

CAMBERWELL HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT, 1963

ENROLMENT

The net enrolment on 30th June this year was 844, the distribution of the pupils in the various forms being as follows: Form I, 80; Form II, 87; Form III, 179; Form IV, 198; Form V, 169; Form VI, 131. A total of 211 new pupils was admitted at the beginning of the year; of these 82 were exit pupils from Form II of central schools and were enrolled in Form III, 76 were exit pupils from Grade VI of primary schools and were enrolled in Form I, and the remainder were transferees from other schools. It is of interest to note that at present 15 Asian students are in attendance and are enrolled in Forms V and VI; we find that they readily adjust to their new environment, are diligent in their studies and contribute to the corporate life of the school.

As in past years only approximately two-thirds of those seeking admission to Form I were able to be accommodated, and this year it was also necessary to restrict admissions to Form III. The new high schools at Wattle Park and Kew are providing some relief to the pressure on our school and have made possible some revision of our school zones both at the Form I and Form III levels. When the intake at the Form III intake diminishes, as is expected to be the case, a larger Form I intake will be practicable.

From the beginning of the next school year the school leaving age will rise from fourteen to fifteen years. It is not anticipated that that will result in an appreciable increase in our school population as the number of pupils who leave on reaching the age of fourteen is very small. However, the increasing demand for higher educational qualifications for entry into many fields of employment is of significance in increasing the number of pupils in the senior forms as pupils who might otherwise have left at an earlier age are remaining at school for a longer period.

ACCOMMODATION, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

In my report of last year I referred to the deficiencies of our present building in respect of accommodation for pupils and staff, and to the needs of the school if it is to keep abreast of modern developments in secondary education. The Education Department has recognized the need for additional accommodation and facilities and, in an endeavour to expedite action by the Department, a joint deputation from the Advisory Council and the Parents' Association waited on the Minister of Education in April of this year. Subsequently the Advisory Council had sketch plans prepared for a multi-storey building designed to meet these needs, including provision for an assembly hall. These plans have been discussed with senior officers of the Education and Public Works Departments, and it is very pleasing to report that it appears quite definite that a substantial new building block will be erected by the Department. If an assembly hall can be incorporated in, or associated with, the proposed new building or

the existing main building, to the possibility of which the Advisory Council is giving earnest consideration, an advance of prime importance to the development of the school will have been achieved.

During the year the Advisory Council arranged for the insulation and lining of the ceiling of the gymnasium at a cost of £458. This has resulted in a marked improvement to the comfort and convenience of the building which is used not only for physical education but also for religious instruction, assemblies of large groups of pupils and for meetings.

Plans for the retaining wall along the eastern boundary of the oval have been amended to include additional improvements and more ready access to the oval and to the gymnasium from the basket-ball area and now await the approval of the Public Works Department. Although this project has been subject to long delay, the added improvements should extend its usefulness and value.

In recent weeks the Public Works Department carried out works to improve the drainage of the school oval. Additional lines of agricultural pipes were laid and provision was made for the prior disposal of storm water that previously found its way from higher ground level on to the oval. With the valued assistance of the Camberwell City Council, more frequent mowings of the oval were arranged, and despite the wet season the general condition of the oval has been good and has been greatly appreciated by the pupils.

SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Very creditable results, which were the subject of favourable comment by the Board of Secondary Inspectors, were obtained at examinations conducted by the University and by the Education Department 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. Awards gained as a result of this examination included 28 Commonwealth Scholarships, 1 Australian National University Scholarship, and 1 Alexander Rushall Scholarship.

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, and 1 Senior Technical Scholarship.

Special awards were gained by the following students:—

Exhibitions—Art—Sharon Thornton.

French (shared)—Christine Wansbrough.

Liet Memorial Prize (French)—Christine Wansbrough.

Australian National University Scholarship (School of Oriental Studies)—Graeme Harding.

Commonwealth Scholarships—Lynda Bruhn, Margaret Cook, Sandra Cook, Susan Duncan, Jennifer Gibbs, Evelyn Lawson, Helen Menzies, Liesl Moore, Janet Overton, Elizabeth Roddick, Sharon Thornton, Christine Wansbrough, Mary Weber. Bruce Barton, Robert Coppa, Douglas Fox, David Halstead, James Hambrook, Graeme Harding, Phillip Hellier, Alan Knight, Vincent Morgan, Ross Murray, Stanley Schweitzer, Alexander Stewart, Robert Taylor, Max Walsh, Geoffrey White.

