

# CAMBERWELL HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

## News Bulletin

August, 1963

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### EDITORIAL

Your Association took part in the recent National Education Congress held in Melbourne, and was pleased to support the resolutions which were passed there. These were reported in the press at the time, and, as will be recalled, they requested Federal and State action to:

- \* make more money available for education
- \* set up a National Committee of Enquiry to investigate the requirements of education in Australia.

These seem such reasonable requests that there is no need to repeat the arguments presented for them. Parents will, however, be interested in the Congress organisation itself. It is Australia-wide and sponsored or supported by associations of teachers at all levels, by parents, advisory councils, churches, employers and employees, by professional associations and farmers, and by many other groups. The Congress meets at three-yearly intervals and raises matters of important common interest to all states. One item of the recent agenda required representatives from the states to report on educational conditions in their home states and on changes which had taken place since the previous Congress in 1960. Of course, there were differences of detail, but we heard the same story of over-large classes, shortage of teachers and lack of funds for essential accommodation and equipment. This truly is a national problem.

Among the speakers were three Members of Parliament, from whose statements it was gathered that more money will be available for education. However, it seems unlikely that this will do much more than keep pace with the increase in student population. In the foreseeable future, the provision of important items in schools will still be the responsibility of Advisory Councils, supported by funds raised by parents.

The guest speaker at the Congress was Professor Morven Brown, Dean of the Faculty of Arts in the University of N.S.W. His speech on "The Social Importance of Education Today" was the outstanding contribution to the day's discussions. Professor Brown's thesis was that we are in the midst of a social revolution as important as the Industrial Revolution, and that education, whether it be to develop skills or attitudes, has the most important part to play. Teaching is therefore one

of the socially most important professions. Unfortunately, educational administration is far from satisfactory. Piecemeal reforms being undertaken cannot for long avoid a crisis, since the administration lacks the resources to identify and attack the problems which exist. The crucial factors are shortage of properly trained teachers and finance. Professor Brown advocated a Committee of Enquiry to do for secondary schools what the Murray Committee did for the universities.

Your delegates came away from the Congress convinced that the differences between states and certainly the differences between schools are to a very large extent measurable by the degree of parental interest in education. It is clear that if we want better facilities in our schools, we must be more vocal and active. Only when we show that we want better conditions for teachers and pupils will those with authority in education be able to get them for us. We can hardly blame others for the results of our own inertia.

### PARENTS ARE INTERESTED IN AIMS

Welcoming participants in a Parent-Teacher Seminar held in May this year, the Director of the Seminar, Mr. Harold Carter, had this to say:

In the period following World War II we have witnessed a steadily progressing development of parent interest in education in Victoria to a level which at present is probably higher than anything seen in this State since the spontaneous public interest which resulted in the formal establishment of our State system of education in 1872. Parents and citizens serving on School Committees and Advisory Councils, Mothers' Clubs and parent organizations of all kinds have eagerly offered assistance in this recent period, and as public interest has intensified, so has it broadened. This upsurge of lay interest has brought an almost revolutionary appreciation from teachers in general, and the administrative heads of the Education Department in particular, that public interest and support is vital for the progress of education and that this field is no longer the close preserve of the professional educator. The generous assistance and expert advice so readily made available by administrative officers at all levels has served to encourage and develop still further the public enthusiasm for more and better education.

I should like to add my personal belief in the importance of this seminar. I believe that it is timely and represents a significant advance in education in this State; that from whatever social causes it has arisen, the greatly increased public awareness of education will continue and intensify; that as the outlook of professional educators is changing, so the nature of parent interest in schools is showing signs of a still more radical change. In general, parents are no longer merely satisfied to provide amenities. They are peering into the classroom. There is a growing desire to know more of the aims of education, to appreciate and actively assist in its processes, perhaps to take some greater part in its administration. Finally, I believe that this seminar can assist both parents and teachers to help each other.

If it can do this, it will have made a contribution towards harnessing still more effectively the tremendous force of goodwill already evident in both professionals and laymen in the service of education.

