

# CAMBERWELL HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

## *News Bulletin*

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### EDITORIAL

The Roman god Janus, who has given his name to the month of January, is represented with two faces looking in opposite directions—forward into the new year, backward into the old. At the end of another year's activity, it is fitting that we too should look back at what we have achieved, and forward to what we hope to attain in the year ahead.

1961 will be remembered as the year of the "monster fête", variously referred to by some weary workers as the "monstrous fête" or the "fête worse than death". No one can deny that it was a magnificent co-operative effort which brought more individual parents than ever before into active association with the school. Its concrete results may be measured in the £1,500 raised, or in the lush green of the new oval. Its intangible but even more far-reaching results lie in the mounting interest and enthusiasm of the parents and pupils who contributed in so many different ways. A mark of this growing parent interest has been the increased attendance at Parents' Association functions. This has led to a transfer from the school music room to the larger gymnasium to cater for the crowd.

Looking back in self-congratulation accounts for only one face of Janus—we must look to the future as well. Every organisation must either go forward or backward; it cannot remain stationary without stagnation. We have achieved a great deal in the past year, but we need to set our sights just as high for 1962. Already the retiring committee of the Parents' Association has drawn up a suggested programme for next year which it will hand over to the new committee elected in February next. A revised constitution, which will somewhat widen eligibility for membership and give scope for vigorous activity, will be presented for your consideration at the Annual Meeting. It is hoped to establish a number of standing sub-committees, each with a specific task, and drawn not solely from the elected committee but also from the general membership. Every one of us has something to offer, some special skill or knowledge, some technical experience or business contact which could be utilised to the school's advantage. Those who do work together in this way find that they gain as well as give—gain in new friendships and stimulating interests, with the school as a common ground. If each of us can do a little, the overall result could be really staggering.

Let's look forward to 1962 as a year of record membership in the Parents' Association, a year when every family will be able to say: "We had a hand in this!". Let's make 1962 the year when Camberwell High School really comes into its own!

### NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

With the permission of the Principal, we publish hereunder some items from his Annual Report presented at the School Speech Nights on December 5th and 6th.

#### ENROLMENT

The nett enrolment at Camberwell High School this year was 838. Although this represents only a slight overall increase on the number at school last year, there was a significant increase of 30 students in the Matriculation form, from 96 to 126. At the beginning of the year, 246 new pupils were admitted, 110 of these entering at Form III level, and 81 coming into Form I. Insufficiency of accommodation not only again made it necessary to restrict the intake of pupils in Form I to two forms, but we were also compelled to restrict slightly the intake into Form III. It would appear that accommodation pressure on the school can be relieved only by the establishment of a new high school between the city and our school.

#### SOCIAL SERVICE

The Social Service League has maintained its activities and during the year, by means of direct giving by pupils and special efforts, raised the sum of £240 for under-privileged members of the community. Under the "Save the Children" organisation, the school is now sponsoring a small Italian girl, Daniela Caputo, and has assumed responsibility for her maintenance for twelve months. A class of Form V girls once again gave its usual Christmas party to pupils of a district kindergarten.

#### STAFF CHANGES

Five members of the staff, Messrs. Orgill, Robertson, Collins, Conway and Smith, have received well merited promotion and, with the exception of Mr. Robertson, will be leaving at the end of the year to take up their new positions. Mr. V. Soloduhin is resigning from the Education Department to take up a post in a registered school, and we wish him all good fortune in his

new school. Miss Morley, our sports mistress, is being transferred; Mrs. Hobill is resigning after helping us out of a difficult situation this year, and Miss Cother will be leaving early in the New Year to be married.

Mr. Green, who has been senior master for the past four years, reached retiring age last October, but continued with us until the end of the school year. Over a period of nearly fifty years, as a Head Master and as Vice-Principal, Mr. Green has given devoted service to the children of this State. Here at our school his outstanding organising ability, his thoroughness his never-failing courtesy and loyal co-operation have won our admiration and we shall miss him greatly. For the contribution he has made to the school we tender our warm thanks and we trust that he will have a long and enjoyable period of retirement.

During my six months' absence on long service leave, Mr. R. G. Gilmour, B.Sc., Dip.Ed., was Acting Principal of the school and I desire to place on record my appreciation of and thanks for his inspiring leadership, his zeal and the marked capacity with which he discharged his duties. The school has indeed been fortunate in having had at its head for this period a man of such high ideals, competence and understanding, and it is the richer for his period of office.

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## SPORTING NEWS

At the end of a year, it is perhaps of interest to look back over the whole range of the year's sporting activities and the progress and achievements at all levels.