Studentships (Secondary) for Degree and First Year Bachelor of Education—Annette Coombs, Jennifer Gibbs, Judith Hall, Helen McLeod, Helen Menzies, Elizabeth Roddick, Lesley Shekleton, Bruce Burton, Robert Coppa, Douglas Fox, Phillip Hellier, Gilbert Hopkins, Noel Hulbert, Alan Knight, Jon Martindale, Frank Reid, Robert Taylor, Rodney Williams.

Studentships for the Diploma of Physical Education—Lois Barton, Judith Symons, Ian Mills.

Studentships for Art and Crafts (Secondary)—Evelyn Lawson, Sharon Thornton.

Studentships for Primary or Infant Teachers' Course—Lynda Bruhn, Brigitte Bruttel, E. Janette Colahan, Margaret Cook, Joy Jose, Megan Lewis, Margery McKay, Judith Noble, Janice Pearce, Janet Reilly, Joy Riddell, Janet Richardson, Pam Schmid, William Jenkins, Keith Laing, Graeme Lewis, Clive Mattingley, Colin McLellan, Alan Petschak, Kenneth Smith, Alan Vivian.

Matriculation Bursaries—Jennifer Brewer, Monika Bruttel, Helen Daniel, Jane Durst, Emese Gargya, Carolyn Jeffrey, Dianne Noldt, Janice Pearce, Heather Robb, Andrea Savage, Esme White, Malcolm Anderson, Michael Counihan, Robert Morrison, Andrew Nickson.

Leaving Bursaries—Lynette Armstrong, Helen Calder, Susan Dudley, Christine Emmett, Margaret Firth, Heather Thompson. Peter Gronn, Michael Jenkins, Anthony Townsend.

Alexander Rushall Scholarship—Geoffrey Rice.

Senior Technical Scholarship—Shirley Thomas.

Robert Spurway Scholarship—John Gregory.

State Savings Bank Bursary—Elijah Moshinsky.

Science Talent Bursary, 1963—David Abrahams.

BOYS' SPORT

For the first time in six years our first eight 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 a powerful Melbourne High School crew. Our third eight had a good win in its event 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 very good season and were equal runners-up to University High School in the Central Division of the Metropolitan High Schools' Sports Association. Notable performances were those of Don Martin, who took the division's bowling honours and was second in the batting average; Jeff Burman (Captain), who topped the batting averages, and Philip Truslove, who was second in the bowling averages.

Churchill House won the boys' aggregate at our annual inter-house swimming carnival. At the central division swimming carnival of the M.H.S.S.A. our boys acquitted themselves very well and also had winning representatives at the All High Schools' carnival. Educa-

tion Department Certificates for swimming and life-saving were gained by 62 boys and 72 gained Royal Life Saving Society awards.

During the second term we fielded four teams in football and one team 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 members of the team were chosen to represent the High Schools in the 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.

The inter-house athletics competition was won by Macarthur House. This year we were host school at the central division athletics meeting and our boys marked the occasion by a very good performance, securing places in almost every event and finishing well up in the final placings.

Our under-15 years football team was the runner-up in a schools' competition held on Saturday mornings and a squash team which played outside school hours went through the season undefeated.

Towards the end of the second term teams from Warragul High School were guests of the school. Their football team, which had won the premiership of the Latrobe Valley High Schools' Association, provided a very close and exciting game, our team winning by five points, with a goal kicked a moment before the final bell rang. Camberwell also won the basketball and soccer matches.

Several boys gained intra-State and inter-State honours this year in sport. Chris Robb won the Australian Junior Men's High and Springboard Diving Championships and the Victorian Under-16 years' Junior Gymnastic Championship, Michael Jenkins gained second place in the latter championship, Ray Ellis gained third place in the Victorian Men's "C" Grade Gymnastic Championship, Colin Shugg (Victorian Junior Surf Champion) and Martyn Novak represented Victoria at the Australian Surf Championship carnival, and Rodney Guy gained a place in an inter-State javelin event. Two former students of recent years also gained distinction: Ian Clarke gained second place in the Victorian Men's Gymnastic Championship and Eric Shade represented Victoria in inter-State hockey.

GIRLS' SPORT

A wide range of sports was, as usual, provided for girls. Interest was keen, and a very good measure of success was achieved in matches against other schools.

In the Central Division Swimming Carnival of the M.H.S.S.A. our girls again performed very creditably and gained equal second place in the aggregate. A notable success at this carnival was that of the Under 17 years' relay team which broke the record for that event. An indication of the general standard of swimming is revealed by the fact that fourteen Junior and twenty-nine Senior Education Department Certificates and fifty-four Royal Life Saving awards for swimming and life-saving were gained by girls during the season.

