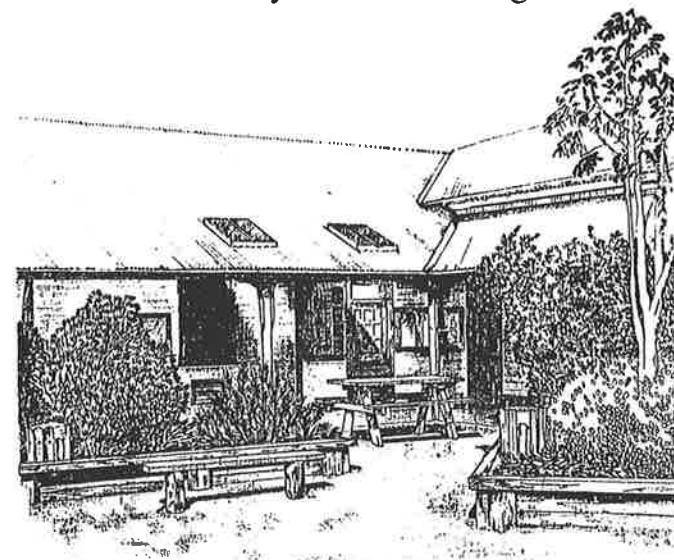


# ***NIHIL SINE LABORE***

*Nothing Without Work*

A History of Ararat High School



1913 — 1988

*A good school is both one for which people are inspired to work, and one which provides opportunities and rewards for the worker.*

*This publication is dedicated to all  
past and present students, staff  
and community members for whom  
Ararat High School has provided  
a centre for their labours.*

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**FROM THE ASHES  
OF A FLOUR MILL**

The Butcher, Revel,  
and Bishop Years (1912-1924)  
By Frank Kitchen



## Beginnings

The history of Ararat High School can be traced back to 1867, when Mr. Laby built a flour mill on the site of the present school. In 1902, a fire, which burned for five days, reduced the mill to a black ruin and as funds were unavailable to rebuild, the burnt-out shell was deserted.

The second stage in the school's history began in 1908, when Mr. A.G. Butchers came to Ararat as Headmaster of the Church of England Grammar School. But this appointment was not a great success: some of Mr. Butchers' views, on religion particularly, disagreed with those of the Vicar of Ararat, the Rev. S.A. Beveridge, and the Bishop of Ballarat. In the following year, Mr. Butchers left the Church of England Grammar School, and established a school of his own, the Ararat Grammar School on the site now occupied by Ararat High School. Mr. J. Nelson Jones, by then the owner of the ruined flour mill and a man of eighty-five, restored the old building for Mr. Butchers' new school. The Ararat Grammar School opened in 1909.

The State Education Department took over control of Mr. Butchers' private school in 1912, and sent Mr. J.C. Loughrey to be Headteacher of what was called either the Ararat Higher Elementary School or the Elementary High School — the two names seem to have been used interchangeably. Mr. Butchers remained at the school as Senior Master. Early in 1913, Mr. Loughrey received promotion to the position of Acting Inspector of the Birchip district and Mr. Butchers, having qualified for the degree of Master of Arts and the Diploma of Education, was appointed to take his place.

On Wednesday 25th June, 1913 the Ararat Higher Elementary School was proclaimed a District High School by His Excellency, the Governor Sir John Fuller.

The cost of purchasing Ararat Grammar School from Mr. J. Nelson Jones was 1,720 pounds, 1,000 pound was paid by the Education Department. 750 pound had to be raised by the Ararat Higher Elementary School Committee. 450 pounds was raised by February 1912. When the committee asked for donations from the Borough and Shire an argument erupted. The Borough and Shire Councils quibbled about making donations to the new school.

*Cr. Moore "said that the public should not have been approached for donations, the Borough and Shire should have done the whole thing. If the Shire Council would contribute we would then support the donation of 50 pound."*

## The Opening

On 21st November 1913, at the end of the Annual Athletic Sports of Ararat Higher Elementary School, the Minister for Public Instructions, Sir Alexander Peacock declared the

converted flour mill to be a District High School.

It was a squally afternoon and the wind blew the huge flag three horizontal stripes dark blue, light blue and gold. A large crowd had gathered. They watched the athletic sports which included such events as egg and spoon race, sack race, pony trotting, tilting at disc, pole vault, siamese race, boot jumbling, the rifle match, skipping contest, potato race and the driving. The Mayor, Cr. G. Burn was a judge of events as were other Councillors and many volunteers.

After the sports program, the crowd adjourned to the front of the school. Mr. Toutcher M.L.A. introduced the Minister, Sir Alexander Peacock. In his speech, the Minister said that the people of Ararat had done good work in assisting to establish a high school. He trusted the wealthy Ararat Shire Council would reconsider and vote a sum of money to the school which was greeted with loud applause. He said that education was the best policeman they could have and that through its advancement many of the old gaols had been closed. Amongst the number, was the Ararat one.

Present also was Mr. Frank Tate, the Director of Education and the man above all others who was instrumental in the establishment of the Victorian Secondary School System. Ararat District High School was the twenty-first such School in country Victoria, following the passing of the 1910 Education Act.

## The First Headmaster — A.G. Butchers

Arthur Gordon Butchers was 28 years old when he became Headmaster of Ararat District High School. He had already been a Headmaster of Ararat Church of England Grammar School and Ararat Grammar School.

Ararat High School was fortunate to have Mr. Butchers as its first Headmaster. He was a man of vision — many of the traditions he started still continue 75 years later such as the school motto, school colours, sport and the broad curriculum catering not only for academic but courses for those entering a trade or other occupation.

He was born at Brunswick, Melbourne on 11th February, 1885 the third son of Reverend Barnard Butchers and Mrs. Susan Butchers. He attended Geelong Grammar, matriculated at thirteen and won a scholarship to Queen's College University of Melbourne where he was awarded his Bachelor of Arts in April 1905.

It was largely due to his urging that the school was proclaimed a high school in 1913, and his vigorous leadership in the early years did a great deal to establish the school firmly. Mr. Butchers must have been a man of great energy as he organised the school and curriculum. In addition to running the school he set the school motto, *Nihil Sine Labore* (Nothing Without Work), wrote the school song, designed the school flag and was responsible for the publishing of the quarterly magazine, "The Ark".

On either side of the front door of the school are solid blue stones on which the Administration Offices and Home Economics Room are built. If only these stones could talk what stories they could tell:

Of the night *the School Council all resigned* when Mr. Butchers was Principal; of boys playing cricket with T-squares in the woodwork room; of a segregated school where girls and boys were not allowed to mix; of teachers rapping students across the knuckles with rulers; and of the fights after school.

They would hold memories of the *freezing cold* of classrooms in an Ararat winter when only some rooms had ineffective open fires, and of the days when boys would *plunge flies* in the ink well then let the flies walk over the students work. The blue stones would describe *girls wearing hats and gloves*, and recollections of the 21 years *Mr. Crebbin raised money* to build the Assembly Hall.

These stones were in place before the *Anzacs* landed at *Gallipoli*, before the *model T. Ford* gave every family a car and long before *rock and roll*. These stones have been in place since 1867 as a flour mill them from 1913 onward as a High School.

Once these stones saw drays grind up the gravel road in Barkly Street. Now they look up and see the silver trail of Adelaide jets cutting across the sky from Mt. William. These stones have watched *thousands of students*, hundreds of teachers and nine Principals come and go. In this book, we capture some of the events and recall some of the people that have been a vital part of Ararat High School in the last 75 years.



*Ararat Grammar School 1910. Buildings are the present Administration and Home Economics centres.*



Professor J. Wrigby, University of Melbourne and formerly Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools described him as a Headmaster,

*“Mr. Butchers showed great energy, very considerable powers of organisation and distinct ability and freshness in his outlook upon educational problems.”*

On 3rd September 1914, he married Madge McDonald Mellis, daughter of the Manager of the Ararat Branch of the London Chartered Bank which was located on the site now occupied by the ANZ Bank. Their first daughter, Joan was born in Ararat on 26th July, 1915. Three other children were born in New Zealand, Barnard (Barney), Mellis and Gordon.



*First Headmaster: A.G. Butchers.*

### **Advisory Council (Provisional) 12th June, 1913.**

Crs. G. Burn (Mayor), J. Irwin, W. Tibbles (Borough), G. Vanstan Shire. Messrs. R. Hargraves (Senior), T.A. Wild, W.H. Mackay, A. Ramage (Hon. Secretary), A. Scholes, F. Forster, A. Little.

### **1913 Staff**

Mr. A.G. Butchers, M.A. Dip. Ed., Headmaster — Latin, Algebra and First Aid.

Mr. F.J. Watson, T.T.C., Physics, Chemistry, Native Study, Geography and Physical Training.

Miss J. Sterling, Dip. Ed., English and Geometry.

Miss E. Arnold, T.T.C., French, Arithmetic, Class Singing and Civics.

Mr. G. Roberts — Instructor of Sloyd and Drawing.

Miss D. Brown — Teacher of Cookery.

Miss W. Temple — Teacher of Needlework.

### **Uniform, Rules and Discipline**

The official school uniform was:

*Boys* — Summer - Straw hat, colours and badge.

Winter - School caps and badge.

(Photographs show that in addition to the above, boys wore three-piece suits and high stiff collars).

*Girls* — Navy blue skirt, white blouse, gem (straw) hat, colours and badge. Girls were not permitted to wear jewellery to school. It was recommended that in winter, blouses be of white washing corduroy, and in summer of lighter materials.

In 1914, the Headmaster and the Advisory Council drafted a set of school regulations, and these appeared in the third issue of “The Ark”. They were:

*“No boy may speak to a girl in school unless given permission to do so, and vice versa.*

*Girls and boys to be in separate parts of the school ground unless given permission otherwise.*

*When meeting in streets, boys to raise their hats. Girls to acknowledge salutation.*

*Meeting or conversing anywhere is at all times strictly forbidden, except when accompanied by parents, guardians or teachers.*

*No pupil to be in the street at night time (i.e., after 7 p.m. in winter and 8 p.m. in summer) unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or teacher.*

*At entertainments and in public places generally pupils, unless accompanied by parents or guardians, to be arranged as in School, and are regarded as subject to all School rules.*

*Boarding houses to be approved of by the Headmaster, and be periodically visited by him or by the deputy.”*

Ararat students who had enjoyed a free life were not prepared to accept these new rules without protest. Breaches of these regulations did occur and offenders, in minor cases, were dealt with by the Headmaster with the aid of his formidable array of canes. In more serious cases, the student was brought before the Advisory Council, with his parents present if they wished, and his (or her) case was heard. The punishments prescribed by this “court” varied from a “very impressive lecture” by the President of the Council to a boy who was then allowed to school on probation, to suspension for varying periods and even, in a few extreme cases, to expulsion. At least one family would not accept the Headmaster’s discipline of their children.

Howard Smith aged 16 years, had taken home alone in his gig a distance of six miles a girl of the school aged 13 years. It was reported by the Matron that improper conversation of a very disgraceful character had taken place. This was a serious breach of school rules. The Headmaster made inquiries found them to be true and communicated this to the parents. The mother of the girl had obtained a full confession and agreed to punish the girl severely. The boy’s mother refused to believe any evidence. She transferred her sons to Maryborough High School which was a breach of regulation. An enquiry was held by the Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools and it was found that Howard and Arthur Smith were not to be enrolled at any other High School than Ararat.

Charles Thomas and Dorothy Mackay had broken regulations several times. They had both entered the fernery at the gardens together. They had also been seen together in the street. Charles admitted that Dorothy had kissed him. The Chairman of the Advisory Council reprimanded Charles Thomas and said that any further offence would lead to expulsion.

Eva Faneco (Senior Girls Prefect) denied that she had been out with John Grano, though she admitted to walking to and from School up Barkly Street which was a breach of School rules.

Maggie Faneco distributed cigarettes to a number of girls in Form 4 and admitted to smoking them during midday recess in the creek at the back of the school ground.

### **Qualifications for Enrolment**

1. Pupils must have passed the Qualifying Examination, or an approved equivalent examination, or a satisfactory entrance examination equal to the standard of the Qualifying Examination.
2. They must furnish satisfactory evidence they they are of good general health, and are likely to profit by a further course of study.
3. They must be at least twelve years of age at the date of enrolment.



*School Staff and Advisory Council early 1920's (Pictured in front of the present staff centre)*

## Courses of Study

In 1913 the 66 boys and 38 girls took four different courses of study each of which, across the state, bore the stamp of Frank Tate.

In the first two years, all students took a common course, which consisted of foundation subjects — English, history, geography, a second language, mathematics, elementary science, drawing, woodwork, hygiene and class singing.

In the following years students divided into streams —

- ★ An industrial course, which put great emphasis on drawing, manual training and elementary science, and leading to employment in the preparatory professional a secondary course, which emphasised English, mathematics and science at a more advanced level and led to the teaching profession, the University and the Public Service.
- ★ The commercial course was for students intending to devote themselves to business and commercial pursuits.
- ★ The domestic arts course designed to give girl students efficient training in the principles and practices of household management.

Mr. Butcher was anxious to establish an agricultural course, and some plots of land were dug for the purpose. But the soil was found to be too poor and the attempt was never successful.

## Sport

The first inter-school football match was held on Friday 16th May, 1913 against Stawell High School at Central Park. Players travelled by train to Stawell. Ararat kicked 5 goals 8 behinds to narrowly defeat Stawell 5 goals 3 behinds. A large crowd supported the players.

On 23rd May, 1913, 20 girls from Stawell High School travelled to Ararat to play basketball (now netball). Stawell won 42 points to 2 points.

The first athletics meeting of the Grampians Secondary Schools Sports Association was held in Hamilton. . . . . the eventual winner was Hamilton College.

## Fees

The fees were 2 pound per term for students 14 years and older. There were no fees for younger students. The high cost of books was 2 to 3 pound for the year.

# HIGH SCHOOL,

*Ararat*

## QUARTERLY REPORT.

Name Esther de Laidlaw Class 2<sup>nd</sup> Y.R. Term 1<sup>st</sup> Year 1913

Subject.	Percentage of Class.	Percentage gained by Pupil.	Remarks.
English	62	49	V. Good.
History	68	71	V. Good
Latin			
French	74	90 1 <sup>st</sup>	Excellent
Arithmetic	50	87 2	Very good indeed.
Algebra	46	30 11	Weak
Geometry	46	52 9 <sup>th</sup>	Good
Geography	48	51 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Good
Physics			
Chemistry			
Nature Study			
Drawing	52	58 13 <sup>th</sup>	Good
<i>Arts</i>	68	94	Very good
<i>Bookwork</i>	88	90	V. Good
<i>Needlework</i>	73	55	Weak
<i>Hygiene</i>	48	81	Good

Attendance Full

Conduct Good

Progress Excellent

The Head Master will be pleased to confer with parents respecting the welfare of their children.

*W. Butcher M.A.*  
Head Master.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF VICTORIA.

ARARAT DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL.

**P**ASS **C**ERTIFICATE.

AWARDED TO

Name *Gordon G. W. Hurley*

Course *Professional.*

Form *Lower Sixth*

Year *1916*

Remarks:—*Dux of School. First in Form.*

*14<sup>th</sup> February 1917.* *A. G. Butcher M.A.* Head Master.

## Student Leadership

Students were given many responsibilities. The prefects were responsible for the tone of the school and were appointed by the Headmaster in consultation with the Staff. In 1913 the prefects were Alan McMullin, M. Wild, C. Evans, Dulcie Cross, and Mabel Wearne.

Throughout winter, students were responsible for the fires. A complete roster of boys and girls responsible for fires was kept in lavatories. In 1913, the school was divided into clubs, membership of which included students. The Social Club provided programs at morning assembly. The Grounds Club looked after the gardens and grounds. The Rifle Club and the Football Club organised sport.

## The War

Less than a year after the official opening of the school the First World War began. The war had a profound impact on the School. Without doubt it frustrated Mr. Butchers' attempts to develop the school the way he would like.

Ararat High School poured enormous energy into the war effort. Forty-eight yards of calico had been made into kit bags and 96 skeins of wool had been knitted into socks. Eighteen bed screens, a large number of crutches, many camp stools, face washers, splints and cushions had been made by the students.

Ararat High School was one of the leading schools in country Victoria in its donations in the war effort. During 1916, the school paid 130 pound to war relief which brought the total raised to 222 pound till that date. On Anzac Day 1917, a concert, fete and athletic sports were held to raise money for War Relief and the School Equipment Fund. No prizes were distributed to students due to the war.

A number of past students volunteered to serve in the war these included the senior prefect for 1914 and the captain of the football team 1915. In April 1916, an honour board was unveiled listing the names of twenty-four former pupils of Ararat High School who had gone to war. W.T. Johns was killed.

The war stopped any building and thwarted Mr. Butchers' attempts to develop the school. As the war dragged on, this led to frustration and bitterness which led to 6 out of 7 School Councillors resigning.

## Transport and Hostel

Many students travelled long distances daily to and from home by rail, bicycle, horse and vehicle while one boy walked six miles each way every day. Ike Coad rode his bicycle 10 miles along gravel roads from Rocky Point over Carols and Copes Hill to school each day. Frederick Scherger rode his white-face chestnut pony five miles to School from Cathcart.

In 1911, Ararat Grammar students could board in the care of the mother and sister of the Headmaster. This arrangement did not continue as Mrs. Susan Butchers died in 1912 and Ethel Butchers married.

High School hostels were established in 1915. Seventeen girls lived in one hostel while twelve boys lived in the other. Accommodation was a major expense for parents wishing to send their children to Ararat High School.

At the end of 1915, the Advisory Council took over the control of the girl's hostel situated in the west end of the school grounds. But this arrangement was unsatisfactory. It was alleged that the matron's supervision of the books was inadequate; bills were unpaid and articles from the Cooking Centre were missing. This led to accusations and counter accusations which finally led to the resignation of seven of the eight Councillors from the Advisory Council in June 1917 due to lack of confidence in the Headmaster.

The Hostel was then again privately run.

## Resignation

Mr. Butchers was a scholarly man who already had acquired a Master of Arts and Diploma of Education when he was Headmaster of Ararat High School. Later he completed his Master of Education and Doctor of Literature in New Zealand. Mr. Butchers resigned as Headmaster from Ararat High School in November 1917 to become foundation Principal at the John McGloshan College in Dunedin New Zealand. In 1923, he became Senior Mathematics Master at Southland Boys High School, Invercargill.

From 1934 to 1950 he was the second Headmaster of the New Zealand Education Department Correspondence School. He was granted the O.B.E. (Officer of the British Empire for services to education in 1947).

Dr. A.G. Butchers died on the 24th April, 1960 in Wellington New Zealand at the age of 75 years.

TERM II., 1916

ATTENDANCE: Absent 0 days Late 0 times

HOME WORK: { Writing Work B  
Leaning Work B

WORK IN CLASS: A

EXAMINATION WORK: C+

PLACE IN FORM OF 17 PUPILS 11

SPECIAL REMARKS: *Shows a great interest in all her work & has made excellent progress. A very fine student; Examination marks did not compare in Headmaster subjects.*  
By W. Keith Headmaster

Signature of Parent or Guardian } W. D. Laidlaw

Date 17/7/16

Please return on or before first day of third term.

W. D. Laidlaw  
W. D.

## TERM II., 1916 EXAMINATION RESULTS.

Subject.	Per-centage	Class average	Subject.	Per-centage	Class average
English	65	59	Drawing	17	39
History	30	44	Modelling	168	74
French	70	41	Woodwork		
German			Metalwork		
Latin			Agriculture		
Arithmetic	50	53	Cookery		
Algebra	38	50	Needlework		
Geometry	44	53	Hygiene		
Trigonometry					
Mechanics					
N. Study	58	63			
El. Science					
Physics	26	24			
Chemistry					
Geology					
Geography	47	52			

Page from a report book 1916



*Junior Intermediate Class-1917*

## **H.H. Revell — 1918**

His successor, Mr. H.H. Revell, came to Ararat from St. Arnaud. He was here for only one year — a very difficult one for the school, with only 89 pupils enrolled. The Leaving Certificate class was discontinued for this year because of small numbers.

It was during Mr. Revell's Headmastership, however, that plans were finalised for the 1919 extensions, and much was done to restore the school to favor with the people of the district who had opposed Mr. Butchers' administration.

Two significant events occurred this year. Before eight o'clock on the morning of 28th August, 1918, drays, men, ploughs, horses and scoops started work to lay out a proper sports arena. They were joined in the afternoon by senior citizens and town people who worked until 5.00 p.m.

The Advisory Council opposed senior students participating in compulsory cadet training.

Mr. Revell left at the end of 1918. He was for a long time Headmaster of Warragul High School, and later occupied the coveted position of Principal of Melbourne High School.

## **Frederick Scherger**

Frederick Scherger had displayed his zest for learning at Norval Primary School where he was dux of his class each year.

Mr. Revell headmaster and the Science Master supported his ambition and extended the coaching. He was popular with both teachers and pupils. He later wrote to a friend

*"When I went to Military College I found to my joy that I had already covered the syllabus in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. That of course gave me a tremendous boost and a tremendous start in competing for the Kings Medal which was the Swot Prize at College. I was fortunate enough to win that but I won it because of those teachers back in my earlier youth.*

*His sister said, "Fred was the studious one at School, anxious to learn all he could, and ambitious to make a success of his life."*

*Ike Coad described his ability at sport — "Fred wasn't much of a footballer but he was quite a good bowler at cricket. However it was on the tennis court that Fred really shone; he was among the best tennis players at school."*

In January 1921, Fred Scherger was a successful candidate at the Duntroon Military College examinations which were held in Melbourne the previous October. He obtained first for Victoria; this being the second time this honour has been gained by an Ararat High School boy.

In 1921, Scherger entered Duntroon Military College, Canberra where he won the King's medal along with an armful of prizes. He joined R.A.A.F. as a pilot from 1925 to 1935.

In 1941, Group Captain Scherger was commanding officer of the R.A.A.F. base at Darwin which had pitifully few aircraft to defend it against the attack by the Japanese on 19th February, 1942 which virtually destroyed Darwin. Scherger was unfairly blamed for this debacle.

But Frederick Scherger was tough and was always "in it to win it". In January 1944, he was appointed Air Commodore in New Guinea. In 1950 he became Air-Vice Marshall serving in Washington and Malaya and in 1957 he became Chief of Air Staff. In the 1958 Birthday Honours he was knighted Knight Commander of British Empire and in 1961, he became Chief of Staffs Committee responsible for the Army, Navy and Airforce. He was in charge of Australian forces at the time of the Vietnam War, conscription debates and the purchase of the controversial F111 "swing wing bomber". In 1965, he was the first Australian to be awarded Air Chief Marshall. He retired in 1966. Sir Frederick Scherger died in 1984.

## Roaring Twenties

With the end of the War, the School was caught up in the spirit of the Roaring Twenties. Ararat High School entered the Jazz Age with enthusiasm, progress and expansion. It was a time of raising and spending money and happiness and purpose. Mr. W.J. Bishop was the Headmaster who supervised the growth and expansion and made the most of opportunities. He worked hard for the school, and showed energy, enthusiasm and imagination and had the gift of getting on well with other people and gained the support of the Advisory Council.

## Buildings and Grounds

The buildings and grounds improved dramatically between 1919 and 1924. As the war had ended, money was again available for schools.

The new school building made of Victorian hardwood cost 3,797 pound. It was opened by Hon. W. Hutchinson, Minister of Education in November 1919. The building included three classrooms, a science room, art rooms, a preparatory room and office. A veranda extended around the building and formed the quadrangle which was later asphalted.

Mr. Bishop and the Advisory Council made a number of improvements to the grounds. A new oval was graded by working bees and contractors were paid from School funds and government subsidies. Beside the oval, a room was converted into a pavilion. A concrete cricket pitch was installed. 180 loads of sand were carted to lay the foundations of the tennis courts; these were later tared. A croquet lawn was made along the Benbow Street entrance to the school. Twenty acres of Crown Land were provided to grow a pine plantation. In April 1923, Sir Alexander Peacock, Minister of Education was very impressed with the improvements to grounds and buildings.

Land was purchased from Mr. McMillan in Benbow Street to make a girls' playing field. Negotiations to purchase houses along Laby Street were made to allow the school to expand to the east. A residence for the Headmaster was built on the corner of the school ground on Benbow Street. Twenty-four elms were planted along Benbow Street.

The Advisory Council requested permission from the Borough to shoot goats that came on school grounds.

## Student Enrolments

The Headmaster, Mr. W.J. Bishop, used to spend part of the School holidays visiting the homes of potential High School pupils, in Ararat and more particularly in the country, to try to persuade them to enrol at the Ararat High School. As he pointed out to the Advisory Council in 1920:

*"The School was in need of students — it was well equipped in every way and could train students up to University entrance standard, but seemingly the people of the district did not realise its value."*

Mr. Owen, School Councillor volunteered each year to drive Mr. Bishop to the Country areas in his car to visit prospective students.

The District Inspector in 1921, Mr. A.W. Russell said in a general letter to the school in his district:

*"It is my wish that all the brainy boys and girls of the district carry on their education to a high school, or other secondary school."*

Mr. Bishop's hard work was rewarded. Enrolments had grown to 160 by 1924.

## The Jazz Age

The roaring twenties was the decade of the model T. Ford, General Electrics, movies, gramophone, wireless and telephone.

Ararat High School was attracted to the consumer goods now available. In 1924, a wireless set and gramophone were purchased. A piano was purchased; each Councillor gave a loan of 1 pound to be paid back as funds were returned by entertainment.

The driver of the Moyston Mail run bus agreed to start earlier and leave later to accommodate students coming to School.

Cinematographs were still a dream that American Schools' had. The Headmaster brought under notice the harmful effect of picture shows upon the moral and intellectual development of the students and it was resolved that this Council is of the opinion that the attendance of students at picture shows is inadvisable.

Further, the Advisory Council took steps to form an anti picture show league amongst the students. It was their intention to discourage students from going to the pictures during term time. This proposal was deferred and no action was taken. Perhaps they were being realistic, and gave into the inevitable.

## Technical Education

The growth in secondary industry in Australia led to the demand for technical education. Technical education was the trend being demanded by the Inspectors of the Education Department and the public.

By January, 1925, the High School took over technical classes from grades 6, 7, 8 at Ararat 800 Primary School. Technical students studied sheetmetal and woodwork. The old Royal Hotel was converted to a temporary sheet metal workshop for the purpose.

## Sport and Celebrations

Mr. Bishop introduced the house system to the school; Chalambar, Grampians and Pyrenees houses being formed in 1920. The fourth house Sturgeon, was added in 1953. In 1920, too, Ararat organised the annual Athletic Sports Meeting of the Grampians Secondary Schools' Sports Association. The Advisory Council donated a shield, the Ark Shield, for junior boys, which is still competed for in the re-formed Wimmera S.S.S.A. The house sports were held at Alexandra Oval.

Inspector Mr. Wrigley spoke of American and English schools and promoted the idea of parent societies to aid schools.

The first Reunion of past students of Ararat High School was held on the 31st March, 1920. About 150 old students put in appearances during the afternoon and evening.

## Scholarships and Fund Raising

One of Mr. Bishop's main contributions to the school was the initiation of the local scholarship scheme. He wrote letters to various individuals and organisations asking for aid for worthy students, and by 1921 there were 21 local scholarship holders in the School.

R. Osborne won a free place to Melbourne University for Electrical Engineering. Nancy Nicholls was first in the state for all country students in the Junior Government Scholarships.

Many fundraising activities were held. A concert in 1922 raised 44 pound. The Wild Heath Festival made a profit of 137 pound. A fair was held.

A ball was held in 1923 to liquidate debts. A profit of 44 pound was made from hosting the G.S.S.S.A. sports.

## Mr. Bishop Leaves

The President of the Advisory Council Cr. W.H. Toole  
*"Regret that Mr. Bishop should be leaving Ararat after all the work he had done to get the School in order."*

Mr. Bishop replied he had put in hard work at Ararat but satisfaction of seeing the School brought to the highest point of excellence.





**STABILITY**  
**IN AN UNSTABLE WORLD**

The Parker Years (1925-1941)

By Rob Smith



With Australia and much of the world recovering from the war to end all wars and being gripped by the optimism and enthusiasm of the “Roaring Twenties”, 1925 saw the arrival of Henry W. Parker. Little did he, or anybody for that matter, know that in the seventeen years he would lead the school the world would be rocked by the Great Depression and the outbreak of a new and equally tragic world conflict. It is most evident that the school was unable to remain insulated from these world wide events and Ararat High school shared the misery and heart break that was associated with them. It was the Parker years which formed the bridge between the early formative times of Ararat High and the Second World War when the School was firmly established as part of the network of secondary education within rural Victoria.

Henry Parker was an Englishman who arrived in Ararat to take up his Headmastership in 1925. Parker’s previous appointment had been in Bendigo and it was to be seventeen years before he moved to a new appointment as Principal of Warragul High School. He was later to take up positions at Coburg and Essendon High Schools. He passed away in 1951.

With the passing of the years, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain information relating to Henry Parker although it is clear that he was a man of strong will and his attitude to his Headmaster’s role seems fairly typical of his time. With modern Principals working within a system of committees and decision making often based on consensus, discussion and democratic principles, it was in stark contrast that early Head-

masters saw their role. The Headmaster was the ultimate authority figure among staff and students alike and ruled his school with the aid of an Advisory Council devoid of the wide and democratic representation which characterises School Councils today. Staff and student involvement and even elected parent representatives on Council were unknown in the days of Henry Parker with the Advisory Council taking much of its number from the ranks of local Councillors and prominent citizens.

Henry Parker was the fourth Principal of Ararat High School and came as the replacement for the well liked and respected W.J. Bishop. The welcome handed to the incoming Henry Parker in Ararat was not what the new Headmaster of his new town would have wanted. Mr. Parker was no doubt looking forward to a fresh environment, a new challenge and a chance to pursue his favourite leisure pastime of fishing. Mr. Parker took charge of his new home in Benbow Street, stored his furniture and

returned to Bendigo. On his return he discovered his home burgled, cases opened, crockery scattered around the house and furniture and a bicycle stolen. The goods taken were to the value of £32, a large sum in 1925. The report of this incident was the only real reference by the Ararat Advertiser to the arrival of the man who was to lead secondary education in the area.

From the very beginning, Mr. Parker pursued a continual upgrading of the school’s buildings and surrounds and stressed to the Education Department the need for a technical education component for the school. It was within his time that the school consolidated its position, the Ladies Welfare Committee formed, an ex students group became active, and more internal assessment occurred. It was also a time when staff staged a revolt over weekend sports commitments. Most of these events will be dealt with later.



*Ararat in Mr. Parker’s time*

At every Speech Night was expounded Henry Parker's philosophy on education. Under the heading of "School Aims", Mr. Parker delivered the same message for seventeen years in slightly different wording. A feat in itself! His philosophy is perhaps best summed up in quotation from one of his earliest speech nights:

*" . . . . . the school aims at giving to the students a liberal and balanced education, not one which merely fits them for employment, but one which also leaves them capable and desirous of further improving themselves mentally — one which develops them in body through physical training and sports, and which through sports assists in the moral development and helps train them as the coming citizens who will render the Commonwealth, State and town, and fellowmen, civic and public duties which carry perhaps no reward but that of a consciousness of duty well done."*

How this philosophy translated into practice is difficult to judge with the passing of time. What seems to come through is an authoritarian Headmaster who at certain times may have been in conflict with his staff or at least sections of it. Certainly, Advisory Council minutes contain motions of confidence in the Headmaster which are subtle hints that perhaps all was not rosy at all times.

Former students seem to have perceived Mr. Parker, who also taught history and geography, as a man to be feared. Like most of his contemporaries, he made good use of the strap. Stories abound of his feet on the desk in his office and the rubber soled shoes which allowed his silent progress through the school where he would look through windows and apprehend wrong doers. It was not doubt, as a result of activities such as these, that the Headmaster acquired the nickname of "Nosey" Parker. Mr. Parker also bears the brunt of a little rhyme which several ex pupils still seem able to recite.

Two of Mr. Parker's minor "obsessions" were the cause of some amusement among students. At times he would come to school from his residence via the oval. Mr. Parker was extremely hard on those, particularly boys, who exhibited "slommicky" posture. Boys' eyes would constantly light up when observing Mr. Parker on his way across the oval, remove his hands from his pockets before pouncing on an unsuspecting boy. "You, boy, hands out of those pockets! Shoulders back!! Eyes off the ground — What are you looking for — threepenny bits!!". If the boy was lucky the matter ended there, however many spent an hour after school writing our lines suitable to the theme.

The other preoccupation of the Headmaster appeared to be the word "twenty". Woe to the pupil in Mr. Parker's class who pronounced it "twenny". An explosion usually occurred followed by the breaking of chalk as the word "twenty" was written ten foot long with a three foot high second "T". Detention always followed with 100 to 200 twenties with the big "T".

While recounting these memories, it is unfair to judge Mr. Parker's relationship with students by this alone. All of us perhaps remember the sterner side of school and forget some of the lighter moments. It must also be born in mind that one of the roles of the Headmaster of that time (much more so than today) was to exercise tight control and authority over staff and students. The means were usually via fear and aloofness. There seems little doubt that in Mr. Parker's time the school ran well and was a well respected institution.

In summary, Henry Parker held the position of Headmaster at Ararat High School for seventeen years and has been remembered as a man who helped shape the school into what it is today. To him we can be thankful for some of its buildings and the extension of its grounds, the development of the school's independence of academic assessment and perhaps fostering a view of education which is very close to the philosophy which the school presently embodies.



*Girls outside the school buildings 1938 — J. Hardwick, F. Spedding, P. Dalkin, J. Beddoc, J. Phillip, G. Bithell, D. House, L. Costick, B. Hudson, R. Turner, R. Young.*

## Grounds & Buildings

The major thrust during Henry Parker's time was for extensions to cater for technical education for the district. The move had begun in 1924 for such facilities plus a laundry for domestic arts. In 1925, the Valuer General undertook to negotiate the purchase of adjoining land and in that same year the Advisory Council began to agitate for technical facilities to be erected on this new land. The Borough of Ararat was asked to support the move with the school making it quite clear that the existing buildings on the land including an old hotel were not suitable for the purpose.

In 1926 plans were approved for the new extensions which included a large art room which could be used for assemblies, a large library, a woodwork room, a drawing/sewing room and replacement locker rooms. It was the intention (although never to eventuate) to dismantle the west end of the stone building and connect it with the "recently erected wooden structure". If the Advisory Council thought their prayers were answered they were mistaken. Long delays occurred with the Council continually writing to the powers in Melbourne imploring them to start construction. However, due to the economic conditions, it was 1928 before tenders were finally let to a Mr. Blizzard of Daylesford, whose quote of £9211 was accepted.

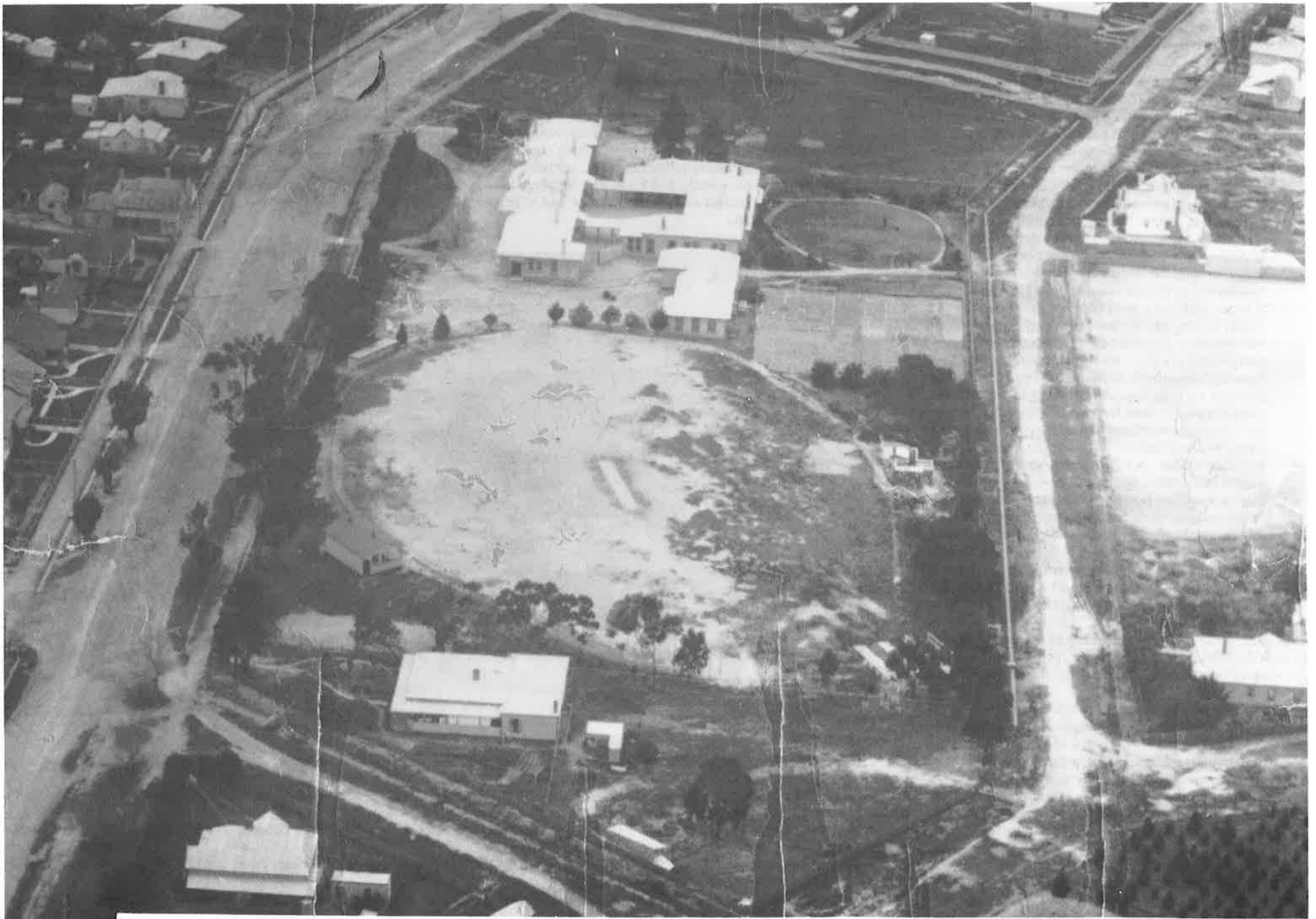
The new extensions were finally opened on Saturday October 26 1929 at 3.00 p.m. by the Honorary H.J Cohen K.C. Minister for Public Instruction. Also in attendance was the Director of Education who gave an address entitled "The extension of the Age of Compulsory Attendance". The long battle had been fought and won and Ararat had its new buildings although they were obviously different than those outlined in the 1926 plans.

