



CAMBERWELL HIGH SCHOOL

Annual Report

SPEECH NIGHT

THURSDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 1966



The President, members of the Advisory Council, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honour to present for your consideration, the Annual Report of the Camberwell High School for 1966.

Enrolment. (as at 30.6.1966) Boys 473. Girls 303. Total 776

Distribution in divisions.	Form VI — 116	Form III — 166
	V — 152	II — 86
	IV — 169	I — 87

Although this is 33 fewer than at the corresponding date in 1965, in my opinion it is still too high when considered in relation to the existing accommodation.

Some of the factors which control numbers in this school are the limited intake at Form I level, the further intake at Form III level, and, most significantly, the fact that the very great majority of our students remain at school until at least the end of their Leaving (5th) year. This, together with the very great number of Matriculation students (approx. 15%), results in a sustained and very heavy pressure on our accommodation particularly in respect to science and library facilities.

How the situation will develop when the new class-room block is built cannot yet be determined. In the meantime, I feel it is essential, in the interests of students at present in the school, to avoid any undue rise in enrolment.

ACCOMMODATION

Though it might seem to the casual visitor that the students of C.H.S. are comfortably and pleasantly housed, the truth is as I have just mentioned, that the existing accommodation is quite inadequate to meet the needs of our 776 students.

Many class rooms are small, crammed with desks, and particularly in the science laboratories, are quite unable to meet the requirements of present day teaching. I could enlarge on the many other things we lack — adequate storage space for valuable scientific equipment, additional and sorely needed library facilities, common rooms for students and for staff members — but I know that many parents are aware of these deficiencies.

The school is fortunate that the members of the Advisory Council have been well aware of this situation and have maintained very consistent pressure on the Education Department to construct an additional class room block. Thanks to their efforts it can now be said that unless anything unexpected occurs, we can look forward to the erection of this block in the not-too-distant future. It is only fitting that at this point appreciative reference should be made to the part which the architects, Messrs. Barton and Rahni have played in the development and progress of this project.

Associated with the class room block is the erection of an Assembly Hall. Those who attend school functions need no reminder of the need for this. In my view, no school can function as successfully and completely as it should until it has a properly set up and equipped Assembly Hall as part of its establishment.

The Advisory Council has assumed a very heavy financial obligation with regard to the erection of this Hall and to discharge that obligation it is completely dependent on the support of the parents of all students. The existing buildings have served the preceding generations of students very well but they are now outmoded and insufficient. The future for our students lies with the new class room block and the Assembly Hall. I cannot stress too greatly the obligation which I feel rests with all parents to give their full and unwavering support to the Advisory Council.



The Parents' Association (by means of working bees) has been responsible for many greatly needed repairs to fences and seats and internally, to the gymnasium. They have also been responsible for the organisation of a very successful Parents' evening and for the very valuable series of Parent-Teacher nights. These latter have proved most helpful to staff and students and I have been most impressed by the very great attendance of parents at all three of these nights.

The Ladies Auxiliary has provided a very comprehensive range of activities designed to attract and maintain the interest of mothers and to augment their funds. Another of their valuable though less spectacular activities is the service they render in the matter of uniforms and clothing for girl students.

New Departmental Regulations provide for the direct representation of the Ladies Auxiliary on the Advisory Council. I feel that this is a forward move which not only recognizes the valuable work done by ladies associated with the school, but also gives them a more direct voice and influence in the welfare and progress of the school.

I have nothing but the highest praise for the efforts of our parents' organisations. Their members are interested, enthusiastic and dedicated and their organisations are virile and efficient. However, I would be doing less than justice to them if I did not say that I feel that too much work is being left to too few of our parents. When you consider that there are at least 500 families associated with the school, the number of active parents is disappointingly small. Not only that, the financial support which parents have given to date to the Advisory Council's Building Fund, has also been disappointing.

To function with complete success, a school must have the whole hearted support and co-operation of all the parents associated with it. This support must be channeled through the parents' organisations and I can only appeal to all those parents who have not yet allied themselves with these groups, to do so.