In winter sport we had our most successful year for some time. The first basket-ball team won the premiership of the Central Division of the M.H.S.S.A., winning all of its matches in that division and also those that were played against a number of other schools and colleges. The Senior soft-ball and volley-ball teams were also very successful, each losing only one match for the season.

House matches in basket-ball, soft-ball, hockey and volley-ball were also played, and the girls were also able to participate in tennis and squash, the latter sport being introduced this year for Form VI girls.

Although there is no regular inter-school competition for the juniors, teams were formed, inter-house games were played and matches were arranged against nearby schools. These matches were keenly contested and valuable match experience was gained. Tennis coaching was introduced and proved very valuable.

At the Annual Athletics Carnival of the Central Division of the M.H.S.S.A. we gained places in a number of events.

Congratulations are extended to Pat Richardson, who gained interstate honours and created a new South Australian record in the Junior Javelin event.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

These continue to be many and varied and of such range that all pupils may participate in some of them. The annual choral festival aroused keen interest and Macarthur House won the Dr. James's cup by a very narrow margin. In the evening the choirs repeated their items to an appreciative audience of parents. The madrigal group also presented two items at a chamber music evening arranged by the Victorian Schools' Music Association, and the orchestra joined with other school orchestras at an Orchestral Occasion held for schools. As a means of developing the musical talents of pupils and to assist in building up the school orchestra, arrangements were made this year for four visiting specialists to give tuition in instruments of the orchestra to small classes held at the school. The classes have proved very successful and the pupils have made marked progress.

As usual, visits were arranged to the National Gallery, to orchestral, youth and symphony concerts conducted by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, to performances of plays and films, to exhibitions of industry and art, to the Observatory and to industrial and business undertakings, and groups of students have attended lectures on subjects related to their studies. The school again participated in the local observance of Commonwealth Youth Sunday.

The Social Service League has maintained its activities and during the year by means of direct giving and special efforts has raised the sum of approximately £400 for the less fortunate members of the community. Included in this sum is an amount of £120, the result of a special effort on behalf of the "Freedom from Hunger" Campaign. Woodwork and art classes combined in designing and making toys for children cared for by the Legacy Club.

Regular weekly religious education was, as usual, provided by visiting instructors whose services merit our sincere thanks. Additional assistance in this very important field of education would be

welcomed by the convener, Rev. W. A. Loftus, to whom we are also indebted for making Trinity Church available for the services which are held to mark the opening and closing of this work. The school group of the Inter-school Christian fellowship has held regular weekly meetings and has displayed enthusiasm in its activities.

An innovation which proved stimulating and thought-provoking was the holding this year of a conference, arranged by the Australian Christian Movement in Schools, of matriculations students from several Camberwell high schools and independent schools. A very thoughtful and challenging address by Professor Frederick on "What am I going to do with my life?" was followed by group discussions led by selected students.

STAFF

The work of the members of the staff continues to be marked by loyal, efficient and willing co-operation and by an earnest desire to promote the individual and corporate welfare of the pupils. Despite the strain imposed by large classes and crowded conditions, they give freely of their time and skill not only in the performance of assigned extra-curricular activities and duties but also to self-imposed tasks to foster the well-being and advancement of the pupils. Teacher-parent meetings, at which parents are given an opportunity personally to discuss matters pertaining to the education of their children, constitute another field of service undertaken voluntarily by the staff.

Next year will again, unfortunately, bring many staff changes. Mr. O'Brien, Miss Taylor, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Brooke, Mr. Wade and Mr. Petrie have received well merited promotions to other schools, and we congratulate them on their advancement. Mr. Hart, Mr. McCallum and Mrs. Haslam are transferring, Miss Falder and Miss Clarke are resuming their University courses, and Mr. Rich, Mr. Galt, Mrs. Jellie and Mr. and Mrs. Dawkins are resigning from the Department. We thank them all for their whole-hearted services to the school, which, in several cases, have extended over many years, and wish them happiness and well-being in the years ahead. Congratulations are also extended to Mr. Gibb and Mrs. Crooks, who have received promotion within the school.

Mr. Rhodes, the present Headmaster of the Glen Waverley High School, has been appointed to the newly created position of Vice-Principal and will take up his duties at the beginning of next year.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

During the year the School Advisory Council lost the services, through resignation, of two of its former members and office-bearers, Cr. R. C. Cooper, J.P., and Mr. J. G. Beanland.