While the extensions were the major worry of the Advisory Council, the small day to day physical surrounds were constant cause for correspondence with the Education Department. Lockers were sought on a £1 for £1 basis, and in 1927 drinking taps were installed which "saved the lips touching the taps when drinking". Maintenance was forever a problem and in 1937 the Council requested that the annual repairs allowance be raised from £10 to £20.

Major improvements took place to the grounds in 1930 when basketball courts were constructed and in 1937 with the erection of bicycle sheds.

During Mr. Parker's time the grounds both were expanded and developed. The size of the grounds were enlarged in 1926 with the purchase of McMillan's blocks. Earlier in 1925, the existing grounds had been fenced against stock and trees planted. Fencing was a constant problem as was the invading animals which frequented the school grounds. At the same time the grounds were often leased for grazing. At one point, fencing was financed by the Government but approval did not include wire netting "as evidence could only be found that two rabbits had entered the school grounds". On another occasion, the Council had been disappointed that while cattle proof fencing had been approved, goose proof fencing had been disallowed. School Council minutes give details of the mess invading geese were making to the quadrangle area! Indeed, the fencing issue takes second place only to the cutting of the front hedge in weight of Council discussions on ground's matters.

Another matter causing concern was the issue of mining in the school ground. A request from an applicant to mine for gold within the school's grounds was approved (with the dissenting vote of the Headmaster). However, it was on the proviso the proper gates be used! The question of mining in the grounds was to linger for some time and the High School was instrumental in having the matter clarified on a State wide basis.



*Aerial Photograph of the school 1928. Note the boarding house at the front of the oval, the Headmaster's residence on the right and the plantation on the bottom right.*

## Curriculum

The curriculum taught at Ararat High school was very like that taught elsewhere in the State and varied little in the years Henry Parker led the school. Mr. Parker summed up the early structure of the curriculum in his Annual Report of 1926.

*" . . . after sixth grade some differentiation should be made in the curriculum for the pupils who on the one hand will learn a trade and those on the other who will eventually enter professional or commercial life. Again, owing to economic pressures very many pupils necessarily leave at fourteen years to follow the various trades as tradesmen or as skilled or unskilled labourers. Hence at twelve years (qualifying certificate standard) the first distinction is made and there are two courses — one for the pupils leaving at fourteen years and also for those who intend to follow a trade, for whom some seventeen periods are given to manual training of eye and hand by woodwork, sheet metal work, and allied subjects such as applied drawing; in the other a more general course for pupils who intend entering a profession or commercial life, but seven periods of manual training are given. At fourteen years (merit certificate standard) a further differentiation occurs when the common or general course divides into two — that is the professional course leading to education, medicine, law etc., or the commercial course leading to accountancy, and the like. I must not omit to state that while all girls receive at least one year's cooking, needlework and dress-making, those students who do not intend to follow professional life or commercial pursuits receive seventeen periods a week."*

In 1927, a slight change was made to the curriculum whereby housewifery for Year 8 girls was to include laundering instead of cookery which was regarded by the Department as too strenuous.

One of the highlights of the week occurred last period on Fridays with the Clubs session. Students could choose from activities such as Drama, Glee, Gym and Plantation. Speech night acts often emanated from these clubs and much of the school's afforestation can be traced to these as well.

A major breakthrough for the school came in 1940 when Ararat High School was given permission to administer internally set and assessed term examinations for the Class A Intermediate Certificate.

In recent years, changes in curriculum are common place. However one cannot be too critical of the seemingly static courses of Ararat High School in the twenties and thirties as at this time, courses of study were dictated centrally from Melbourne.

## Students

Students were subject to much greater restriction than their counterparts today. Some of the rules of the time included:

*Pupils not to go over the line dividing the boys' and girls' areas in the playground.*

*Boys not to talk to girls at school or down the street.*

*Boys not to watch the girls playing tennis.*

*Pupils not to run in the quadrangle.*

*Girls must wear hats when outside the school grounds.*



*E Form (Form II) 1931*

*Back: Les Power, Wallace Bryant, Bob Firman, Bill MacKay, Cliff Conroy, Fred Sellwood, Ron Abernethy, Albert Blamely, Jack Costick, Jack Firman, Ellis, Mel Byron.*

*Second Back: Marj Jones, Ena Watson, Grace Collins, Pearl Lees, Mavis Roach, Edna Grinter, Celia Kent, Marion Johns, Ella Coutts, Evelyn Falls, Gwen Kelly.*

*Third Back: Les Ridding, Mavis Dogsett, Mavis Connarty, Jean McKenzie, Willis Gibson, Thelma Hogan, Fay Riley, Addie Mannington, Thelma Lardner, Lois Taylor, Gladys Gale.*

*Fourth Back: Doug Bartlett, Lin Lardner, Joan Craig, Mary Oliver, Val Todd, Poppy Neat, Edna Kirkham, Thelma Bowker, Eunice Burke,*

*Second Front: Gordon Tardrew, Edric Howlett, Eric Rolph, George Flowers, Arthur Stent, Arthur Cairns, Fred Kramer,*

*Front: Chinnick, Eric Mill, Les Ridding, Eddie Centre.*

Girls had a daily inspection to check nails, polish on shoes and that black bloomers were being worn. Discipline was imposed using the strap or detention which took place between 4 and 5 p.m. It was supervised by teachers and was often imposed for minor misdemeanors.

Playgrounds were the Benbow Street hockey field, the football and cricket grounds with its grandstand, and the cricket nets where the present tennis courts are. There were also two basketball (netball) courts on the corner of Barkley Street and Laby Street and two tennis courts on the site of the present West Wing. Naturally, there were also general boys and girls play areas.

The uniform for the girls was a navy tunic with three box pleats at front and back and a navy blazer. Tunics were religiously sponged and pressed on Sundays as there was no dry cleaning facilities. Girls also wore a navy felt hat, black bloomers plus black woollen (much darned) stockings which were uniform for both summer and winter.

Prefects were appointed by the staff and it was usual at the time to have two girls and two boys. Their job was to report on student misbehavior and check uniforms. They also took an active part in ANZAC day services held each year.

Many students went on to many forms of notoriety:

Paula Stafford (nee, Robertson) is credited with introducing the first bikini to Australia at Surfers Paradise in the late 1930's after it had gone on sale overseas.

Bill Orchard represented Australia in swimming at the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1940. He later went on to become a psychiatrist.

James Banfield became a Professor of Physics at the National University in Canberra.

Doris Embling became Principal at Mathew Flinders Girls High School, a School Inspector, and rose to a high level in the Education Department.

Ruth Many now Mrs. James Miller had a distinguished career overseas during the war in the Australian Nursing service. She went on to become a matron of the Women's Hospital in Melbourne.

One of the most able students to pass through the school was Mr. Parker's daughter Ena. Ex students remember her as brilliant and persistent in her quest for complete understanding. One amusing incident recalled by a former pupil took place in the French class conducted by Mr. Lloyd Williams. An unfamiliar French word cropped up and Mr. Williams told the class it meant "bullock". "Oh!", said Ena, "Le Bouef". If Mr. Williams had been smart he would have quit there. Unfortunately he tried to be precise and said "No, not a bull, a bullock". "Aren't they the same?" retorted Ena. "Not as the words are commonly used. Perhaps I should have said steer." was the Williams reply. "What's a steer?" queried Ena. "I think you better ask your father" was the retort as Mr. Williams tried to bail out. Ena had no intention of asking her father or leaving the matter unresolved causing Mr. Williams to gather

his books at the five minute warning bell, claim it was the final bell and leave the room with the advice to Ena that the "country girls could tell her the difference".

Ena went on to a University degree, a rarity in this era, and it is believed she subsequently pursued an academic career following this.

Another student of note was Bob McDonald who joined the Public Service as a clerical assistant at the Ararat Mental Hospital (now Aradale), went on to become Secretary of that Institution and ultimately became the Secretary of the Department of Mental Hygiene.

Naturally in composing any list such as this some worthy students will have been omitted. All students whether going on to be famous or not should be congratulated on their efforts at school.



*Cookery Class — Back: Elsie Batten, Betty Deam, Jean Usher, Audrey Turner, Joan Blake, Elsie Hamilton, Joyce McCready. Middle: Nancy James, Linda McAdie, Keva Turner, Miss Krause, Lola Blackman, Jean Matthews. Front: Iris Carpenter, Gwenda Runciman, , Jean Young, Doris Douglas.*

## Staffing

It would appear that staffing was always a problem and certainly in the early years of Mr. Parker's headmastership shortages especially at the beginning of the year were common. Staffing was less stable since teachers could be temporarily appointed to a neighbouring school which may have had a shortage in a certain subject area. Staff farewells were common and often with elaborate affairs being held at the Town Hall.

The Ararat staff appeared very competent and always gained very satisfactory reports from the visiting Inspectors. Results in public examinations also showed the staff in a good light.

In a time of little union power within education, an issue arose which showed the Ararat staff to be quite radical and militant for its time. Sports days were traditionally held on Saturday afternoons and attendance by staff was taken as mandatory. However, in 1930 School Council received a letter signed by all but one member of staff, that acting on union advice, they would not be attending the school sports on Saturday afternoon. Council reacted angrily and the minutes read:

*"The members present, thoroughly dissatisfied with the extremely selfish attitude of the staff decided to carry on, confirming the decision of the Headmaster in arranging substitutes and unanimously agreed to give every assistance to make the day a success."*

At the next meeting, a vote of confidence was unanimously passed in the Headmaster and in a later meeting, it was moved to send this motion to the Chief Inspector and the Director of Education.

The issue of Saturday Sports again arose at Council in 1932 when a two man staff deputation spoke to Council about the possibility of athletic sports being run on a school day. "Frank discussion" occurred before the delegation was ushered from the room. A motion was then passed:

*"That the sports grounds be booked for a Saturday, pending which day is most convenient for the Ladies Welfare Club."*

The Sports issue was not raised officially again during the Parker era although in 1936 the sports were held on Wednesday.

Several teachers are prominent in the memories of several ex-students. Fred Gourlay, a woodwork teacher was a cricketer of some note who regularly went to the cricket nets to play with the boys at lunch time. He would put 2/- on the pitch for any boy who could bowl him. No one ever claimed the money. His favourite play was to try and hook the ball through the window of the Headmaster's residence over the road. Gourlay was a popular teacher, a macho type in modern parlance who apparently delighted in throwing chalk and pieces of wood at his students.

Another staff member remembered was Sarah Ankersen, an English teacher, well respected, a good teacher and a strict disciplinarian. She was described as a "battleship under full sail".

Percy McDonald was another. He was a staff member who prided himself on his accent which he refreshed by visiting France. Students remember him as red faced with a temper to match.

Alice Forster was a commercial teacher and a member of the Australian Hockey team with which she toured overseas. She could be seen moving around on sports days with the familiar hockey stick in hand.

Other teachers remembered by former pupils included Stan Gibbs, Lloyd Williams, Teddy Thompson, Clarice Lloyd, Dolly Egerton and Rose White.

## School Based Organisations

The most prominent body within the school structure was the Advisory Council. Henry Parker served as Secretary for the whole time he was at the school. The President's job was shared around with Cr. W.H. O'Toole serving between 1923 and 1926, Cr. G. Vanstan 1926-1929, Mr. C.F. Best 1929-35 and Cr. W.L. Brewster 1935-1947.

Grounds and buildings occupied a large proportion of the Council's time but this body was also responsible for other areas as well. The Council controlled fees. Fees ranged from nil in lower forms to £12 at Leaving certificate level. In 1935, fees in fact were reduced by Council. In relation to fees, an interesting incident occurred in 1927 which demonstrated the power of Council. A parent wrote complaining of sports fees. The fee was returned by the Advisory Council and the parent's sons were debarred from using any sports equipment.

Ararat High School Council was a great supporter of wider movements and supported causes such as the Colac School Council initiated campaign to increase staffing levels. They also supported higher teacher salaries which they saw as halting the drain of teachers out of the profession. Council also supported combined school council action which often meant sending delegates to outside meetings.

On March 29, 1930 the first meeting took place of the Ladies Welfare Club which was formed to aid with funds for the school as well as social reasons. The foundation President was Mrs. G.R. Critten with Mrs. H. Parker as Vice president and Mrs. J. Rogerson as Secretary and Treasurer. Their first task was to provide afternoon tea at the school sports. This catering became a major fundraiser. At the 1938 Sports, the ladies conducted refreshment rooms, pie, sweet, hotdog and ice cream stalls as well as providing lunch for more than 200 pupils.

Other fund raising activities included very successful card afternoons. Funds raised by the ladies went towards annual scholarships, and grounds and building improvements which

were not usually funded by the Education Department. Examples were a mirror for the girls locker room, trellis for the playground and a flagpole for the quadrangle.

The school must be very grateful to this fundraising body and it provided many of the amenities we take for granted today.

A major fundraiser prior to the Club's formation was the Bazaar of 1926 for which two half day holidays were set aside. The bazaar raised £160 and helped purchase the McMillan blocks which were absorbed into the school grounds.

The Old Students of Ararat High School was formed in 1931 with its inaugural President being H. Zachariah. A reunion was organised and scholarships were provided for High School students.

## Sport

Sport was seen as an integral part of the school curriculum. Athletic and swimming sports were held as well as football, basketball (netball), hockey and cricket matches against other high schools including Horsham, Hamilton and Warracknabeal.

Athletic sports were almost always held on Saturdays at Alexandra Oval. As well as traditional events, the sports also included siamese races, potato races, basketball passing, egg and spoon races, pole vault, hockey races, sack races, flag races and a slow bicycle race.



*Cricket Team — Back: Clare Hooper, Ray Kennedy, Don Blackie, Kingsley Spalding, Athol Graham, Archie Bryson. Front: Eric Hicks, Arthur Fry, Russel Hurley, Max Duckworth, Jack Perkins, Keith McRay, Jack Lloyd.*



The swimming sports were held in the lake at Alexandra Park and while including normal swimming races events such as diving, life saving and cork hunts were also conducted.

In 1941, a novelty cricket sports carnival was held which included events such as a low throw and the running of four runs.

In interschool matches, Ararat always achieved good results and perhaps in football were ahead of their time! In an Ararat Advertiser report of a game against Warracknabeal, Ararat was criticised for play which now is seen as part of the modern game:

*“Ararat bigger boys were playing well although two or three were trying to run too far with the ball before kicking. The backs were inclined to leave their opponents who were very active. . .”*

Even from the very early days Ararat competed within the Grampians Secondary Schools Sports Association (GSSSA). While always a strong competitor, it was not until 1936 that Ararat High won a boys' GSSSA shield. In fact a double was achieved with the boys bringing home the intermediate and the aggregate shields.

Sporting events were occasionally interrupted by outside influences such as the teachers industrial action mentioned earlier. However in 1938, a more frightening situation arose when the Education Department requested the athletic sports not be held because of the state wide polio epidemic. The Speech Night scheduled for December the year before had been cancelled for the same reason and awards were presented at school. During the epidemic, the school was closed for a period due to the polio epidemic and students took correspondence courses.

Cricket was certainly a feature of the school with the school having a team playing in the local competition. The team received several official mentions at Speech Night. The Ararat Advertiser in 1928 carried a humorous story which perhaps conveyed the spirit of the team. The opponent was the Postal Institute.

*“ . . . Zachariah of the High School was bowling to Hollings of Postal, when a ball turned in inches more than he intended and just missed the stumps. The batsman, bewildered, wondered what type of bowler he had met as it was the first time he had faced Zachariah. The latter in fine sporting spirit walked up to the batsman and informed him that there must be an object under the matting. On making an inspection a twig about eight inches long was discovered. It was certainly a splendid sporting action on the bowler's part as he could have concentrated on that spot with more result, and it is safe to record that not too many bowlers would have exposed this. The wickets he got later must have compensated Zachariah for his action and it is things like this that make cricket the greatest game of all.”*

## Transport

The earlier chapter details the various modes of transport used by students to attend school. The big breakthrough for country students occurred in 1930 when pupils from Willaura and Buangor were able to travel to school by rail. By 1943 when Mr. Crebbin had arrived, the use of rail had declined and the need for buses was plainly evident.

## Depression and War

These major world events certainly touched Ararat and its High School. The Headmaster made references to the hard times and unemployment and the Advisory Council expressed some concern regarding unemployed people camping within the school's afforested areas. The delays in the extensions to the buildings can be traced to tough economic times and in 1930, the Education Department made a request to all schools to cut their spending to the absolute minimum. Interschool sport was also severely curtailed during this time. Scholarships were available to help needy students purchase uniforms and books.

By 1940, the influence of the Second World War was starting to take effect. At one Speech Night, Mr. Parker asked the question of how much of the horrors of war should be taught. Students were encouraged to work for the community to support the war effort. Students assisted the Red Cross, the Baby Health Centre, and the State Schools' War Relief Fund raising funds and exceeding the quota of items assigned to them. Students collected tin, foil, brass, zinc, copper and the like. Many students took money; sixpence a week, to buy stamps towards Sixteen Shilling War Savings Certificates which could be redeemed in seven years for £1. Ex students also joined the services. Boys could join the ATC (Air Training Corps) held at the school at nights where mathematics, morse code and navigation skills were taught. Girls did khaki knitting of scarves, socks, gloves and balaclavas during sewing periods.

Interschool visits ceased during the War.

## Conclusion

The Parker era was a varied period spanning peace and war, boom and depression. It was a time of gradual development when student numbers grew slowly from around 190 to 230. It was a time of little change in curriculum or industrial conditions for teachers. In all it was a time of consolidation which continued to produce good academic results and successful students. The Parker years will not be remembered with the romance of Mr. Butcher's Grammar School in an old flour mill or with the turbulence of the seventies. However, Mr. Parker will be remembered as the man who had a vision of the purpose of education and with the lack of fuss, worked hard to educate students within that vision.



**THROUGH WAR  
AND RECOVERY,  
A SPIRIT DEVELOPS**

The Crebbin Years (1942-1962)

By Jean Crebbin



By 1942, however, things were vastly different. Britain was fighting for her life, Singapore had fallen, and Australia lay under threat from invasion by Japan. Education was far from among the nation's priorities. The teaching service had been greatly depleted and teacher training suspended. Younger men had joined the services, their places often being filled by inexperienced and unqualified staff members, who, nevertheless, were frequently very effective.

This problem had not yet arisen to any degree in Ararat, and the new Headmaster found a competent and supportive staff to greet him. In later years, he recalled with great gratitude the help he had received from the then Senior Mistress, Mrs. Nell Chappel, who was loved and respected by every girl in the school, and from his Senior Masters, Mr. Butler and Mr. Hudson.



Mr. Crebbin.

Twenty one years, a quarter of a lifetime, is an unusual period for any Headmaster to spend in a country high school. It is accepted that, in the teaching profession, one must move from school to school to obtain advancement, or sometimes, merely to escape. Mr. H.W.N. Crebbin, ignoring all other opportunities, chose to remain. A consideration of the man, and his times, may explain his motivation.

He came to Ararat in February, 1942, having previously been Senior Master at Horsham High School.

More than two years had passed since that Sunday evening of September 3rd, 1939, when, with a curiously warm wind rustling through the city streets, the great pulse of Australian life had faltered to a standstill. At 9 p.m. on that evening, the voice of the then Prime Minister, R.G. Menzies, had announced over the nations radio:

*"It is my melancholy duty to inform you officially that Great Britain has declared war upon Germany . . . and that, as a result, Australia is also at war. May God, in his mercy and compassion, grant that the world may soon be delivered from this agony."*

After that first sombre evening, the rhythm of life had soon returned to normal; those first months of the "cold war" had, on the surface, little noticeable affect. Yet the streets of Melbourne were sprinkled with increasing numbers of uniformed men, and at the entrance to Port Phillip Bay, in the darkness of night, a band of light from searchlights mounted on the Heads, lay like butter on the surface of the water. Periscopes from enemy submarines could be detected.

The small school was a happy place, despite the distant incessant rumble of military convoys moving up the Western Highway bound for the far north. To the pupils, with youth's merciful armour of optimism, these convoys appeared spectacular and exciting. But not to every child. A junior English class of the period was set, as an exercise "write a paragraph describing what you are most looking forward to." There was the usual spate of topics: "My trip to Melbourne", "Camping in the Grampians", "The Christmas Holidays" and so on. One poignant little paragraph was entitled: "When Dad Comes Home". Dad was in the hands of the Japanese, slogging it out on the Burma Road! (Maybe a few errant modern fathers may ponder this story with advantage).

The school enrolment at that time was a little over two hundred, and classes reasonably small. In addition to his school duties, Mr. Crebbin held an honorary commission in the Air Training Corps. This involved taking evening mathematics and science classes in an unheated classroom, for boys from Ararat and the surrounding district who were waiting to be called up by the Royal Australian Air Force. He also supervised Saturday morning drill training for boys in the Alexandra Hall, and occasionally travelled with them in packed trains to lead their contingent in ceremonial marches through the Melbourne streets — a daunting ordeal for an unassuming man. It was probably in this period that the germ of his most cherished ambition came to him — the provision of a suitable memorial for these boys, and for those who had preceded them. But that was to come much later.

The school grew slowly during the war years and those immediately afterwards, and by 1948 the enrolment was 269 pupils, despite the inauguration of the school bus services. The Moyston-Willaura route commenced in 1944, the following year saw buses run from Elmhurst, and in 1949, the Buangor-Warrak route became operative. Even with the addition of these country children, serious problems of accommodation had not yet arisen; the only building addition being the technical wing, which was opened in 1947.

Yet the Headmaster was not without looming personal accommodation problems; he had married in 1949, and had rented a home temporarily for one year. When the owner returned from Melbourne, he found himself homeless. Private home-building had been at a standstill during the wartime years, building materials were unavailable, and despite all efforts of the Advisory Council and the Ladies Welfare Club, not a single empty house or flat could be found in Ararat either for rental or purchase by Mr. Crebbin. From the 1988 viewpoint, this would, of course, be an incredible and intolerable situation. But there it was — "autros temps, autros meours"!

He had but two alternatives; to return to the Ararat Hotel, where he had lived comfortably and happily in his bachelor days, or to retreat, with his wife, the sheepdog, SMIKE Dragon, and Flourbag, the black cat, to the paddock he owned a couple of miles from Ararat, there to manage as best he could. He chose

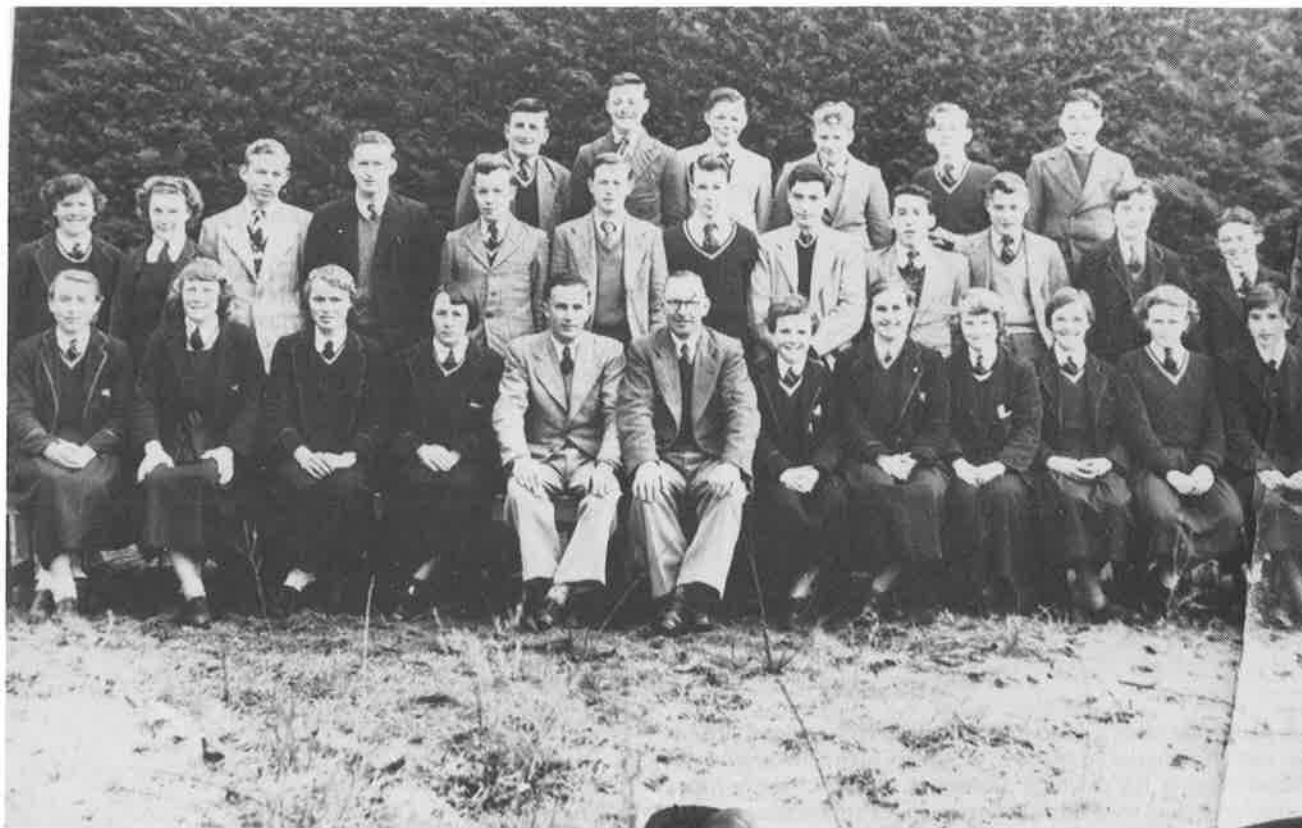
(maybe under pressure) the latter. And so began the long saga of "Fox in the Morning", the Headmaster's home off One Tree Hill Road, still a meeting place for many former pupils of the school.

But that is another story.

## School Programme

During the whole period of his Headmastership, the school curriculum varied little, as it was largely dictated by the authorities in Melbourne. Children entered Ararat High School after completing the first six years of their education in the local or country primary schools. For the first two years, all pupils followed a common course, with the later exception of boys entering the technical side of the school. After two years study of the basics — English, French, History, Geography, Maths, Science, Art, Craft, Cookery, Needlework and Woodwork, the pupils moved into more specialised areas, according to their ability or aspirations.

In 1947, the status of Ararat High School was altered to that of being multi-purpose, where technical courses were also offered. Mr. Robson, Senior Art Master, who, like Mr. Crebbin, remained at the school for very many years until his retirement, became master in charge of this newly formed technical section of the school, which was comprised entirely of boys. To the male chauvinists of the period, it was never even imagined that a girl should embark upon a technical course. In fairness, it must be said that neither had it been imagined by the girls. Germaine Greer and Women's Liberation were still lurking just around the corner. "Operation Handclasp" was conceived by Mr. Robson, so that all country centres might understand what courses were now available at Ararat High School. On certain arranged evenings, senior subject teachers and interested staff members, with examples of work, drove to Lake Bolac, Willaura and elsewhere, to discuss with primary school Headmasters, and parents, the future possibilities for their children. These happy little occasions always ended with informal discussions over cups of tea, before the drive home. Professional, commercial and technical courses were now available to the Intermediate level, with two further years — Leaving and Matriculation being offered to professional and commercial students. To qualify in these latter two years, pupils had to pass an "External" examination; a paper set in Melbourne by the University Board of Examiners. This, of course, meant that every last detail of the course of study in each subject had to be covered by the teacher, who had no prior knowledge of what might appear on the question paper. Class time was therefore very valuable, very few interruptions were permitted, excursions and visits could only be undertaken at weekends or during vacations; never in classroom time.



*Form IV professional class with teachers George Perry and Miles Lowe.*

*Back: Alan Simpson, Jim Ramm, Kevin O'Neil, John Foster, Anthony Kelly, Gary Thompson.*

*Middle: Elaine Shields, Hazel Prestong, Brian Selwood, Alan Robinson, John Osborne, John Holland, Kevin Phelan, Des Hunter, David Murphy, Murray Williamson, Margaret Dodds, Edith Perkins.*

*Front: Roberta Dawson, Beverly Thomas, Beryl Gordon, Peggy Calvert, Gwenyth Lloyd, Marjorie Spalding, Helen Wilson, Jean Scott, Brenda Pointer, Jacqueline Jones.*

These excursions were rare, but usually the senior English classes were taken to see any performance of a Shakespearian play which was included in the curriculum. On one such occasion, "Macbeth" was listed for study at three levels; Intermediate, Leaving and Matriculation. Almost one hundred pupils were therefore involved. It was no mean feat to transport such a large group of scholars, some of whom had never before been to Melbourne, to a Saturday matinee performance.

However, such performances were easily accessible for city students, and country students ought not to be disadvantaged. Tickets were obtained, the expenses of those few whose parents simply could not afford the cost were mysteriously covered. In the bitter darkness of the station platform, heads were counted, and at five in the morning everybody climbed aboard the Overland, accompanied by Mr. Crebbin and a Senior English teacher, no other staff member being available.

On arrival in Melbourne, some hours had to be filled in before the afternoon performance. The almost unanimous vote was to visit a nearby theaterette outside which stood a poster displaying a blonde of attractive proportions and probably doubtful morality. This was promptly vetoed by the Headmaster, and the uniformed throng proceeded up Swanston Street to the National Library. Fortunately, a large and fascinating working model of the planetary system of the universe was on display in the entrance hall of the Public Library. Before those silently swinging and rotating spheres, the children stood spellbound. Probably even the least imaginative child caught, at that moment, a vision of things to come, for this was the era of the first Sputnik.

Then, on to the Public Reading Room. Again they were awed into silence by the dimensions of that huge, quiet room, with its great domed ceiling. But the Museum was a different story.

Most of the exhibits were viewed with passing interest, the magic attraction being the life-like model of Phar Lap. Every detail was discussed with excited admiration, his silken mane, his shining eyes, his lustrous coat, his polished hooves. Every other exhibit paled into insignificance. So much for the glories of antiquity and the fine arts!

Perhaps the Shakespearian stage aroused only lukewarm enthusiasm after these experiences. Late in the afternoon, the pupils were ushered into a cafe large enough and inexpensive enough to accommodate them; the long procession finally struggled its way back to Spencer Street to board, once again, after a final head count, the Overland. An exhausted Headmaster filled his pipe in a nearby compartment, while his pupils dreamed, perhaps of the beauty of the unrhymed Shakespearian.

But peace did not reign for long; somewhere along the journey, an indignant woman arrived at the door and requested the Headmaster to remove a senior boy from her carriage, as he was "being very forward". The boy was promptly ordered to a seat beside Mr. Crebbin, where he was viewed with furtive admiration by his colleagues. The English mistress twinkled remotely. The Headmaster sat in disapproving silence. The culprit smiled the bland smile of the unrepentant sinner.

After such a day, the Ararat platform at midnight can be a very cold place.

Towards the end of each year, the senior French classes were usually taken to the Schools' French Night, held at the University of Melbourne, and considered to be an invaluable preparation for the forthcoming Leaving and Matriculation examinations. It also enabled pupils to see the buildings and grounds of a great university, and to catch a glimpse, perhaps, of the fascination of true scholarship. On more than one occasion, to save parents' expense, the Matriculation French class was packed into Mr. Crebbin's ancient Oldsmobile, and driven to the University. The following morning the pupils were taken for a brief look at the Botanical Gardens, or to a Cathedral service or to some other area considered to be enlightening by the Headmaster — but probably disastrous by the students!

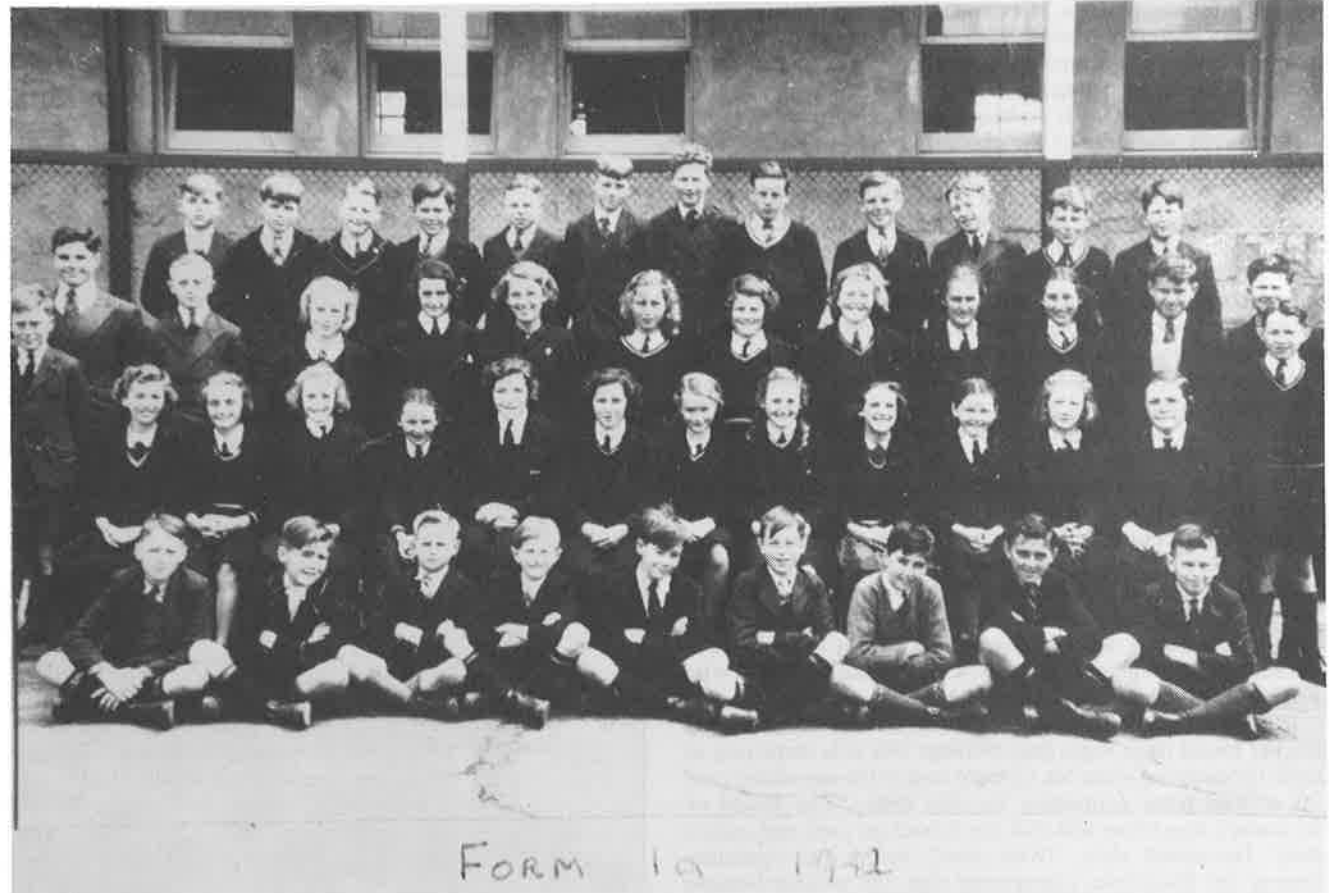
The external examinations were conducted in the old Presbyterian Church, under the jurisdiction of the Reverend George, who would make the question paper available to the teacher concerned, some time after the commencement of the examination. It was difficult to assess who was the more nervous, the teacher who feared he may have neglected to cover some point, or the student who was attempting to answer the questions. But children, even the rascals, are touchingly loyal; if a question appeared on an aspect of which they had no knowledge, unfailingly they blamed the diabolical "examiners"; never their teacher.