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## NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Buildings:

As a result of submissions that have been made to the Education Department over a number of years, and more recently to the Minister of Education by a deputation from the Advisory Council and the Parents' and Friends' Association, the outlook for the provision of additional special rooms and classrooms to relieve the overcrowded conditions at the school now appears much more promising. Subsequent to the deputation, senior officers of the Education and the Public Works Departments visited the school to discuss this matter and the Advisory Council is at present giving urgent attention to it.

### The School Intermediate Examination:

Until this year, candidates who had passed at the Intermediate Examination in six subjects, provided that those subjects included at least one subject from each of three specified subject groups, qualified for the School Intermediate Certificate. This certificate has now been abolished and, from and inclusive of this year, the Intermediate Examination will become a subject examination only. The examination results of candidates who present externally for such subjects will, in future, not be published in the newspapers but the complete results of such candidates who pass in one or more subjects will be mailed to them. Candidates who present internally will be informed, as formerly, of their results before the end of the school year.

### Enrolments:

Meetings of heads of contributory schools and officers of the Education Department have been held to consider matters relating to the enrolment at this school of pupils from Grade VI of primary schools and from Form II of central schools. Present indications are that the number of new

admissions for next year will be the same as for this year, namely, 80 at the Form I level and 80 at the Form III level. With the establishment of new high schools in neighbouring districts, it is expected that it should be possible, in future years, to increase the intake at the Form I level and reduce that at the Form III level.

### "Discovering Your Career":

The Education Department has recently published a student assignment book entitled "Discovering Your Career" to clarify, for pupils in secondary schools, ideas about employment. It does not set out to discover the one best vocation for a student but rather to widen his knowledge of the many factors which influence the choice of a suitable and satisfying career, to make him aware of the real importance of the problem, and to motivate him to adopt a positive and intelligent attitude towards the problem of choosing a career. Appendices to the book contain very useful information concerning scholarships, apprenticeships and job descriptions. During the forthcoming term, the book will form the basis of a unit of work for all pupils in Form III.

An opportunity will also be provided later for pupils above Form III to purchase this publication.

### Social Service:

During the twelve months ended the 30th June, the sum of £356 was raised by the pupils to assist the work of organizations which care for the underprivileged members of the community, particularly handicapped children. Included in this sum is an amount of £120, the result of a special effort on behalf of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

### Women's Auxiliary:

The school is grateful to the Women's Auxiliary for its continued assistance. The provision of additional furnishings for the sick bay and the recent gift of four folding music stands for the use of the orchestra are very much appreciated.

## SPORTING NEWS

### BOYS

During the second term we fielded four teams in football and one team each in baseball, soccer, basketball and tennis in the Central Division of the M.H.S.S.A. competition. The first eighteen, although winning only one competition game, proved itself to be a strong combination and played football of a high standard. They were narrowly defeated by three of the top High School sides, losing to Melbourne High School by seven points, Northcote by ten points and University High School by two points. Four Camberwell boys, Don Martin, Michael Conyers, John Butler and Malcolm Girdwood, were chosen to represent the High Schools in their annual games against the Public Schools. The other eighteens had their share of victories, the thirds losing only one game.

The baseball and soccer teams had very successful seasons, finishing second and third respectively in their competitions.

This year we are fielding an Under 15 years' football team in a Saturday morning competition. The team has been playing very good football and to date has lost only one game. We would like to thank those parents who have provided transport and who have supported the boys during the season.

During the winter a Camberwell High School squash team has been playing on Friday evenings and so far is undefeated.

At the Victorian Amateur Gymnastic Association Championship events held this year a number of Camberwell High School boys had outstanding successes. Chris Robb won the Under 16 years Junior Championship, Michael Luntz was placed second in the same event, and Ray Ellis took third place in the "C" grade Men's title.

In the second last week of this term we are to be hosts to the Warragul High School and we look forward to an enjoyable day of sporting and social activities.