Special reference must be made to the Ex-Students' Association which, under the Presidency of Mr. D. Jenkin and with Mr. J. Waters as Secretary, is having an excellent year. The various social functions it has sponsored have been most successful, particularly the Annual Ball which was held at Moorabbin Town Hall early in August.

The school wishes to express its thanks to the Association for its interest in the students and for providing a shield for the Senior House Football Competition; at a special assembly at the end of term two, the Association's Vice President, Mr. M. Penfold, presented this shield to Roosevelt House, this year's winner.

I would strongly commend the Ex-Students' Association to parents, to ex-students who are not already members, and especially to present students who will be leaving this year. Apart from the opportunities it gives for a continuance of those associations begun at school, the Association has a unique role to play in the future development of the school.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sport

This, of course, is one of the activities which looms large in the minds of all our students. This is not the place for a detailed exposition of all that has happened in the realms of House and School sport this year; those details will be found in the columns of "Prospice".

Our teams were not outstandingly successful in inter-school competitions but the students who composed them proved worthy representatives of the school. Throughout the year I have been interested to notice the very great enthusiasm and the healthy attitude with which

they have approached their training and their matches. Much of this stems from the interest and enthusiasm of the Sports Master, Mr. Bishop, and Sports Mistress, Miss Kaines.

I am anxious to effect some improvements in our House system. This is a matter to which we must give considerable thought but I hope that we may be able to take some steps to develop a more enthusiastic level of participation amongst our students as a whole. Incidentally, this is a problem which most schools are facing at present.

STUDENT OPERATED BANK

This was a facility which I felt the school lacked. I am very glad to say that thanks to the very willing co-operation of the State Savings Bank and within the school, to the girls of Form IVc, directed by Mr. Gunther, this venture has been outstandingly successful. I cannot speak too highly of the way in which IVc have handled this work and their fellow students and the school are greatly indebted to them.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

From observations made in last year's "Prospice", and after conversations with both past and present students, I formed the opinion very early in the year that there was need in the school for increased student activities.

In particular it seemed that there was a strong body of student opinion in favour of the establishment of a Student Representative Council. After many meetings and much discussion, such a council came into being at the end of Term 1.

To date, I can only say that I am very impressed with the manner in which it has functioned. Much of its success can be attributed to its officers, President — Terry Counihan, Vice President — Joe Robin, Secretary — Jane Underhill and Treasurer — Beryl Armstrong, and to the interest of various staff members, to the guidance by the Staff Representative, Mr. J. Rich, and perhaps above all, to the enlightened approach of the whole of the student body.

One important function of the S.R.C. is to direct the Social Service efforts of the students. Josine Scheltus and Donna Lancaster have earned the thanks of the school for the devoted, competent manner in which they have administered this activity.

The Drama Club, thanks to the interest and enthusiasm of Mr. D. Murdoch, made a most auspicious debut with its "Three-in-One", a night of three one-act plays. Those who were present must have been impressed by the high standard of all three performances. I am hopeful that from this beginning we may be able to develop a Drama Festival that will take its place alongside the Choral and Music Festival as one of the highlights of the school year.

The only depressing feature of both these functions, incidentally, was the lack of parental support.

In the case of the Choral and Music Festival, this may be because we have come to regard it as so much of a tradition that we take it for granted. This we must never do. As I have stated elsewhere, I found the Festival a moving and inspiring experience. I was amazed at the high standard of performance on the part of every House, choir, instrumental group and soloist; and I was even more amazed at the behaviour of the listening student audience but most of all by the fact that the whole of the Festival was the work of the students themselves. I hope that next year a full hall will reward the students' efforts.

I must record our indebtedness to Sqdn. Leader Hicks who so kindly gave us his time to act as adjudicator.



I cannot leave the musical scene without again congratulating our Senior Mixed Choir on their success at the Dandenong Festival. To win the open section at their first entry was no mean achievement. Congratulations to the choir and to their Conductor, Mr. Trevare.