The school year was divided into three terms, with examinations for the whole school being held at the end of each term. This involved an enormous amount of work; the setting of papers, typing on to wax sheets, duplicating, packaging for the various examination rooms, correction of papers, recording of marks, calculating the place in form according to results, and

the writing up of report books. Most of this fell to the subject teacher as only one clerical assistant was employed to cope with all the secretarial work of the school. It was inevitable that most of the work had to be done out of school hours and at weekends, and that staff tempers became very frayed towards the end of term. The policy of stand-by relieving teachers was unknown; classes of an absent teacher had to be covered by any teacher who had a spare period. In midwinter when colds and influenza were prevalent, several teachers might be absent simultane-

ously, and it was not unknown for the hardier souls who were on duty to go through a whole week without any free period at all. In a crisis, the Headmaster himself was occasionally called upon, though his time was limited, as, until his retirement, he taught the Matriculation and Leaving Physics classes. Few other Headmasters of his time entered a classroom at all, confining themselves entirely to administrative duties.

Mr. Crebbin preferred this closer contact with his senior pupils, feeling it gave him a better insight into their personal problems.



*Form 1A 1942*

*Back: Alan Mair, Edwin Scherger, Keith Jepson, Roy Cooper, Jock Trewin, Charles Aggett, Ivor McMillan, Bill Homburg, Connor Horley, Brian McDonald, Russell Smith, George Taylor.*

*Third Row: Robert Bygrave, Ron Clough, Rita Butt, Isobel Moreton, Beryl Rigby, Valma Smart, Betty Rosengreen, Gwen Hartigan, Rae Wicks, Ron Miles, Geoff Barrett.*

*Second Row: Ken Laidlaw, Norma Walker, Dawn Webster, Roma Squire, Gwenda Blackman, Esna Jeffery, Myrtle Drever, Jacqueline Fletcher, Valda Kelly, Lucy Argent, Beverley Fairnie, Norma Rackham, Margaret McPhee, Marshall Jackson.*

*Front Row: Linton Stephens, Max Fletcher, Bill Lister, Trevor Pitcher, John Dowie, Keith Little, Jack Bryant, Errol Synnott, Roy Herbert.*

Added to which, he was interested in his subject, and was an outstanding physics teacher; few of his students ever failed and many obtained high honours at Matriculation level. He was personally responsible for the teaching load to be undertaken by each teacher, and, in later years, for the preparation of the school timetable, which he always completed in the first week of the year, so that the school embarked immediately upon its routine without waste of time.

In that period, should a teacher wish to gain promotion, it was essential that he obtain a good report from the visiting Board of Secondary Inspectors. The annual visitation of these dignitaries was therefore viewed with some apprehension. They roamed around the school for several days, and at the end of their visit, compiled a long report covering every aspect of school life. Nothing escaped their probing eye; the tidiness of the rooms and grounds, the state of the garden, the condition of buildings and furniture, the weaknesses or strength of the Headmaster's administration, the ability or lack of it of the staff members as displayed in the classrooms, taken in conjunction with the previous year's examination results. For a Headmaster and his overworked staff to achieve perfection in all these areas was obviously impossible; there was a perennial shortage of funds, no gardener, no laboratory assistant, no supplementary help of any sort save one secretary and one caretaker. Small wonder that one harassed science master was known to have a trapdoor in the science room floor; at the approach of the Inspectorial Board, all the accumulated clutter of broken test tubes, phials, apparatus of unknown usage, was deposited beneath the floor, leaving the science room immaculate. At the conclusion of the visit, the junk was retrieved.

The Inspectors strolled from classroom to classroom, assessing each teacher's ability; as one entered a room, even an unruly class fell silent. An amazing "esprit de corps" developed between teacher and pupils as they closed ranks against the invader. Most pupils raised hands enthusiastically in response to questioning, though many had little idea of the answer. A wise teacher knew which hand to select!

It cannot be wondered at that a nervous or inexperienced teacher found these visits demoralizing. Nor is it surprising to recall the occasion when Mr. Crebbin read to the assembled staff the official letter containing the dire news. "The Board of Secondary Inspectors will visit the School on such and such a date." He added slyly, "With love", before the signature. During one disastrous Inspectorial visit, the weather became bitterly cold. Heavy snowfalls are rare in Ararat, but, on this occasion, soon after morning classes had begun, flakes began to fall in that strange, eerie silence characteristic of a heavy fall. It became difficult to hold the children's attention, all eyes were turned to the windows. When the recess bell rang, the whole school hurtled forth this world of whiteness. Two members of the Inspectorial Board, passing the door of a French classroom, were almost carried away by an avalanche of junior pupils shrieking excitedly "Il neige! Il neige!" The senior boys and girls, usually

sedately segregated, engaged in a snowball fight in a far corner of the grounds. The recess period, perforce, was lengthened. Probably in the particular report, for "School Tone and Discipline" the school scored zero!



*Craft Club 1949 — R. Tucker, V. Connarty, E. Umlers, R. Murton, V. Pulland, R. Peterson, J. Grimmer, M. Martin, J. Miethke, J. Smart.*



*Forms V and IV 1946 with form teacher R.T. Robson.*

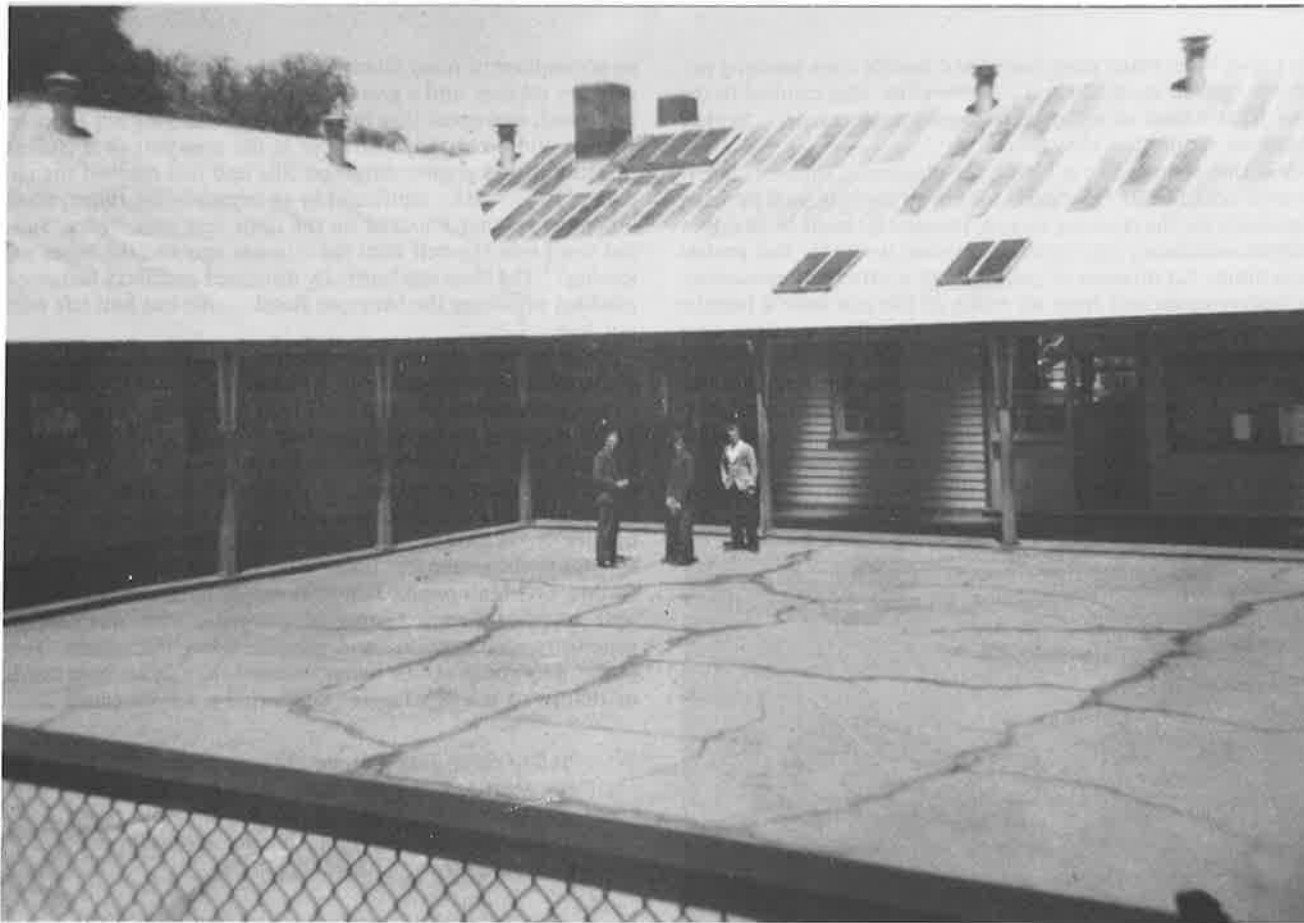
*Back: Boatman, Gwen Brady, Margaret Ransome.*

*Second back: Stan Mill, Margaret Burke, Valda Kelly, Betty Rosengreen, Rita Butt, John Cooper, Ray Cooper.*

*Third Row: Ron Clough, Peter Fryer, Bernice Couatts, Jean Robertson, Gwenda Blackman, Esna Jeffery, Kingsley Turner.*

*Front: Trevor Pitcher, Eddie Martin, Ray Sanderson, Bill Lister.*





*Quadrangle 1947*

By the end of the decade, the shock waves caused in the State Education System by the post war baby boom, together with the influx of migrants from war ravaged Europe, began to be felt in Ararat; enrolments in the primary and high schools were rapidly increasing. By 1954, pupils attending Ararat High School numbered 413. More room and staff were urgently needed. During the next ten years, two pre-fabricated classrooms were erected, an annexe to the ladies' staff room was built, the quadrangle was remodelled with Science rooms and the new Geography and Art rooms adjoining.

Somewhere along the line, the old Armstrongs school building, no longer in use, was transported in and deposited in the boys' ground. It was intended to take pressure from the art and craft rooms, but, as it had neither electricity nor water connected, it was rejected for these purposes. It finally became the domain of the members of the French faculty, the burden of whose endeavours had apparently numbered them against all sensations

of discomfort. In oven-like summer temperatures, they struggled with the mysteries of French irregular verbs; in dark mid-winter days they peered through the gloom at the elegant niceties of the French subjunctive construction. But generally, an atmosphere of continental gaiety prevailed.

Yet the teacher in charge was frequently in disgrace, for because of distance, it was almost impossible to hear the school bell, and students were often late in returning to other classrooms. The entrance to the Armstrong building was through a tiny, awkwardly placed porch, which made it difficult to take furniture in or out. This building was also used, in November of each year, for the terrifying oral examinations for the senior French students. An examiner, sent by the Schools' Examination Board from the French faculty of the University of Melbourne, would take up a position in the room, and the students, loitering outside, would be called in one by one. There they were questioned in French, gulped their way nervously through the answers, made a little halting conversation, read a short piece of French prose, and recited a few lines of French



*Helen McMillan (teacher) in the school garden after a heavy snow on July 20 1951.*



*Miss Dolly Egerton outside rooms 3 and 4 on the same day.*

poetry with accents which shamed their teacher eternally. When each left the room, another was called in; as the number remaining to be examined dwindled those left naturally became even more apprehensive. On one occasion, Robert, a tall and extremely solidly built boy, inevitably known as "Glenn," suddenly announced: "I think I'm going to pass out!" "Well, if you are going to keel over, Glenn, for goodness sake do it out here; if you collapse in there, we'll never be able to cart you out." Somehow, Glenn survived the ordeal. He is now Dr. Ian McAlpine, highly regarded in Perth in his specialist field of psychiatry.

## Staffing

As teacher training had been suspended during war years, it became impossible to obtain qualified staff to cope any longer with the enormous increase in numbers. Retired people, women who had been teachers before their marriage, people with University qualifications who had never taught, qualified tradesmen from other occupations, even an occasional member of the clergy, all were coaxed back to tide the school over this difficult period. Many were available for part-time work only, making the compilation of a time-table very difficult. As the expansion

was state wide, many more senior and middle class teaching positions opened up in city and country alike. This resulted in the loss from Ararat of many of its experienced teachers, as they accepted promotion elsewhere.

All this sounds like a recipe for classroom disaster, but it proved not to be so. Education for any profession, and perhaps especially for the teaching service, necessarily tends to be rather narrow, with heavy concentration on areas useful for that profession alone. An infusion of people from a variety of educational backgrounds and from all walks of life can have a healthy and enlivening result. Many of these part-time teachers were dedicated people, for they were poorly paid, with no opportunity for advancement. The senior examination results never faltered. An example of this dedication can be seen in an incident which occurred on the afternoon of one breakup day before the Christmas vacation. One period only was taken after lunch on this day, and inevitably the school was submerged in



Staff 1959 — Back: Stan Oates, Fritz Elbers, ,Kelvin Smith, Tom O'Hanlon, Hugh Curruthers, Richard Hornung. Middle: Norman Neylan, Max Davies, Ron Brady, Roy Robson, Dudley Hall, Lionel Brett, Mr. McMillan, Jack Thomas. Front: Mrs. Gillies, Bev Stevens, Briar Metcalf, Gwen Philpot, Margaret Fischer, Horrie Crebbin (Headmaster), Dolly Egerton, Glad Wannermacher, Anne Creed, Jean Crebbin, Judy Fitch (office).

an atmosphere of noisy hilarity. But Mrs. Dorothy Yule, a former primary teacher, and a grand disciplinarian felt time shouldn't be wasted, and spent that final period challenging her form on what would be expected of them in the new year — a change of attitude and greater diligence. She had just reached the climax of her remarks, reinforced by an admonishing finger, when a passing teacher knocked on the door and said, "Mrs. Yule, did you know the bell went ten minutes ago and the buses are leaving?" The class was hurriedly dismissed and Terry Sedgwick plodded off along the Moyston Road — the bus had left without him.

It was perhaps the constant changing of staff there determined Mr. Crebbin to remain, for he believed no lasting school tradition could develop where a staff is in a constant state of flux. Every Headmaster leaves his imprint upon a school: his whole thinking and administration are directed towards the end he believes in. Should he succeed, the aura resulting from his efforts lingers long after his departure, and spreads throughout the community. To become brilliant academics, outstanding sportsmen, capable businessmen and tradesmen; all these were worthy aims for Mr. Crebbin's pupils, but most deeply he desired to develop well adjusted young people of integrity, with qualities of generosity, compassion, and consideration for others. This philosophy could not be better revealed than in his own words of thanks to pupils who had supported a school cause:

*"All of these have learned the most important lesson that we can teach them. We take pride in the scholastic successes of all our students, but those of whom we are most proud are not always the brilliant students.*

*Those who set themselves apart from all community efforts in the school, pursuing only their own personal ambitions, are our failures, and cause us sorrow, for we know that eventually, they must fail themselves also.*

*For it is one of the greatest paradoxes of human existence that the more we concentrate all our efforts on personal success and ambition, the more surely does happiness elude us."*

Doubtless, this was the philosophy of which Mr. Crebbin dreamed, while the ebb and flow of the eternal spirit of youth swept past his door, and doubtless, also, it was this attitude which allowed him to fight far less aggressively than did other Headmasters for material acquisitions for the school. He could never ignore the desperate needs of those struggling in the blackboard jungles in crowded city areas; he was aware, also, that things of true value lay elsewhere than in new buildings and equipment, but rather, in the hearts and minds of men.

## The Hall and Assemblies

Yet, the vision of one material acquisition, he had long cherished; that of an Assembly Hall for the school to be dedicated as a memorial to former students who had fought and died in two World Wars. This ambition could never have been realized without the untiring support of the Advisory Council, the Ladies' Welfare Club and the High School Progress Association. School assemblies taken by the Headmaster had, from the earliest times, been held out of doors; usually in the school quadrangle. The disadvantages were obvious; weather conditions, problems of hearing, and lack of seating were just a few. Despite long delays and many disappointments, neither he nor his supporting organisations ever retreated from the decision to acquire a hall. During war time, it was an impossible dream; no government money was available in the post war period, it being all directed to the building of new schools. But the school community persisted, and fund raising continued. Finally, after a deputation approached the Premier, the Honorable Henry Bolte, a subsidy of 5,000 pound was offered and accepted. A fund-raising committee was set up, donations flowed in from families in the City and in the surrounding areas whose sons had served during the war, and building commenced. Weeks of feverish activity preceded the opening day. All available money had been exhausted, but donations helped once again. The Prestige Company sent rolls of wine coloured poplin for the curtains with satin lining material. These were designed and sewn by the senior girls. The senior technical master, Mr. Robson and his students hung the curtains, hoisted the great pelmet into position, and constructed bicycle racks. Lawn mowers were borrowed, the lawns cut, and the garden tidied.

Choral music was chosen, and the whole school versed therein, not without much cajoling and dire threatening, for the boys were notoriously unwilling choristers. No school song had been heard for fifty years, it was now replaced by the Headmaster's own quite unusual choice — Psalm 15, sung to an Anglican chant. This, he considered an appropriate choice for a solemn occasion, and in that choice, we see the man himself revealed, for it displayed the yardstick by which he lived, and one which he endeavoured to encourage in his pupils.

*“Lord, who shall dwell in thy tabernacle, or who shall rest upon thy holy hill?*

*Even he that leadeth an uncorrupt life; and doeth the thing that is right, and speaketh the truth from his heart.*

*He that hath used no deceit in his tongue, nor done evil to his neighbour, and hath not slandered his neighbour.*

*He that setteth not by himself, but is lowly in his own eyes and maketh much of them that fear the Lord.*

*He that sweareth unto his neighbour and disappointeth him not, though it were to his own hindrance.*

*He that hath not given his money upon usury; nor taken reward against the innocent.*

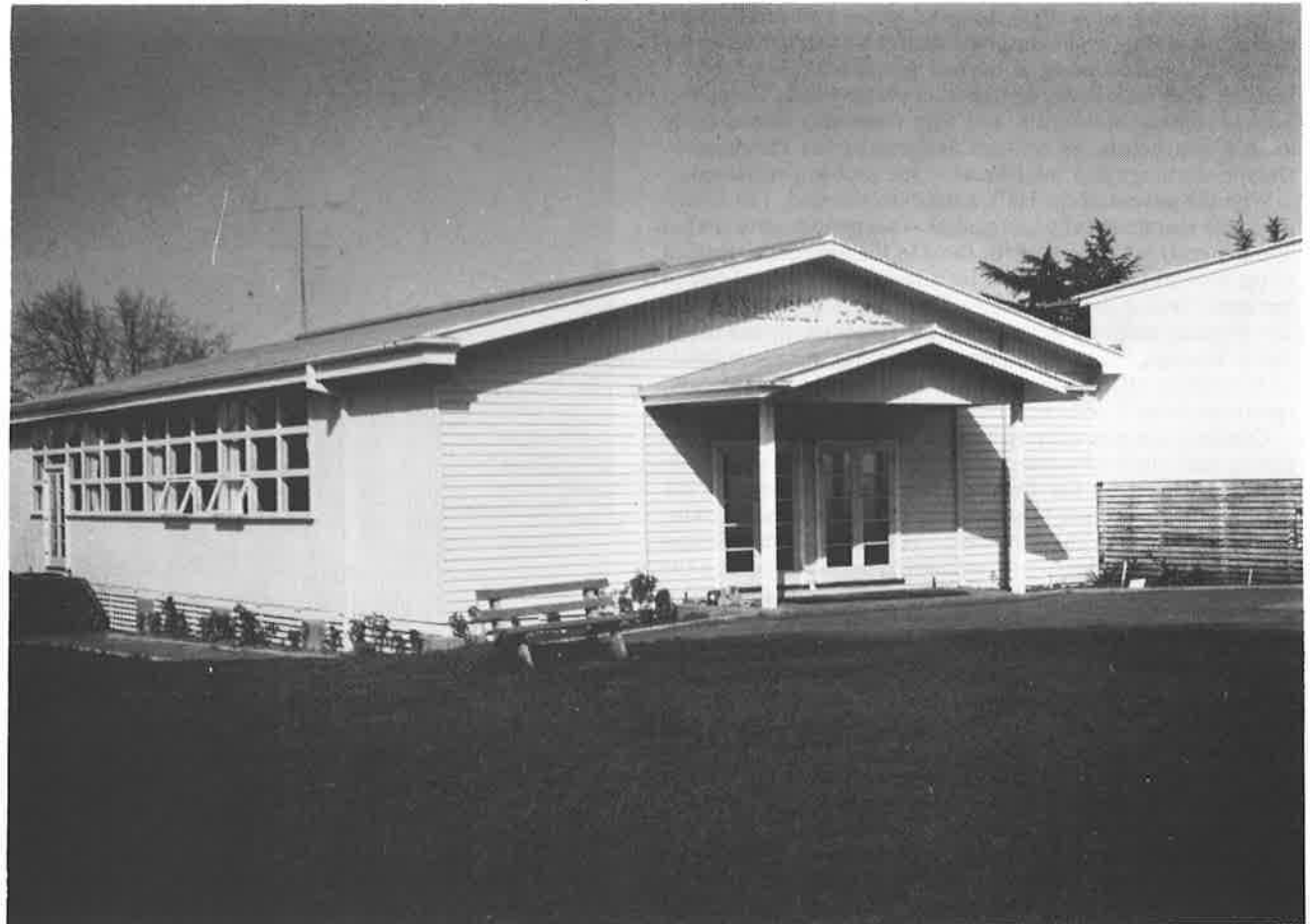
*Who so doeth these things shall never fall.”*

This was adopted as the School Psalm, and was sung on all special occasions while Mr. Crebbin remained as Headmaster. The music master at this period was Mr. R. Stornung, now Director of the College of Music, Adelaide.

The opening ceremony of the Memorial Hall was conducted in the presence of the Premier, on the afternoon of Thursday, November 17th, 1960. It was preceded by a formal luncheon at the home of the Headmaster, at which all the official guests were present. These included the Premier and Mrs. Bolte, the

Honorable V.O. Dickie M.L.C., the Director of Education, Mr. A. McDonnell BA, B.Sc., B.Ed., Mr. and Mrs. K.W. King, Brigadier Hurley, Mr. Lonsdale, D.I., and the two Head Prefects, Jan Peterson and Bill Meadows. During the following ceremony, the prayer of dedication was offered by the Reverend George; the memorial tablet was unveiled by the Premier. The tablet, donated by the President of the Advisory Council, Mr. B.R. King, bore the simple inscription, “Our Honoured Dead”, flanked by the rising sun. It spoke more eloquently than many words.

The ceremony was followed by afternoon tea provided by the ever generous Ladies' Welfare Club, and in the late afternoon, the members of staff, with husbands and wives, gathered at the home of the Headmaster for a sherry party given in gratitude for their support, on this very special day in the life of Ararat High School.



*Assembly Hall in its original form*

Because of the rapidly increasing enrolment, now close to 600, the status of the school had been raised to that of Special Class. Mr. Crebbin had been reappointed as Headmaster, and had been widely congratulated on having gained promotion in his own school. Even as the new Hall was opened, it was becoming apparent that it would not, for long, accommodate the ever increasing numbers. But that was a problem for the future.

The Hall proved immediately of inestimable value, and was soon to solve one of the Headmaster's nagging problems. Religious instruction was a compulsory subject on the school curriculum for all junior classes. Yet the habit of church going and Sunday School attendance had everywhere fallen away sharply in post-war society. The horror of the Holocaust, the bombing of Cathedral cities throughout Europe, and finally, the dropping of the atom bomb, had destroyed much of pre-war religious faith. A great majority of students had had no experience of church life, and had no interest in religion. Instruction was given by visiting local clergy, some of whom had had little experience handling children; and found it difficult to hold the pupils' attention during a normal classroom period of 35 minutes. They were facing an almost impossible task. The classes became restless and unruly, and were frequently discourteous to their instructors, an attitude abhorred by the Headmaster. Despite warnings and punishments, the problem remained.

With the advent of the Hall, a solution emerged. The school timetable was drastically reorganised; five periods were slotted into the morning session, with three in the afternoon, instead of the normal four plus four. This allowed every school day to commence with a short assembly of the entire school in the Hall. The Monday assembly belonged to the Headmaster, and to the Senior Mistress, Miss Glendining; the following three were devoted to religion, the last to the Senior Master, Mr. Thomas and sports teachers. The clergy took weekly turns of duty.

Conversation was entirely banned upon entrance to the assembly hall; the forms entered in order and took their seats in silence, directed by the Prefects. Upon the entrance of the Headmaster and Senior Mistress, clad in their academic gowns, and accompanied by the clergyman on duty, the school rose and polite "Good Mornings" were exchanged between those on the platform and the pupils, who then sat. A hymn, accompanied on the piano by Sue Rutherford, one of the students, or by Mrs. Kneebone, a staff member, was sung. This was followed by a prayer and a short address, it having been requested that no particular sectarian doctrine be introduced. The watchful eyes of the Headmaster and Senior Mistress ensured that silence was maintained. The school rose in respect as those on the platform left the hall. And so the tale of the sorrows of the Israelites and the journeyings of Paul was unfolded to a silent, and perhaps rather unresponsive audience of 600 pupils.

Occasionally the clergyman brought visitors. One of these, a prelate from Africa, a man of enormous stature whose jet black skin contrasted sharply with his flowing white robes, commanded rapt attention. The most popular visitor, by far, was Pastor Douglas Nicholls, an aboriginal and ex-Fitzroy footballer, who

later became Governor of South Australia. He was vitally alive, with a great gift of mimicry, and he convulsed the whole school with tales of his boyhood misdemeanours around his shanty home on the banks of the Murray. No one missed a word that day.

It was impossible to assess the benefits derived for this innovation, for they were intangible. Yet most students caught some glimpse of the long journey of mankind towards its destiny, and some awareness of the innate mobility of man. Those who learned nothing else at least learned self control and courtesy, surely two of the christian virtues. And the Headmaster had solved his problem, or so he thought.

Alas, he had overlooked the fact that he was also committing the unpardonable crime of contravening "Regulations". Regulations were sacrosanct. Willy-nilly, for good or ill, they had to be obeyed. He who broke them in any serious way stood in danger of "An Enquiry"; radical transgressors risked the ulti-

mate disaster of "Questions being asked on the floor of the House. (Where they would probably be unheard above the usual prevailing uproar). And Regulations demanded that religion be taught in one weekly period of 35 minutes not three shorter periods of 12 minutes. Orders came from officialdom that the practice must cease. The letter was ignored. Angry telephone calls followed. Mr. Crebbin, though a man of peace, was immovable as a rock on a point of principle. He knew he was right. It was politely suggested that the Minister for Education might care to come and see for himself. A final letter arrived, ordering that the school return forthwith to the former timetable. A startled staff member enquired what the Headmaster proposed to do. "Nothing at all", was the cheerful reply, "I've carried many a day through sheer inertia." Apparently inertia won the day, for the daily assemblies continued until the day of Mr. Crebbin's retirement.

And the Israelites trudged wearily on to the Promised Land.

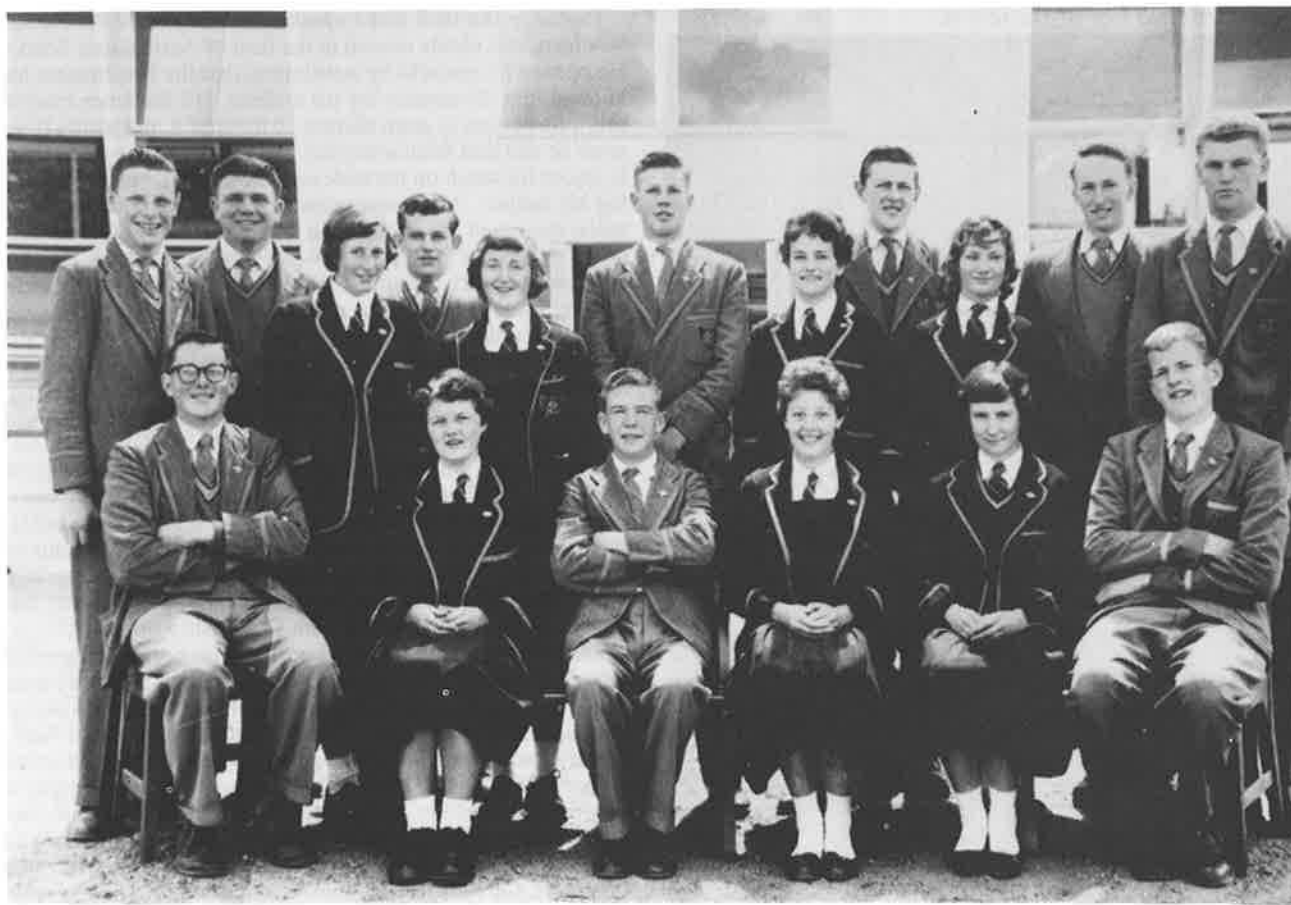


*Girl Prefects 1947 — Rita Butt, Betty Rosengreen, Dawn Ogilvie, Valda Kelly, Gwenda Blackman.*

## School Tone

General control of the boys' grounds and locker rooms together with their behaviour and appearance lay in the hands of the Senior Master. Any boy who was a continual problem in the classroom could be sent to his office to be admonished. Mr. Thomas had his own particular mystique in these matters. He was unfailingly good-humoured. Yet the boys came out suitably chastened. Part of his secret possibly lay in the large jar of boiled sweets he kept in his office.

The Senior Mistress had similar responsibilities with the girls. The rough and unattractive nature of the grounds added to the difficulties of supervision. The girls' lavatories, shared by the female staff, were housed in a rough brick structure some way from the main building, and open to the weather, only the cubicles being roofed. In wet weather, one jumped over puddles or waded through them to reach the cubicles. The basins were flushed by the primitive method of pulling a chain, and were therefore sometimes left in a poor condition. The then Senior Mistress, Miss Dollina Egerton, remonstrated in vain. Finally she pinned a large notice on the back wall of the most ill-kept cubicle, demanding: "Have you pulled this chain?" The following day she went out to see whether this strategy had borne results.



*Prefects 1960 — Back row: Rodney Hinchliffe, Robert Taylor, Lex Gordon, Phillip Hargreaves, Graham Burke.  
Middle Row: Marilyn Viggers, Marie Coutts, Jan Peterson, Wendy Potter.  
Front Row: Graham Burgin, Joy Penna, Bill Meadows, Rhonda Richardson, Janice Emerson, Steven Park.*

It had. But not as she had anticipated. There, scrawled beneath her notice, was the answer to her questions. "No, I haven't, Old Dolly Egerton!" Impudent and disobedient the child may have been, but a liar she was not. The evidence was there. Senior Mistresses need a sense of humour!

Slowly, and almost imperceptibly, a subtle change of atmosphere became apparent. The school tradition began to blossom. A strong sense of "family" began to develop. The tragedy of one child was mourned universally, another's triumph belonged to everybody. The seniors displayed more responsibility toward the younger pupils; the whole school showed more sympathy in national disasters.

Spontaneous ideas of generosity, frequently originating from the pupils, were staunchly supported. Letters of gratitude began to arrive from recipients of school donations. After disastrous floods in New South Wales, the Headmaster of the East Maitland High School sent this message:

*"It is amazing to think that a High School in another state, so far away, could be so moved to pity and sympathy by the sad plight of our boys. It is not only the money, it is the spirit of human brotherhood that is behind the giving that will help to heal the wounds of the spirit. Ararat must be a school with a fine tone — may it always be imbued with its Christian outlook."*

*The then Governor of Victoria, Sir Dallas Brooks, wrote, on the receipt of a donation to the Anti-Cancer Appeal, of which he was a patron: "It makes me proud that the younger members of our community should be setting such an inspiring example."*

On another occasion, every French student in the school made some contribution to a donation forwarded, accompanied by a letter of sympathy expressed in appalling French, to the Mayor of a small French village, which had been flooded by the waters from a broken dam wall. The Mayor's fluent, and probably totally incomprehensible letter of gratitude was later pinned proudly to the door of the French room. These are a few of the very many such stories.

The building of characters went hand in hand with the pursuit of excellence, both in academic work and in sport. The ability and dedication of the senior staff, together with the calibre of the students, combined to produce, year after year, splendid academic results at the Leaving and Matriculation levels. The intense personal interest of the staff in their students has never been forgotten. Many, now highly positioned in their own individual fields, have returned to say so. After very many years, a senior English teacher was told by a former student:

*"I have never forgotten the telegram you sent when the Matriculation results were published, and I had gained a first class honour in English Literature. It simply said — "Oh Yvonne, how wonderful!"*

## Speech Night

All the activities of the year culminated in Speech Night. This was the evening when the school was on display to the parents, when the tale of its triumphs was unfolded, when excellence was rewarded, and generosity acknowledged. Parents and staff alike had cause for pride in viewing the immaculate assembly in the Ararat Town Hall, the boys (under duress) in long sleeved white shirts, school tie, and dark trousers, the girls likewise in long sleeved white blouses, tie, and dark blue tunics. The first part

of the programme was reserved for the Headmaster's Report, the Guest Speaker's address, and the presentation of prizes. The second half belonged to the school choir and dramatic club. Many outstanding men were persuaded to visit Ararat as High School Guest Speakers. These included Professor George Browne — Professor of Education at the University of Melbourne, Air Marshall Sir Frederick Scherger, an ex-student of the school, Professor Sir Samuel Wadham — Professor of Agriculture at the University of Melbourne, Professor Sir Leslie Martin — Professor of Physics at the University of Melbourne and Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Cowan Warden of Trinity College within the University of Melbourne, Dr. Bastow — Senior Research Scientist at C.S.I.R.O. Also Brigadier Hurley, and old boy of the school.



*An act for Speech Night 1959*

All these men, and several others, symbolized achievement in some field of endeavour. The old boy of the School, Air Marshall Scerger, was a forthright and popular speaker. His message to those about to leave was —

*"We all must work for a living; most people for eight hours or a third of each day. My advice to you is: Find employment which you enjoy; let the salary be a secondary consideration. If you don't enjoy your work, change it; if you cannot change it, learn to like it! If you do not do this, when you grow old you will come to realize that you have thrown away one third of your life." This is still good advice, even in times of high unemployment.*

Probably the best loved speaker was Professor Sir Samuel Wadham, still widely revered in the field of Agricultural Science. He opened his remarks by mentioning that the Headmaster had allowed him 20 minutes for his address. His audience received this information in glum silence; 20 minutes is an eternity if one must sit still and feign attention. Sir Samuel then ostentatiously placed his watch on the table and consulted it, before introducing his subject. After some minutes, he paused, moved to the table, examined the watch, and muttered, "Only five minutes gone?" A wave of sympathy flowed from the audience; here was a fellow sufferer! Attention sharpened. Sir Samuel proceeded calmly. Some time later, the manoeuvre was repeated, the watch consulted amidst hushed expectancy, and muttered: "That's 13 minutes gone;" greeted with a gale of delight. The process was repeated a third time before he concluded. Sir Samuel had completely captured his audience and was finally applauded with great enthusiasm.

Traditionally, the morning after Speech Night belonged to the prefects, who were entertained at morning tea at the home of the Headmaster. Examinations and Speech Night were behind them, their school days almost over; responsibilities, on this occasion, could be hurled aside with almost frenzied gaiety. Who recalls Anne-Marie Thomas, daughter of the Senior Master, having to be dragged from the dam and hasitly dried off?

