

# CAMBERWELL HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

## News Bulletin

May, 1963

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### EDITORIAL

As parents with children in secondary schools, we are vitally interested in the provision made for their education. Widespread publicity in recent months has highlighted some of the deficiencies in the present system. One particular publicity campaign has been sponsored by the Students' Representative Council of the University of Melbourne, and this move seemed to us of such significance that we have invited Mr. Peter Sellers, Chairman of the S.R.C. Education Campaign, to contribute to our Bulletin a brief statement of the aims and activities of this student movement. All parents will welcome this initiative on the part of those who have themselves passed through secondary and on to tertiary education under far from ideal conditions, and who are endeavouring to ensure that the students who come after them—our children—will have a better chance.

### STUDENT EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Students from the University of Melbourne and other tertiary institutions throughout Victoria have been working on an Education Campaign. As well as a great deal of time and energy, nearly £3,000 of student monies have already gone into the campaign.

The main features of our Campaign have been:

- Distribution of a 4 page newspaper to all homes, not only in Melbourne, but as far afield as Ballarat, Benalla, Portland.
- Publication of a 12,000 word booklet (**Education in Australia—Students' Report**), which sets out a full and balanced review of the needs and deficiencies of the present Australian educational system.
- On Sunday, April 21st, a rally of some 10,000 people, mainly secondary and tertiary students, was held at the Myer Music Bowl.
- 200 students from Melbourne and Monash Universities have been specially trained to present the students' case by speaking to interested groups in the community. This aspect of the campaign is still continuing.

Essentially this has been only a publicity campaign, the main aim of which has been to draw public attention to the present state of

education. The main points made in the campaign are:

- \* **Lack of facilities:** Many of our schools are poorly equipped; there is a shortage of essential equipment and teaching aids are almost non-existent.
- \* **Overcrowding in classes**
- \* A higher and higher percentage of teachers have not had any form of teacher training.
- \* Many schools are grossly understaffed. Teachers are inadequately paid, so that many leave the profession.
- \* Six-tenths of the nation's school children are forced to leave school before they are 16.
- \* There are too few scholarships and bursaries; thus many intelligent children from poor homes leave school at an early age instead of going on to higher education.
- \* Our universities are not growing fast enough to permit all qualified students wishing to enter, to do so. Hundreds are excluded every year.

It is the contention of the students that the education system must be looked at as a whole. Primary, secondary, tertiary, technical and apprenticeship education are part of an overall pattern. Each individual aspect, such as primary schools or high schools, must certainly be reviewed in detail, but they must also be considered in their relationship to the whole pattern of education in the community.

Such an overall examination is not very frequently undertaken. Too often a piecemeal approach temporarily plugs up one gaping hole without regard to the pressures generated elsewhere. We contend that adequate planning for proper finance and increased educational standards is possible only by attacking the whole situation.

The basic aim of our Campaign has been to direct more finance towards education. By 1970 it is estimated that £500 million per year—twice the amount spent at present in Australia—will be needed to keep education in this country at an adequate level. Looking at the matter realistically, the only body with sufficient funds to ensure that Australian education receives support of this magnitude is the Federal Government. The Federal Government must loosen its purse strings and allocate to each State the amount required. Education must still remain in the administrative hands of the States but the financial responsibility will have to be shouldered, to a very large extent, by the Federal Government. But we cannot hope

for the State or Federal Government to act on the scale required unless there is a clear indication of widespread support from the community. It is in the hope of engendering such support that the Student Education Campaign has been organised.

## DEPUTATION TO MINISTER OF EDUCATION

On Wednesday, 24th April, a joint deputation of the C.H.S. Advisory Council and the C.H.S. Parents' and Friends' Association waited upon the Hon. J. S. Bloomfield, M.L.A., Minister of Education. Introduced by Mr. Vernon Wilcox, M.L.A. for Camberwell, the deputation included Dr. F. Duras, Mr. A. G. Brewer and Dr. P. Gilbert, for the Advisory Council, and Messrs. R. Key, H. J. Halstead and T. Hogan, for the Parents' and Friends' Association. Mr. Bloomfield was accompanied by Mr. R. Reed, the recently appointed Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools.