CHANGES

As I look back on the year's activities I realize that I seem to have made some changes, I did so not for the sake of change, not because I was new, but because I felt these changes would be beneficial to the students and the school.

One very important innovation which we are as yet unable to assess is that related to the examination system. These changes will occur at the end of the present term, and through the circular issued to them, parents have learnt what these actually are. I do not therefore propose to repeat the details here, but it is important however, that I set out the reasons which determined my decision to make these alterations.

First and foremost has been my desire to reduce the stresses and strains which end-of-the-year examinations impose on pupils and parents alike. The tyranny of examinations is a real one and it is only by experiment that we can hope to replace our present method by a more enlightened and reasonable one.

Secondly, for years now I have been appalled by the waste of time which occurs at the end of each year and the commencement of the next but I have never been able to find a way to prevent it.

The changes in the examination system, the determination to sell our 1967 text books at the end of this year and indeed the alteration to the date of Speech Night are all tied up with my overall desire to apply our school time more efficiently and more fully to the real task of educating our students.

It may sound rather paradoxical to say that in order to test the effectiveness of changes, there must be a period of no change. This however, is perfectly true, and next year this is what I hope to have — a year of "no change", in which we assess the value of the changes we have already made.

IN APPRECIATION

Elsewhere in this report I have endeavoured to convey my respect for and appreciation of the part which the parents' and ex-students' organisations play in the life of this school.

I am sure that parents will join with me in similar expressions with regard to the staff. Whatever assets and advantages a school may possess in the way of buildings, equipment and amenities, I think it will be agreed that the ultimate value of the work done in a school rests with the staff.

In this regard, the students and parents of Camberwell High School have been wonderfully served by a dedicated and highly competent staff who, despite the difficulties under which they work, continue to render service of the highest order, service which goes far beyond the confines of the classroom and far beyond the mere day to day instruction of the students under their care. I have been greatly moved by the personal interest which so many of our staff members take in the personal problems and difficulties of their pupils.

At this point I must express my own personal indebtedness to the staff for the co-operation, the support and the loyalty they have given to me throughout the year.

I am especially grateful to the Vice Principal, Mr. P. Rhodes, and to the Senior Mistress, Miss D. Milne for their wisdom, counsel and understanding.

I am also deeply indebted to two other people, Miss Judith Uhe and Miss Margaret Crouch, the members of my office staff. I must thank them not only for their efficiency and co-operation but especially for the innumerable kindnesses they so consistently show me; they have helped greatly to make my path a smooth and pleasant one.

CONCLUSION

In this report I have tried to present a picture of Camberwell High School as I have seen it in 1966. I am aware that there must inevitably be gaps and omissions and for these I would ask your indulgence. I am particularly conscious of the vast number of people — for example the cleaning staff, headed by Mr. J. Spencer, the staff and administration of the Camberwell City Council and numerous others who have helped to make this a very happy and I hope, profitable year. If I have failed to thank all who have helped us, would those omitted please accept my humble apologies and sincere thanks?

The imperfections of our educational system and the shortages and disabilities under which our schools labour are frequently before the public. While it is right that these things should be made known, it is equally right and just that our virtues and achievements should also be cited. We do ourselves, our schools and our students a grave injustice if we fail to do this. I would say to parents that if you want to see the real worth of what we are doing, come into our schools on any normal working day and see for yourselves what is happening in them. You may find much to criticise but you will also find a very great deal to applaud.

This is true of all schools at present and Camberwell is no exception. Though it is a very good school, it has its strengths and weaknesses. However it will never increase its strengths nor remedy its weaknesses until, as a commencement, it has the unswerving loyalty and active support of all its parents. This is what I ask of you, that you join with the Advisory Council, the staff and myself to work together for the advancement and well being of our students.

I look forward to next year with confidence and expectation.

Yours sincerely,

C. E. Gazzard.

PRINCIPAL.