The ultimate tone of the school, and that great sense of family could never have developed without support from very many areas. Prizes and scholarships were donated by several city organisations. The City and Shire Councils had for over half a century, loaned halls and playing fields, levelled ovals, and helped on committees. The Ladies' Welfare Club has a long history of service. Mr. Crebbin felt greatly indebted to them for their loyalty and support in times of crisis. They were his friends. What great names were there — Mrs. Bull, Mrs. Ahpee, Mrs. Banfield, Mrs. Carruthers, Mrs. Burton and so many others — women still remembered in many areas of community work in Ararat. The same could be said of the Progress Association and the Advisory Council. Three chairmen of the latter Mr. A. Vanstan, Mr. J. Briggs, Mr. R. King held that taxing position for many years, though they never had children at the school. All these men and women were members of the great school family.

## Sport

The sporting life of the school was of particular interest to Mr. Crebbin, as he himself had a long history of sporting success. In his youth, he had been ranked among the top ten tennis players in Australia had been an interstate team member, was an A grade bowler and golfer, and had doubled in other sports. He once told the story of how, when he was absent from school playing interstate matches, his salary was always deducted, but that of his friend, Bill Woodfull, later test captain for Australia, and of any other teacher cricketer in the state team, was not. He finally protested at this injustice — his salary was still deducted, but, from that time, so were the salaries of the interstate cricketers. His popularity with them plummeted!

But most credit for the school's sporting reputation must go to the capable and long suffering Sports' Masters and Mistresses, Mrs. Allen, Miss Stevens, Mr. Oates, Mr. Davies and others, regularly giving of their own time to training. There they stood, in the gathering dusk, coat collars upturned against the drizzle, a stop watch in one hand, a whistle in the other, while phantom figures rushed past, running, jumping, kicking footballs, knocking hockey balls, every heart set on achievement in athletics and swimming, House Sports and Combined Schools throughout the Wimmera district. Many stories of champions could be told; perhaps the most engaging being that of a small, fleet-footed dreamer who appeared to have little sense of time, and who could never be relied upon to arrive at the starting post on time. The exasperated sportsmaster Mr. Oates claimed he felt he should lead him by the hand to the starting line and say: "Now, Kevin do you see that rope stretched out up there! When you hear the gun, run as fast as you can till you get there." Yet the boy could always flash down the lane, and easily outstrip all other competitors. After the event, he would drift off into the crowd, and rarely show up in time for the presentation of his Championship sash. He brought many honours to his house and school. That was many years ago. The same boy is now a well-liked staff member of a government office in Ararat. And, by some miracle, the Ararat mail is always sorted on time!

And so, excellence in all areas was pursued. In one golden year, Ararat won the Championship Shield in Athletics for the whole of the Wimmera district, and in the same year, the school was congratulated on its outstanding examination results, which surpassed those of any other Victorian Country High School.

During the war years, inter-school competition had been restricted to matches against teams from the nearest schools. It was for this reason that in 1945 Ararat High School played football matches against Stawell High School and Stawell Technical School in a mini competition and were undeniable champions judging by the scores. Ararat High School 15.15.105 defeated

Stawell High School 6.4.40. Stawell High School 3.3.21 lost to Ararat High School 11.12.78. Ararat High School 10.9.69 defeated Stawell Technical School 1.6.12. Stawell Technical School 3.8.26 lost to Ararat High School 5.7.37.

Captain was Ian MacInnes, vice-captain was Mervyn Gillies and the team was coached by Mr. Robson. During 1945, the swimming and athletics inter-house sports meetings were won by Grampians. It is interesting to note that swimming sports were held at Alexandra Lake.

The Osborne Cup, awarded for a house sports competition in cricket, tennis, football, hockey, basketball, softball and rounders was also won by Grampians.

In 1946, the Grampians Secondary Schools Sports Association (G.S.S.S.A.) was restored and full inter-school competition began. The schools which made up this association were Ararat High School, Horsham High School, Hamilton College, Stawell High School, Hamilton High School, Warracknabeal High School, Dimboola High School, Nhill High School and Hamilton Alexandra College.

G.S.S.S.A. athletics meeting was held at Central Park, Stawell. Noel Boatman was Ararat High School's best athlete winning both the sub-junior boys 75 yards and 100 yards. He also set a record in the 75 yards of 9.3 seconds.

Ararat High School won two G.S.S.S.A sports in 1946: girls tennis and hockey. The girls tennis team — Margaret Burke, Dawn Ogilvie, Valda Kelly and Jean Robertson recorded the following wins on its way to a premiership: Ararat High School three rubbers defeated Alexandra College one rubber. Ararat High School four rubbers eight sets 48 games defeated Horsham High School 22 games. Ararat High School four rubbers eight sets 48 games defeated Stawell High School 18 games.

The hockey team of Joan de Meci, Marie Mitchell, Pat Dowie, Dawn Ogilvie, Joan Burke, Ruth Butler, Bernice Coutts, Claire Reid, Rita Butt, Betty Rosengreen (captain), Beverley Fairnie and Evelyn Mitchell shared their hockey premiership with Horsham High School. They defeated Stawell High School two goals to nil and Alexandra College one goal to nil, followed by a nil all draw with Horsham High School.



*Athletics team at the first Combined Wimmera Sports after World War II.*

The inter-house athletic sports was won by Grampians with Pyrenees runners-up. Champions of the sports were— senior boys: Stan Mill, intermediate boys: Don Price and junior boys: Noel Boatman. The Osborne Cup was won by Grampians.

Ex-students' teams were entered in various sporting competitions such as Ararat and District football, tennis, table tennis, basketball and cricket competitions.

Grampians grip of inter-school sports slowly loosened during 1947 and Chalambar's strong performance in boys athletics saw them take out the aggregate at the athletics with Grampians runners-up. Champions of the sports were— senior boys: S. Mill, intermediate boys: G. Jackson and junior boys: Noel Boatman.

The swimming sports were won by Pyrenees with 110 points and runners-up Grampians with 104 points. The Osborne Cup was won by Chalambar.

The G.S.S.S.A. athletic sports were held at the Recreation Ground, Horsham and Ararat High School won the "Ark Shield" (Junior and Sub-Junior boys events). Noel Boatman won the junior 75 yards and 100 yards. The boys junior flag race team of N. Boatman, R. Bates, I. McKay and L. Clough came first, as did the girls' senior flag race team (J. DeMecci, D. Ogilvie, V. Kelly and E. Mitchell).

The boys' tennis team won the premiership in 1947 and its team members were Ray Bonner, Peter Fryar (captain), Roy Sandford, Barry McDonald and Lindsay Rea, defeating Stawell High School, Hamilton High School and Dimboola High School.

A cross country race was introduced in 1948 and proved to be popular and a great success, the fastest time was recorded by Gordon Allender, 34 minutes 40 seconds with M. Creenaune second and J. Antonio third. The team event (first six in each

house) was won by Grampians with D. McKinnis, M. Creenaune, K. Cook, R. Melrose, D. McColl and A. Young making up the team.

The inter-house athletics was won by Pyrenees, who collected both Brewster Cups for boys and girls competition. Senior champion was Keith Little (Pyrenees), intermediate champion was John Cowley (Pyrenees) and junior champion was Noel Boatman (Chalambar).

The house swimming carnival was won by Grampians with Pyrenees being runners-up. Chalambar won the Osborne Cup.

The G.S.S.S.A. sports meeting was held on Alexandra Oval, Ararat in 1948. A large crowd, mainly students from the Wimmera and Western Districts, who had travelled to Ararat in two special trains and some fifteen buses. Ararat High, inspired by its home town supporters, won the "Grange" Shield for the grand aggregate and the "Ark" Shield for the junior boys.

A number of students gained first placings and they were: J. Crowley, boys intermediate 100 yards; N. Boatman, boys junior 100 yards (record 11.2 seconds), 75 yards (record 8.7 seconds). G. Lucas, boys sub-junior 75 yards. N. Boatman, boys junior 75 yards (record 8.7 seconds). K. Little, boys senior 220 yards; 440 yards (equal record 53.4 seconds). J. Crowley, boys intermediate 220 yards and broad jump, girls junior cross passing. Boys sub-junior flag races (G. Lucas, K. Flavell, A. Butt, K. Cook). Boys junior flag races (N. Boatman, R. Bates, L. Clough, K. Clark).

After two postponements, due to unfavourable weather, the swimming carnival was held in 1949 and Grampians swam to victory. Ararat Mayor, Cr. Montgomery, congratulated the winning house and said that he regretted the fact that there was no Olympic pool in Ararat.

The inter-house cross country race was won by F. Antonio with the fastest time being recorded by M. Creenaune 29 minutes and the second fastest time J. Antonio 29 minutes and two seconds. Pyrenees won the cross country house cup.

The G.S.S.S.A. athletic sports were cancelled but our teams carried off the softball, cricket and football shields.

The softball team members were Frances Callanan, Wilma Fowler, Judith Humphreys, Mary Neylan, Jill Turner, Beverley Fenton, Joan Fry, Myra Judd, Gwen Morris (captain), Viola Pitcher and Margaret Martin. The team recorded the following victories: Ararat High School 18 runs defeated Stawell High School 16 runs, played at Ararat. Ararat High School 25 runs defeated Alexandra College 11 runs, played at Hamilton. Grand Final: Ararat High School 13 runs defeated Warracknabeal High School 10 runs, played at Horsham.

The cricket team — Martin Creenaune, Max Sanson (scorer), Reg Bates, Max Smart, Noel Boatman, Bob Humphreys, Kevin O'Brien, Barrie Smith, Russell Rachinger, John Antonio, Russell Thompson (captain), Don Hart and Max Williams. The team played all of their matches on the Aradale Oval, coached by Mr. Embling, recorded the following wins: Ararat High School 9/215 defeated Stawell Technical School 9/94 (N. Boatman 48, M. Creenaune 48, J. Antonio 44, M. Smart 4/11). Ararat



*Ararat High School Football Team 1942*

*Back: Bill Flavell, Ian MacInnes, Roy Faneco, Jack Embling, Rex Burke, Sam Ralph, Connor Horley.*

*Middle: Ian Spalding, John Crotty, Jack Lloyd, Don Blackie, Peter Fry, Henry Billman.*

*Front: Ron Clements, Bob Ord, Mervyn Gillies, Ron Casey, Neuk Blake, Walter Henning.*



High School 9/66 defeated Hamilton High School 9/46 (R. Thompson 24, J. Antonio 18, M. Smart 3/12 and R. Thompson 3/19). Grand Final: Ararat High School 9/64 defeated Horsham High School 9/62 (R. Thompson 20, M. Smart 9/25).

The premierships football team had the following players — Keith Coad, Russell Racherger, Barrie Smith, Noel Boatman, John Crowley, Jim McCarthy, Kevin Clarke, Reg Bates, Bob Humphreys, Don Hart, Russell Thompson (captain), Max Smart, Campbell Coutts, Brian Peterson, Kevin Cook, John Pratt, Martin Creenaune, Alan Young and John Antonio.

The first match was against Stawell High School at Alexandra Oval which Ararat won 9.7.61 to 5.6.36. The team then travelled to Hamilton to play Hamilton High School which they won 20.10.130 to 4.9.33. The grand final was played at Stawell and Ararat High's opponents were Warracknabeal High School. The final scores were — Ararat High School 13.10.88 defeated Warracknabeal High School 6.12.48.

In 1950, the G.S.S.S.A. sports meeting was held in Warracknabeal at Anzac Park. Ararat High School won the boys' intermediate and sub intermediate "Winners" Shield. This win was helped by the fine efforts of three boys, Noel Boatman who won the intermediate 220 yards in 23.6 seconds (a new record) and the intermediate 100 yards in 10.8 seconds; George Lucas, who won the sub-intermediate 220 yards in 24.8 seconds (a new record) and Reg Bates who won the intermediate broad jump with a leap of 18 feet 1.5 inches.

The intermediate boys team (N. Boatman, R. Bates, L. Mathews, M. Welsh) in the flag race, broke another record with a time of 44.88 seconds. Brian Peterson won the senior boys 220 yards.

The inter-house athletic meeting saw Pyrenees win the boys section and overall aggregate and Chalambar the girls. Champions of the sports were — Senior girls: Margaret Robertson and Margaret Pitcher equal, intermediate: Lorna Croft and junior Beverley Tims. Boys senior: Brian Peterson, intermediate: Noel Boatman and junior Colin Kelly. The Osborne Cup was won by Chalambar.

Dimboola was the venue for the 1951 G.S.S.S.A. sports meeting. Ararat High School won the "Grampians" Shield for senior boys. Individual honors went to — Reg Bates: senior 100 yards third, senior 220 yards third, senior broad jump first (18 feet 2.5 inches). Alan Young: senior high jump third, senior 880 yards third, senior 440 yards fourth. Alan Robinson: sub-intermediate 100 yards third, sub-intermediate 220 yards third, John Featherstone sub-intermediate high jump third, David McCubbin: sub-junior broad jump second. Dawn Greeves: senior 100 yards fourth, senior 75 yards third. Mary Shipp: intermediate 75 yards fourth. Alison Lloyd: junior 75 yards third, junior 500 yards third. Beryl Gordon: sub-junior 75 yards first.

Team honors went to boys senior flag team first, girls sub-junior flag race first, girls junior cross passing second, boys sub-intermediate flag race second, girls junior flag race second, boys intermediate flag race third, girls senior hockey dribble third.

Inter-house athletics was won by Chalambar with individual champions being — senior boy: Reg Bates, intermediate boy: Jack Crouch, sub-intermediate boy: John Featherstone and Alan Robinson tied, junior boy: Graham Dunn, sub-junior boy: William Bell. Senior girl: Dawn Greeves, intermediate girl: Mary Shipp, sub-intermediate girl: Beverley Tim, junior girl: Alison Lloyd, sub-junior girl: Beryl Gordon and Betty Conboy tied.

The cross country team event was won by Grampians (J. Hamilton, H. Peoples, L. Bryon, A. Kelly, D. McKinnis, Q. Turner). First in was J. Hamilton (17 minutes) and the fastest time was recorded by F. Antonio (15 minutes)

1952 saw a departure from the usual custom of holding the house athletic sports on a school day, it was decided to hold them on a Saturday to give more parents an opportunity of seeing the sports. Pyrenees made a clean sweep of all the trophies, winning boys, girls and grand aggregate. Lorraine Kelly was able to lower existing records in the girls junior 75 and 50 yards races despite a head wind.

Champions, Girls — senior: Jacqueline Phelan, intermediate: Margaret Downe, sub-intermediate: Edith Perkins, junior: Lorraine Kelly, sub-junior: Janice Biggin and Judith Witten tied. Boys — senior: Jack Crouch, intermediate: Alan Robinson, sub-intermediate: Geoff Pratt, junior: Bill Bell, sub-junior: Barry Smart.

117 boys participated in the annual cross country run, results were Frank Antonio (Pyrenees) first, Graham Webb (Grampians) second and Alex Dryden (Grampians) third.

Grampians won the team event with Pyrenees second. The Osborne Cup was won by Grampians.



*Outside the Sports: Marilyn Pendleberry, Sandra Kent, Bev Chamblings, Margaret Emmett.*

Sporting highlights as recorded in the 1953 Concorde:

*"Those who viewed the stirring finish in the 880 yards at the inter-house athletic meeting could not fail to be impressed. With a "super-charged" burst, Neville Bates rocketed ahead in the final 100 yards, narrowly defeating the senior champion, Clive Stainton, by a few yards."*

*"Family affair! Whether the Peoples family have a cross country "system" or whether Les is so attached to Hartley that he can't let him out of his sight, I haven't yet decided. The fact remains that the brothers registered first and second positions in this years cross country with Hartley taking top honors. It wasn't due to house loyalty that they worked as a team as they represent different colors. Hartley, Sturgeon and Les, Grampians."*

*"Young Barry Smart certainly proved his athletic ability, both at inter-house sports and the meeting at Nhill. He followed up his sub-junior championship sash with a series of wins and places at Nhill, both at running and jumping."*

*"We were all pulling for Clive Stainton as he made his winning jump at Nhill. When the bar stopped swaying precariously we could all breathe again and cheer Clive on his win. The jump was five feet five inches."*

Greatly increased attendance figures at Ararat High School made it necessary to re-organise the house system in 1953 and introduce a new house called Sturgeon. Unfortunately Sturgeon did not win any sections of the inter-house athletics sports as Grampians did a clean sweep.

Championship winners were, Girls — senior: Joyce Weidemann, intermediate: Joan Andrew, sub-intermediate: Beverley Thomas, junior: Judith Witten, sub-junior: Coralie Milne. Boys — senior: Clive Stainton, intermediate: Neville Bates, sub-intermediate: William Bell, junior: Robert Lardner, sub-junior: Barry Smart and Ian Lewin tied.

The cross country run was won by H. Peoples (Sturgeon) with L. Peoples (Grampians) second and N. Turner (Grampians) third. The team event was won by Grampians.

The inter-school athletic meeting for 1954 was held in perfect weather at Stawell where a crowd of over 3000 saw Ararat High School bring home the "Ark" Shield.

As in recent years, it was one house that dominated all divisions of the inter-house athletic sports and in 1954 it was Pyrenees.

Championship winners, Girls — senior: Edith Perkins, intermediate: Roberta Dawson, sub-intermediate: Joan Bartlett, junior: Caroline Milne, sub-junior: Janice Paull. Boys — senior:

Neville Bates, intermediate: William Bell, sub-intermediate: Gavin Ford, junior: Ian Lewin, sub-junior: John Gibbs.

The cross country race for the second year running saw the Peoples brothers filling first and second places, Hartley not only won the race but recorded the fastest time. Grampians again won the team event.

1955 was a year that saw Murray Williamson (a present day teacher at Ararat High School) — house captain of Grampians for the second consecutive year, captain of the cricket team and captain of the senior football team. The football team had quite a few stars in its ranks but could only manage third in the G.S.S.S.A. competition. The team was described as follows in a school magazine.

*“Murray Williamson: Captain, completed four years as a Methodist forward, can play in most positions with telling effect; very consistent centre for school.*

*Gary Thompson: Vice captain, Methodist half back and school ruckman, high marking and reliable footballer. Alan Robinson, Methodist backman, school centre half-back, fast and rugged, usually goes through all opposition (except Ingleton).*

*Brian Shaw: Key St. Mary's forward and school centre half forward, marks and kicks well, very elusive near the goals. John Foster, Methodist and school defender, good trier who is hard to beat. Norman Emerson, Harold Ferguson and Graeme Buchanan complete a sound ruck competition.*

*In the roving division we had Geoff Ward from Streatham, who was one of our best players for the season. Max Thompson and Alan Conboy gave him valuable support. Other defenders were Alan Richardson and Norman Ralph who play for St. Mary's and Trinity respectively.*

*On the wings we had Robert Hutchinson who had played with Methodist for two years and Robert Wright. At full forward, we had Ken Hinchliffe who made the most of his limited opportunities. Other forwards, Barry Smart and Alan Dennett, gave him valuable support.”*

For the first time for several years Grampians failed to win the cross country team cup and the winning house was Chalambar. First home was J. Gibbs (Pyrenees) and I. Quick (Grampians) second with fastest time A. Kelly (Grampians).

Inter-school athletics were held at Horsham and although Ararat High School had competitors placed in many events, we did not win a shield. First place getters were John Osborne, Ian Seadon and the girls junior cross passing team.

Inter-house athletics were held on a very heavy track and most times were slow expect for Coralie Milne who ran very well in the sub-intermediate 100 yards to break the record by 0.2 seconds. Pyrenees won the girls, boys and grand aggregates.

Championship winners, Girls — senior: Edith Perkins and Roberta Dawson tied, intermediate: Joan Bartlett and Gwenda Burrows tied, sub-intermediate: Coralie Milne, junior: Jeanette Baker, sub-junior: Pam Gale. Boys - senior: John Osborne, intermediate: Gavin Ford, sub-intermediate: Barry Smart, junior: John Gibbs, sub-junior: Kevin Fitzgerald.

Ararat High School had success in team events in 1956. The girl's tennis team won the southern zone tennis shield with the team made up of Judith Witten, Margaret Hambling, Heather Graham (captain) and Jocelyn Weidemann.

The boy's tennis team were premiers, in their first match they defeated Stawell High School and then Stawell Technical School. The final match was against Hamilton who had for many years been Ararat's down fall but this year, victory was ours, scores being Ararat High School 4 sets 48 games to Hamilton High School 2 sets 21 games. The team members were Neil Turner (captain), Robert Wright, Ian Foster and Barry Melrose.

The hockey team tied with Hamilton High as winners of the Southern Zone. This had been the most successful hockey season for many years. The team was J. Weidemann (captain), J. Mathews (vice captain), B. Harris, J. McAlpine, L. Timms, D. Perkins, J. Bowles, L. Chalmers, J. Dunne, C. Milne and J. Greeves. In the first match Ararat High defeated Stawell High 6 goals to nil and played an exciting match against Alexandra College where, at half-time they trailed 0-3 and in the last half scored 5 goals to the oppositions 1 goal. The final match was played against Hamilton High and under slow, wet conditions and an arduous hard battle, the game ended with the scores two goals all.

The inter-house athletic meeting saw J. Greeves equal the sub-intermediate 100 yards record, Ian Seadon clear 5 feet 2 inches in intermediate high jump (2 inches higher than the senior winning jump) and Chalambar and Pyrenees tie for the grand aggregate.

Championship winners: Girls — senior: Joan Bartlett, intermediate: Jean Byron, sub-intermediate: Lorainne Timms, junior: Fay Bowles, sub-junior: Coral Davis. Boys — senior: Robert Hutchinson, intermediate: Barry Smart, sub-intermediate: John Gibbs, junior: Ivan Dunne and Kevin Fitzgerald, sub-junior: Graeme Davis.

The cross country race was held twice within a fortnight of each other and the winner in both races was Ivan Dunne.

The hockey team was successful again in winning the premier-ship in 1957 defeating Stawell High School, Alexandra College and Hamilton High School. Members of the hockey team were Doreen Perkins, June Greeves (captain), Lorainne Timms, Gwen Bowbrick, Joy Koenig, Rhonda Richardson, Vonda Taylor, Kay Park, Lois Hunter, Judy Scott and Marjorie Phillip.

The boy's tennis team was victorious in winning the Southern

Zone Shield for the second year in a row. The boys won all their matches comfortably; the grand final against Hamilton High saw them win 5 sets to 1. The team was Neil Turner (captain), John O'Neil, Barry Melrose and Ian Foster.

Two cross countries were again held, a short one first followed by a long one a week later. First home in the short course was C. Hutchinson from the sub-junior mark and his time was 15 minutes 10 seconds. He was closely followed by Neil Turner, a senior runner, who had the fastest time of 13 minutes 20 seconds. The longer cross country was won by Kevin Fitzgerald and fastest time went to J. Meng. Chalambar won the cross country cup.



*Teacher Kel Smith in front of the old grandstand at Alexander Oval.*

The house athletic sports provided some excitement as Sturgeon, after five years in existence won their first athletic trophy the girls cup. Chalambar took out the boy's cup and the grand aggregate. Athletic champions were — Neil Pitcher, Victor Kaufmann, Pam Gale, Carol Davis, June Greeves, Daryl Hutchinson, John Ferguson, Charles Hutchinson, Gwen Baker, Jean Byron, Eric Price and Kevin Fitzgerald.

“So near and yet so far” has been used to describe the senior eighteen football team of 1959. Ararat played Stawell Technical School in the first premiership match of the season and proved too strong in most positions for the small Stawell side and ran out comfortable winners by 58 points. Kevin Fitzgerald led and marked well at full forward to kick six goals. Baxter Murray completely baffled the opposition with his turning and excellent hand-passing whether roving or on the half forward flank.

The team next met Horsham Technical School on the Horsham Oval and resulted in another comfortable win to the Ararat side. Robert Taylor at centre half-forward marked well and kicked three goals. Ray Spencer showed in the last quarter that he could kick goals as well as stop them. When shifted to the ruck in the last quarter he picked up the ball from the pack and snapped a remarkable goal with his left foot. Baxter Murray again played a valuable game and created many opportunities for the forwards.

In a match that virtually decided the premiership of the Wimmera, Ararat High School was defeated by Stawell High School by one point!

Ararat High School 1.1, 2.2, 4.4, 6.8 (44) — Stawell High School 1.4, 2.9, 3.14, 5.15 (45).

Best: B. Robinson, E. Robinson, B. Murray, R. Spencer, K. Blachford, J. Harris, H. Ogilvie (last quarter). Goals: R. Taylor 3, D. Johns 2, H. Ogilvie 1.

The last match of the season was played on the Ararat oval against Horsham High School and resulted in an easy win to Ararat. Faster to the ball and with Kevin Fitzgerald outstanding at centre half-forward, Ararat kept the Horsham back-line under pressure all day. At the other end of the ground, Ray Spencer kept the Horsham full forward goalless, and until three quarter time, Horsham could only manage one goal per quarter.

Ararat High School 4.4, 6.10, 10.15, 11.16 (82) — Horsham High School 1.0, 2.1, 3.1, 7.3 (45).

Members of the team were J. Harris, A. Robinson, B. Avent, R. Cameron, R. Hargreaves, J. Ferguson, E. Robinson, R. Taylor, J. Gordon, B. Robinson, R. Spencer, H. Ogilvie, H. Pearce, D. Conboy, K. Blachford, B. Murray (vice captain), W. Meadows (captain), D. Johns, G. Emerson, I. O'Brien, K. Fitzgerald, N. Coutts. The team was coached by Mr. McMillan.

There was only one cross country held in 1959 and the distance was shortened. Line honours went to Ron Lockland from John McGibbony and Barry Traynor; Kevin Fitzgerald had the fastest time.

Section winners — seniors: K. Fitzgerald, intermediate: E. Robinson, sub-intermediate: R. Moorfoot, junior: L. Marchant, sub-junior: R. Lockland. Chalambar won the house section.

The house athletic sports were held on a near perfect day with a fast track. Highlights were Lenore Emerson's record breaking 100 yards win, Billy Meadows' courageous wins in the senior 220 yards and 440 yards races, Ted Robinson's strong finish in the intermediate 220 yards, and the clashes in the senior 75 yards and 100 yards races between Rhonda Richardson and Janice Porteous resulting in two victories for Janice. Pyrenees house dominated the sports winning boys, girls and combined aggregates. Pyrenees also won both house relays and had seven sash winners out of ten.

Championship winners, Girls — senior: R. Richardson, intermediate: A. Cocking, sub-intermediate: P. Peoples, junior: M. Potter, sub-junior: B. Olver. Boys — senior: L. Gordon, intermediate: E. Robinson, sub-intermediate: E. Price, junior: R. Smith, sub-junior: J. McGibbony.

The inter-school sports were held at Dimboola and Ararat High School enjoyed little success. Not until the last event of the day did Ararat win an event. Kevin Fitzgerald combined judgement and courage to win the 880 yards. Kevin went to the lead early and set a solid pace with half a lap to go he was passed by two runners. Kevin saved his burst until the runners were rounding the bend into the straight and he shot quickly to the front and held his advantage until the tape was reached.

After a long break, 1960 saw the return of the house swimming sports to be held in the new olympic swimming pool. Pyrenees won the swimming cup with Chalambar second.

Championship winners, Girls — senior: J. Williams, intermediate: S. McGibbony, sub-intermediate: C. Warren, junior: M. Thompson, sub-junior: M. Shalders. Boys — senior: K. Fitzgerald, intermediate: R. Moorfoot, sub-intermediate: L. Vamos, I. Klason, G. Francis, junior: J. McGibbony, sub-junior: R. Olver, A. Culph.

The annual cross country run was won for the third year in a row by Ron Lockland with John McGibbony second and Barry Traynor third. Fastest time went to Kevin Tassell.

Section winners — sub-junior: B. Jones, junior: R. Lockland, sub-intermediate: L. Ralph, intermediate: R. Moorfoot, senior: K. Tassell. The house competition was won by Chalambar.

The 1960 house athletics were held in very wet conditions, and despite the adverse weather, some fine performances were seen. Karen Peterson equalled the sub-junior 75 yards record and also won the 100 yards race. Lenore Emerson won two sprint races. Bill Meadows won the senior 100 yards and 440 yards. Championship winners were Max McLean, Karen Peterson, Ian McAlpine, Gwen Baker, Ted Robinson, R. Smith, Barbara Mill, Sandra Marx, Margaret Potter and R. Moorfoot.

Ararat High School had its best inter-school athletics since 1948, finishing second to Stawell in the grand aggregate and winning the “Ark” Shield for junior and sub-junior boys, as well as being second for three other shields.

Winners were — Ian McAlpine, Sub Junior 100 and 220 yards. Sandra Marx, Junior 75 yards. Kerryn McKinnis, Junior broad jump. Paul Rennie, Sub-Intermediate broad jump. Bill Meadows, Senior 440 yards. Girls intermediate hockey dribble. Boys senior

relay. Kevin Fitzgerald, Senior boys 880 yards.

1961 saw Pyrenees win the swimming sports and competition was very keen with 14 records being broken.

Ararat High School competed for the first time in many years in the combined schools swimming sports and finished second in the aggregate 81 points to Warracknabeals 107 points. It was the fourth successive win to Warracknabeal. Some good performances were recorded by Maxine Thompson two firsts and a third; Murray Emerson, a first and a third; Marilyn Shalders, a first and a third; John McGibbony, a first; Ian Klason, a first and two fourths; Ralph Gillet, a first and a fourth; Junior girls medley relay second and the junior boys medley relay came third.

The house athletics sports grand aggregate was won by Pyrenees. Highlights of the day were the new event, boys tunnel ball, and David Richards broke the record for the 880 yards. Championship winners were T. Robinson, R. Lyth, G. McAlpine, I. McAlpine, L. Emerson, B. Mill, S. Marx, J. Perkins, E. Mason and P. Morgan. The cross country was again won by Ron Lockwood and Chalambar won the house event.

In 1962, Ararat High School won the basketball premiership in the Wimmera Zone. The team played Stawell High School in the first round and lost narrowly 27 to 30. They then played Horsham High and had an easy win 45 to 15 and because of Ararat's high percentage, they met Dimboola High School in the grand final which they won 40 to 24. Members of the team were L. Emerson, S. Marx, J. White, J. Boyles, J. Strugnell, J. Peterson (captain) and M. Leitch. The team was coached by Miss White.

Another winning team in 1962 was the boys tennis team, coached by Mr. Bohmer. Their first match against Stawell Technical School saw a narrow victory by nine games go to the High School. Next, the team faced Horsham High and the result was Ararat High four sets 46 games to Horsham High School two sets 41 games. The grand final was played against Dimboola at Horsham, with the score being Ararat High School four sets 47 games to Dimboola two sets 32 games. Members of the team were D. Johns, J. Riley, D. Richards and R. Shields.

The inter-school combined athletics was held at Horsham and the team travelled by train. The team performed superbly and notable efforts were Rodney Flavell winning the sub-junior 75 yards and 100 yards; Peter Fergin won the under 15 long jump, 100 yards and 220 yards; Joy Boyles won the intermediate long jump; David Richards won the mile event and came second in the 880 yards; Murray Jensen won the junior boys long jump and Kevin Cook won the 100 yards sprint. The girls sub-intermediate relay team won and lost but not least, school captain Ted Robinson won the 220 yards and broke the 440 yards record in 52.4 seconds, and also ran second in the 100 yards. These efforts enabled Ararat to win three shields; the “Gram-pians” Shield for senior boys, the “Lowan” Shield for sub-intermediate and intermediate boys and for the third time in succession the “Ark” Shield for junior and sub-junior boys.

The eight house athletics sports saw Sturgeon win the boys section and Pyrenees the girls and grand aggregate. Athletic champions were K. Cook, P. Fergin, T. Robinson, R. Flavell, M. McLean, P. Morgan, R. Marx, D. Colley, E. Mason and C. Warren.

For the fifth successive year in a row, Ron Lockwood won the cross country race; indeed an outstanding achievement.

Lloyd Marchant, A.F.A.M. Brisbane Manager of Austral Insulation.

Ron Casey, M.B.E. — Former General Manager of HSV 7 and sporting identity.

## Students

After his retirement in 1962, Mr. Crebbin lived for many years at “Fox in the Morning”, with more leisure to enjoy those things which had bound him to Ararat for so long — the sight of Langi Giran lying on the distant skyline; the red fox hunting up the gully at dawn; the black cockatoos wheeling overhead and the busy kangaroos coming down at dusk to drink at the dam with Ulysses, the pet emu.

Transcending all that, there were the constant visits of former pupils. He was a guest at their weddings: Bill Meadows in Colac, Ray Spencer in Ballarat, David Richards at Monash University, Margaret Burke with Ian McInnes at Ararat. He proposed the health of brides, Val Weideman in Marysville, Lesley Adams at Wesley College Chapel, and Sue Cameron in Ararat.

Many former students went on to make names for themselves in high profile areas, among these were:

Dr. Bernard Einoder of Adelaide

Dr. Ewald Einoder of Adelaide

Assoc./Professor Maurice Weidemann of Canberra

Dr. Alan Baird of America

Dr. Graeme Jameson, Ph.D. of Sydney

Graham Burke, Managing Director, Village Roadshow, Melbourne

Alan Robinson, B.Comm., Principal Ballarat High School

Ray Spencer, M.Sc. Forestry, Ballarat

Dr. Kevin Blachford, B.A. Ph.D., Hawthorn

Libby McLean, Bachelor Business Studies, Swinburne

Kevin Fitzgerald, M.Commerce, Ministry of Education. Fellow of Australian Society of Accountants. Certified Practising Accountant. National Consulting Division Manager of Total Assets Protection Ltd. (This deals with Computer fraud etc.)

Professor Gregory McCrae Prof. of Chemical Engineering of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, U.S.A. Has won world wide recognition in his field — lectures in China, America, and many European Universities.

David Richards, B.A. Dip. Ed. Graduate Diploma in French Language and Literature. (University of Grenoble, France.) “lic es hettres” in Linguistics at Benanon, France. Master of Philosophy, Essex University, England. Former Member of Foreign Affairs Aid Mission, Singapore.

## Conclusion

There were doctors of medicine, doctors of philosophy, company directors, computer specialists, graziers, men and women outstanding in so many fields of endeavour. Mr. Crebbin was proud of them all, and greeted them with affection, but equally proud of Wesley, the once very average student, who now achieves wonders in welfare work with the Victorian (VicRail) Railways; and of Murray, the boy who cheerfully spent his whole school career close to the bottom rung of the lowest forms. Now a well-known local contractor, he had delighted generations of small children with his appearances as Mickey Mouse and Father Christmas, has frequently done unpaid work for the elderly poor, and raised thousands of dollars for the Royal Children's Hospital.

There are countless others whose success stories lie not in great worldly achievement, but in good citizenship, in loving and unselfish parenting, in the care of ageing parents, in assistance to friends and neighbours. Those “ordinary” people of immeasurable worth to society.

On the occasion of Mr. Crebbin's death, in June 1978, hundreds of cards and letters of sympathy came from former students around Australia and overseas. Almost all expressed the same message:— “He was a gentleman”

He had written his own epitaph. As do we all!

**FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS,  
TECHNICALLY SPEAKING**

The Morris Years (1963-1968)

By Helen McMillan



Ararat Football Club was another area where Mr. Morris became involved with sport. He recruited school staff and students for the team, and was to be heard announcing the various scores during the football matches at the oval.

### The Jubilee

1963 was a year of special significance for the school. Apart from acquiring a new Headmaster and several new members of staff, Ararat High School was to celebrate its Golden Jubilee — 50 years of education!

Because of these celebrations, Mr. Morris in his first year at the school found himself involved in the organisation of and participation in the many events which took place.

In August of 1963,

*“The return of many numbers of original scholars, ex-students, and ex-members of staff, made all realize the links with the past and emphasized the fact that the school was indeed more than those who are actually students at the present time. The display of old photographs, historical records, and the publication of a short history of the school; all served to heighten this effect of tradition and continuity of the life of the school. The pleasure of ex-students at returning to their old school jaunts was obvious and delightful to see, and their expressions of wonder at the changes and extensions to the school, interested me considerably.”*

*“Always remember that you are the most important person you know, for you have to live with yourself, for better or worse for the remainder of your life!”*

With these words, the new Headmaster gave some indication of his views on discipline and student responsibility within the School.

“It is most important” he said, “particularly student self-discipline — and should be strongly encouraged in all aspects of school life.” This heralded a very different approach to education during the time 1963 to 1968, when Ararat High School came under the leadership of Mr. Allan Morris. He came to Ararat from Kooweerup High School — previous to this he had been Headmaster at Foster and Morwell High Schools, and with Mr. Morris’ appointment, the school also gained a valuable teacher in Mrs. Morris who joined the staff.

Apart from his obvious involvement in education, Mr. Morris was also very interested in sport, and was a keen member of the Ararat Bowling Club whilst in Ararat. One of his earliest recollections of Ararat High School was when he came to Ararat around 1923 or ’24 as part of a Ballarat High School football team. Mr. Morris recalled that the team travelled by night train, and was billeted out in the town before playing the next day.

Because of this interest in football, he was particularly proud of the Senior football team’s achievements during his time at Ararat High School, as he was of all other sport at the school.