The main points raised by the members of the deputation related to deficiencies in accommodation and in grounds, both of these aspects comparing unfavourably with schools of similar size and stature in the metropolitan area. It was proposed that a new multi-storey building be erected on a suitable site, and include provision for new laboratories, library and classroom facilities, as well as a general purpose hall which the school sadly lacks. It was pointed out that only by building upwards could more accommodation be gained without reducing the already inadequate playing space. Only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres are available as playing area, one acre of which is threatened by a planned "ring road" bordering the school. New high schools are planned on sites totalling 15 acres.

The deputation was well received and was given nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours of the Minister's time. Although he could give no promises, Mr. Bloomfield appeared interested in the economic advantages of the plan suggested whereby a general purpose hall could be incorporated in a multi-storey classroom block. He did, however, point out that, while it is government policy eventually to provide schools with assembly halls, the prospect of the Government being able to do so is very far in the future. In the meantime, Mr. Bloomfield referred favourably to the co-operative method of finance for such constructions.

The deputation was greatly encouraged by the understanding attitude to their proposals shown by Mr. Reed, the Chief Inspector, who agreed that new science laboratories were essential at C.H.S. Additions at Camberwell are on the Department's building programme, and the school will be visited in May or early June by a special committee consisting of Mr. Reed, a representative of the Education Department's Building Branch, the Chief Architect and another officer of the P.W.D. This committee will meet the Advisory Council and decide upon the additional accommodation needed at the school. Because of the planning entailed, however, any project agreed upon could not be started before the end of 1964.

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

**Enrolment.**—Because of the lack of sufficient accommodation it was necessary this year to impose a restriction on the number of pupils entering Form III in addition to those entering Form I. As a result of this and other factors the enrolment at the beginning of this year dropped by 46 from that at the corresponding time last year, but it is still slightly in excess of that of any year but 1962.

Despite this reduction, an accommodation problem still exists; classes, particularly in senior forms, are too large and classrooms are overcrowded. The Education Department realizes the need for additional accommodation and it is earnestly hoped that the recent representations of the Advisory Council and the Parents' Association to the Minister will accelerate this provision.

The distribution of the pupils at present enrolled is—

Form VI—131; Form V—170; Form IV—198; Form III—175; Form II—90; Form I—79.

**Staff.**—Many changes of staff have again occurred. These have, in the main, been brought about by the promotion or transfer of former teachers and the filling of the vacancies thus created. Members of last year's staff who have left the school are Messrs. A. Jones, G. Horne, A. Hardenberg, N. Green, P. Joyce, Miss M. Moore, Mrs. A. Gliddon, Miss J. Young, Miss J. Firth, Miss R. Clark, Mrs. G. Huttner and Miss H. Leckie. New members of staff this year are Messrs. J. Rogers, P. Whitcroft, L. Press, G. Galt, R. Hurler, K. Petrie, Miss N. Samson, Mrs. D. Sheringham, Mrs. P. Jellie, Miss J. Orwin, Miss R. Howell, Mrs. Flesch, Miss P. Falder and Miss J. Clark. It is pleasing to note that Mrs. Hurnall has resumed duty this year.

**Scholastic Achievements.** — Highly creditable results, which drew very favourable comment from the Board of Secondary Inspectors at its recent inspection of the school, were attained by students at the examination conducted at the end of last year.

At the Matriculation examination 92 students qualified for Matriculation and two Exhibitions (one shared), 30 first-class and 96 second-class honours were obtained. 28 Commonwealth Scholarships, one Australian National University Scholarship and one Alexander Rushall Scholarship were among the awards gained.

Outstanding successes at the Matriculation examination were gained by Sharon Thornton, who was awarded the exhibition in Art, by Christine Wansbrough who shared the exhibition in French and was awarded the Liet Memorial Prize in that subject and by Graeme Harding who was awarded a scholarship for the School of Oriental Studies at the Australian National University.

At the Public Examinations 132 students qualified for the Leaving Certificate, and 159 for the Intermediate Certificate. Special awards included 15 Matriculation bursaries, 9 Leaving bursaries, 1 Senior Technical Scholarship and a Robert Spurway Scholarship.

**Extra Curricular Activities.**—To mark the beginning of the work in Christian Education for the new school year, a special service, at which the school choir provided an anthem, was again held in the Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Various groups of pupils have participated in Geography and Science excursions and have attended performances of a play, the Ballet and a Schools' Orchestral Concert arranged by the A.B.C. As a means of developing the musical talents of pupils and to assist with the building up of the School Orchestra, five small instrumental classes are receiving tuition, outside of school hours, by visiting specialists.