### BOYS' SPORT

The highlight of the year was our winning of both the first and second eight-oared events at the Victorian High Schools' Rowing Regatta. The school now has the distinction of having won both these events for four consecutive years, a result which has been achieved through the skilful, thorough and patient work of the coaches and the hard work and discipline of the boys.

School sport in general has had a good year with the cricket, football, baseball, tennis, soccer and hockey teams all having their share of wins in the Central Division of the M.H.S.S.A. The swimming team had its most successful year since it won the sports several years ago, while the athletics team, although not in the top bracket, had some outstanding performers.

During the winter, the junior boys played football in an Under 15 Saturday morning competition run by the M.H.S.S.A. Our boys did very well to reach the semi-final stage of the competition. This team provides an opportunity for boys to play football against lads of their own age and gives them that experience which is so important when they reach senior competition.

This year has seen some outstanding individual performances in various fields of sport. Geoffrey James was a member of the Victorian Surf Team to visit South Australia and compete in the Australian titles, while his brother, Ken, visited Queensland as a member of the Victorian Junior

Baseball team. Eric Shade was a member of the Victorian Colts' Hockey team which played in Western Australia, and Peter Jacavou proved himself an outstanding broad jumper by winning the Under 16 section of this event at the All Schools' Athletic Carnival.

### GIRLS' SPORT

The girls too have had an excellent year, winning both the Central Division Swimming Carnival and the Athletics Carnival of the M.H. S.S.A., as well as the Victorian Schoolgirls' Athletic Championship Aggregate Shield. These were particularly fine efforts and the teams are to be congratulated on their successes.

The senior teams competing in the term competitions completed a less spectacular season, winning only about one third of their matches, although each team did improve noticeably as the season progressed. The sports concerned were tennis, softball, basketball, hockey and volleyball. Junior teams were also formed, and although there is no regular competition, matches were arranged against various schools in the locality to give the younger girls match experience.

Cricket was introduced this year and it is hoped that the school will field a Cricket XI next year.

Several girls excelled in open competition this year. Rona Robinson, of Form II, was selected for the Victorian Central Schools' Basketball Team. Glenys Beasley won the State Schoolgirls' title for the Open 100 yards and very recently at an Inter-Club Athletic Competition, she equalled the Victorian record held by Nancy Boyle since 1957 for the Women's Open 220 yards.

The school holds the first three places in the Open 100 yards, as Lois Barton and Joy Morton were second and third respectively. Glenys and Lois each won three gold medals for sprint events at the All High Schools' sports.

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## WHAT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL IS DOING

It is pleasing to report that very substantial progress has been made with the Advisory Council's project for the development of the school grounds. At the time of writing, the major part of the work on the oval itself has been completed; this involved levelling, draining, relaying and extending the existing water reticulation system, top-dressing and the sowing of seed. The contract for this work was let, with the approval of the Public Works Department, for the sum of £2665, of which the Education Department will contribute one half. A splendid strike of grass has been obtained and, with adequate watering and maintenance, a very good oval, which will be a splendid asset to the school, should result.

Arrangements have also been made for the splaying of the bank on the south side of the oval, and plans and estimates of cost are being drawn up for the construction of retaining walls on the east side.

The requirements for needed improvements to the gymnasium have not been overlooked and a special sub-committee has been appointed to advise on this matter. During the year the Women's Auxiliary purchased and fitted two new cupboards in the kitchen.

The Advisory Council owes a great debt of gratitude to all those groups and individual parents who have worked so hard during the past year to raise money for these major grounds improvements. We hope that the sight of the now almost completed oval, with its promise of first class facilities for present and future students, will give deep satisfaction and a sense of achievement to everyone, and be a stimulus for years to come.

It will be recalled that, over a short period of time this year, the school was broken into five times, but fortunately the loss was negligible as all moneys at the school are banked daily. However, in order to safeguard school property, strong representations were made to the Education Department for the provision of exterior lighting at night, and this will be installed early in the New Year.

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## THE WORK OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Third term saw the Parents' Association hold two successful and very well attended functions. On September 18th, Mr. Osmar White, the well known journalist, addressed a general meeting on the vitally interesting topic of "The Colombo Plan", which, backed by his wealth of first hand knowledge and experience, proved most stimulating.

The following month, on October 16th, a Social Evening was held in the gymnasium to celebrate the homecoming of Mr. and Mrs. Andrews from their overseas trip, and also to express our thanks and say farewell to the Acting Principal, Mr. R. Gilmour, and the retiring Senior Master, Mr. R. Green. A packed audience enjoyed a film on physical education in France, introduced by Professor F. Duras, Vice-President of the School Advisory Council, and were delighted with the magnificent coloured slides shown by Mr. Andrews himself, illustrating some of the highlights of his tour of Europe.