Alan Morris

With the help of the Ararat City Band, the school celebrated its Jubilee in no uncertain fashion. By combining celebrations with Education Day it was possible to cover a wide range of school activities; visitors invited from all over the State including distinguished guests such as the Minister of Education (Mr. Bloomfield), the Mayor (Cr. E.W. James), Shire President (Cr. O’Rorke), Cr. King (President of the Advisory Council), Brigadier Hurley, the Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools (Mr. Reed), along with many ex-students, who were at the one time able to see reminders of the last fifty years, and also to inspect the work being done by present day students.

Hockey and football matches between present-day and ex-students, a fete arranged by the Ladies’ Welfare Club, an impressive cabaret ball and dinner, all contributed to the “Back to Ararat High School” atmosphere.

### Enrolments and Staff

Mr. Morris commented — “Ararat High School was a pretty big first class school!”

During the six years that Mr. Morris was at the school, there was a steady increase in the numbers attending Ararat High School, as can be seen from the following figures — from 492 students in 1958 to 626 students in 1963 (344 boys and 282 girls — 188 of these were country students).

1965 686 students were enrolled;

1966 765 students;

1967 778 students; while in

1968 the enrolment had climbed to 814 students (426 boys and 388 girls).



Staff 1964

In 1968, the retention rate at higher levels was obvious, with 103 students doing the Leaving Certificate course. Parents were encouraged to keep their children at school as long as possible and to realize that secondary education was essential and available to all students.

Mr. Morris said,

*“Children attending secondary school should work to the limit, attend to the limit, progress to the limit, and not leave until they had reached their limit. Parents seem to fail to realize that an extra one or two years at school will add that extra bit of culture and knowledge that will help them a great deal in their future life.”*

When Mr. Morris came to Ararat High School, the staffing situation was very tight. He could remember even then having to look for his own staff in certain circumstances. Many teachers had to be used in areas they were not trained or qualified for, and although he was basically opposed to the use of unqualified staff teaching in any school, he had little choice at the time but as time went by, young staff became more qualified.

*“Ararat High School had a very good staff, there were many enthusiastic and dedicated staff members.”*

As student numbers increased, so too by necessity did the staff numbers. In 1963 the school had a staff of the Headmaster, 34 teachers (21 men and 13 women), and two office staff; 1964 — 33 teaching staff; 1965 — 37; 1966 — 40; 1967 — 42; and in 1968 the number of teachers had increased to 49 (the Headmaster, 30 men and 18 women), and still 2 office staff.



*Staff 1965*

Most faculties by this time were staffed by teachers who were qualified to teach in these areas, which was not the case in the earlier years.

During his time at the school, Mr. Morris was ably assisted by this Senior Master Mr. J. Thomas, Mr. R. Robson in charge of Technical Studies, and Misses J. Glendinning, J. Glover and Mrs. M. Hickey as the Senior Mistresses.

In 1963 mid-year due to retirement, the school lost one of its long time staff members in Miss Dolly Edgerton. She had been at Ararat High School in 1926, and then again in 1944 in charge of the Domestic Science Centre. Her 19 years of service to the school was much appreciated.

In 1964, Miss Joan Shillington joined the office staff and remained in that position for many years, eventually becoming Bursar at the school. Miss Shillington was a mine of information on all matters concerning the school, and was of great assistance to not only the Headmaster, but staff and students as well.

1966 saw the retirement of Mr. N.J. Neylan from the Technical staff — 18 years after coming to Ararat High School to help out for a fortnight in 1949.

As for Mrs. Yule's comings and goings to and from the staff, it was noted by Mr. Morris “that she seemed to have made more appearances than Dame Nellie Melba!”

## Curriculum and Organisation

In 1963, the curriculum covered a full academic course for professional and commercial subjects, with a common course for Form 1 students. Also, a full Technical course of studies was offered.

This was pointed out by Mr. Morris when he stated that a complete Technical School existed within the walls of Ararat High School. He said it was not generally understood that technical pupils at the school could study up to and including 4th form, at exactly the same standards as technical school students throughout Victoria.

Senior students of the school were offered a very full cover of subjects of both Arts and Science courses.

The school worked an 8 period day, but after 30 years or more of 5 period mornings and 3 period afternoons, a significant change took place in June 1963 when the school changed to a 4 period morning and afternoon. This was done to bring it into line with the primary schools' lunchtime.

Another addition to the curriculum in 1963 was the introduction of post-examination activities. This was a programme intended to involve all students in a number of various activities once the formal school lessons had been completed at the end of the year. It was the first time the Ararat High School had attempted these special activities, and the experiment was an outstanding success.

In 1964, some practical courses were extended to Forms 3 and 4 in the secondary course, and all remedial courses were removed.

In Mathematics, the ABC-TV. introduced a series of Maths for TV. tuition in the classroom for Form 1. Ararat High School had not been included in this programme, but decided to participate anyway by purchasing its own TV. receiver. It proved to be an outstanding success. The school leaving age was increased to 15 years in 1964.

An earlier start for school of 8.55 a.m. was introduced in 1965. This was, necessary because of television lessons commencing at 9 a.m., but the most significant change was to the curriculum.

Secondary studies were still divided into Professional, Commercial, and Commercial/Domestic courses, Technical courses for Form 2, 3 and 4, and a common course for all Form 1 students — but now Biology had been added at Form 6 level and Modern History dropped; Economics and Needlework (the latter for the first time in many years) were available to Form 5 students; Needlework at Form 4 restored to the Commercial girls' course, Science and Metalwork for Commercial boys and Typewriting and Office Routine substituted for Shorthand and Typing for the Commercial/Domestic course.

At the Form 3 level, practical classes were being offered to the Professional courses, and the Commercial boys were able to do Mathematics and Science rather than Shorthand and Typing and French. Commercial girls could also take Science instead of French.

In the Technical courses, more emphasis was being placed on Mathematics and Science, and in both Secondary and Technical remedial Courses, “streaming” had been dropped throughout. School classes were of a balanced ability and not “streamed” as previously.

In 1966, another very important change to the secondary curriculum took place, when a “core and elective” system was introduced to the middle school. This concept was very new, and according to Mr. Morris, “the school is only the second in Victoria with such an innovation.” There were no longer the divisions of Professional, Commercial and Commercial/Domestic, but students were divided into groups red, blue, green and so on. They worked in these forms for all of their core subjects and split into other groups for their elective subjects.

It was also decided to have a common course for all students in Forms 1 and 2, thus postponing specialisation either on the High or the Technical side until the beginning of the third year.

Also in 1966, Ararat High School was the first and only school in the State to introduce Dramatic Arts as a subject, and Mr. Morris felt this was an important extension of the Arts in the school.

Drama had always played an important part in the school, with a school play “Toad of Toad Hall” being staged in 1964. This play was very well received by students, parents and the community, as were a number of one act plays produced by the students.



1966 saw the stage production "Pygmalion" performed by the students, also a school Inter-house Drama competition (won by Pyrenees House, with Chalambar as runner-up).

In 1967 the students participated in the play "The Admirable Crichton", and by this time the English and Dramatic Arts classes were able to move into the production of films with the purchase of an 8 mm. zoom lens camera, and cutting and splicing facilities. This was a great boost to this area of the curriculum.

In 1967, with the core and elective system working well, Consumer Education was introduced and all Form 3 students had to take this course. Once again, Forms 1 and 2 had a common course, thus avoiding the necessity for boys to choose between secondary and technical education until the beginning of Term 3 — at the time this was an important step in education. There were no further significant changes to the curriculum in 1968.

One aspect of the curriculum which Mr. Morris recalled with some amusement was the area of Religious Instruction, which he pointed out was not compulsory. Separate classes were held for the various denominations, and at one stage the school had a "guitar playing — hot gospeller" who proved to be extremely popular. So much so, that his sessions had to be "policed" to see that only the students who were supposed to be there, were there, and not most of the other groups as well!

For Mr. Morris, School assemblies were a most important event.

*"Ararat High School was one of the first schools in the State to get an Assembly Hall, and the school was extremely lucky to have this amenity as it made assemblies so much easier. Assemblies were good for morale and for planning of the week's work and events, and for comments on current issues to be made," he said. The School Song was re-introduced at these assemblies, and "this was another good move," Mr. Morris commented.*

Asked about Education Week and Open Day in the school, Mr. Morris said

*"he was not entirely in favour of this — in fact he was a little annoyed by it, because education was not just a weekly occurrence, but all year effort."*

1963 saw the last of the Speech Nights at Ararat High School. Instead, a Speech Afternoon in the school grounds was introduced in 1964. Speech Afternoons were also held in 1965 and 1966, but in 1967 they were abandoned altogether.

Mr. Morris commented

*"formal Speech Nights and Afternoons and the like were abandoned, thus joining the majority of High Schools in the State. Instead a full report was sent to each parent at the end of the school year."*

Mr. Morris considered that at this time of the year, *"Staff were tired and extremely busy with final results and reports etc., students were busy with exams, and all in all it was an unnecessary hassle at the end of the school year."*

Another tradition which Mr. Morris considered to be most unfair for many reasons, and which he also removed, was "Dux" of the school.

*"Students should be encouraged to strive for excellence and to do things for the school and local community, but they should not seek rewards for it."*

## Examinations

External examinations at all levels had been a part of education for many years, but gradually these were being phased out and schools were able to have more control in the testing of their own students.

In 1967, the Intermediate Certificate exams were held for the last time under V.U.S.E.B. supervision — "and a good thing too!" Mr. Morris commented. This entitled all schools to conduct their own exams for secondary students studying at this level.

Mr. Morris said "that he was fascinated by the gradual elimination of various examinations." When the Intermediate Certificate exam was abolished, it caused a tremendous rumpus!" He was particularly keen for students to remain at school and complete their final year, and during this time at Ararat High School the student numbers in Form 6 (or Year 12 today) did increase, but he added "this was a general trend throughout the State"

Mr. Morris was particularly pleased when in 1968 Ararat High School was granted class "A" status for the Leaving examinations. "This was a great achievement by the school, it was well deserved and a great honour," he said. Class "A" he explained, "was the ability for the school to examine its own students in its own way, thus saving parents and students a lot of stress and money!" (Previously students had to pay a fee to sit for external Leaving Examinations.)

## Composite Fees

It may be of interest to note one of the charges made to students between 1963 and 1968.

A fee, called a "Composite Fee", was levied on all students to cover various costs within the school, such as Sport, Library, Book Hire, Magazine, and other miscellaneous items. Some subject levies were also charged for items such as Art supplies.

In 1963, 1964 and 1965, a composite fee of £2/2/- with reduction to 30/- for a second child and 20/- for a third child or any one family attending the school at the same time, was charged. In 1966, because of increasing costs, it was considered necessary to increase the fee to £2/10/-. As decimal currency was introduced in this year, the fee became \$5.

In 1967 and 1968 the fee was again increased to \$6 per student (with a similar sliding scale for families). This composite fee still covered Sport \$2, Library \$2, Magazine 75 cents, and miscellaneous \$1.25, but Book Hire was an extra charge of \$1 per student.

## Uniform

Uniform in most schools was a traditional form of dress for students, and Ararat High School was no exception.

After years of school tunics, hats, and a navy blue frock for summer, the girls were to get a change of uniform.

In 1967 a new summer uniform was introduced — a checked gingham frock using the school colours of two blues and gold to make up the check pattern; and in 1968 the change from tunics to a new winter skirt in the Gordon tartan was made. These changes were felt to be long overdue and were warmly welcomed by both students and their parents.

The hats were still there, but some rules regarding the girls' uniform; "hair must not touch the collar, if it is longer it must be fastened back or worn in plaits", or "the hemline of the tunic must be no more than 4 inches above the knee when kneeling", were relaxed considerably.

There appeared to be no significant changes to the boys' uniform during Mr. Morris' era, but he was very particular about appearances, and if the cost of the recommended "short back and sides" was proving to be a problem, it was not unknown for him to find the necessary cash from his own pocket.

## Students and Activities

On student recollections, Mr. Morris said he was impressed by the many brilliant students at Ararat High School during his time. He was most impressed with the students and their attitude to all aspects of the school programme, and their concern for others in the community. Their efforts through Social Service "were most commendable and a credit to them and to the school", he said.

Many notable students have passed through Ararat High School, and have gone on to make an outstanding success of their chosen careers.

The school is always extremely proud of these students, who probably received much of their initial encouragement and inspiration to aim for higher things from their education and involvement, at Ararat High School. But the school is equally proud of the vast majority of students who simply take their places as interested, hard working, and concerned citizens within the community.

Some of the VIP's in the school community were the Prefects and School Captains, House Captains, Form Captains, S.R.C. Representatives, and many others who were willing to take the responsibility of leadership within the school. Many others made individual contributions by their participation in activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Awards; the adoption of a ward at Aradale; or through Social Service, raising considerable sums of money towards several worthy causes and institutions.

One outstanding student who was busy building a future for himself in Science during his time at Ararat High School was Greg McRae. In 1963, Greg won a prize in the Annual Science Talent Search by building his own geiger-counter, and then in 1964 he won top prize at Victoria's Science Teachers' Science Talent Quest with a device to make electricity from solar energy. He was later awarded one of two Victorian Scholarships to attend a Summer School of Science at the University of Sydney.



*Prefects 1965 — Back Row: B. Woods, G. Hall, R. Ahpee, A. Finch, B. Price, A. Bell, D. Pannan, R. Boldiston. Centre Row: A. Stienstra, J. Holly, W. Hucker, S. Watson, P. Mirtschin, J. Carr, K. Carmichael, A. Burton, G. McKinnis, E. Ford, S. Harding. Front Row: A. Phelan, B. Grinter, G. McRae (capt.), Mr. D. Hall, Miss J. Glover, J. Strugnell (capt.), R. Riedell, M. Shalders.*

Another group of students who deserve to be mentioned for their efforts, are those who took part in the construction of a fire watching lookout tower in the Wyperfeld National Park. In 1964, a mixture of 16 secondary and technical boys and 2 teachers spent a week on the job. This venture was highly successful, and in 1965, those involved were invited to participate in a tour of the Park for a full day. Then again in 1966, some boys journeyed back to Wyperfeld to paint the tower they had constructed 2 years before, and to be involved in the planting and fencing of several plantations of pines at the Park.

1965 saw for the first time in the history of the school, the setting up of a Student Council, where students participated in policy formation, rules amendment, extension of activities and so on. In Mr. Morris' words, "this has been a most effective and worthwhile exercise".

Another area where students were actively involved in school life, was the school magazine. Mr. Morris considered that the school magazine was a very important part of the school — in fact he admitted that he "had a soft spot" for magazines as they were an opportunity for all to contribute in one way or another. They were also an excellent record of each year's activities.

For many years the school magazine had been named "Concord", but in 1967 it was thought that the name of the magazine was obsolete after so many years, and so the new title of "Kurinda" (an aboriginal word meaning "to grow") was introduced.



*Form Captains 1967*



*Student Representative Council 1967*

## School Advisory Council

Ararat High School Advisory Council was very dedicated body of citizens who were involved with and responsible for the general running of the school as regards buildings, grounds, lighting and heating. A tremendous volume of business, some of it very tedious and time consuming, was covered by these representatives of the parents and community of Ararat and District, and as a result some very worthwhile improvements and additions to the school were achieved. Of particular note during Mr. Morris' time, were the retirement after four and a half years as President of Mr. R. King, and the retirement of Mr. Gullick in 1965 after fifteen years of continuous service on the Advisory Council. Other Presidents during this time were Mr. B. Tivey, Mr. F. Mansfield, and Mr. A. Plant.

## Ladies' Welfare Club/Mothers' Club

The Ladies' Welfare Club or Mothers' Club as it was later to be called, supported the Advisory Council in numerous ways, raising money for various projects and generally helping with the staffing of the school canteen.

In June 1965, Mrs. R. Scott (President of the Ladies Welfare Club) became the first woman to be appointed to the Advisory Council as the representative of her club and in October 1966, two representatives were appointed.

In June 1966, they were asked to consider a name change, because the Education Department had informed the Advisory Council that only Mothers' Clubs so named, could be nominated as representatives for appointment to the Council.

## Buildings and Grounds

During Mr. Morris' time at Ararat High, many changes were to take place to the buildings and the grounds surrounding the school. Some were to happen quickly, while others became rather long drawn out affairs. One example of the latter, was the Master Plan. This plan was devised in 1963 by the Advisory Council to develop and acquire for the future, property for playing fields as new extensions encroached on the present grounds.

It was intended to be used as a guide for the future development of the school and its surrounds. This plan was submitted to the Education Department asking for it to be implemented, but by 1964 when there was no reply and much later by 1967 with the same result, the Advisory Council decided to ask the Premier of Victoria, Sir Henry Bolte, to come to Ararat as our representative in Parliament to discuss the problems associated with the Master Plan formulated in 1963. Despite all this, in 1968, the Master Plan had still not been implemented.

The grounds received a boost when in 1963 a Groundsman was finally appointed at the approximate cost to the school of £190 per annum. (The school's share of the wages was paid for by the Ladies' Welfare Club).

*"This ensured that the grounds were kept in good order, thus enhancing the general appearance of the school and contributing to the welfare of the students."*

Other improvements to the grounds came in the removal of the old overgrown cypress hedge ("moth-eaten" to use Mr. Morris' words) from the Barkly Street frontage in 1963; the repair and replacement of sections of the boundary fence and the re-asphalting of the sealed areas in 1964; and painting, drainage, and other renovations all completed by the end of 1965.

In 1967 the school Pine Plantation was sold to Stawell Timber Industries Pty. Ltd., "removing a fire hazard from the town, and also a convenient place for errant students", according to Mr. Morris. Over \$3000 was received for this sale, and when the site was cleared it was to be developed for sports fields for the school.

Improvements to the existing buildings came in the form of heating for the Assembly Hall in 1963, installed at a cost of £503, and a new public address and new bell system for the school for £400. The P.A./Bell system was completed in 1965 and proved a tremendous boon in administration and education uses. Mr. Morris later commented in the school magazine —

*"I can recall the days of the old ships bell which was dinged from a point in the Quadrangle for period changes and the like. On calm days, the message came across well enough, but if there was a wind half the school could not hear, the change-overs were chaotic. To supplement the big bell, a small boy stalked the corridors wielding a hand bell borrowed from Ararat West Primary. The whole effect was faintly absurd, and reminded me of an auction sale — and this was before the new wing and portables arrived!"*

In 1963 the Board of Inspectors for Secondary Schools was moved to comment in their report, that the old wooden section

of the school had nearly outlived its usefulness, and "planning for its replacement by a modern construction could not long be delayed."

In this year, accommodation was most difficult, with many rooms unsuitable for the instruction for which they were being used, and also many classes were far too large for the rooms. However considerable extensions were eventually approved and given a "high priority" allocation. This extension included a library and conference room, science room, technical social studies room, geography room, all with storerooms, a boys' toilet block and boiler room.

In November of 1964 the new block known as the "West Wing" was occupied — approximate cost £30,000. Other extensive renovations to existing buildings were also eventually completed at a cost of £18,536.

But, once again in 1967 and 1968 adequate accommodation for the growing numbers at the school was to become a problem — "staffrooms were overcrowded, the hall was used for classes, and the library was never empty", said Mr. Morris.

So, in 1968 work began on a new wing for the school — this was the "East Wing". It was completed and occupied at the beginning of 1969, at an estimated cost of \$126,364. It may be of interest to note and compare this cost with the "west wing" extension only a few years earlier — although the new wing's cost did include some renovations to the original buildings as well.

Mr. Morris remarked on "the primitive eating arrangements for lunchtime, and the need for better facilities at the school in this respect." After a long wait, April 1966 saw the canteen opening — it was to be in the opinion of many, the year's outstanding event.

The idea of a canteen for the school was first put forward in 1961, and in 1963 plans and specifications were submitted to the Public Works Department. Not until June 1965, were tenders for the building and £407/10/0 for the electrical works accepted, and contracts let in August 1965. The schools' share of this cost on a £ for £ basis was £1000/10/0 and £203.15.0 respectively paid for by the Ladies' Welfare Club. The canteen was staffed by members of the Welfare Club and volunteers, together with some Form 5 students, Mr. Clark was to be the first manager.

## Social Issues

Perhaps one of the more controversial issues during Mr. Morris' final years at the school, was the call for and setting up of a separate technical school.

Ararat High and Technical School was one of the last "comprehensive" schools under high school management where both technical and high school subjects were taught, and Mr. Morris commented that "personally, I was most disappointed when it was felt necessary to create two separate schools".



Front of the school 1963

As Ararat High School, the school had always provided an extensive course in technical education as well as the traditional High School studies, but because of the fact that both courses were taught at the same school, it was suggested in 1965 by the Education Department that consideration be given to the school being called the "Ararat Technical High School".

For two reasons — one, the tradition of the school, and secondly that the majority of students took the high school course — the Advisory Council decided that the school name should be Ararat High and Technical School". This was accepted, and in 1966 the school now "became dignified with its new title" according to Mr. Morris. This arrangement was recognised as unusual, because the school provided fully for secondary education to Matriculation level and technical to Leaving level. "Very few schools in the State provide these services in the one institution", he said. With this change in name, also came the change from Headmaster to Principal of the school.

Still not everyone was satisfied with this state of education for the students of Ararat and District! As early as March 1964, records show that there were suggestions being made for the need for a separate technical school in Ararat, and when Sir Henry Bolte visited the school in 1967, it was again under discussion as to whether Ararat High and Technical School should remain a combined school or should be separated into two district schools. There became the possibility that Ararat could have a new technical school within the next two years, in close proximity to Ararat High School so that both schools could share certain facilities such as the Assembly Hall and sports grounds. This technical school would be for boys only.

1968 witnessed the last days of the "Ararat High and Technical School" as such, and in 1969 two different schools "Ararat High School" and "Ararat Technical School" will occupy the same site, but with two separate student bodies, 2 separate Principals, and 2 separate Staffs. To many it was a very sad time!

Mr. Morris recalled the troubled times of staff strikes in the early sixties, and could "remember going on strike once himself". The issue of strikes caused a good deal of division within the school and the community. The stoppages by secondary teachers in protest against conditions in the teaching service, occurred in 1965, and again in 1966 when they were joined by the technical staff. Even some students were moved to demonstrate in support of the teachers' stand.

In 1964, on the question of agitation by the teachers for better conditions and more qualified staff, the local paper stated —

*"Teacher agitation is not a bad thing, and parents should be pleased to see that teachers are taking sufficient interest in educational problems to agitate for the things they feel necessary. A silent teaching profession would not be a satisfied one, but an apathetic one."*

Perhaps later, when teacher agitation had turned to a more determined teacher action in the form of strikes, and students were sent home because of lack of staff, this earlier support was not so readily given.

## Sport

Sport had a very strong following and played an important part in the school activities. Actually there was an allotment time-tabled for sport each week.

Matches in the traditional summer and winter sports were held between the school house teams and also between other schools in the district. The district being the Grampians Secondary Schools' Sports Association (G.S.S.S.A.).

In 1963, the G.S.S.S.A. athletic sports were held in Murtoa. Ararat High School and Technical School won the "Ark" Shield. First placegetters were:

J. McGibbony, Open high jump 5 feet 5 inches. R. Leitch, Shot putt 40 feet 6.5 inches. K. Cook, Under 15 100 yards 11.3 seconds; Under 15 220 yards 25.5 seconds. G. Davidson, Under 13 75 yards 9.8 seconds. Boys Relay Under 13, 56.9 seconds (record). Girls Relay Under 16, 55.8 seconds.

At the G.S.S.S.A. swimming sports of the same year, the following students collect firsts:

I. Clark, Under 14 diving. J. McGibbony, Under 16 freestyle. P. Castle, Under 13 breaststroke. B. Tridgell, Under 16 breaststroke. J. Strugnell, Under 15 backstroke. J. Riley, 14 and over diving. Boys Under 13 relay.

A major highlight of 1963 was recorded in the Ararat Advertiser with the following headline "71,000 footy fans see Murray's kick". There was great jubilation at the school and in the town community when Murray Emerson won the Sun Kick competition at the Melbourne Cricket Ground from 11 other finalists. Murray received a silver tray and gold medal for his efforts, as well as 100 pound for the school which he donated towards the cost of a new public address system.



Senior Football 1964 — Back: G. Sladdin, A. Bell, R. Oliver. Middle: C. Pashula, J. Perkins, A. Phelan, B. Avent, B. Traynor, B. Price.

Front: K. Wallis, G. Bligh, R. Flavell, D. Stephens, H. Preston, G. Studd, J. McGibbony.

Absent: M. Emerson, R. Turner, G. Ahpee.

Ararat High and Technical School had outstanding success in the 1964 G.S.S.S.A. athletics winning five shields which were the Earle Shield (boys 15 and 16), the Grampians Shield (boys 16 and over), the Arapilies Shield (girls 16 and over), the Boys Aggregate Shield and the Grand Aggregate. The sports finished on a winning note with school captain Gary Flavell coming first in the last event on the program which was the open mile. One record was set by G. Plant in the boy's under 16 triple jump with a hop, step and jump measuring 37 feet 8.5 inches.



Athletic 1964 — Back: I. Harris, C. Lancaster, M. Binding, J. Clark, L. Nichol, P. Tudor, L. Chegwin, D. Colley, D. Byron, A. Nightingale.

Second Back: S. Mackay, B. Woods, R. McGibbony, C. Quick, R. Flavell, S. Crawford, D. Turner, L. De Raeve, K. Edwards, L. Peters, J. Riley.

Third Back: K. Shannon, M. Shalders, P. Castles, R. Harrison, A. Hewitt, G. Plant, M. McAdie, G. Donaldson, K. Peterson, B. Marx.

Front: J. Perkins, G. Storey, D. Stephens, J. Strugnell, J. McGibbony, L. Lancaster, L. Tepper, R. Marx, K. Wallis.

Sitting: G. Holloway, J. Wilde.



Senior Basketball (Netball) 1964 — Back: A. Rich, G. Gardiner, K. Peterson, B. Marx.

Front: L. Lancaster, J. Strugnell, A. Hinchliffe.

The senior football team became premiers, at last, and recorded the following victories:

Ararat High and Technical School 16.18 (114) defeated Stawell Technical School 1.7 (13). Ararat High and Technical School 18.20 (128) defeated Murtoa High School 3.5 (23). Ararat High and Technical School 11.21 (87) defeated Stawell High School 0.1 (1). Ararat High and Technical School 3.7 (25) defeated Horsham High School 3.5 (23) (Barry Price snapped a goal in the last two minutes). Ararat High and Technical School 12.9 (81) defeated Horsham Technical School 7.3 (45).

The team was coached by Mr. A. Mellors. Rodney Flavell was given the honour of captaining the Wimmera Schoolboy's Football Team. According to the local paper, he was a "brilliant footballer" and deserved to win the Junior Sportsman of the Week Award.

Not to be outdone the senior girl's basketball team (netball today) were also premiers. The team was coached by Miss Thomas and had the following results:

Ararat High and Technical School 57 defeated Murtoa High School 16. Ararat High and Technical School 47 defeated Stawell High School 17. Ararat High and Technical School 45 defeated Horsham High School 33.

At the 1965 G.S.S.S.A. athletics Ararat High and Technical School won the Earle Shield (boys 15 and 16) and came equal first in the Marma Shield (girls under 15 and 16). Inter-school swimming recorded a first when the whole school attended the sports at Horsham. The team finished runners-up to Horsham High School.

Two teams were successful in winning premierships; the senior football team and the senior basketball team. The football team was coached by Mr. Sheehan and the captain was Barry Price.



*Inter-school Athletics (Boys) 1965 — Back Row: C. Lancaster, A. Carmichael, P. Johnson, F. Eade, M. Parsons, R. Cook, P. Wootton, A. Nightingale, R. Salter. Centre Row: R. Shalders, D. Pannan, T. Davis, C. Pashula, G. Studd, A. Boyd, L. Jones, B. Jones. Front Row: A. Hewitt, T. Thomas, S. Blackie, G. Plant, Mr. J. Jones, D. Stephens, J. Fitzgerald, C. Lockhart, R. Flavell.*

Barry would be well remembered not only for being a Victorian centreman but also for his outstanding passing to Peter McKenna at Collingwood. He had an outstanding career at Collingwood, both as rover and centreman.

The basketball team won matches against Horsham, Stawell and Murtoa High Schools. Their coach was Mrs. Davies and captain was J. Strugnell.

A notable feat occurred in the inter-house athletics, R. Cook won six events.



*1st XVIII Football 1965 — Back Row: R. Dohnt, L. Jones, R. Ahpee, T. Thomas, A. Bell, D. Watson, D. Leng. Centre Row: B. Corbett, R. Flavell, A. Hewitt, D. Barr, R. Turner, C. Pashula, A. Finch, J. Fitzgerald. Front Row: G. Studd, D. Stephens, A. Phelan, Mr. M. Sheehan, B. Price (capt.), B. Avent, M. Jensen. Seated: B. Jones.*



*Senior Basketball 1965 — Standing: E. Hambling, K. Edwards, M. Shalders, L. Moore. Sitting: T. Penrose, J. Strugnell (capt.), B. Marx.*

In 1966, G.S.S.S.A. swimming sports were held at Stawell and Ararat High and Technical School did the impossible beating traditional rivals Horsham High School to win the grand aggregate. Individual winners were:

B. Jones, 14 and over diving. T. Davis, Open 100m freestyle; Open 100m backstroke (record); Open 50m butterfly. S. Hearn, Under 13 50m freestyle (record); Under 13 50m backstroke (record); Open 50m butterfly. C. Cocking, Open 100m freestyle (record). A. McMillan, Under 15 50m freestyle. K. Waterson, Under 14 50m freestyle. D. Fitzgerald, Open backstroke. R. Pearson, Under 15 50m backstroke. C. Morley, Under 16 100m backstroke.

It is interesting to note that several swimmers from the sixties still hold records for inter-house swimming that stand today.

*John McGibbony: 14 years freestyle, 31.8 seconds — 1962. Murray Emerson: 13 years freestyle, 33.3 seconds — 1962. Rodney Brink: 12 years freestyle, 32.8 seconds — 1962. Sally Hearn: 13 years freestyle, 33.4 seconds — 1967. John McGibbony: 14 years backstroke, 41.33 seconds — 1962. Graeme Davidson: 13 years breaststroke, 43.03 seconds — 1965.*

*Phillip Castles: 14 years breaststroke, 44.8 seconds — 1965. Sally Hearn: 13 years breaststroke, 44.9 seconds — 1967. Terry Davis: 15 and over butterfly, 33.4 seconds — 1967. Terry Davis: Boys under 15 butterfly, 42.2 seconds — 1965.*

Inter-school athletics were held in Horsham and the team travelled by train. Individual winners were Andrew Webb at shot putt, Elizabeth Hambling at Javelin, Geoff Plant at long jump and Judy Schultz in the 75 yards and 100 yards.

The school had a number of successful teams in 1966. For the third successive year, the senior football team were premiers. The teams success, according to the school magazine, could



*Senior Football 1966 — Back Row: C. Pashula, P. Dohnt, J. Fitzgerald, D. Leng. Centre Row: D. Watson, R. Flavell, A. Smith, P. Brooks, G. Sladdin, P. Castles. Front Row: D. Stephens, C. Lockhart, B. Jones, T. Phelan, S. Blackie, G. Studd, T. Thomas.*

be attributed to three factors:

- ★ ability to combine well.
- ★ the coaching of Mr. Sheehan and
- ★ experience gained by the team members in Association teams and Ararat Football Club.

Following the football teams example, the basketball team also won the premiership again. The team was coached by Mrs. Davies and Mrs. McMillan and recorded the following victories.

Ararat High and Technical School 68 defeated Murtoa High School 5. Ararat High and Technical School 54 defeated Stawell High School 17. Ararat High and Technical School 36 defeated Horsham High School 27.

The senior baseball team were premiers; team members being P. Farrish, B. Davis, P. Davis, G. Harman, G. Ahpee, D. Paman, B. Reid, I. Hodgson and J. Walker. The Team was coached by Mr. Gephart and they defeated Stawell Technical School, Horsham Technical School and Horsham High School.



Senior Basketball 1966 — Standing (left to right): K. Edwards, B. Marx, K. Waterson, S. Clarke, C. Quick, E. Hambling, H. Morrison.



Junior Softball 1966 — Back Row: E. Wilkinson, M. Wellington, S. Hearn, S. Morris, C. Baker.  
Front Row: J. Wilde, M. Padgett, L. Nichol, K. Waterston, C. Moorfoot.

Junior football also won a premiership and recorded good victories in all matches.

Ararat High and Technical School 12.13 (85) defeated Stawell Technical School 6.13 (49). Ararat High and Technical School 22.13 (145) defeated Murtoa High School 1.1 (7). Ararat High and Technical School 14.16 (100) defeated Stawell High School 1.0 (6). Ararat High and Technical School 10.13 (73) defeated Horsham High School 0.4 (4). Ararat High and Technical School 18.22 (130) defeated Horsham Technical School 4.0 (24).

The final winning team for 1966 was the junior softball team, whose coach was Mrs. Davies. Matches played and the results were:

Ararat High and Technical School 34 defeated Murtoa High School 11. Ararat High and Technical School 34 defeated Stawell High School 29. Ararat High and Technical School 22 defeated Horsham High School 9.

In 1967, the senior cricket XI defeated Horsham High School to win the G.S.S.A. premiership. Ararat High battled first and made 5 for 139 from 29 overs. Batsmen who figured prominently were Jason Gwilt 47 not out and Peter Christie 36. When Horsham High went into bat, their openers quickly made 55 runs without loss and they seemed to have the match in their grasp. However, a great fast bowling performance by Trevor Thomas and some smart fielding by Terry Davis and Peter Christie retrieved the situation for Ararat. In a tense finish Trevor Thomas finally bowled the last Horsham batsman with their total at 122, resulting in a win for Ararat by 5 wickets. Successful bowlers were Trevor Thomas 5 for 45 and Charles Pashula 3 for 24.



Junior Football 1966 — Back Row: A. Ferguson, G. Kent, A. Templeton, R. Walker, L. Price, R. Jones.  
Third Row: R. Clarke, W. Grant, B. Tait, P. Dohnt, L. Flavell, P. Murdoch, C. Lancaster.  
Second Row: P. Woonton, J. Clark, S. Stewart, Y. Bayer, G. Murray, R. Cook, P. Johnstone, B. Shalders.  
Front Row: D. Faneco, L. Dunn, T. Davis, G. Davidson, D. Waterston, G. Castles, G. McPherson.



Cricket Team 1967



Senior Football 1967



House Captains 1967

Both the senior basketball and senior football teams again won premierships. During the year, 70 high school boys tried out for the Wimmera schoolboy's football team and five were successful. These being Geoff Castles, Ray Cook, Phillip Johnstone, Kevin Dohnt and Greg Kent. Ray Cook was chosen to represent Victoria in the under 15 schoolboys team to play in Tasmania; he was the first Ararat student to be selected for such an honour. The Victorian team won the carnival.

In the 1967 G.S.S.S.A. athletics, two students broke records which still stand today. R. Cook, boys under 14 years discus 34.98 metres and G. Kent, boys under 14 years high jump 1.562 metres.

The years roll on, the team members and coaches change but the results remain the same. In 1968 for the fifth consecutive year the senior football team and senior netball teams won premierships. A truly remarkable effort.

Senior softball won a premiership and in G.S.S.S.A. swimming, Sally Hearn, Susan Hearn and Anne McMillan all gained first places. In G.S.S.S.A. athletics Geoff McIntosh won the open high jump with a record jump of 6 feet 1 inch.

No doubt there were many others who achieved outstanding results in sport and they are also to be congratulated in bringing honour to themselves and to Ararat High School.



*Girls' Senior Basketball 1968 — Back Row: B. Marx, K. Waterston, M. Wellington, C. Quick, L. Nicol, S. Morris. Seated: Mrs. L. Long, E. Hambling.*



*Senior Football 1968 — Back Row: J. Clarke, W. Grant, G. Hucker, K. Dohnt, L. Mooney, R. Cook, R. Cooper. Second Back: G. Corbett, P. Gemmola, P. Woonton, T. Thomas, A. Webb, G. Sellwood, P. Christie, L. Dunn. Front Row: G. Castles, P. Bell, D. Robinson (capt.), Mr. R. Lewis (coach), G. McIntosh (vice-capt.), S. Stewart, I. Murray.*



*Girls' Senior Softball 1968 — Back Row: E. Wilkinson, H. Wilkinson, G. Davis, M. Wellington, V. Curran, E. Hambling. Front Row: S. Morris, B. Marx, Mrs. L. Long, K. Waterston, L. Nicol. Seated Front: C. Moorfoot.*

## Conclusion

This era saw a completely new approach to education. The many changes which Mr. Morris put into place during his term as Principal of the school, only served to strengthen the view that he was a man of action, strong views, and new ideas.





# **WINDS OF CHANGE**

The James Years (1969-1981)

By Judith Smith



ally decreased its number of buildings when the Technical School was fully established on its present site and the 'portable' classrooms were removed. With the movement of the technical component came a decline in enrolments at the High School with a high percentage of female students. At this time, Ararat Technical School could only offer places to male students. This was to change in 1977 with a move to enrol female students from Form 3 onwards. By the media reports of this time, this move had considerable community support. By 1980 the Technical School was able to offer a full 6 year secondary course to both male and female students — a move looked upon favourably by both the Ararat Technical and High Schools at the time.