It is pleasing to record some outstanding successes in sport by former students. This year Barbara Fletcher won the Women's Gymnastic Championship of Victoria and Ian Clarke won second place in the Men's Championship despite an injury that he sustained while competing. Eric Shade has been selected to represent Victoria in inter-state hockey.

## GIRLS

In addition to the regular matches against schools in the Central Division of the M.H.S.S.A., a series of practice matches was played in basketball against Burwood Teachers' College and Strathcona, and in hockey and basketball against Nunawading High School. Our basketball team won four out of the five matches but the hockey team was less successful.

The M.H.S.S.A. matches were, as usual, played against Brighton, Canterbury Girls', MacRobertson, Preston Girls' and University High Schools. A hockey match was also played against Preston Girls' Technical School. Over-all the results were very pleasing as our girls won more than half their matches. One outstanding feature of the season was the unbroken series of victories gained by the first basketball team. This was due to excellent team work and the fine leadership of Monika Bruttel (Captain). Our first volleyball team was also very successful and was defeated by only one school—Canterbury Girls' High School. Hockey was less successful than last year and the season was unfortunately marred by accidents to two team members.

Although the juniors have no pre-arranged draw, attempts were made to give them match practice against neighbouring schools. The junior basketball team defeated Strathcona and played two very exciting matches against Auburn Central School. Both these matches were drawn until extra time was played but the honours still remained even as the teams finally won one match each.

## THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Towards the end of May, a meeting was held with Mr. R. Reed, Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools, at which the future student intake of Camberwell High School was discussed. After exploring the matter thoroughly, Council recommended that Camberwell High School should continue as a six-form high school, but that in future its major intake of students should be in the Form I level.

This modification in policy will not become apparent for another year at least. In 1964, it is anticipated that the school will take in some 80 children at Form I and a similar number at Form III. However, with the easing of pressure anticipated from the opening of the new Kew, Richmond and Box Hill North High Schools, the 1965 intake should be predominantly at Form I level, and eventually normal admittance to Camberwell will be through this form.

As mentioned in an earlier Bulletin, plans are being made for major building works to overcome the shortage of accommodation and special teaching facilities at the School. In a preliminary meeting with the Assistant Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools and architects of the Public Works Department, some general ideas were discussed, and the Advisory Council has sought the advice of a private architect in drawing up submissions on new buildings. It is hoped to include provision for an assembly hall in these plans. The consensus of opinion at present favours a multi-storey block at the southern end of the existing school building, replacing the present single storey classroom units.

Other major works being undertaken by the Council include terracing and provision of retaining walls along the eastern boundary of the oval. Plans for this work have been submitted and re-submitted several times, and we hope that final approval is imminent. When completed, this work will greatly enhance the appearance and utility of the oval area. Consideration is also being given to the possibility of providing ornamental entrance gates to the school.

After analysing the various comments appended by parents to their replies to last year's questionnaire regarding contributions to Advisory Council Project Funds, the Council resolved to prepare each year a report of its past activities and of its plans for the ensuing year. This report will be distributed to all parents at the beginning of the new school year, with students' book lists.

Your Advisory Council, through its delegates, recently participated in a Workshop Seminar on the functions and aims of Advisory Councils, conducted by the V.S.S.A.C.A. It has also expressed its support for the resolutions passed at the recent National Education Congress and conveyed this support in letters to local State and Federal parliamentarians. The President of the Advisory Council, Dr. F. Duras, has also been nominated as a representative to attend a proposed meeting with the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, to discuss problems concerning education.

## PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

The interest of parents in matters relating to their children's educational well-being was shown by the large attendance at meetings organised by the Association at the end of first and second terms.

In May, Messrs McCully and Martin, of the Education Department Psychology and Guidance Branch, spoke on children's study habits and how they could be assisted in forming proper attitudes. A lively discussion ensued and the audience particularly appreciated the notes made available by the speakers for their guidance.

On August 26th, Mr. R. Belshaw, Student Counsellor at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, gave an address on "Career Planning", a field in which he is an acknowledged authority. Mr. Belshaw pointed out the sources of information available to parents and students planning a career, the types of training best suited for various fields, and the nature of the assistance available.