The Browne Reading System has been introduced this term in the Library and library classes and other pupils have assisted in the processing of books. The adoption of this system should facilitate and expedite the borrowing of books by pupils and should further extend the usefulness of the Library. Books may be borrowed before and after school hours and at lunch time.

## SPORTING NEWS

### BOYS

For the first time in six years our First VIII was defeated in the Head of the Yarra event at the Annual Regatta of the Victorian High Schools' Rowing Association. Although our crew put up a very good performance, it was beaten into second place by the very powerful Melbourne High School eight. Our third eight had a good win and we hope this is a good augury for the future. A very pleasing feature of High School rowing has been the steady increase in its standard over recent years.

The first cricket eleven had a most successful season and were runners-up to University High School. Jeff. Burman (captain) with an average of 90 and Don Martin, 80, topped the High Schools' batting averages, while Don with an average of 7.7 and Philip Truslove, 8.0, topped the bowling averages.

During the swimming season we conducted a very successful inter-house carnival, which was won by Montgomery for the sixth year in succession. The boys also competed in the Central Division swimming carnival and had winning representatives in the All High Schools' carnival. During the first two months of the school year Physical Education classes are devoted mainly to swimming and life saving and boys gained 62 Junior and Senior Swimming certificates and 72 Royal Life Saving Society awards.

The school had four junior State representatives in various fields of sport—

Chris. Robb won the Australian Junior Men's High and Springboard Diving titles in Perth; Rodney Guy was placed in an interstate Javelin event in Adelaide and Colin Shugg (Victorian Junior Surf Champion) and Martyn Novak represented Victoria in the Australian Surf Championships at Warrnambool in March.

### GIRLS

Inter-school competition has been improved in the Central Division of the Metropolitan High Schools' Sports Association by the inclusion of two new girls' schools—Canterbury and Preston Girls' High Schools. The games played this term were softball and tennis, and in softball we have had our most successful season for some time. Our first softball team won four out of the five matches and our second softball team won three out of five.

Despite the disparity between the numbers of girls at Camberwell and at other schools in the Division, our swimming team gained equal second place at the Central Division Swimming sports.

The new record set by our Under 17 years' relay team—P. Brayne, J. Brewer, B. Savige and W. Vandenberg—was a highlight of this occasion. As with the boys, instruction in Physical Education classes during the first two months in swimming and lifesaving resulted in the girls gaining 14 Junior and 29 Senior Swimming Certificates and 54 Royal Life Saving Awards.

During the Easter vacation, Patricia Richardson represented Victoria at the competition held in South Australia for the L.C. Mills Cup. Although competing in a higher age group than usual, she succeeded in winning the Junior Javelin event with a throw of 102 feet, which broke the previous record by over 18 feet and established a new South Australian record.

## THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### RESIGNATION OF CR. COOPER

At its first meeting this year, the Advisory Council accepted with great regret the resignation of its President, Cr. Reg. Cooper, who has served on the Council for 19 years. During the whole period of his service with the Advisory Council, Cr. Cooper has given generously of his time and experience in promoting the welfare of the school, and in recognition of his outstanding record, present and past members of this body made a small presentation to Cr. Cooper at a private function held on May 10th.

Dr. F. Duras succeeds Cr. Cooper as President of the Advisory Council, with Mr. A. G. Brewer as vice-president. Cr. Wallace Fordham is the new representative of the Camberwell City Council on the school advisory body.

### CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The Advisory Council has been most gratified at the response to the new system of inviting contributions to its funds for school improvements. Receipts from parents to date show an increase of more than 50% over last year's income from this source, and this has enabled the Council to proceed with several important projects. The insulation and lining of the gymnasium ceiling has now been authorised and will be completed during the May vacation at a cost of some £450. Amended specifications for the long delayed retaining wall along the eastern boundary of the oval have been drawn up and a £1 for £1 special subsidy for this

work has been granted. The total cost of this latter project is estimated at approx. £1000.

Special attention has been paid to the state of the school oval and arrangements are being made to ensure regular mowing and maintenance. Representatives of a large firm concerned with lawn and oval preparation have inspected the oval and commented on its basically sound state. The fertilizing, selective poisoning, dressing and regular mowing now planned will ensure that the oval soon becomes the valuable asset we originally hoped for.