From the time span 1969 to 1981, the physical changes within Ararat High School had been quite dramatic and congratulations must be extended to the Advisory Council and High School staff present at the time.



George James

As Australia ended its decade of the 60's amidst world conflicts, alternative life styles, and in increasing demand for change, so Ararat High School entered a new era with Principal Mr. George James to lead the school in its development for the next thirteen years.

In the 1969 School Magazine "Kurinda", Mr. James wrote his Principal's report as follows—

*"It does not matter that the goals we set ourselves are unattainable. We should not be satisfied to go through life at ground level, to have no purpose beyond the satisfaction of everyday needs."*

When reflecting on the thirteen years Mr. James saw as leader of the school, he and his staff undoubtedly lived and planned with these words constantly in mind.

Ararat High School was united with a technical component at this stage and the grounds were literally covered with 'portable' classrooms and coped with more than 600 students within the present boundaries and with far less luxuries than we have now in the 1980's

By 1969 the Technical School section which had been administered jointly in Years 7 and 8, then under two administrators from Years 9 to 12, was to be a separate entity and so evolved the Ararat Technical School. This was a huge move within Ararat, as one section of the school so directly influenced the other.

Where to locate the Ararat Technical School was a long and detailed project. It wasn't until 1972 that the High School actu-

Minutes from the 1969 Advisory Council meetings show a strong determination to improve the grounds and buildings at Ararat High School. Mr. James was an enthusiastic 'builder' with dreams of the future as to what schools should offer students and staff. As such, he and the Council began at the grass root level with improvement where they worked, with the aim of making the High School a complex to be proud of.

1970 saw the sealing of netball and tennis courts, the laying of a hockey field and the engineering of the Benbow Street Oval. With these improvements came the unique move where, upon application from the Advisory Council, the Ararat City Council allowed the closure of Benbow Street and it remains closed to this day. Without this the students would have had a very limited access to the Benbow Street Oval and its constant use of today may never have evolved.

With the high percentage of inclement weather days in Ararat, there was an ever present demand for undercover areas around the school. More of these were built including improvements to the canteen. By 1973 a definite move was made by Ararat High School for a gymnasium. Advisory Council correspondence shows the growing frustration of lack of finance and by 1976, even after instituting regular fund raising days with the gymnasium in mind, the plans were shelved. Ideas were then shown for extensions to the Assembly Hall and by 1978 work was commencing on this. It shows the single minded determination of those who made the decisions at the time, to constantly improve upon what was available no matter what deterrents came about.

The ground improvements were not only limited to school use, as the community were encouraged to use the facilities available. Football, netball and tennis teams within Ararat were only too glad of the opportunity to do so.

With the actual classroom situation itself, life was not a bed of roses. The school, as an independent body, were powerless to make the massive structural changes necessary to provide classrooms to cope with the ever changing education philosophies.

A visit by the then Minister of Education, Mr. L. Thompson in 1978, clearly showed that teaching classes in the store room, laundry and corridor were not ideal surrounds. Since then, major structural changes have taken place within Ararat High School and continue to this very day in 1988.

Social trends of the 1970's show themselves in Ararat High School as they will in any progressive learning centre. As early as 1971 Mr. James wrote in Kurinda.

*"The aim of education must be to develop individuals who are open to change. . . The goal must be to develop a society in which people can live more comfortably with change than with rigidity. . ."*

Students' work, as it appeared in Kurinda and the short lived school newspaper called "Durran Durran", showed clearly the trends of the time. Vietnam was an emotional issue in the early 70's as was war and violence in general. The difficulties of the generation gap — not only adult and child but teenager and

younger siblings. By 1971 apartheid was a strong issue as were the difference in ideals for life. By the end of the seventies, the trend seems to swing to unemployment — and future for the youth — in some degree to the hopelessness of what was ahead.

Photographs show the fashion trends with long haired males and females. The extremes in dress of micro mini skirts, to long 'granny dresses'. No shoes at all to high blocked 'ant killer' shoes. Extremes seem to be what life was about for the youth of 70's, and rightly recorded at Ararat High School.

- ★ the beginning of Personal Development Courses for Form 5 students in 1973 seem to be very well received by the students, staff and community.
- ★ the trend towards healthy eating by the end of the 70's was reflected in 1978 with the notice that sweets, cakes and iced buns were no longer to be sold by the school canteen.
- ★ students at Ararat High School have always been encouraged to broaden their horizons and the Rotary Exchange students of the 1970's certainly encouraged that. From as far afield as Canada and South Africa, the exchange students brought about their own peculiar reactions from staff and students of Ararat High School. One article by a South African exchange student even brought forth community reaction within the local media. According to Mr. James from his 1973 Kurinda report, "From the kindergarten to the university the basic skills taught should be those associated with study and discovery ability to think logically and power to express thought clearly."



*Year 12 1973*

The importance of local press to Ararat High School can never be overstated and in the 13 years of Principalship Mr. James saw this clearly, along with the importance to express thoughts so they could be understood. Media coverage of a school's programs allows community involvement which was a definite trend of the 1970's. New programs and developments within Ararat as well as the ever consistent Advisory Council and Ladies Welfare Committee, showed clearly that schools were no longer isolate institutions within a community.

In 1973 a Parent, Teacher and Citizen Association was initiated with the aim of encouraging community interest in educational philosophies and learning centres such as Ararat High School. By 1974 the Ararat Education Centre opened. At first it was on a small scale but gradually expanded with government grants the following year and the centre developed to become a bonus for staff and students in the Ararat area.

In 1977, definite moves were made towards extending the roles of Schools' Advisory Councils. Regarding the muted changes, Mr. James comment in Kurinda of the same year was "The newly constituted School Councils and their increased powers are a positive step towards greater involvement in schools on the local level. By 1979 the Ararat High School Council was made up of —

- ★ 6 people appointed by the Regional Director
- ★ 5 parents
- ★ 2 teachers
- ★ 2 elected members of the Ladies Welfare Club
- ★ 1 member of Ararat Shire Council
- ★ 1 member of Ararat City Council
- ★ the Principal who was allowed no voting rights.

1979 also saw the Council meetings opened to the public for a trial period.



*Staff 1973*

One aspect of Ararat High School that became quite clear to a researcher is that the school staff, the School Council and the Ladies Welfare Committee always worked for the betterment of the school and with rare diversions, they all worked cohesively.

Throughout Victoria in the 1970's, the need to change educational philosophies and in doing so, the actual physical effects with schools in the state brought about widespread reactions from all aspects of society. Ararat High School was not immune to these difficulties.

From the outset of the 1970's the proposed changes to schools from the Education Department and the lack of acceptance by the teacher unions created many problems. From the local media coverage and the Ararat High School Council notes of the time, Ararat had its share of reactionaries. Changes which were the source of conflict included the structure of the Teachers' Tribunal to one teacher representative sitting at a time, the use of 'unqualified' teachers in a period of teacher shortage, reducing class sizes, inspectoral system for promotion, teaching conditions, and the quality of education.

One major area Ararat High School had problems with was adequate staffing. By 1972 the situation had reached a stage where staff positions were openly advertised in the hope of easing the staff workloads of the time. Class sizes of 36 with inadequate space to house classes and the early dismissal of town dwellers were some of the methods developed to survive staff shortages. Consequently teacher unions, the school councils and the local media all became involved in trying to remedy the situation.

When a school is working within the confines of teacher shortages and the constant political bickering within the Education Department, schools such as Ararat High were forced to cope with these problems. Needless to say, the situation within the school and the community had become strained.

Other educational philosophy changes included methods of staff promotions, class size, the inspectoral system, staff dismissal procedures, short term staffing procedures, and many more. All of these proposed changes brought about varied reactions within the community of Ararat and some emotional situations developed both within the school and Ararat in general. However, as with all periods of change, solutions are found eventually and this was the case at Ararat High School. These solutions may not have always been easy or quick but they did come about with everyone aware that in their own way the betterment of the school as a total unit was what counted.

One ongoing effect of the constant drive within Education for change was an unfortunate lowering of some public opinion both of schools and teachers in general. This festering lack of support from some areas of the community finally came to a head in the early 1980's when the new Principal of the time had to address the issue of falling student numbers and rapid staff turnover. These problems were not Ararat's alone. Statewide, educationalists asked to be given the chance to settle down and get on with the job at hand.



*Prefects 1970*



*Form Captains 1970*



*Student Representative Council 1970*

## Curriculum

One aspect of the school curriculum that has always been strong over the years is the encouraging and broadening students horizons. School camps and excursions became established in the 1970's with the Form 1 camp to Halls Gap, the Form 4 excursion to Melbourne and the Form 5 trip to Wyperfeld.

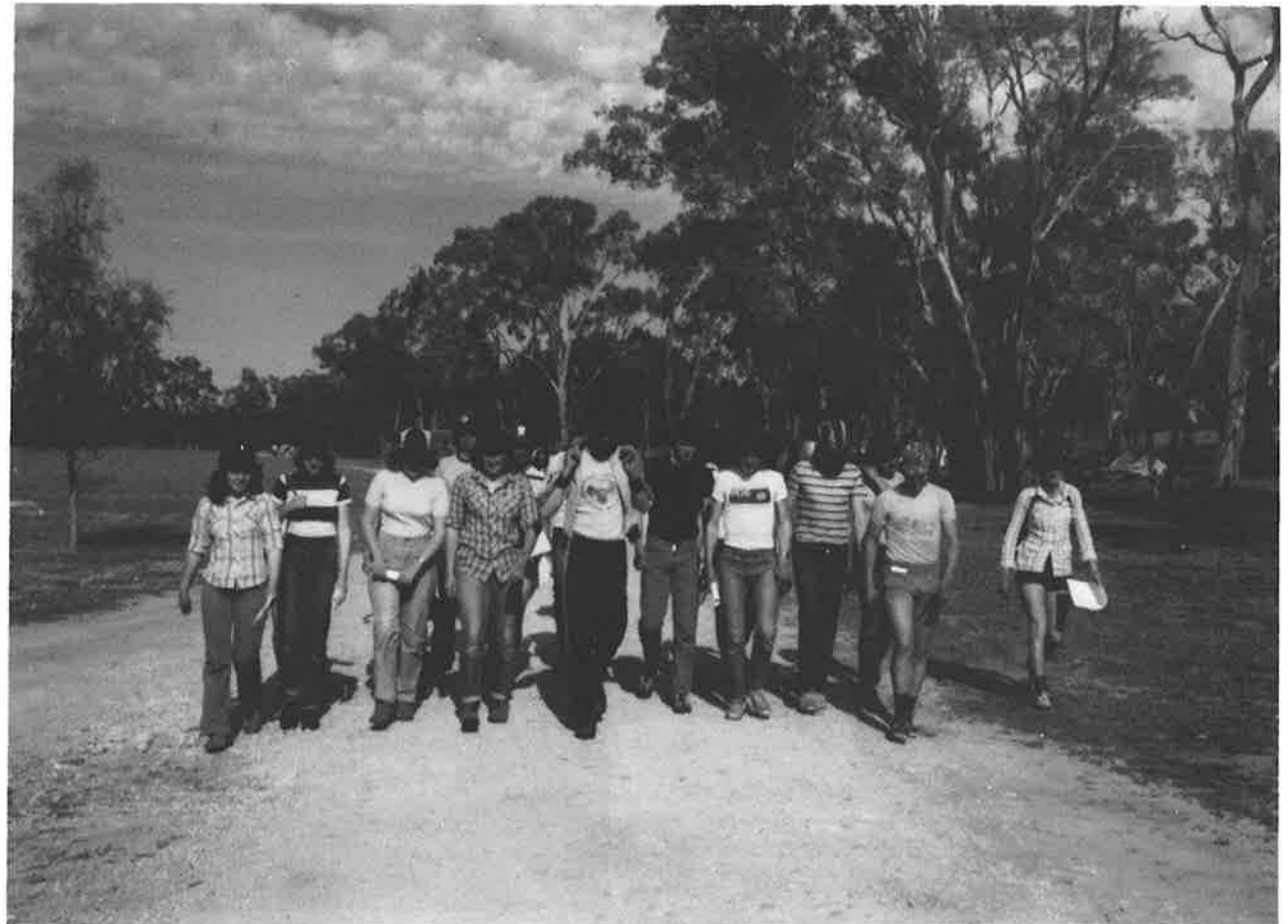
By 1974 the Duke of Edinburgh scheme made a tentative start at Ararat High School and with an all male line up. By 1981, 30 students completed the course with a firm mixture of male and females. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme had become an institution within Ararat High School and the majority of Year 11 students appreciated the opportunity to attempt this demanding course.

Sport for better competition and social reasons has always been a strong point at Ararat High School and the 1970's saw it strengthen even more with the introduction of such sports as

golf and cycling. The media coverage emphasises the success of the Ararat High School sporting teams as well as some individual performers who progressed to state and national levels in their particular sport or sports. But no matter whether you came first or last, the actual involvement in a sporting activity is what was encouraged. By the end of the 1970's, a change to the sporting system was made within the school and this saw a return to the House Sports System — the Houses being Grampians, Sturgeon, Chalambar and Pyrenees.

Maintaining of high academic standards has always been obvious at Ararat High School. The 1970's brought changes within the system of educating students and Ararat High School made curriculum changes to ensure the best of chances for all students.

In 1970, Ararat High School was assessed to determine whether it maintained its Level A standing. Without Level A, the school was unable to assess its own students at Form V.



*Wyperfield Camp 1978*

However the High School did retain a Level A standing and in 1971 issued its own Fifth Form Certificates to students.

1976 saw the extending of Secretarial Studies into Year 12, encouraging the continuation of education for those wishing to work in the secretarial field.

In 1977, the school was divided into 3 divisions. Junior, Middle and Senior schools with staff allocated to each. The aim was to promote staff and student contact and a greater interaction of ideas.

By 1980 lessons were changed from 40 minutes to 50 minutes as studies showed 50 minutes to be of greater learning value to students. Graphic communication was taught to Year 7 students whereas it has been reserved for senior students only. History and geography became a joint subject of community studies at Year 9 and 10. There was to be a modification of Year 11 so that not all students were to be assumed to be continuing to Year 12. By 1981, language had become an integral part of the school curriculum with such celebrations as French Bastille Day.

The Year 12 course had gone from being an externally assessed Matriculation year to now offering two levels of subjects — Groups A and B. By 1981 Ararat High School was offering 3 Group B subjects in the aim of encouraging students to remain at school and furthering their education.



*Year 12 1975*

Music within the school has had an interrupted flow through due to the high staff turnovers. By 1976 a school band was established with a few enthusiastic members of students and staff. This evolved to quite a considerable movement within the school and by 1978 there were 19 registered band members and the numbers continued on into the 1980's, always dependant on the availability of staff at the time.

Community involvement was encouraged with the students themselves and by 1972 students worked in the district based 'Meals on Wheels'. This was widely appreciated both within the school and the community. The local newspaper emphasised the importance of this type of youth involvement to expand individuals horizons and for the general feeling of well being that it generates.

The importance of allowing students the opportunity to 'see what the real world is all about' was recognized quite early by Ararat High School. In 1974 the State Government finalised their Work Experience Act so that schools could make definite and legal plans for Work Experience Programs within the curriculum. By 1976 the chance to work for a short time with the community was a favorite aspect of the senior school students' workload and has continued in the years since then.

Driver Education classes were introduced in 1974 and were greeted enthusiastically by the community. The newspaper of



*Staff 1975*



*Tasmanian Excursion 1975*

the time rallied to support the move, emphasising that all students who undertook these classes as a part of school curriculum, has passed their drivers test to achieve their licences when they reached 18 years of age. Driver education has continued throughout the years as a positive aspect of education widening its scope in the 1970's.

Kurinda reported the retirement and special services of staff members over the 13 years studied here. These include the 1969 retirement of Mrs. H. Kneebone after 9 years of service to Ararat High School. The Deputy Principal, Mr. Thomas retired in the same year after 12 years of service and "Kurinda" sadly noted his passing away in 1972. Mr. Robson worked at the school for 27 years before his retirement. 1981 saw the retirement after 20 years of service of Mrs. M. Hickey.

Towards the end of 1981, Mrs. Mary Hickey retired from the teaching service after having spent the last twenty years of her career at Ararat High School. In 1967, Mrs. Hickey became Senior Mistress, a position she held for many years before becoming Deputy principal in 1978. Mrs. Hickey's impact on Ararat High School is best described in the following extract taken from Mr. James, Principal's Report in the 1981 "Kurinda":

"A few words can not do justice to Mrs. Hickey's contribution to this school. Those students fortunate enough to have been taught by her have benefited from her excellent teaching. But her influence goes far beyond the classroom. With her genuine interest and concern for her students, she has commanded their respect, co-operation and admiration. So frequently over the years they sought her sound advice and guidance. A person of integrity, she has always shown absolute loyalty to this school. Mrs. Hickey will be remembered with affection by all associated with Ararat High School!"

Some of the more unusual occurrences that research has noted during this 13 years include the following.

1. The following students of Ararat High School undertook all or part of their secondary education here during the James years, continued through with tertiary studies only to return to Ararat High School as members of staff. These include Kerrie (Bryant) McMahon — Domestic Science, Michael Spalding — Physical Education, Sheryl (Shalders) Lugg — Art, Geoff Parkinson — Mathematics, Kerrie (Fenwick) Rees — Art.
2. Some members of staff were appointed to Ararat High School and set out to try greener pastures either overseas or at other schools, only to return to Ararat High School. Included with these are Barbara (Lyons) Shannon, Rick Thomas, Sheryl Lugg, Linda Crewe, Tony Crewe, not all returned before 1981 but they have returned!

The years 1976 and 1977 could be remembered for the lingering taste Ararat had for the increasing number of International terrorist bombings. On February 13, Ararat High School had to be evacuated due to a telephone bomb scare. The school was searched but no bomb was found — thank goodness!



*Staff 1970*



*Staff 1977*



*Year 12 1979*



*Staff 1969, Leo King, Lyn Cowper and Ian McGregor.*



*Year 12 1981*

The following year Ararat High School had to be cleared twice as a direct result of bomb threats. Luckily they were all hoaxes and the offenders were reported to have been apprehended.

School enrolments went from over 600 students in 1971 to 365 in 1981. This was, for a number of reasons, including the State wide fall in the number of secondary school students, and the opening of the Ararat Technical School to encompass a six year secondary course to male and female students. Ararat Technical School, by 1979, had opened a whole new vista in education in Ararat. Technical education was being offered to girls and boys in new surroundings, within a sphere where industrial action did not have as high a media profile as it did within the High School system. Technical Schools operated on a different basis to High Schools so the need for change was less — this brought about a more favourable reaction from the media and the community. So while the Ararat Technical School numbers increased, the Ararat High School worked through its problems with a decreasing student enrolment. From here on, Ararat would be serviced by two state run co-educational secondary education institutions which was the beginning of a whole new era.



*Year 7 corroboree 1981*



*Staff members Don Heath, Ian Meikle, and Glenys Heath 1969.*



*Walkathon 1977: Clea Lewis, Fiona Vinicombe, Helen Motton, Jayne Atherton, Tracey Fox, Helen Fenn, Sue Binding.*





*Staff 1980*

## Sport

1969 saw Ararat High continue their dominance of senior football in the G.S.S.S.A. In their first match, Ararat High School 13.6.84 defeated Stawell Technical School 3.6.24 and this put them into the grand final against Horsham Technical School. Ararat High School 9.5.59 defeated Horsham Technical School 5.2.32. Members of the side were P. Rodger, D. Faneco, C. Lancaster, R. Cook, J. Duff, N. Welsh, G. Kent, R. Lloyd, R. Potter, G. Hucker, S. Stewart, A. Webb, I. Hurd, D. Byron, G. Waterhouse, W. Grant, G. Castles, B. Grinter (captain), P. Christie, P. Bell and P. Gemmola. The coach was Mr. R. Lewis.



*Senior Football 1969 — Back Row: R. Rodger, D. Faneco, C. Lancaster, R. Cook, J. Duff, N. Welsh, G. Kent. Middle Row: R. Lloyd, R. Potter, G. Hucker, S. Stewart, A. Webb, I. Hurd, D. Byron, G. Waterhouse. Front Row: W. Grant, G. Castles, B. Grinter (capt.), Mr. R. Lewis, P. Christie, P. Bell, P. Gemmola.*

The girls senior netball was also successful in winning a premiership and recorded good victories in every match. Ararat High School 41 defeated Murtoa High School 0, Ararat High School 43 defeated Stawell High School 10, Ararat High School 28 defeated Horsham High School 20.

Team players were I. Scherger, C. Quick, M. Wellington, K. Millard, H. Bellis, A. McMillan, K. McKinnis, L. Nicol and R. Connarty with team coach, Miss Marchbank.

The only other premiership team in 1969 was the boys table tennis team of P. McIntosh, I. Armstrong, L. Price and E. Thompson and they played the following matches — Ararat High School 3 defeated Stawell Technical School 0, Ararat High School 3 defeated Ararat Technical School 0, Ararat High School 3 defeated Stawell High School 0, Horsham High School 2 defeated Ararat High School 1. In the final Ararat High School 2 defeated Horsham Technical School 1.



*Girls' Senior Basketball — Back Row: Miss Marchbank, I. Scherger, C. Quick, M. Wellington, K. Millard, H. Bellis, A. McMillan. Sitting: K. McKinnis, L. Nicol, R. Connarty.*



*Table Tennis 1969 — Back Row: A. Phillips, P. McIntosh, E. Gracan, I. Armstrong, S. Rundell. Second Row: V. Sellwood, J. Grant, C. O'Reilly, K. Kranz. Front Row: L. Price, J. Staples, J. Waters, J. Perry, E. Thompson.*

Several teachers distinguished themselves during 1970 in sport. Mr. Layh won the Victorian 15 mile championship and was runner-up in the 10 mile championship but more importantly he won the school cross country race. Mr. Heath and Mr. Hearn played regularly with Ararat's first eighteen. Mr. McGregor won the Ararat table tennis association A grade singles and doubles and mixed doubles (with his wife) titles. Mr. Lewis won the Grampians Cricket Association bowling averages and Mr. Jones was unbeaten in the 1969-70 season in the Ararat Tennis Association.

It was also a year that saw the senior cricket team, after being narrowly defeated for a number of years, finally win the premiership in a convincing manner.

Mr. Lewis was team coach and results of games played were: Ararat High School 4/152 defeated Stawell High School 9/64 Ararat High School 6/118 defeated Stawell Technical School 66, Ararat High School 6/178 defeated Ararat Technical School 91. Final: Ararat High School 6/165 defeated Horsham High School 6/95.



*Senior Cricket 1970*



*Junior Cricket 1970*

The junior cricket team also won the premiership and put it down to continuous training and hard work put in by coach Mr. Yelland and the team itself. Results of matches were: Ararat High School 7/106 defeated Stawell High School 20, Ararat High School 6/87 defeated Ararat Technical School 42. Final: Ararat High School 68 defeated Horsham High School 55.

The boys basketball team narrowly won its first match against Horsham Technical School by two points and then went on to comfortably defeat Ararat Technical School, 40 points to 2. The final match to decide premiers was played against Horsham High School, which Ararat won by 20 points.

Mr. Lewis again coached the senior football team to a premiership. The team was not put under any real pressure which was reflected in the scores: Ararat High School 12.12.84 defeated Stawell High School 0.0.0, Ararat High School 9.6.60 defeated Horsham Technical School 5.1.31. Final: Ararat High School 7.4.46 defeated Stawell Technical School 4.5.29.

Team members were P. Rodger, L. Price, A. Brophy, R. Lloyd, N. Welsh, N. Hurd, D. Faneco, W. Grant, L. Power, S. Stewart, C. Edwards, C. Lancaster, R. Cook, R. Smyth, R. Potter, I. Calvert, G. Kent, G. Dreher, G. Castles and T. Mooney.

During the years 1969-1975, Ararat High School had a number of outstanding swimmers at inter-house and G.S.S.S.A. levels. The extent of their talent can be fully realised in the number of their records that still stand today.



*House Captains 1969 — Michael Sawitsch, Les Power, G. Castles, T. Mooney, Kerryn McAdie, Sue Randell, Karen Graham, L. Wilson, Mr. Grieve, Ray Cook, Shane Stewart, Andrew Webb, P. Christie, Ann McMillan, Laurace Nichol, K. Hope, Miss Marshbank.*

### Inter-house Swimming

*Wayne Brasser: 15 years freestyle, 31.3 seconds — 1975.  
Jennifer Anderson: Open freestyle, 32.6 seconds — 1973.  
Michelle Naughton: 13 years freestyle, 42.0 seconds — 1971.  
14 years freestyle, 41.1 seconds — 1972. 15 years butterfly, 38.2 seconds — 1972. 15 years backstroke, 41.4 seconds — 1973. 16 years backstroke, 39.6 seconds — 1974.  
David Harricks: Open backstroke, 37.9 seconds — 1972.  
Brian Aggett: 12 years backstroke, 43.5 seconds — 1970. 12 years breast stroke, 44.8 seconds — 1970.  
Ann Adams: Open backstroke, 41.4 seconds — 1975.  
Lynette Morley: 12 years backstroke, 43.7 seconds — 1970.  
Alan Brasser: Open breast stroke, 42.0 seconds — 1974.  
Ian Blizzard: 13 years breast stroke, 47.3 seconds — 1971. 15 years breast stroke, 42.4 seconds — 1973.*

A number of athletic records for the same period also still stand.

### House Athletics

*D. Osmond: Girls 12 years 100 metres, 14.0 seconds — 1972.  
Girls 12 years 200 metres, 30.2 seconds — 1972.  
J. Flavell: Girls 13 years 200 metres, 29.9 seconds — 1972.  
R. Homburg: Girls 17 years 200 metres, 28.6 seconds — 1972.  
D. Grellet: Boys 12 years 200 metres, 29.6 seconds — 1971.  
N. Bellis: Boys 14 years & under 800 metres, 2 minutes 30.2 seconds — 1975.*



*Girls' Athletics 1969 — Back Row: D. Webster, P. Bond, J. Miller, M. Crawford.  
Second Row: V. Wilde, D. Shalders, J. Faneco, D. Latta, S. Jackson, K. McKinnis, R. Honburg.  
Third Row: K. Schotte, M. Weidermann, K. Millard, C. Quick, W. MacInnes, C. Traynor, L. Nicol, I. Scherger.  
Front Row: S. Shalders, H. Bellis, J. Watts, M. Wellington, A. McMillan, L. Morley, S. Skobar.*

*P. Lugg: Girls 15 years discus, 24.11 metres — 1971.  
G. Castle: Boys 17 years discus, 33.44 metres — 1969.  
P. Bond: Girls 14 years javelin, 20.19 metres — 1970.  
L. Morris: Girls 15 years javelin, 23.65 metres — 1971.  
C. Quick: Girls 16 & 17 years javelin, 25.61 metres — 1969.  
B. Parker: Boys 14 years javelin, 36.50 metres — 1970.  
R. Kink: Boys 15 years javelin, 40.2 metres — 1971.  
T. Mooney: Boys 17 years javelin, 46.95 metres — 1972.  
P. Lugg: 15 years discus, 24.11 metres — 1971.  
G. Castle: 17 years discus, 33.44 metres — 1969.  
P. Bond: 14 years javelin, 20.19 metres — 1970.  
L. Morris: 15 years javelin, 23.65 metres — 1971.  
C. Quick: 16 & 17 years javelin, 25.61 metres — 1969.  
B. Parker: 14 years javelin, 36.50 metres — 1970.  
R. Kink: 15 years javelin, 40.20 metres — 1971.  
T. Mooney: 17 years javelin, 46.95 metres — 1972.*

### G.S.S.S.A. Athletics

*W. McInnes: Girls under 14 years 100 metres, 13.3 seconds — 1973.  
A. Pitcher: Boys under 15 years 100 metres, 12.10 seconds — 1970.  
G. McIntosh: Boys under 21 years high jump, 1.85 metres — 1968.*



*Senior Football 1970*

Three students from Ararat High school went on to play V.F.L. football. Renee Kink, who spent three years at the Ararat High School before going to Melbourne High School, played his first game for Collingwood in a final at the age of sixteen. Kink played many matches for Collingwood and had the ability to dominate games from centre half forward. Neil Peart went on to play district cricket for Collingwood and represented both Collingwood and Richmond in the Victorian Football League. Chris Dalkin was an excellent footballer and cricketer and played senior football games with Collingwood.



*Senior Netball 1971*



*Junior Football 1971*



*Junior Cricket 1971*



*Swimming team 1971*



*Senior Football 1972 — Rene Kink is pictured third left, middle row*



*Athletic team 1972*



*Swimming team 1972*



*Volleyball 1972*

The first event of the swimming sports in 1976 was the boys open 50 metres which Wayne Brassier won in 29.3 seconds — an outstanding record that still stands. He went on to win four events for the day. In G.S.S.S.A. Ararat High School came fourth in A grade boys and second in A grade girls.

In athletics, Ararat came fourth in A grade girls and second in B grade boys.

Highlights of 1977 included four successes in the winter carnival — boys squash and girls squash (both of which reflected the high standard of the sport in Ararat at the time), girls golf and senior girls hockey.

In 1978, a new swimmer arrived at the school — Robyn Gason. In her age group, she collected four seconds at G.S.S.S.A. and gave promise for the future. The girls did very well coming second to Horsham in A grade, while the boys battled (fourth in B grade). In athletics, the boys finished second in B grade, with the girls fourth in A grade. The results were encouraging, particularly among the junior sprinters where Stuart McKinnis, Peter Murray and Shane Wilde won the 12 year, 13 year and 14 year 100 metres respectively.



Winter Carnival teams 1977

In the winter carnival, our Year 7 boys basketball team's performance was outstanding winning all preparatory matches and then lost the grand final 32-38 to an older team. Frank Shevlin won the cross country. This was in addition to his superb win in the 1500 metres at G.S.S.S.A. Frank's record of four minutes 17.8 seconds still stands and he has gone on to be an outstanding road runner, being a key runner in the successful Manchester Unity team in the Otway Classic.

The senior football team revived tradition by defeating Horsham High School 5.11.41 to 3.0.18 in the grand final. For the second year in a row, we won both boys and girls squash. Mr. McGregor was pleased to return with the seniors boys table tennis team who were premiers for the sixth year in succession. Darren Flavell and C. Graham won four out of six doubles, whilst Warren Park and Wayne Batterham won all their singles. Warren went on to represent Victoria in later years while Wayne was outstanding in all racket sports.

Ararat senior girls table tennis also won, to complete a very successful carnival in both participation and premierships.

In 1979, Ararat continued to advance in girls swimming — second in A grade. The team now had several strong swimmers. The boys won B grade amid great excitement.

In athletics, school records were broken by Susan Homburg (200 metres) and Karen Brennan (shot putt). Susan was a strong runner at G.S.S.S.A. whilst Karen did well in shot putt, javelin and discus. However, Karen's major field was tennis, which she and Sharon Batterham dominated throughout their time at school. In G.S.S.S.A., the girls came fourth in A grade with the boys second in B grade.

At winter carnival, Ararat High School boys won junior basketball and squash, while the girls won junior volleyball and senior badminton.

In 1980 again, the girls led by Robyn and Sandra Gason, Michelle Collins and Janine Taylor finished second in A grade, while the boys finished fourth in A grade. In athletics, the boys were fourth in B grade with the girls fourth in A grade. Some big names from this year were Christine Start (14 years high jump first, 100m second, long jump second), Brett Holcombe who later had great success at the Amputee Games, won the 100 metres and 200 metres, while the school won three relays.

In winter carnival, the school won junior boys basketball and squash, while the girls won senior tennis and volleyball.

It is interesting to reflect on the swimmers of 1981. Michelle Collins still holds the open and 16 year house breast stroke records. Robyn Gason holds 14 and 15 year breast stroke records and 14 and 15 year freestyle records. Sandra Gason still holds the 15 and under butterfly and 12 year 50 metre freestyle.

In athletics, we won three high jumps at G.S.S.S.A. Brett Holcombe jumped 1.47 metres. Brett also won long jump, triple jump, 100 metres and 200 metres.

Christine won 400 metres, and again was second in 100 and 200 metres. Ararat won the boys B grade shield and came third in girls B grade.

## Conclusion

The years 1969 to 1981 brought many trials, tribulations and triumphs. Education was an everchanging phenomena and Ararat High School as with all schools in Victoria at the time, was learning to grow and broaden its horizons. Mr. George James' final report to "Kurinda" as Principal of Ararat High School, before taking up his position of Geelong High School, read as follows

*"It has been a privilege to have been Principal of Ararat High School. In saying farewell, I know that I will always have a very special interest in this school and its supporting community. Best wishes to all for the future".*

So began the decade of the 1980's. The lessons of the 1970's well learnt and experience gained Ararat High School passed through to another era.....

**PERSONALITIES MAY CHANGE  
BUT THE SPIRIT DOESN'T**

The Whately and Kitchen Years

(1982-1988)

By Lois Reynolds



The eighties ushered in a period of uncertainty. The effects of the rapid social and economic changes taking place became apparent throughout the community. Schools throughout Victoria found themselves catapulted into a rethinking of their aims and objectives so as to be able to cope with the changing attitudes of employers in particular and the community in general. Doubts and uncertainty as to what the system was achieving became the order of the day. Ararat High School of course was not immune to the turmoil taking place and to criticism generally. With a declining enrolment and reduced staff, the path ahead seemed beset with problems. Many of the older traditions of the school had been shed, some new ones had been introduced with greater and lesser degrees of community acceptance. The school had "attempted to be different, to adjust and in some areas to be adaptive".

With the appointment in 1982 of Mr. Allan Whatley, the school was indeed fortunate to have found the right man for the times. Secondary education was moving into a new system of Regional administration, where the school would have more say in their own destinies; it was in this atmosphere that the incoming Principal faced the daunting task of regenerating an institution firmly established in its history while ensuring the school was able to adapt and keep pace with the demands of a changing rural city.

Allan Whatley was educated at Kyneton High School, being one of the first post-war bus travellers. He completed a Commerce Degree at Melbourne University and thereafter followed

his teaching career at Castlemaine, Colac, Belmont, Upfield and Eltham High Schools. He was Deputy principal at Bendigo Senior High School before taking on the task of relieving Principal at a number of schools, coming from Wycheproof Education Centre prior to Ararat.

The initiatives which were instigated during Mr. Whatley's two years at the school were a culmination of the hardwork and perseverance of the school community earlier, as well as a reflection of Mr. Whatley's own sensitivity and dedication. Under his skilled guidance and leadership, the future direction of the school was plotted and a demanding program of tasks was undertaken by all school members.



*Allan Whatley*

## School Programme

A rigorous School Review, probing the school's strengths and weaknesses became the focus of 1982 and will long be remembered by all parents, staff and students involved. Initiated by the staff itself, the review process gave the school a chance to critically look at itself, evaluate the changes that had occurred over the years and to act upon recommendations made by an outside panel. The impact of this review was far-reaching and its effects are clearly seen in the atmosphere of the school today.

The Review Board, under Chairman Mr. Ivan Light advocated strongly

*"The continued development of a total school community involvement in all the affairs of the school."*

The achievements which have been made in this area are impressive. The school has developed ways to encourage more positive school community interactions, in order to meet more effectively the very special needs of teenagers in Ararat. The loneliness, isolation and lost sense of community which has become a part of the urban lifestyle, and particularly of urban high schools, is not a part of Ararat High School, where a wide range of people are incorporated into the school spectrum. Parents, students and other citizens share much of the decision-making within the school curriculum; there is an atmosphere of understanding, caring and communication and staff, many of whom have their own families at the school, have the chance to take a personal interest in all students.

The Work Experience Program effectively encouraged by Geoff White, and more lately Rich Broadway, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, the Student Council all have enabled students to experience and realise their potential responsibilities as citizens. The more recent developments of Public Speaking, Guest Speakers, the School Production, the Music Program have become features of the school which show the breadth of educational experience offered to students and the use of community resources as a way of widening the students' learning.

Significant advances in the upgrading of school facilities and their sharing with other sections of the city's community, began in 1982. New netball courts and the provision of a pavilion on the football ground, with the co-operation of the Caledonian Football Club, was a most worthwhile fusing of school and community interests. Similarly, the building of an amenities block at Green Hill Lake with much of the material being made by students at the school, showed the high school's concern in serving the community. The school worked with the Lands' Department in controlling soil erosion. The environmental nature study program gave students a first hand opportunity of studying problems in the natural habitat of Dobbie Park, which they were likely to encounter in the future if they took up landholdings of their own. The mud bricks used at Green

Hill Lake were originally destined for Dobie Park but did not pass engineering specifications. As Mr. Whatley stated so succinctly: "a school exists to meet the needs of its community?"

In preparation for the Review, a questionnaire circulated to community members, resulted in concern at the level of regard in which the school was held by the community. Allan Whatley in his statement to the Ararat Advertiser commented that

*"this was not a true or fair judgement on the school as he found it." Mr. Whatley stated at School Council in July 1982 that the school has a major image problem, not so much with the parents and students as with the non-school community. It will require a concerted and consistent effort to re-establish public confidence in the school."*

The Review also acknowledged the many valuable features of the school.

