fellowship and considers the spirit of the game to be more important than the result. A big factor in fostering this friendship between the schools is the Annual Social. This year it was held in the Hawthorn Town Hall and thanks to the hard work and excellent organisation of our Parents' Association, it was a great success.

Being a mixed school, and therefore limited in numbers in both boys' and girls' sections, Camberwell has, in the past, had difficulty in fielding teams to match the larger schools; but this year, owing to the help of matriculation students, the results were much more favourable to us.

### Football:

With the build-up of the Matriculation Form, this season was our most successful for many years.

Victory over Northcote was followed by our best effort against Melbourne High School. The overall result was five wins in seven matches.

The boys appreciated the use of Camberwell ground for training and home matches, the better conditions being reflected in their standard of play.

### Athletics:

This year it was decided to hold the House sports on the school oval. This was a new departure, as in the past they were held at Camberwell. They proved most successful and the home ground provided a very friendly atmosphere, made more so by the goodly gathering of parents and the afternoon tea provided by the mothers.

Performances were good and on the day many records were broken, which augured well for our chances at the Combined High School Sports. Unfortunately we failed to come up to expectations, although several wins were registered for Camberwell by both boys and girls. Athletics is a sport which is gaining favour at the school and it is encouraging to see so many pupils taking part in this healthy sport.

### Rowing:

Since its introduction two years ago, rowing has made great strides and is now well established as a significant sport in the school.

The Boat Club had a total membership of 60 boys and from these we were able to boat eight crews at the Annual High School Regatta which was held on the Henley Course on the Yarra at the end of First Term. The success of the crews can be seen from the fact that we managed to reach the finals in all but one event.

The outstanding race from our point of view was undoubtedly the heat in which our First Eight defeated University High School.

It is significant that this school has taken the initiative to demand an event for Second Eights at next year's High School Regatta.

### Swimming:

The Swimming Carnival held in the New Olympic Pool was most enjoyable. In the morning the girls competing against MacRobertson and University finished third, but showed that they had most promising swimmers for next year. In the boys' section in the afternoon Camberwell and Melbourne were practically level when the last race began. This race was a triumph for our Captain, Ong Choon Lim. Swimming the last lap of the 50 metre relay, he started several metres behind his opponent, but quickly overtook him to win the race and the aggregate.

### Girls' Sport:

Girls' Sport provided a wide variety of contests. As well as 1st and 2nd School Teams there were 4th and 3rd Form teams which played matches against MacRobertson Girls' High and University High School. The Junior teams had most success in Tennis and Basketball. Although the Senior Basketball teams were beaten they played better than the scores indicated. A win against Warragul boosted their morale at the end of the season. The Hockey teams played well against stronger opponents, and a win against Warragul was a good finish to a mixed season. Volleyball and Softball teams met with little success as for the number of wins; but they were enjoyable matches and played in fine spirit.

## CHORAL FESTIVAL

This annual event now so firmly established in the growing traditions of the school was held at Hawthorn Town Hall. This year we were fortunate to have as our adjudicator Dr. A. E. Floyd, whose friendly informality in offering his comments and announcing his decision added much to the success of the afternoon. In the organisation of this function house-captains and musicians are given a free hand, and they rose to their responsibilities with admirable enthusiasm and ability.

## EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

In conclusion I desire to thank those who during the year have given their talents, time, and energy to advance the welfare of the school. In the main they are:—

(a) The Advisory Council—a body consisting of Municipal and parents' representatives, together with prominent citizens who have shown interest in education, and in this school in particular. They have been untiring in their efforts to place the needs of the school before those in authority and to secure whatever advantages they can for the students of the school.

Several of them have served on the Council for many years, while Councillor R. C. Cooper has completed twelve years as President.

(b) The Parents' Association, in particular its executive. While the Annual Fete organised by the Association produced an excellent result, I have been still more impressed by the willingness of members to make their services available whenever the needs of the school called for them.

(c) The members of the teaching staff. Large classes, resignations and illness have made 1957 a most difficult year, but thanks to the loyalty and self-sacrifice of teachers, the standard of work has in no way suffered. Several teachers have received well-earned promotion,

but I regret that this will mean in most cases transfer from Camberwell. These are:—Mr. Hallett (Senior Master at Brighton), Mr. Tynan (Senior Master at Ringwood), Mr. Horne (to remain at Camberwell), Mr. Onyons (Balwyn) and Mr. Adams (Cambodia and later Springvale High School). The Senior Master (Mr. Gray) retires in January. He has been with us for only one year, but we have appreciated his administrative ability and his pleasant and cheerful personality. We wish him years of happiness in retirement.

Miss Debney and Mrs. Merritt left during the year and Miss Burns and Mrs. Ikin will leave at the end of the year. To them all I extend our sincere thanks.