The Council has devoted considerable time to discussion and preparation of the case presented by the joint deputation to the Minister of Education, which is mentioned elsewhere in this Bulletin. Discussions on future building plans for the school are to be held in the very near future with a special committee of the Education Department and Public Works Department.

Apart from nominating delegates to the half-yearly conference of the State Schools Committees and Advisory Councils Association in March, the Advisory Council is also sending two delegates (Messrs. R. Key and J. Wright) to the Annual Conference on 25th May of the National Education Congress.

## PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

Our association has commenced its first year under the new name of "Parents' and Friends' Association" with 385 financial members to date. Obviously, there is still plenty of room for many more parents to join with us, and we hope you will take the opportunity of becoming a member as soon as possible.

First term, though broken by many holidays, has held three general meetings for parents. The first, a Panel Night on the general theme **What do I want for my child at High School?**, was well attended by some 200 parents. One of our Vice-Presidents, Mr. H. J. Halstead, chaired a panel comprising Mr. Vernon Wilcox, M.L.A. for Camberwell, Mr. R. Reed, Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools, Dr. F. Duras, President of the C.H.S. Advisory Council, and Mr. E. K. Horwood, a member of our committee. The fact that the time originally allotted for discussion had to be extended is in itself an indication of the interest aroused.

The second meeting, though not so well attended, proved most interesting and informative for those able to come. Mr. Robert Hughes, a leading Australian composer and music arranger with the A.B.C., spoke on **The Mechanics of Music**, a talk which was an enriching experience for the music lovers present.

Unfortunately, a tour of the National Gallery arranged for May 3rd had to be postponed to July 5th, since Mr. Eric Westbrook, the Gallery Director, who was to have conducted the party, was injured in a car accident.

On May 13th, parents with problems of all sorts relating to their children's education were able to discuss these with two members of the Education Department Psychology and Guidance Branch,

Messrs. D. McCully and M. Martin, who first addressed the meeting on **How parents can help their children.**

Apart from its general and committee meetings, this Association has worked hard during the term on preparations for the joint deputation to the Minister of Education. This has entailed a great deal of research and discussion by our Education Sub-committee under the conensorship of Mr. H. J. Halstead. We are grateful to these members for the time they have spent in preparing such a detailed case, and also to the Advisory Council for their ready co-operation in making this joint approach to the Minister.

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Our regular monthly meetings continue to attract a large attendance. At the recent annual meeting several members resigned, and the committee for 1963 is as follows:

**President:** Mrs. V. Noldt

**Immediate Past President:** Mrs. N. Ellis

**Vice-President:** Mrs. J. Gilbert

**Treasurer:** Mrs. W. Williams

**Secretary:** Mrs. T. Robinson

**Committee Members:** Mesdames Brewer, Lovell, Garrard, Harper, Armstrong, Horwood, Mouser, Wright, Kleiman.

The major work undertaken by the Auxiliary during the past year has been the equipping of the sick bay at school, at a cost of more than £150.

On Wednesday, May 1st, some 30 members were the guests of Mr. Vernon Wilcox, M.L.A., at Parliament House. This proved a very instructive and enjoyable afternoon. Another successful function was the afternoon tea tendered to members of staff on Correction Day, May 6th.

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**June 26th:** Hair styling by Marigny

**July 8th:** Continental Cookery, at the home of Mrs. I. Janosi, 599 Riversdale Rd., Surrey Hills (further details later).

**July 24th:** Birthday Social

**August 28th:** Apron Parade at Highfield Methodist Church Hall, to stock stall for Mini-Fete.

To raise funds for our year's objective we are again holding a Mini-Fete at the home of Mrs. U. Key, 14 Burnside Ave., Canterbury, on October 31st. We would welcome the help of all mothers, and Mrs. Noldt (82-4542) or Mrs. Robinson (83-5228) would be pleased to hear from anyone with suggestions or offers of help.

May we remind you that the Auxiliary regularly meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at 1.30 p.m., in the Highfield Rd. Methodist Church Hall, and a warm welcome is extended to all parents and friends. Special arrangements are made to care for pre-school children on these occasions.

Finally, a reminder: Second hand uniforms are still handled by the Auxiliary in the School Gymnasium between 12 noon and 1 p.m. on the first day of the term and on the first Monday of each month. Mrs. Noldt or Mr. Robinson would be pleased to answer phone queries.