*"There is a sincere, caring atmosphere within the school, particularly in the classrooms, and we have been impressed by the happy, purposeful manner in which staff and students go about their daily activities."*



*Work Experience*

Upon reflection Allan Whatley says,

*"Ararat High School was an excellent school when I arrived and had the fundamentals for change, in that it had a united and professional staff, a fine bunch of students, support from outstanding parent and council bodies and existed in a forward thinking community which cared about its schools."*

*He believes that the students showed greater care of their buildings and grounds and greater responsibility than in any other school within his experience.*

*"On the staff were many very able and professionally orientated, caring persons amongst whom I would not wish to particularise, but as a body they undertook responsibility, showed initiatives and as a result the many excellent programs ran well and new curriculum initiatives such as in computer education flourished."*

Mr. Whatley also makes special mention of the great contribution made by the cleaning staff (Messrs. Stoneman, Green, Coleman and Mrs. Hanlon), and the tremendous support received from the Ararat City Council — particularly David Hunter and Peter Marshall who gave so freely of their time and talents.

## Shared Resources

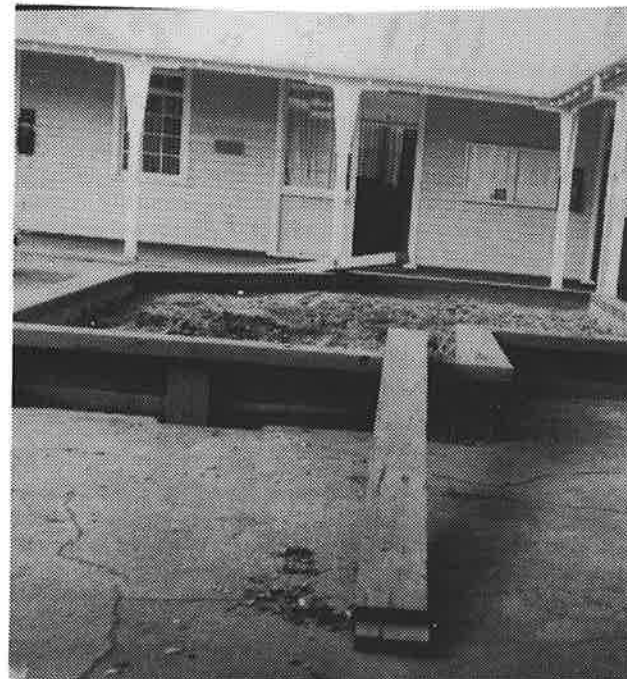
A further achievement during this period was the development of liaison with the Ararat Technical School and Marian College in the fostering of joint programs at senior levels. At the Presentation Evening in 1983, Mr. Whatley felt that despite several problems in regard to differing entry standards and the different timetable structures, the Shared Resources Program had been a success. The development of this area has continued with many students currently attending classes at the Technical School and several High School staff teaching there. Difficulties in organisation and continued controversy over the future of secondary education in Ararat have been tackled by the present Principals of both schools. Perhaps Mr. Whatley had gazed into his crystal ball when, before leaving the school, he predicted "serious and long-term problems" with the rationalisation of educational services in Ararat. The Ararat Advertiser has had great mileage from this issue of "the structure of secondary education in the local area", newspaper headlines appearing several times a year since 1982. Perhaps the history of the school published in its centenary year will finally tell the outcome of such diverse, controversial and prolonged speculation!

## Grounds and Buildings

The rebuilding of Ararat High School advanced a further stage in 1982 when the School Council received the architect's plan for the new school. As quoted in the Council minutes "short of a war" work would commence in 1982-1983 financial year. There was no war, however after many frustrating delays, work commenced in the latter stages of 1983 to establish the administrative wing and entrance of the school in the historic stone building facing Barkly Street.

Meanwhile a new canteen was established — students did not have to go hungry however, for it was ready to welcome them at the start of the 1983 school year. It was a pity that Mrs. Dorothy Kerr, who as canteen manageress had worked so hard for years in the old, below standard building should retire just as the brand new, modern facility should be opened.

The quadrangle landscaping provided the perfect surroundings for enjoyable lunchtimes, when it was opened in August 1983. This was not achieved overnight however, and was due to the working bees and support by staff and council members, as well as the personal interest taken by Allan Whatley in this project.



*Beautification of the quadrangle 1982-3*





*Quadrangle looking West before the upgrade*



*School quadrangle 1988*

With so much achieved in such a short time at the school, Mr. Whatley transferred on promotion to Castlemaine High School. His forthright and down-to-earth approach endeared him to many friends. He led by example. One staff member has vivid memories of Allan Whatley standing at the kitchen sink, shirt sleeves rolled up, washing dishes after a French cultural night and of him wielding a wheel barrow as he carted loads of dirt for the reconstruction of the quadrangle. He was always more than willing to volunteer his services and set a fine example for everyone to follow. Both he and his family earned and deserved the high respect of staff, parents and students. From his surroundings in Castlemaine in May 1988 he said,

*"I often wonder and worry about the eventual outcome of the directions and initiatives we took. They involved risks and compromise and I only hope that they have proved to have been adequate to the future of the school."*

Indeed they have.

### **Frank Kitchen**

The incoming Principal, Mr. Frank Kitchen, and Deputy Principal, Mr. Bob Saunder, arrived at the school at a time which had its reflection in an optimistic, confident outlook to the future. Together they made a formidable team. Frank Kitchen describes their initiation to administrative positions which neither had held before as "two rookies coming together as a partnership"



*Frank Kitchen*

Frank Kitchen had previously been Deputy Principal at Terang High School before accepting the challenge which Ararat offered. He was educated at Carey Grammer after spending part of his childhood living in China at the time of the Revolution. He remembers vividly often being cared for by missionaries, who taught at his school there when his parents were away for long periods of time. These early childhood years have influenced his own beliefs in what a school should offer its students. He went to Toorak Teachers College to qualify as a primary teacher but later changed direction to secondary teaching. Before coming to Ararat he had taught in fourteen other schools.

In an interview conducted for her H.S.C., former student and present teacher Kerrie Rees asked Frank about his 'ideal school'.

*"It is based on the great concern the teachers have for their children, the students they have in their charge. Commitment too must be absolute," he said. "I find it very difficult to understand why people won't 'put in'. Most teachers are very conscientious and I think we have to encourage this quality."*

He feels that it is the personal involvement between teacher and student that is the key to a successful learning experience.

## Curriculum

A glimpse at the daily activities which occur at the school is evidence enough of the commitment made by both staff and students beyond the school hours of 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., beyond the fifty minute classroom periods which make up the school day. Due to the enthusiastic and committed support of the Principal, the school's curriculum has branched beyond the classroom walls.

Music, Drama and the Arts have offered many students the chance to develop talents which they themselves had no idea lay hidden within them. The growth of debating and public speaking has proven to be a wonderful addition to the English curriculum. Who would forget Roger Oulton's description of Year 12 or Clint Wilkie's recollections of his trip to Queensland. Roger Oulton, Clint Wilkie, Stephen Kitchen and others have provided outstanding entertainment and comedy in their witty speech making while Natasha Davies, Kate Rhook, Melinda Gill, Siobhan Grindlay, Naomi and Hannah Chapman, Susan Cooper and many more have shown the high standard of public speaking which our politicians and councillors must surely envy!

Music has also developed rapidly since 1984, with students being able to participate in a brass band, a choir, rock groups and several other ensembles under the talented direction of Kathryn Hawley, Ros Jennings, Peter Baxter and Ian Lofts.

Many future thespians have made their stage debuts thanks to the creative talents of drama teacher Bryan Kennedy. As director of four school productions, Bryan had been guide and mentor for several students who have gone on to "bigger things" to study drama seriously at tertiary institutions. Jamie McRae,



*Players in the 1985 production of Nicholas Nickleby. Mark Polkington, Angela Strafehl and Paul Barras.*



*School production of Happy Daze 1984*

as the innocent teenage hero of "Happy Daze" enjoyed star quality for many weeks following his outstanding performance as J.T. Springer in 1984. Jamie is presently studying Drama at Melbourne Stage College. In 1985 "Nicholas Nickleby" was received with great enthusiasm by audiences and involved a mammoth cast of over one hundred students. Michael Smith as the mean Ralph Nickleby and Mark Pocklington as Nicholas played the major roles in a most professional manner. Jodi Cummings developed her taste for theatre in this production and is now studying Drama at Rusden State College.

After six months of hard work and unnumberable attempts by Mr. Kennedy to give up smoking, "Penny's From Heaven" was performed in 1986. Janine Poole as Penny Loring, stunned everyone with the brilliance of her performance. A new musical dimension was added in this show with the final song "Lullaby of Broadway" setting the audience's feet tapping. Jenny Bourke and David Gilson took us back to the sixties era when they starred in the musical "Bye Bye Birdie" in 1987. Many highlights of the show will be remembered — Conrad, alias Glen

McGregor being mobbed by fans. Mr. Allen's impressive impersonation of Ed Sullivan and the upstaging of all other stars by the ad libbing of Stuart Mason when the amplifier malfunctioned.

All these productions have been a focal point for hundreds of students, who have proven that, given the opportunity, Ararat can provide its own highly professional and thoroughly enjoyable entertainment.

Frank Kitchen believes that "drama and music have had a profound influence and impact on the students" and have been contributing factors to the significant change in attitude shown by students. It has been a major achievement to overcome the peer pressure which exists amongst teenagers, that a student should not stand out from the mob in the classroom for fear of being caught out and praised. Mr. Kitchen believes that when previously the bright kid was harassed now "it's cool to be good" and the majority of students see the striving for excellence, the giving of their best, to be the smart thing to do.

This has been borne out by the academic excellence attained by students in a number of different fields. At H.S.C. level, Christine Start, Sally Fenton, Kylie Gephart (who achieved 100% for English), Mark Pocklington (five A's including 100% for Accounting), Hamish McKenzie (five A's) and Kim McGregor (four A's) have all deserved their fine results and have been wonderful models for others to follow. The Westpac Mathematics Competition and the Australian Science Competition have also proven to be a challenge for students at all levels. The school has established a most successful tradition in the Pursuit Short Story Competition with winning entries by Hamish McKenzie in 1984, Andrea Gibson in 1985, Mark Pocklington in 1986 and Bill Lasgis in 1987.

These outstanding achievements in recent years have aided in the positive image the school has projected in the town. As students have developed greater confidence in their various abilities and greater pride in their personal achievement, the community in turn has recognised that parents need to think carefully before sending their country children away to Melbourne for their education.



*"The Birdies" (Caitling Davies, Jane Leeke and Megan Holtz) from the school production of Bye Bye Birdie 1987*



*Frank Kitchen in a lighter mood at a Year 7 camp.*



*Aerial photograph of the school 1987 (Photograph taken by Peter Spalding)*

## Students

Students have played an increasing part in the government of the school through student members on School Council and through their own Student Representative Council. From humble beginnings, the S.R.C. now is a major influence in the lives of all students and has been a training ground for leaders of the future; Catherine Darbyshire, Corinne Tosch, Lynn Flavell, David Nicholson, Jan McKinnis, Nicole Dickeson and Bronwen Marshall have all brought their own distinctive style to their role of President of the S.R.C. and have been instrumental in developing this essential link between students and staff.

On Thursday 15th October 1987, student leadership came full circle when students took charge of the school, not as a result of a militant coup d'etat but in a role reversal with staff. The day ran so well and efficiently in so many respects that some staff members felt a little threatened by the initiative, confidence and sense of responsibility which the students showed!

Frank Kitchen has a high respect for the students whom he describes as "responsive, unspoiled country kids". He believes that there would be few schools in existence where students have responded so enthusiastically to every challenge put to them. He commends them for their friendliness and their readiness to try new ways and ideas. This sentiment is echoed by Bob Saunder, who feels that by directing and leading youngsters, not forcing them, they will succeed.

This notion of self-discipline has been the trademark of level co-ordinators over the years. They have encouraged good behaviour from students through their own caring attitudes and their willingness to listen. In 1984, as a result of much work in years earlier the School Discipline Policy was worked out under Chairman Ian McGregor. This has provided an essential structure and reference point for the welfare of students and is



Staff get into the act at Bastille night 1985. Gary Allen and Leanne Kerr enact Cinderella.

based on the belief that all students should make the most of the opportunities provided and that those who wish to profit from the school program should be able to do so without undue interference from others.

Cultural activities and exchanges have provided students with an insight into the way of life of others, fostering a greater understanding and tolerance amongst people from diverse backgrounds.

The birth of the French republic has been celebrated in a big way. Thanks to the organisational skills of Jenny Wilson, memories of Bastille Day still linger — can-can dancers revealing colourful garters, Ian McGregor renouncing his tartan for the French colours, Allan Whatley as the fairy godmother, Rick Thomas as a beautiful ugly sister, Monsieur Spalding's unquestionable feminine charms, Bryan Kennedy in wolf's clothing and Leanne Kerr starring as Little Red Riding Hood.

Exchange visits with Victoria Park Language Centre have proven to be a most valuable experience for many students. Many friendships have been formed when the multi-national group comprising Czech, Turkish, German, Filipino, Cambodian, Vietnamese have been welcomed into Ararat homes. For many of them, it is the first time they have experienced the Australian countryside.

In 1986 a group of students were billeted in Fijian homes, spending two weeks learning the culture and lifestyle of these Pacific Island people. It was a year later that Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka staged a military coup and these students had first hand knowledge of the man, his family, his philosophy to be able to comment on the nature of this world-wide news event. While in Fiji Stuart Mason and Richard Park had lived with Colonel Rabuka's family and the others had been his guests on several occasions. Memories of a tropical island paradise now took on new meaning for these young teenagers from Australia.



Exchange students Dean Rogers (U.S.) 1986-7 and Pal Castberg (Norway) 1987-8.

In 1982, Susan Stacpoole left summery Australia to spend twelve months learning how to master chopsticks in Japan. Following her return, Ararat High School welcomed Yuka Kimura when she arrived, to learn that she didn't have to stand and bow to teachers at the beginning and ending of each class. In 1986, Dean Rogers from Loveland, Colorado developed a taste for Australian Rules Football, meat pies and Mars Bars and broke many hearts when he had to say goodbye to all the friends he had made here. Paul Castberg, a Rotary Exchange Student from Trondheim Norway studied in 1987-88 at the school, while Cathryn McMillan lived the Norwegian lifestyle with her host family on a dairy farm in Hollandsjoen.

## Sport

The 1980's has been an exciting period in Sport in Ararat. The major features of the Sports Calendar continued to be Athletics, Swimming and Winter Carnival. Sports were played at House, G.S.S.S.A., Wimmera, Western Zone and All High levels.

However, in 1982, Ararat High suddenly burst into two new areas: Herald Shield Football and Western Zone Basketball. In the Herald Shield, Ararat High School had a remarkable run of victories — against Ararat Technical, Hamilton High and Portland Technical Schools. This led to a major show-down on Alexandra Oval between Monivae College and Ararat High with the winner going on to play at V.F.L. Park. Despite sterling performances from Bruce Allender at centre half-back and iron man and captain, Doug Ward, Ararat was convincingly defeated by a very talented team. The whole school plus many parents and townspeople watched the game.

In the second area of Basketball, it has long been recognised that Ararat High School had some very able basketballers — Anthony Drake, Peter Drake, Ashley White, Tony Birrell, Tim Cronin, Greg Taylor, Michael Barras, Anthony Ryan and Michael Hosking. They had won Junior G.S.S.S.A. Basketball in Year 8 and formed a well proven team. In Ballarat, they won all matches to become Western Country Zone champions. This match is more remembered for its aftermath than its game. Ararat Technical School kindly lent us their bus for the trip; as well, they lent us a driver, Physical Education teacher, John McCullagh, a noted runner and tennis player. On the return trip, the bus broke down near Ballarat. Steve Kilpatrick organised a fire at the roadside for the team and the Principal, Allan Whatley, drove down to collect the players.

In 1982, the girls broke three athletics G.S.S.S.A. records — Christine Start (1.49 metres in high jump), Nicole Dickeson (20.60 metres in discus) and Suzie Williams (17.46 metres in javelin). Leigh Kosch broke one minute for the 400 metres, and Brett Holcombe again won 100 metres, 200 metres and triple jump. Dino Fratin won long jump and high jump. The boys finished fifth in A grade, the girls third in B grade.

In swimming, the girls again came second to Horsham High in A, and the boys third in B grade. In winter carnival, the soccer team trained hard, and won the grand final after a shoot out. Senior girls hockey and senior boys basketball were also successful.

1983 was Christine Start's last year at school. She left with three high jump records, including an extraordinary 1.58 metres in the house sports this year. She held two long jump records, 200 metres (14 years), 100 metres (15 years), triple jump, 400 metres and 800 metres. As well as these successes, she also won the senior girls G.S.S.S.A. cross country.

Owing to severe flooding, the winter carnival was curtailed

and four schools held a minor program in Ararat and Horsham. Two fine performers in athletics in 1983-84 were Kim Astbury and Tony Birrell, the former in sprints, the latter in throwing and jumping events.

In 1984, the improvement in sport continued. Ararat was a small school 326 students, and growing enthusiasm. The girls won the B Grade swimming, and six teams, including senior football, won Winter Carnival competitions. The cross country was introduced to G.S.S.S.A., with Ararat's best being two thirds.

In 1985, the girls came third in A Grade in both swimming and athletics. The boys won B Grade athletics. This year also saw further improvement in Winter Carnival. Nine teams won, again including senior football. A big step forward was cross country under Oli Parnaby. Junior girls came first and the senior girls came second in G.S.S.S.A.

There were some exciting individual performances over the year. Nicole Dickeson now in Year 10 continued to dominate her age-group in freestyle, butterfly and backstroke. A new student to Ararat High School, Year 7 student, Leanne McKenzie

made a big impact in the U13 age-group.

An outstanding effort in athletics was the U17 relay team of Mandy Kent, Jenni Clarke, Margot Hutchinson and Jan McKinis won G.S.S.S.A. Western Zone, and finally came third at Olympic Park in the final. Penny McIntyre also won through to All High where she came sixth in the 100 metres.

1986 saw further improvement. The girls came second to the seemingly invincible Horsham High School in swimming in the A Grade section. The boys, now in A grade, came fourth with Tony Marshall, not only winning the breaststroke, but also going to represent the Region in Melbourne at the All High Carnival. The girls athletics team came third, a mere 8 points behind winners Horsham High. At last, Horsham seemed vulnerable. The Cross Country team, now coached by Tim Johnstone, trained hard to record excellent results in G.S.S.S.A. The junior girls and junior boys both finished second, while the senior girls, led by a very keen Missy Perry came first. The senior girls went on to win the Wimmera Zone and the Western Zone. This meant that Missy, Nicole Shearer, Bronwen Marshall and Lisa Kaczynski represented Ararat High School at All High Level.

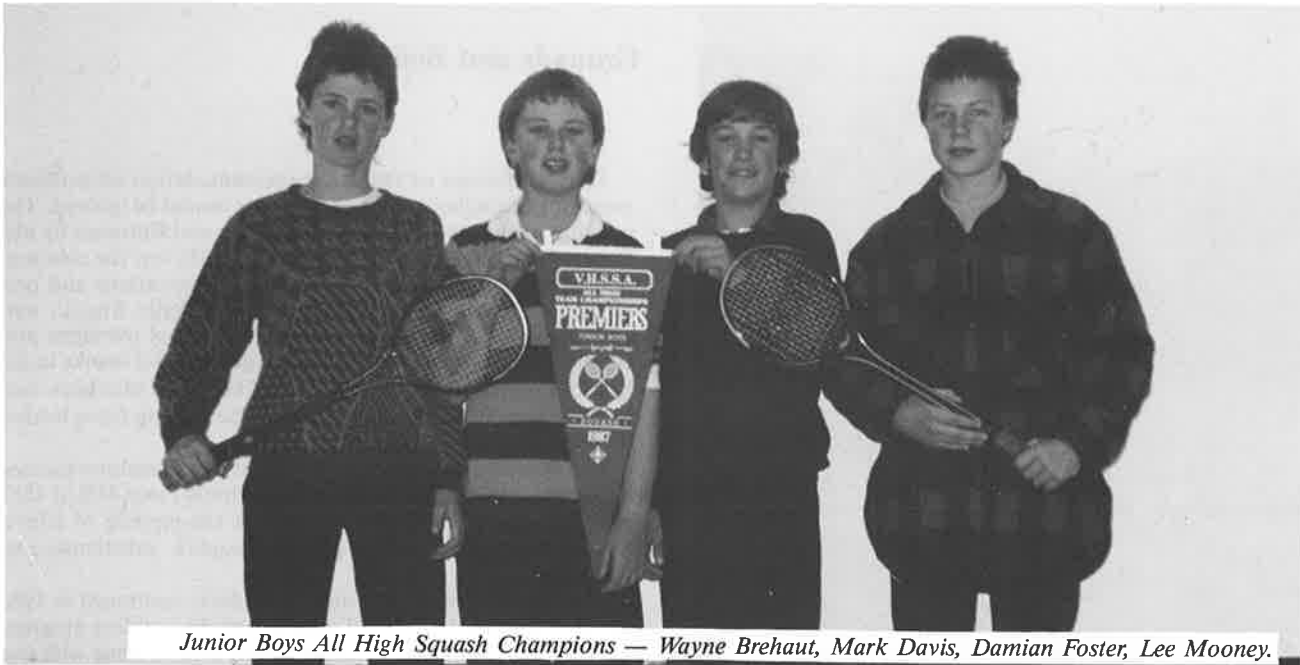
The Winter Carnival teams again represented Ararat High School well. Nearly all students participated with ten teams winning their sections. Peter Baker was the first student of Ararat High School to be awarded the Arthur Mellors' trophy for outstanding performance at G.S.S.S.A. athletics. In the 12 Years' age-group, Peter won the 100 metres, 200 metres, High Jump, Long Jump and Relay.

In the same year, several students reached All-High competition in their sport. Bronwen Marshall jumped 1.48 metres and progressed through Western Zone to Melbourne; Annette Duver reached Melbourne in the 100 metres, as did Missy Perry in the 1500 metres. Missy had also reached the All-High cross country, along with Peter Baker. The girls squash team, trained by Tony Crewe, won all their matches to become All-High Champions. This was a great achievement, the first All-High victory ever by the school. Members of the team were Gayle Eade, Melissa Hayward, Nicole Shearer, Kim Eade and Lisa Kaczynski. Janine Adams and Lyndell McDonald took two netball teams to Melbourne to compete in Victorian Schoolgirls All High Netball Championships. The intermediate (Years 8 and 9) team won their division and made it through to the Finals Day.

1987 saw more break-throughs. At G.S.S.S.A. athletics, the girls won A Division for the first time, while the boys won B Division by 70 points. The team was strong in throwing events, high jumps and relays. In the cross country, the students who were trained by Margaret Lockwood and Sue Broadway won the inaugural Ian Maroske trophy for Cross Country — an aggregate of all divisions. Ararat High School won clearly, coming first in both Senior Girls and Junior Boys. With Stewart Hutchinson and Lyndell McDonald again organising a vigorous training schedule, the swimming team did well — the girls came third in A Grade, only 8 points behind the first place getters.



1982 Football team, Herald Shield Competition



*Junior Boys All High Squash Champions — Wayne Brehaut, Mark Davis, Damian Foster, Lee Mooney.*



*Senior Girls All High Squash Champions — Nicole Shearer, Lisa Kacynski, Melissa Hayward, Gayle Eade. Kneeling: Kim Eade.*

The winter carnival was again well patronised. Almost all students participated and eleven teams won. Tony Crewe and Kay Mawson organised extensive training for Squash. The girls, now in senior category, again won the All-High, as did our new Year 7 boys' team of Lee Mooney, Wayne Brehaut, Mark Davis, Damien Foster and Dean Moore. An outstanding intermediate girls' basketball team also reached the All-High finals as winners of Western Zone, coached by Lyndell McDonald. A large contingent of students including three girls relay teams went to Western Zone at Aberfeldie where the senior girls won the Under 21 relay, which included two Year 12's — Nicole Dickson and Margot Hutchinson with Pauline Dempsey (Year 11) and Michelle Car (Year 10). A sad sequel to this success was a misunderstanding at Olympic Park, where the girls, well placed at the final change, were fouled after they made the baton change. The offending team was disqualified, not that this helped our team.

1988 has so far seen success in the cross country aggregate and the swimming. Ararat High School dominated the cross country, coming first in three division and second in junior girls. In swimming, the boys won B grade and the girls won A grade. A record number of students reached the All-High Championships as individuals — congratulations to Peter Baker, Philip Watson, Daniel Healy and Nigel McGrath. The boys came a close third in A grade athletics and second in A grade girls 10 points behind the winners. The next term hold plenty of interest for Ararat — three basketball teams and a boys' junior squash in Western Zone, several athletes including four girls' relay teams which won Wimmera and may qualify for Western Zone as well as a netball team entered in State competition.

The improvement of sporting facilities around the school has meant that more students can be involved in both competitive and recreational areas. The setting up of a Fitness Track, under the direction of Rick Broadway and in conjunction with the Apex Club, will provide a most valuable asset for both students and residents living in the City.

"We just kept walking up hills and more hills and I thought I was on my way to heaven!" Kerry Flavell's view of one of the Duke of Edinburgh hikes! As co-ordinator of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for the past twelve years, Ian McGregor and now Rick Broadway must be directly accountable for thousands of blistered feet, innumerable aching muscles, several cases of malnutrition as a consequence of endless Vesta meals — and many fond memories. The Scheme has had a remarkable impact at the senior level, involving students in community service, adventure activities, personal interests and physical education.



*Hike in Mount Cole area. Duke of Edinburgh program 1987*



*General Office*

## Grounds and Buildings

The significance of the many accommodation adjustments occurring throughout the past five years cannot be ignored. The opening of the new Administrative Wing and Entrance by Mr. Robert Fordham on Friday 5th October, 1984 was the culmination of years of negotiations, planning, frustrations and perseverance. School Council President, Mr. Wally Rhook, welcomed many distinguished guests, past school members and people of the Ararat Community and gave special thanks to the School Council under the expertise of Mr. John McKenzie and to Mr. Allan Whatley, who had been the driving force behind the reconstruction of the wing.

The occasion was witnessed by 350 students and represented a milestone in the school's history. The Union Flour Mill of 1867 breathed new life and now echoes with the tapping of Gloria Ryan's typewriter and Margaret People's calculator and computer.

The shuffling of rooms, shifting of desks continued in 1986 when, at a cost of \$253,000, stage 2A of the building program commenced. A new social staffroom was created along with two staff workrooms and a students lunchroom — all surrounding the quadrangle landscape. The staff table tennis table was misplaced in the shift but the keen pool players made sure their table was first priority in the new recreation area — consequently many legendary feats of a number of talented players have continued to occur unabated at this table!



*Renovations for the new staff centre 1984*





*Opening of stage 1 of the school upgrade by Hon. Robert Fordham in 1985.*

“That we survived is a relief, that we progressed is a credit to the School Community” was the viewpoint expressed by Mr. Kitchen following the difficult disruptions of the building program in 1987. The Ministry of Education approved \$550,000 for the building of a new library in the centre of the school, change rooms and entrance foyer to the Assembly Hall, three Science Rooms and a Computer Room. While these new classrooms were in the course of construction, the school used the nearby Caledonian Football Club pavilion, along with various portables dotting the school’s landscape.

The impact of these massive building renovations can never be underestimated. Mr. Kitchen believes “the one million dollars granted to us has given us the chance to create the school environment the way we want it.”

## **Staffing**

The 1980’s have brought new developments, new ventures, new problems — however it is the stability of the teaching staff and their breadth of experience which really has been the strength of the school in recent years. The school has been “home” to a number of staff, who have devoted many years to the lives of their students.

In 1987, Mrs. Helen McMillan retired after twenty seven years. She was admired and loved by all for her caring concern and warmth for others. After teaching all-girl classes in the early years we can be grateful to Helen for a generation of boys now growing up with equally competent sewing skills as their sisters!

Mrs. Val Spalding joined the school in 1954 and has witnessed her own family grow up and be educated at the school with her son Michael now teaching here as well. Others who have “served long sentences”, contributing so much to the welfare of students, include Anne Marshall, Murray Williamson, Stewart Hutchison, David Mitchell and Ian McGregor. The secrets of their biographies will have to wait until the centenary publication!

Miss Joan Shillington, the School Bursar, retired in July 1984 after twenty years of highly dedicated work in the thousands of tasks she so willingly performed.

Throughout the eighties, the school has been fortunate to have a consistently experienced, talented and cohesive staff. The staff has been very stable with many teachers making Ararat their permanent home.

Numerous stories abound of staff exploits; humorous, sad and amusing. Many are recounted at the traditional staff award night where the best “efforts” are appropriately awarded.

Surely the luckiest member of staff is long serving Murray Williamson who scratched an instant Tatts ticket and won himself \$25,000.

Stories abound of the sporting prowess among staff. Who can forget Ian McGregor's effort, after many years of cricket to be run out by his son when within two runs of his maiden century for the High School. Luckily, a century came for Mac a few matches later.

Who can forget the Panthers Basketball team formed from staff members who in their first season, took the C Grade Premiership, disposed of all B Grade comers in the next season and found themselves playing off for a place in the A Grade Grand Final.

Or "Sons of Panthers", a volleyball team that fought its way into A grade Finals in its first year. This team followed an earlier tradition of staff volleyball set by "Wolfpack" a staff volleyball team which observers claimed lived up to its name by destroying itself in finals.

And there was the table tennis prowess of Col O'Brien and Ian McGregor, the former taking the individual trophy for A Grade and his team winning the A Pennant.

Women, too, played a big role with the Gremlins stable of teams always in the Supa rules netball grand final, winning twilight netball consistently and more lately dominating mixed netball.

Tennis has always been an area of talent within staff, with several weekend "A Grade" as well as night tennis teams being built around players on staff.

Since the High School has a staff with many years experience most are not still playing football. Not so Michael Spalding who celebrated his 100th game for Ararat recently, as well as representing the Wimmera League. Michael is also a top cricketer.



*Staff 1988 — Back Row: David Mitchell, Gary Allen, Rick Thomas, Stewart Hutchinson.  
Fourth Row: Colin O'Brien, Lyndell McDonald, Sheryl Lugg, Geoff White, Rick Broadway, Julie Anderson, Peter Brennan, Bob Chapman, John Curnow, Philip Goudie, Murray Williamson.  
Third Row: Rob Smith, John Mawson, Tony Crewe, Anne Marshall, Geoff Parkinson, Peter Baxter, Lynda Curran, Ian McGregor, Tim Johnstone, Michael Spalding, Bryan Kennedy.  
Second Row: Margaret Peoples (Bursar), Margaret Chapman, Vivian Moore (Library Aide), Meryl Poole (Teacher Aide), Kerrie McMahon, Ros Jennings, Kerri Rees, Val Spalding, Jenny Wilson, Barbara Shannon, Margaret Lockwood, Sue Broadway.  
Front Row: Graham Nicholas, Janine Adams (Technical Assistant), Tammi Robinson, Chris Shuttleworth (Canteen Manageress), Bob Saunder (Deputy Principal), Frank Kitchen (Principal), Jenny Picone, Lee-Anne Kerr, Nicholas Hedgeland, Marie Dyke, Gloria Ryan (Secretary).*

Of course whenever anything has needed to be done, all eyes have turned to Bob Saunder. He has the great ability to get so many things done, so quickly and with so little fuss. "The Towering Inferno" as the Year 7's think of him is always there with his patience and consideration to help out in any way possible. Most capably working "behind the scenes", the "dynamic duo" of the administration, have been Margaret Peoples and Gloria Ryan. They really are the heart beat of the school, which would not function financially or clerically if not for their efficiency and expertise.



*Bob Saunder Deputy Principal*

## The Future

And so to the future. . . Ararat High School presently has an enrolment of near to 500 students. The introduction of the Victorian Certificate of Education at the senior levels will present challenging curriculum changes in the next few years; the re-organisation of secondary schools in Ararat remains a vexed issue that is still to be resolved; whatever the outcome, the effects will be the substance of a new school history for the next twenty

years; the appointment of Mrs. Leonie Foster as School Council President breaks with a 75 year old tradition and means that one of the last male bastions at the school ceases to exist. Under her experienced guidance, Ararat High School is led into its next promising era. . .

Frank Kitchen has a progressive, confident attitude as to what Ararat High School can offer the community in the future. His rare gift of being able to delegate responsibilities and tasks amongst staff and students has insured that greater attainments can be achieved in many areas. He has the ability to see the talents of others and harness those talents for positive results. Above all he has trust and faith in those with whom he works, believing that hard work will always be rewarded. In his role as Principal, he is willing to listen to all groups and with them, find a common direction.

Frank has very strong feelings for the staff. He will always have many fond memories of them, he believes, because they have "sweated and bled together". His eyes twinkle when he remembers amusing times over recent years — a forged signature by an unnamed staff member had hilarious repercussions; his own ability to pontificate and say things as Principal has backfired disastrously on a number of occasions, resulting recently in his own conscious effort to get to class on time.

He has found the feeling of co-operation, working together with the staff, to be a rewarding achievement — "despite differences of opinion we all have a real respect for each other." He believes teaming together with Bob has been a vital part of this.

Both these men, markedly different in approach but remarkably similar in their commitment to the school, have been able to communicate with and participate in a very broad spectrum of the local community. By their own personalities and hard work, that image is projected in the wider community and in many ways is responsible for the high respect with which Ararat High School is held. People trust what they know and people trust whom they know. The full story of their era at the school cannot yet be told — only the future will tell of the benefits and of the disappointments that the 1980's have brought. It seems however there will be no moving backwards as the school looks towards an exciting, demanding and positive future under their leadership.

## The Jubilee Year

The 1988 Jubilee was planned from a very early stage to be a year of celebration rather than just an isolated weekend of reunion.

The first major activity was the Jubilee Art Show held in the Assembly Hall. The show attracted a good range of outside work and also gave students an opportunity to exhibit some of their own material. With the formal opening on the Friday night and the show open all weekend, a large number of Ararat residents visited the exhibition. A significant number of works were sold



*Jubilee balloon launch in school quadrangle February 9, 1988*



*Jubilee Art Show 1988*



*Jubilee Debutante Ball 1988. Debutantes and partners presented to Lt. Col. R. Rachinger and Mrs. Rachinger.*  
*Back: Jason McGuinness, Cameron Flowers, Gary Moss, Patrick Calvird, Craig Smith, Glen McGregor, Jason Bowen, Scott Bohner, Craig Robinson.*  
*Fourth Row: David Gilson, Jason Gordon, David Campey, Matthew Leslie, Dwayne Harry, Andrew Turner, Brett Gephart, Dean Kilpatrick, Shane Hodges, Doug Tosch, David Curnow.*  
*Third Row: Megan Shea, Karen Dunn, Cathy Cox, Liesa King, Jason Adams, Shane Dunn, Andrew Clayton, Keith Robertson, Darren Lewis, Christopher Ramsay, Craig Champneys.*  
*Second Row: Nicole Koglin, Lisa Kaczynski, Amanda Hutchinson, Michelle Carr, Alison Pitcher, Angela Gill, Nicole Jensen, Evonne Cavanagh, Rebecca Leslie, Kim McAdie, Julie Kilpatrick, Kyla Campey, Jean Leggett, Fiona Collins.*  
*Seated: Mandy Ralph, Kylie Davis, Kristi Ryan, Colleen Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kitchen, Mr. and Mrs. Kingsley Spalding (trainers), Sally Mach, Natalie Wilson, Amanda Fraser, Jenny Bourke.*  
*Page Boy, Reid Smith; Flower Girl, Debbie Shannon.*

and with the show being a financial success, another is likely in 1989.

Acting on a request from students, a Debutante Ball was held in May. Comprising twenty seven Debutantes and their partners, the night was a huge success. Trained under the guidance of Kingsley and Val Spalding, themselves former students of Ararat High School, the dancing was of the highest quality and the visual spectacle of the Debutantes plus the imaginative stage setting created much positive comment among those lucky enough to attend.

A further highlight of the year was a staff review. The show, handled in virtually all its aspects by the multi-talented Gary Allen, featured acts by staff and several friends of the school. The review was loosely woven around school life via its theme "Today we will do Captain Cook". The review plus the associated dancing to a live band provided excellent entertainment and, like the earlier Jubilee activities, were good money raisers for the school's development fund.

In June, a more formal highlight was the opening of the new upgraded science and library facilities. The school was privileged to have the prominent Australian scientist Sir Mark Oliphant to accept an invitation to officiate. Sir Mark was flown from Canberra and his presence was memorable for both staff and students. Sir Mark attended Chemistry classes as well as participating in the Science Week activities which accompanied the opening of the facilities. It was an experience to be remembered for students as Sir Mark talked of his work and personal relationships with legendary scientific figures such as Lord Rutherford and Albert Einstein. His address at the official opening gave insights into his balanced view of the world and his hopes for humanity. The plaque attached to East Wing will be a constant reminder to students of the future of the presence here of the great man and it is surely significant that the first lesson taught in the new wing featured a man who had a major role in the development of many of the concepts that will be taught within those walls.