We would like to thank all those parents who have attended our meetings this year—we find your continued support most heartening. The re-drafting the constitution, which will somewhat extend the range of eligibility for membership of our Association, has now been completed, and this will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on Monday, February 19th, 1962. We trust that as many parents as possible, both old and new, will attend on this occasion and help us build up a really enthusiastic, vigorous association for the coming year.

This year our financial position has been rather strained, owing to the increased cost of producing this Bulletin in printed form, and a decrease in overall membership. We appeal to all parents

to become financial members of the Association in the coming year and thus help us to build up some small reserve. At the moment, our membership fee is limited to 2/- per member, but, needless to say, we are not averse to accepting donations to help in our work. During 1962 we hope to establish several permanent working sub-committees which will allow every willing parent to have a personal hand in maintaining and improving facilities at the school, and we trust that each parent will give us whatever help or advice he or she can.

In concluding, we wish to express our thanks to all retiring committee members for their support during the year, to the many individuals who in many ways helped us, particularly in connection with the fête, and to all those members of the staff who have co-operated with us in establishing contact with parents of the school. May we wish you all the compliments of the season and look forward to seeing you at our meetings next year.

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## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

With the third term drawing to a close, the Auxiliary is now making plans for 1962, and the programme for the first term has already been planned as follows:

**February 28th:** The first meeting of the year will be a Social to welcome mothers of new pupils.

**March 28th:** Annual General Meeting, followed by a demonstration of Floral Art using Dried Arrangements, by Mrs. Marsland.

**April 17th:** As our usual meeting day in April falls on Anzac Day, the Auxiliary has arranged a tour of Bambi Smith's Model College and a talk on "Fashion and Figure Control", for 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. on April 17th.

All meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at the Highfield Rd. Methodist Church Hall, at 1.45 p.m. Provision has been made for the care of young children while mothers are attending the meetings, and the Auxiliary hopes that mothers of new students and those mothers who have previously been unable to attend meetings will take advantage of this offer.

We would like to remind all parents that the Auxiliary will be arranging the sale of second-hand uniforms on the first day of term, and on the first Monday of each month, in the school gymnasium between 12 midday and 1 p.m. Mrs. Noldt (phone 82-4542) will be happy to answer any enquiries.

The past term has been a very active one for the Auxiliary and its members. On October 4th, School Sports Day was held at the Camberwell Cricket Ground, where stalls were conducted and luncheon provided by the Auxiliary. On October 10th, a Beetle Afternoon and Swallow's Party was held at the home of Mrs. Smith, 36 Karnak Rd., Ashburton, proving a most enjoyable occasion. A section of the afternoon's programme was recorded for broadcasting and many members were

intrigued subsequently to hear themselves on the air.

On November 10th, 125 Matriculation students were entertained at a Buffet Luncheon to mark their last day at school before the onset of their examinations, and the Auxiliary took this opportunity of wishing all the students the best of luck in their future careers. From those leaving school, the Auxiliary then turned its attention to pupils entering the school in 1962, and on November 24th provided afternoon tea for parents of incoming first form pupils. Parents of students entering at third form level were tendered afternoon tea when they visited the school on December 8th to meet the Principal, Mr. Andrews, and the Headmistress, Miss McMillan. At both these latter functions, second-hand uniforms were available for sale and attracted considerable interest.

During the past term, the Auxiliary has purchased new crockery and tablecloths for use at its own functions and those of the Parents' Association. This equipment is housed in cupboards in the gymnasium kitchen, which were installed and painted by several fathers from the Parents' Association, as well as having locks fitted.

The final function for the year took the form of an Afternoon Tea tendered to the staff of the school on December 7th as a token of appreciation for their work during the year.

At our regular monthly meetings, we were fortunate in having excellent guest speakers, and our thanks must go to Mrs. Bruce, from Hoover Appliances, and to Mr. McCulley, of the Psychology Branch of the Education Department. The final monthly meeting took the form of a Pre-Xmas Social with Mr. and Mrs. Andrews and Miss McMillan as our special guests.

The President and Committee of the Auxiliary would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the members for their co-operation throughout the year, and of wishing them all a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

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## OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Old Students of Camberwell High School would be very pleased to welcome to their Association any students leaving school this year, and any others who would like to renew their interest in the school. Our President, Mr. Graham Morris, would be very glad to answer enquiries from interested persons (phone 83-8219).