As the representative of the Camberwell City Council, Cr. Cooper had been a member of the Advisory Council for almost eighteen years and had occupied the office of President for the whole of that period. He devoted himself most assiduously and with conspicuous success to the development of the school and to the promotion of the welfare of the students and by his wise, able and friendly leader-

ship gained the active support of successive Advisory Councils and of the parents generally. His personal representations to the Camberwell City Council and to various governments which held office over that period resulted in many benefits to the school, and he will be remembered with high esteem, not only by his colleagues but also by the hundreds of pupils with whom he came into close contact at school functions and to whom he gave encouragement and friendly counsel.

Mr. J. G. Beanland had been a member of the Advisory Council for eight years and for the latter six years had occupied the office of honorary treasurer. His sound advice, not only on finance but on all matters concerning the school, and his very keen interest in the development of the school have been of great benefit.

The school takes this opportunity to extend its very warm thanks to both these gentlemen for their services and to express the hope that they may continue to find satisfaction and pleasure in its achievements.

Dr. F. Duras, formerly Professor of Physical Education at the University of Melbourne, is the new President of the Council and in typical manner is carrying out his duties with ability and keen enthusiasm, Mr. A. G. Brewer has succeeded Dr. Duras as Vice-President, Mr. K. L. Noldt is the new treasurer, and Cr. Wallace Fordham is proving a worthy representative of the City of Camberwell.

The year has been a very full and active one for the Council and reference has been made earlier to some of its activities. The matter of the provision of additional class-rooms, subject rooms and other facilities, which is engaging its close attention, is of major importance to the development of the school.

Under the able and enthusiastic direction of Mr. R. D. Key, the Parents' and Friends' Association has been very active, and its well-planned and varied programme has brought parents into close contact with the school and has provided them with an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge of many aspects of education which concern them and their children.

The publication each term of a newsletter, which supplies information on activities of all school organizations and on school matters generally, is another valuable service provided by this Association which merits the support of all parents. The Association has also given strong support and has worked in collaboration with Advisory Council in making representations to the Minister and the Education Department concerning the urgent need for increased accommodation and additional facilities at the school.

The Women's Auxiliary, under the continued and capable leadership of Mrs. Noldt, has worked most willingly and most effectively in the interests of the pupils. Its activities touch many phases of school life and create a close link between mothers, staff and students. This year the Auxiliary effected further improvements to the sick bay which, thanks to its efforts, is now very well furnished and equipped, marked improvements were made to the kitchen in the gymnasium and four music stands were presented to the school. On behalf of the school, which was the host school at the recent Athletics Carnival of the Central Division of the M.H.S.S.A., the Auxiliary willingly undertook the task of providing refreshments for the officials and guests and its generous and gracious hospitality was greatly appreciated.

The Old Students' Association again held a Cabaret Ball; all tickets were sold and the function was most successful and enjoyable. The Association also arranged an athletics sports meeting between old students and the school, and although it was somewhat hurriedly arranged and very heavy rain fell on the preceding night, it proved successful. It is hoped that this may become an annual event and provide an opportunity for former students and present students to meet together.

For services rendered we also thank the prefects, house captains, form captains and members of the various school clubs and groups, all of whom have played a part in developing the corporate life and activities of the school.

GENERAL

In discussing with teachers the progress of their children, most parents express the desire that their children should qualify for a particular school certificate, such as the Intermediate, Leaving or Matriculation Certificate. Such certificates are admittedly passports into certain occupations and into tertiary education, and the anxiety of parents to see that their children leave school equipped with basic qualifications is particularly understandable today with increased competition for employment and a consequent demand for higher qualifications.

Pupils display diversity in ability, aptitude, interest and probable destination and there are limits to the amount of academic education with which a section of the school population can cope. Practical and vocational subjects can provide opportunities for the less academically inclined pupils, but there is a danger in over-emphasis of the immediately useful at the expense of the need for a general foundation of substantial studies. The school endeavours to meet these individual differences of pupils by suitable organization of its classes and by variation of the curriculum. This is a complex matter involving the provision of a choice of subjects at different levels, attention to examination requirements, and availability of facilities and staff. But there will be little real achievement without desire and effort on the part of the pupil. In the class-room we endeavour to stimulate, foster and maintain his interest and at home parents should encourage him in his studies and arrange favourable conditions and regular times for his "home-work" so that he may develop sound study habits.

In our efforts to impart knowledge we must, however, not neglect the need and the responsibility of educating the pupils and of fostering the values that belong to the sphere of human character. In this we cannot stand aside or remain neutral. Firm standards of conduct, moral integrity, truthfulness and justice must be cultivated and church, home, school and society must work together to this end. Sir Richard Livingstone states that: "The prior task of education is to inspire," and Dr. Gurrey in asking: "To inspire to what?", replies: "To admire excellence, to seek it and in all things to strive to achieve it."