At the time of writing, events still to come in this year of festivities include the students production of "The Wizard of Oz" and the production of the Jubilee school magazine. Of course, in October the focus of the year will be the jubilee weekend with activities including a student disco, Jubilee ball, formal dinner, sporting tournaments, church service, roll call, exhibitions, opening of the school fitness track, memorial tree planting, time capsule and various associated events. One of the special guests returning will be Ron Casey who will officiate at the dinner.



*Staff Revue as part of the Jubilee celebrations 1988. (Pictured are Kerrie Rees, Peter Brennan, Val Spalding, Ian McGregor, Brian Kennedy, and Rick Broadway).*



*Sir Mark Oliphant at the opening of the science wing with Science Co-ordinator Ian McGregor and Biology teacher Graham Nicholas.*



## In Conclusion

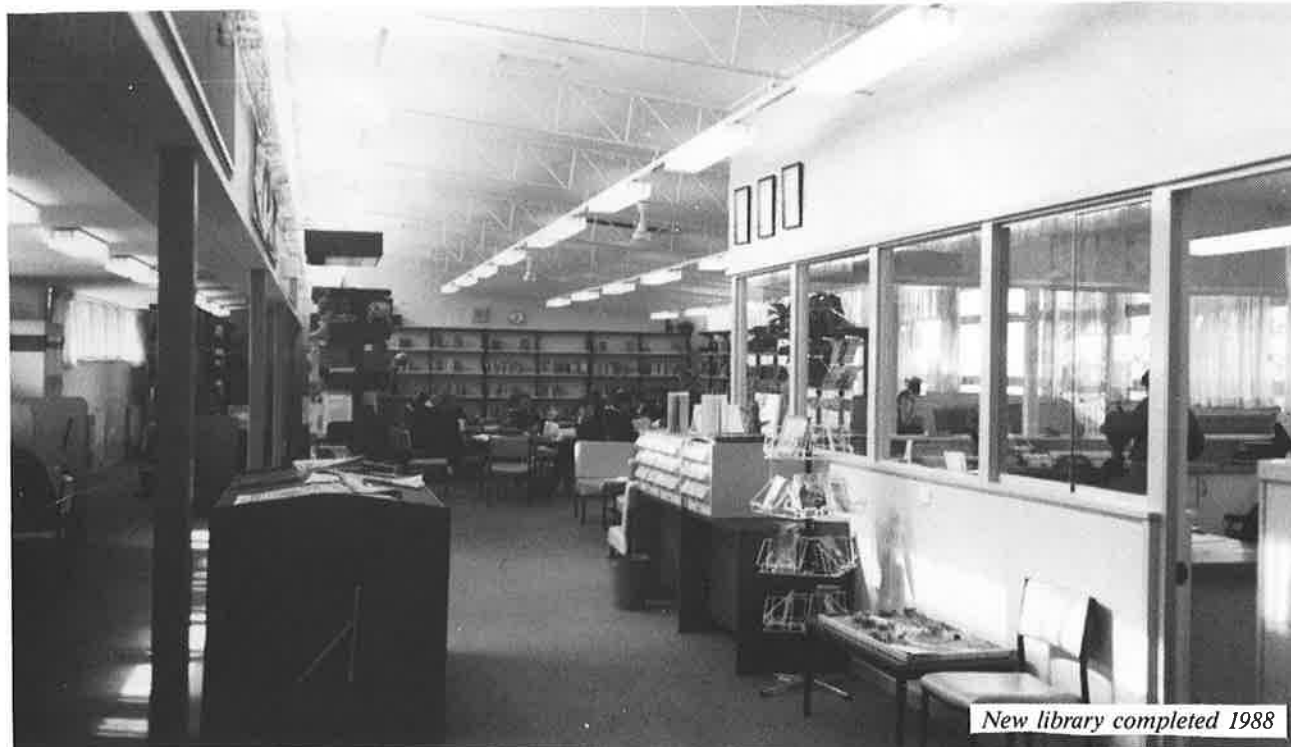
We can look back and reflect upon times which were marked by stable school enrolments, by unchanging courses of study, by seemingly unalterable booklists, by fixed practices of Term Examinations, Pupil Report Books, Prefects, by predictable student and teacher behaviour by strict, uncompromising discipline and so on. These times were a vital part of Ararat High School — they were the secure, non-threatening and comfortable ways of an era which many may regard as a “golden age”.

However more changes would take place in ten years, both to life and education than had occurred in the previous sixty years. In its questioning of the old standards, there was a movement for change in the seventies — a determination not to stand by and the old status quo, a belief that any form of change was worthwhile. It seems that in the eighties the pendulum has swung back to a more balanced position, as the excesses of these changes, not necessarily all of them good, become recognised by society as a whole.

The accelerated changes in society caused by rapid changes in technology have altered the face of education. How do we prepare a new generation to grow into a society that will face technological and social tasks that never existed before. While we try to educate children by preparing them for life, a basic task is that we educate them for employment, jobs that aren't yet in existence, where we can only guess at their future needs.

All of us remember fondly or perhaps with trepidation the personalities on staff who influenced us in some way during our growing years at school. However, the effects that these teachers have had on their students cannot be measured in the short term, cannot be measured by the knowledge certain individuals gained in one generation. Rather it is over two, three or perhaps even four generations that the most valuable and more lasting effects will emerge — by the way the personalities of these teachers have contributed to moulding the characters of their students.

Education is a continuing living thing, it is subject to fashions, forward movements, retrograde steps. In its 75 years, Ararat High School has lived through a multitude of changes from the more obvious of a period of conservation, rural population, to the more subtle of the growing influence of the community in the life of the school. Changes will certainly continue. At the same time, with the caring nurturing role this school has played in the lives of generations of students who have passed through its corridors, there is much here that we would never wish to change.



## **APPENDIX**





## SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

1914-17 Cr. G. Vanstan  
1917-19 Dr. J.W. Philpott  
1919-20 Mr. F.J. Lindon  
1920-22 Cr. G. Vanstan  
1922 Cr. C.J. Moore  
1923-26 Cr. W.H. O'Toole  
1926-29 Cr. G. Vanstan  
1929-35 Mr. C.F. Best  
1935-47 Cr. W.L. Brewster  
1947-49 Mr R.J. Burke  
1950-53 Cr. A.W. Vanstan  
1953-58 Mr. J.E.J. Briggs  
1959-63 Cr. R.W. King  
1964-65 Mr. B.R. Tivey  
1966-68 Mr. A.E. Plant  
1969-73 Mr. B.R. Tivey  
1974-79 Mr. J.A. Graham  
1980-83 Mr. L.J. McKenzie  
1984-85 Mr. W. Rhook  
1986-87 Cr. N.A. Boatman  
1988 Mrs. L.A. Foster

## PRESIDENTS OF PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Foundation President:  
Preceding 1944  
1944-45 Mrs. L.M. Critten  
1946-47 Mrs. G. McArthe  
1948-49 Mrs. M. Fairnie  
1950-51 Mrs. W.M. Morton  
1952-53 Mrs. E.M. Butt  
1954-56 Mrs. I. Banfield  
1957-58 Mrs. W.M. West  
1959 Mrs. G. Ahpee  
1960-61 Mrs. T. Carruthers  
1962-63 Mrs. M. Burton  
1964-65 Mrs. E. White  
1966 Mrs. D. Gray  
1966-67 Mrs. R. Scott  
1969-70 Mrs. N. Penrose  
1971 Mrs. M. McCracken  
1972 Mrs. N. Glanville  
1973-74 Mrs. I. Graham  
1975-76 Mrs. A. Staples  
1977-79 Mrs. J.N. Ballinger  
1980-81 Mrs. P. Rath  
1982 Mrs. L. Bryant  
1983 Mrs. J.S. McPhie  
1984 Mrs. E. McKenzie  
1985-86 Mrs. J. Pitcher  
1987-88 Mrs. P. McKinnis  
Mrs. L.A. Foster  
Mrs. G. Grindlay

## PRESIDENTS OF STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1975 Peter Ring  
1976 Simon Smith  
1977 Simon Smith  
1978 Ken Park  
1979 Lance Millard  
1980 Jane Smith  
1981 Shayne Wilde  
1982 Catherine Darbyshire  
1983 Corrine Tosch  
1984 Lyn Flavell  
1985 David Nicholson  
1986 Jan McKinnis  
1987 Nicole Dickenson  
1988 Bronwen Marshall

## SENIOR PREFECTS

(Early records incomplete)

Girls	Boys
1919 M. Offenhauser	N. Wilson
1925 A. Forster	A. Fowler
1929 M. Williamson	H. Zachariah
1930 H. Critten	F. Mason
1931 P. Paul	A. Glisson
1932 R. Meaney	A. Wilson
1933 J. Williamson	R. McDonald
1934 E. Parker	W. Mee
1935 E. Burke	S. Burke
1936 J. Toole	W. Dedrick
1937 W. Patterson	J. Burke
1938 W. Patterson	E. Cosstick
1939 E. Williamson	A. Meggs
1940 M. McInnes	M. Duckworth
1941 M. Hopkins	—
1942 J. Phillip & G. Bethall	J. Lloyd
1943 P. Dalkin	R. Burke
1944 J. Neylan	R. Faneco
1945 J. Neylan	K. Bond
1946 M. Burke	A. Fryar
1947 V. Kelly	P. Fryar
1948 J. Harris	K. Little
1949 J. Harris	R. Thompson
1950 G. Harris	B. Smith
1951 G. Harris	R. Bates
1952 G. Harris	R. Flavell
1953 B. Ferguson	A. Baird
1954 C. Start	M. Weidermann
1955 E. Perkins	A. Robinson
1956 H. Graham	M. Thompson
1957 J. Koenig	I. Conboy
1958 P. Williamson	B. Flavell
1959 R. Richardson	W. Meadows
1960 Jan Peterson	W. Meadows
1961 L. Asmus	H. Ogilvie
1962 Judy Peterson	E. Robinson
1963 Maureen Peoples	Geoffrey McAlpine
1964 Meryl Dovaston	Terry Sedgwick
1965 Judith Strugnell	Gregory McRae
1966 Barbara Grinter	Anthony Phelan
1967 Marilyn Parker	Ian Hodgson
1968 Judith Lockland	Andrew Wigan
1969 Anne McMillan	Peter Christie
1970 Annette Phillips	Warren Grant
1971 Heather Bellis	Greg Kent
1972 Gail Dempster	Phillip Dalkin
1973	Prefect System Abandoned

## STUDENTS OF ARARAT HIGH SCHOOL 1988

### 7 Red

John Abblitt, Scott Bell, Joseph Dunn, Corey Fox, Cameron Gillies, Kane Kowalczyk, Jason Leslie, Bradley Makovec, Colin Prior, Silas Stephens.

Renae Bartlett, Susan Bull, Latecha Cadle, Jacqui Chalmers, Lisa Clayton, Shannon Decker, Sharon Hodges, Sharyn Hull, Kate Jackson, Felicity John, Susan Oulton, Carolyn Shea.

### 7 Blue

Brendan Carlyle, Bradley Coates, Aaron Colquhoun, Travis Flavell, Matthew Haddow, Andrew Hinchliffe, Jake Holz, Simon Kennedy, Paul Penna, Paul Ryan, Mathew Sloper, Scott Vanderwaal, Adrian Walsh.

Melissa Browney, Marian Chapman, Tara Harris, Andrea Hildebrandt, Renae Jerram, Melinda Ramsay, Fiona Richards, Sally Sleep, Naomi Steele, Faith Wileman.

### 7 Green

Tony Campbell, David Downie, Damian Dyer, Michael Garley, Sam Pitman, Richard Prideaux, Peter Shaw, Heath Whiting, Ashley Wilson.

Emily Carter, Danielle Cossens, Melissa Gillingham, Sally Hall, Belinda Healy, Claire Hurstfield, Ruth Ingham, Heather Jarrett, Kylie Leggett, Kylie McGregor, Bernadette Rogerson, Danielle Tucker, Tanya Walker.

### 7 Yellow

Hayden Crawford, Stephen Gill, Benjamin Grindlay, Leigh Jenkins, Luke Johnson, Benjamin McGuinness, Scott Maconachie, Julian O'Keefe, Jarrad Plunkett, Glen Rousch, Nathan Shalders, Craig Wilkins.

Casey Barnes, Peta Barrie, Kelly Davison, Julie Gregory, Pam Grellett, Joanne Hardy, Jodie Hyatt, Sarah Keith, Charlotte Patton, Katherine Ward.

### 7 White

Adam Burger, Troy Cawthorne, Ian Curnow, Leonard Hromish, Cameron Hyatt, Brett Logan, Bradley Orszaczki, Anthony Owen, Wayne Radford, Tim Saunder, Phillip Walton, David Weickhardt.

Andrea Baker, Cassandra Drewniak, Kellie Ferguson, Kathleen Lock, Sarah McGrath, Carolyn Malloy, Allison Moar, Sally Perry, Rachal Wileman.

### 8 Red

Richard Byron, Bradley Dridan, Richard Foster, Jamie McGrath, Nigel McGrath, Scott McKenzie, Lee Mooney, Dean Moore, Mark O'Neill, Andrew Pohlke, Daniel Sutton.

Tracy Anderson, Joanne Cavanagh, Lynine Cocking, Jane Crawford, Leanne Cunningham, Amber Daly, Natasha Davies, Emma Forbes, Emma Greene, Petrice Kelly, Karen Mackay, Ricki Marshall, Wendy Nanninga, Kylie Smith, Fiona Wetton.

### 8 Blue

Ashley Coster, Mark Davis, Damien Foster, Luke Jensen, Simon Keane, Paul Leggett, Peter Pearce, Mark Richards, Craig Shevlin, Darren Spencer.

Kate Ahpee, Natalie Allgood, Levina Bowman, Lynette Burns, Rachel Duffin, Cathy Grellet, Naomi Jerram, Kathy Lavender, Carly McKinnis, Kellie Mahney, Karen Miller, Christine Nelson, Kirsty Osborne, Leah Powell, Joanne Richie, Casanda Rogerson.

### 8 Green

Raymond Campey, Daniel Colquhoun, Rodney Gilbert, David Hannett, Christopher Harvie, Daniel Healey, Justin Holmes-Brown, Ross McRae, Simon Orszaczki, Geoffrey Robertson, Joshua Truscott, Damien Woods.

Kerrie Asplin, Jan Barratt, Kim Brown, Jakki Chegwin, Raeshell Cross, Giselle Crouch, Susan Daly, Judy Leong, Samantha Morris, Narelle Penna, Rebecca Sladdin, Narelle Smart, Kylie Wilson.

### 8 Yellow

Lachlan Anderson, Wayne Brehaut, Mathew Cavanagh, Shane Daly, Wayne Donaldson, Daniel Hamerston, Damien Haskings, Raymond Hollow, Benjamin Jackson, Rodney Park, Simon Thomson.

Emma Baker, Lisa Carlyle, Leanne Carpenter, Tina Gust, Emma Horvath, Libby Hutchinson, Raylenne Igoe, Anita Johnston, Kelly King, Carly Murphy, Sally Rattray, Kylie Skinner, Susan Spivey, Donna Williams.

### 9 Red

Troy Daykin, Danny Hutchins, Martin Jarrett, Kevin Kelly, Stephen Kitchen, David Latta, Adrian Mackay, Ben Malcolm, Adam O'Keefe, Robbie Stebbing, Peter Weickhardt, Bradley Wilson, Stephen Woolley.

Michelle Bruvels, Melinda Cross, Angela Dridan, Kim Eade, Mindy Gill, Kerith Leggett, Tamsin O'Neill, Bonnie Pearce, Kirsten Shalders, Amber Smith, Dana Wallis, Tanya Webster.

### 9 Blue

Travis Coster, Mathew Emerson, Adam Haddow, Garry Keith, Kalon McKinnis, Joshua Patton, Craig Pitts, Shaun Ralph, Billy Ross, Mathew Rousch, Anthony Yanner.

Kellie Chalmers, Amanda Cossens, Fiona Dowie, Julie Frichtot, Natalie Gillingham, Paula Hastwell, Marella Hromish.

Lisa Pilgrim, Teena Shaw, Tina Shaw, Sally Sloper, Andrea Smart, Belinda Taylor, Teresa Vanderwaal.

## 9 Green

Peter Baker, Marcus Carroll, Daniel Duffin, Stuart Fisher, Brendon Hamerston, Leon Healy, Kay Jantzen, Jeff Mott, Jason Oman, Russell Schwab, Tim Skewes, Ben White.

Lyndall Baker, Annette Bicker, Hannah Chapman, Tracey Collins, Suzanne Day, Tina Eastwood, Tina Leeke, Danielle Lewis, Liz Mach, Alisha Primmer, Tania Rivett, Lee-Anne Short, Sharon Thomas.

## 9 Yellow

David Baker, Matt Barnes, Adam Bell, Darren Carpenter, Matthew Crawford, Jason Crane, Jeremy Gray, Adam Green, Stewart Haines, Warren Hall, Jason Klaus, David Lowe, Tony Marshall, Cameron Reid.

Anne Clelland, Kylie Downie, Donna Gilmour, Naomi Gilson, Kim Hildebrandt, Narelle House, Karen Igoe, Kylie Jackson, Jenny Milton, Kerrie Moorfoot, Jodie Tucker.

## 10 Red

Alexander Barrie, Andrew Joiner, Dean Jones, Toby McIntyre, Robert McLellan, Sam Miller, Jason Pitts, Paul Radford, Ben Robb.

Kim Barratt, Sandy Birch, Suzanne Culling, Melinda Dunn, Annette Duzer, Trudy Gilbert, Tara Gillies, Siobhan Grindlay, Melissa McGuinness, Narelle McKay, Lyndall Pugh, Monica Sobozinski, Skye Thomas.

## 10 Blue

Shayne Byron, Sam Davies, Nick Ganosis, Ivan Richards, Michael Schwab, Brett Smith, David Sutton, Todd Woodfine.

Sharon Burns, Naomi Chapman, Linda Gregory, Shannon Harvie, Angela Healy, Jeanette Jantzen, Angela Johnston, Natalie Kean, Sally McColl, Marcia McKinnis, Shelley Robinson, Sally Wallis.

## 10 Green

Jarno Coone, Chris Curnow, Brendan Clarke, Brent Davies, Shay Fraser, Stuart Mason.

Ellen Allender, Joanne Collins, Suzanne Curzon, Kylie Dickeson, Rachel Gibson, Fiona Gust, Rosalie Holmes, Donna Kent, Kim Knight, Tess McAdie, Leanne McKenzie, Mandy Sladdin, Tanya Smart, Kylie Steele.

## 10 Yellow

Michael Bowman, Jason Cleary, Scott Davis, Matthew Flavell, Scott McMillan, Jason McGrath, Marcus Ramsay, Ashley Ryan, Trent Somers, Chris Walsh.

Rose Darling, Karen Donaldson, Fleur Hillman, Megan Holz, Karen Hutchinson, Margaret Leong, Penny McIntyre, Susan Mortimer, Naomi Powell, Rebecca Rattray, Belinda Sleight, Jacinta Wallis.

## 11 Red

Patrick Calvird, Shane Hodges, Tim Nicholson, Scott Quinn, Stuart Sandow.

Fiona Collins, Cathy Cox, Susan Donaldson, Amanda Fraser, Nicole Koglin, Sophia Lasgis, Rebecca Leslie, Sally Mach, Tanya Morison, Carol Mortimer, Belinda Ross, Christina Smith.

## 11 Blue

Jason Adams, Paul Baird, Christian Cathew, Andrew Clayton, Philip Gibson, Chris Grigg, Andrew Kitchen, Glen McGregor, Brett McKinnis, Lee Pennycad, Craig Robinson, Jason Sanders, Doug Walton.

Jenny Bourke, Joanne Byron, Sonia Foster, Melissa Hayward, Jean Leggett, Fiona McClurg, Catherine McMillan, Megan Shea.

## 11 Green

Andrew Bicker, Rohan Crouch, David Gilson, John Loch, David Moar, Jeff Mackay, Richard Park, Keith Robertson, Doug Tosch, Gavin Vearing.

Jody Birch, Michelle Carr, Evonne Cavanagh, Kylie Davis, Kelly Drake, Gayle Eade, Leanne Fowler, Angela Gill, Mandy Hutchinson, Nicole Jensen, Lisa Kaczynski, Julie Kilpatrick, Liesa King, Mandy Ralph, Colleen Ryan.

## 11 Yellow

David Curnow, Leigh Fisher, Jason Marshall, David Quick, Stuart Wallis.

Kylee Brehaut, Kyla Campey, Davena Carthew, Karen Dunn, Janine Harvey, Kim McAdie, Alison Pitcher, Tina Pohlke, Kristi Ryan, Melissa Seller, Nicole Shearer, Pauline Weickhardt, Natalie Wilson, Bernadette Wilson.

## Year 12

Stephen Barwick, Daniel Calvird, Paul Castberg, John Hillman, Bill Lasgis, Gary Lewis, Adrian Mahoney, Craig McAdie, Jason McGuinness, Neil McKenzie, Robert McKinnis, Duncan Miller, Craig Moorfoot, Mark Paas, Chris Ramsay, Robert Smith.

Lisa Campigli, Pru Carroll, Caitlin Davies, Pauline Dempsey, Tracey Downie, Karen Dunford, Teena Ganosis, Leanne Gill, Toni Hall, Leanne Keith, Belinda Kent, Jane Leeke, Claire Mackay, Bronwen Marshall, Vicki Marshall, Trudie Martin, Fiona Murphy, Missy Perry, Lisa Pollard, Janine Poole, Michelle Powell, Kate Rhook, Janie Robinson, Nicole Start, Belinda Stone, Petrice Wallis, Nicole Williamson.

# SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS 1988

Student Representatives — Janie Robinson, Vicki Marshall, Sonia Foster.

Staff Representatives — Anne Marshall, Ric Thomas, Janine Adams, Gary Allen.

Parent Representatives — Wally Rhook, Michael Wallis, Geoff Hosking, Bruce Grindlay, Peter Jackson, Graeme McGuinness.

Co-opted Members — Peter Wright, Noel Boatman, John McKenzie.

Parents Association Representatives — Leonie Foster, Lois Gill.

Principal — Frank Kitchen.

**Official Song of Ararat High School**

**THREE CHEERS FOR THE TWO**

**BLUES AND GOLD**

*(Music: American Patrol)*

Our School is the best, we've a notion,  
Light-hearted and happy are we,  
The shrine of each student's devotion,  
No school can compare unto thee.  
Thy motto forget we will never,  
This honour for ages we'll uphold  
And be true to our colours forever  
To the dark blue, the light blue and gold.

Chorus:

Three cheers for the two blues and gold  
Three cheers for the two blues and gold  
And be true to our colours forever  
To the dark blue, the light blue and gold

When games take the place of our working,  
And rivals we meet in the field,  
Our duty we'll never be shirking,  
Our honour we never will yield.  
As the flag that for honour waves o'er us  
Unfurled in the breeze you behold,  
Three cheers friends and join in the chorus  
For the dark blue, the light blue and gold.

(Repeat chorus)

## **JAMES FAIRNIE TRUST**

The late James Fairnie died on 16th November, 1948 at the age of 88, and following the recent death of the last surviving life tenant in the Estate, Mrs. May Flavell who died on 29th March 1984 at the age of 87, the residue of the estate is now to be held in accordance with part of James Fairnie's will:

"Upon trust to apply the net income arising therefrom for the establishment of a scholarship or scholarships at Ararat High School to be awarded from time to time and at such intervals and as the Headmaster for the time being of the said High School shall from time to time determine giving preference however in the awarding of any such scholarship to scholars who show particular ability in and who are desirous of furthering their studies in the subject of Chemistry?"

The assets of the Estate consisted of a farm property of approximately 125 acres near Moyston, units in Union Fidelity and Commonwealth Government Inscribed Stock. The land was disposed of at Public Auction on June 29, 1984. The total value of the trust is in excess of \$70,000 and is administered by the Union Fidelity Trustee Company, now called Trust Company of Australia Limited.

## **YEAR 12**

### **1985**

Janine Dridan, Kate Dunster, Kylie Gephart, Andrea Gibson, Julie Melrose, Richard Morgan.

### **1986**

Susan Cooper, Hamish McKenzie, Mark Pocklington, Gavin Reid, Heather Robertson, Tim Shearer.

### **1987**

Jacqui Brassington, David Campey, Anthony Carroll, Nicole Dickeson, Andrew Gunstone, Margot Hutchinson, Kim McGregor, Sandra Ward, Craig Wilding.

### **1988**

David Clark, John Hillman, Bronwen Marshall, Janie Robinson, Anne Smith, Nicole Start, Petrice Wallis.

## **YEAR 11**

### **1985**

Jodi Cummings, Kim Hayward, Kylie Holcombe, Hamish McKenzie, Jan McKinnis, Mark Pocklington, Gavin Reid, Tim Shearer, Angela Strafehl.

### **1986**

Elizabeth Astbury, Linda Bourke, David Campey, Tania Canty, Anthony Carroll, Nicole Dickeson, Matthew Gibson, David Green, Yvonne Grigg, Andrew Gunstone, Margot Hutchinson, Kim McGregor, Wendy Powell, Sandra Ward, Brent White, Craig Wilding.

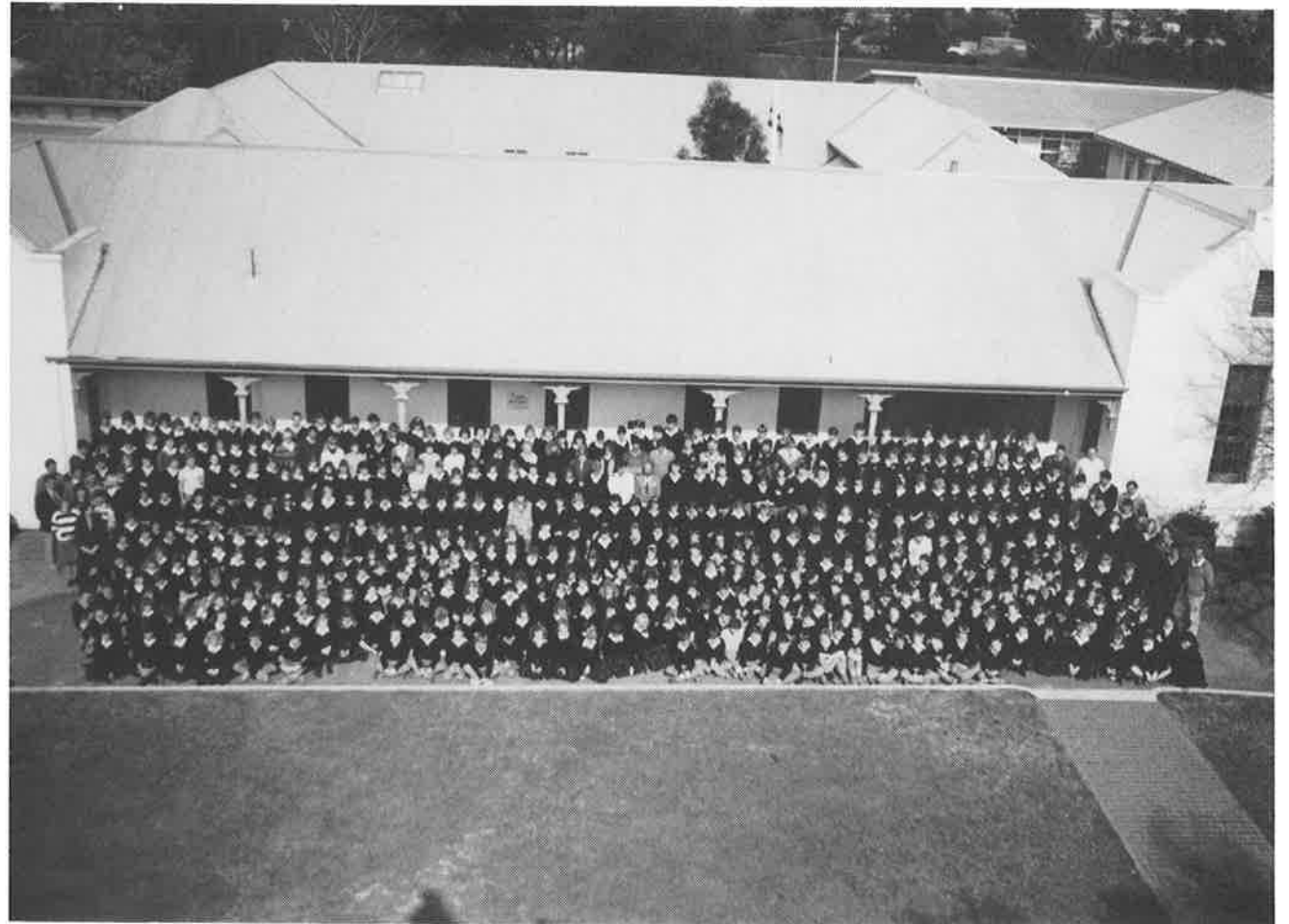
### **1987**

Caitlin Davies, Karen Dunford, Colin Frampton, David Frampton, Michelle Gilkes, Bill Lasgis, Jane Leeke, Jason McGuinness, Clair McKay, Bronwen Marshall, Janine Poole, Janie Robertson, Nicole Start, Petrice Wallis.

### **1988**

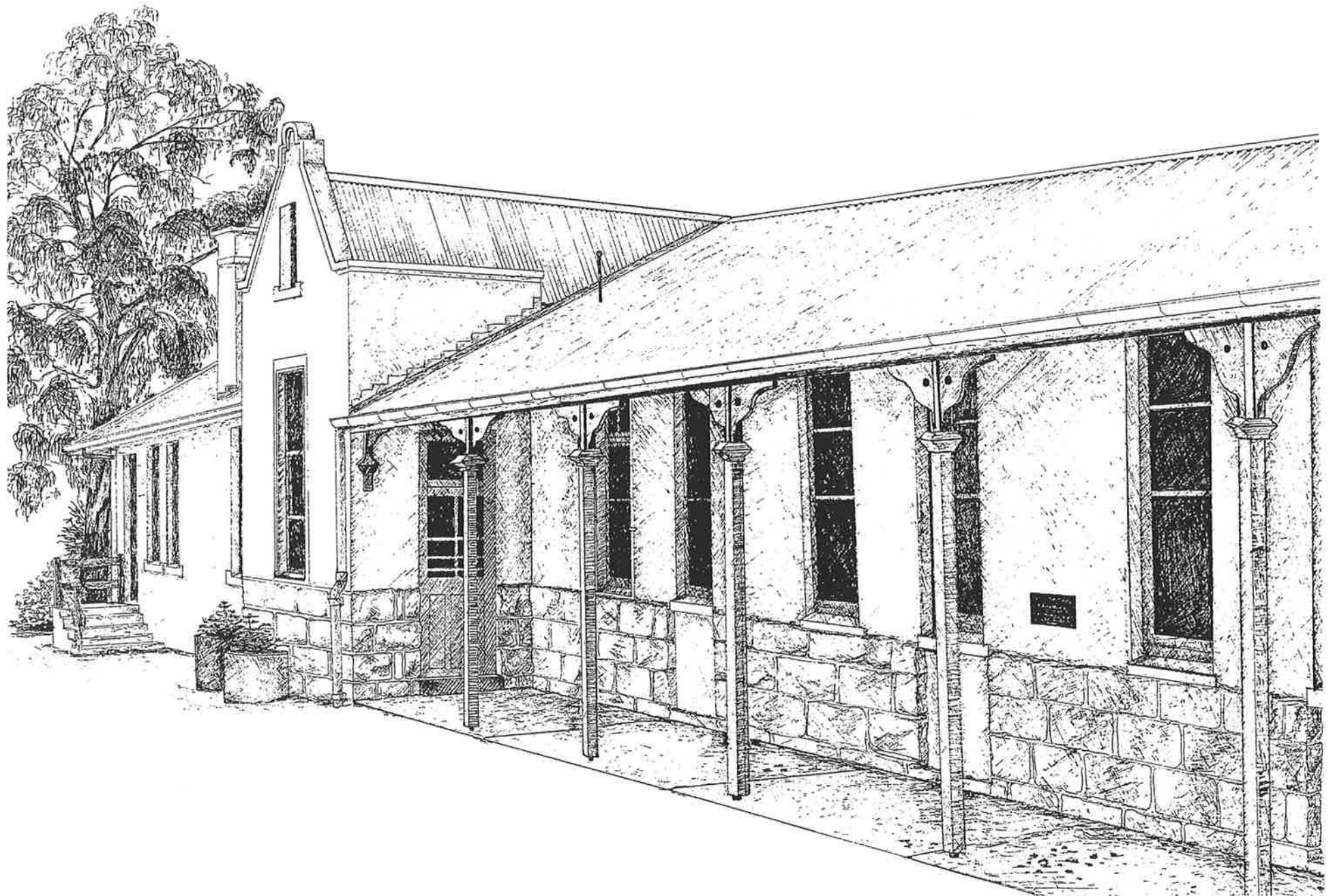
Kylee Brehaut, Evonne Cavanagh, David Curnow, Leigh Fisher, Amanda Fraser, David Gilson, Chris Grigg, Amanda Hutchison, Lisa Kaczynski, Andrew Kitchen, Glen McGregor, Alison Pitcher, Keith Robertson, Colleen Ryan, Melissa Seller, Nicole Shearer, Stuart Wallis, Pauline Weickhardt, Natalie Wilson.



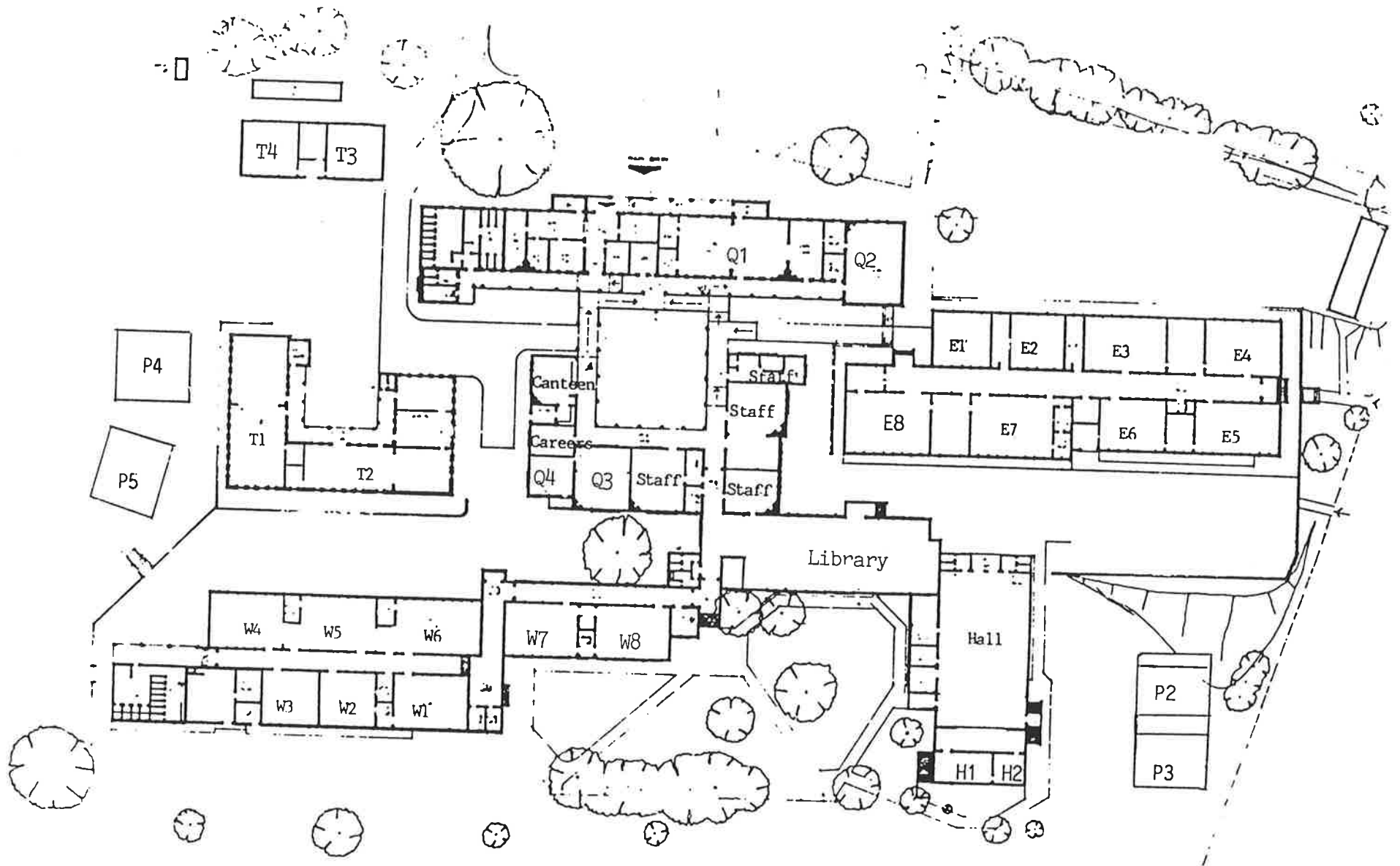














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