Providing further practical co-operation between school and home, a Parent-Teacher Evening was arranged in conjunction with the Principal and Staff. The long queues outside most rooms were evidence that such meetings filled a real need. However, it was obvious that quite a few parents were irritated at the time they had to spend in such queues. Much of this delay was due to individual parents occupying a disproportionate amount of a teacher's time. It may well be that some problems require lengthy discussion, but we would point out that such matters are best dealt with at a separate appointment arranged through the Principal. Parents should not imagine that Parent-Teacher Evenings are the only occasion on which they may speak to a teacher. The Principal, Mr. Andrews, has repeatedly pointed out that parents are welcome to arrange, through him, an appointment to discuss with any teacher problems concerning a child at the school. We suggest that more advantage be taken of this offer.

It is hoped that a Parent-Teacher Evening for students in Forms I to III can be arranged during third term. In anticipation of this, it is suggested that parents should endeavour to limit their interviews to a maximum of three teachers, and to restrict their discussion to five minutes. Where further discussion appears desirable, an appointment should be sought with the teacher concerned. In this way everyone, both parents and teachers, may hope to receive reasonable treatment.

A theatre night at the Tivoli on 25th July was well attended. However, two other social functions—a card evening and a visit to the National Gallery—had to be postponed owing to illness. The new dates, which we invite you to note, are:

**Saturday, 14th September, 8 p.m.**—Card evening at the home of Mrs. Janosi, 599 Riversdale Rd., Surrey Hills.

**Friday, September 20th, 7.45 p.m.** (Meet at front entrance to Gallery)—Visit to National Gallery of Victoria, conducted by the Director, Mr. Eric Westbrook.

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

During the past term, the Auxiliary has completed two projects on which it has been working for some time. The school sick bay has now been fully equipped with divan bed and bedding, a lounge, screen, curtains, first-aid cupboard and various other items, at a total cost of £172. In the gymnasium, cupboards have been built and painted in the entrance hall, and the kitchen in the same building has been equipped with locked cupboards with a Laminex bench top and linoleum has been laid on the floor. Several fathers helped paint the kitchen which will now be available for use with small functions held in the gymnasium.

Our activities during the second term were highlighted by a demonstration of Hungarian Cooking given by Mrs. I. Janosi at her home. More than 70 members accepted new and exciting recipes on this occasion, and apart from the substantial monetary success, many households will undoubtedly have noticed exotic additions to their normal menu. We express our appreciation to Mrs. Janosi for placing her home and her knowledge at our disposal.

On July 24th we celebrated our fifth birthday at an afternoon where our principal guests were Mr. and Mrs. Andrews and Miss MacMillan. To mark the occasion, the Auxiliary presented the School with four new music stands for the school orchestra.

An Apron Parade on August 28th proved a successful and enjoyable finale to the term's activities.

### Coming Events:

Our major effort for third term is a Minifete to be held at the home of Mrs. R. D. Key, 14 Burnside Ave., Canterbury, on Thursday, 31st October, from 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. This will be an opportunity of buying your Xmas gifts early from the large range of attractive and useful articles on sale, and have a chat with friends over the light luncheon which will be available. The Auxiliary would welcome donations for the work stall, plants, cakes and scones, or jewellery, vases etc. for the White Elephant stall. Materials are available for willing hands to make up. Cakes may be left at the school on the day of the Minifete, or collection can be arranged by ringing Mrs. V. Noldt (82 4542).

### Special Appeal to Mothers:

For the Central Division Athletics Carnival, to be held at Olympic Park on Tuesday, October 15th, Camberwell High School is the host school. This means, among other things, that the Women's Auxiliary will be required to provide morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea for all the officials and distinguished guests. To cope with this task, we will need the support of as many mothers as possible. If a good number of volunteers is forthcoming, the individual load would be quite light. Mrs. V. Noldt (82 4542) or Mrs. Nan Ellis (82 4250) would be glad to hear as soon as possible from anyone willing to help on this occasion.