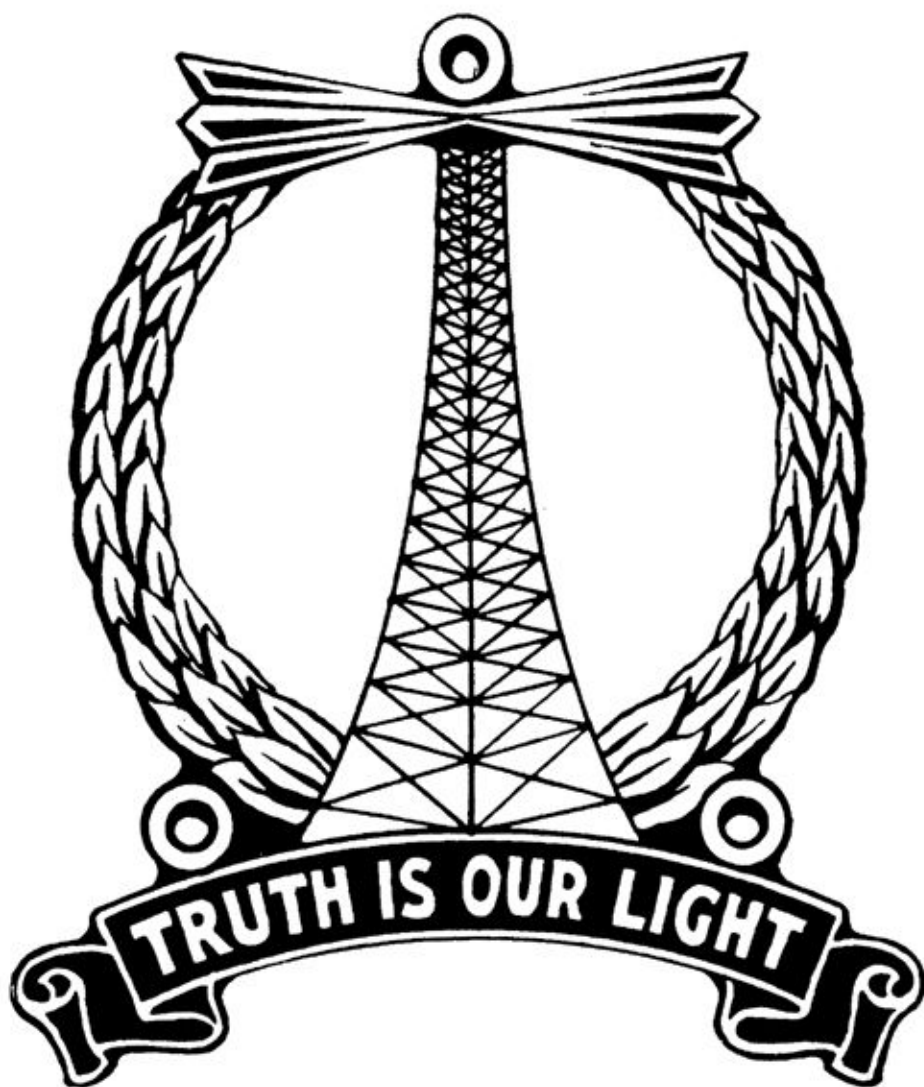


*Where the  
Winds Blow;  
St Albans  
High School  
Silver Jubilee 1956-1981*



# 'where the winds blow!'

'Alba' was the name chosen for the school magazine in early days. It was said to have been an aboriginal word meaning 'Wind'. The sound of the word seemed consonant with the name of our locality and the meaning made it appear applicable to the locality, especially in early days, with the winds blowing across its treeless spaces.

The winds still blow. More significantly the spirit-wind has been blowing through the school – sometimes with the force of a zephyr, sometimes with the force of a gale.

One would like to think that, as we celebrate our Silver Jubilee, the spirit of St. Albans High is resurgent and that the school will enter an era of elevating idealism, noble endeavour and resounding success in its pursuit of the goal to which the school motto 'Truth is our Light' points

the way.

In the compilation of this account of the school an attempt has been made to provide a record of its first twenty-five years. It will not please, or displease, all the people all the time. It is unfortunate that everybody connected with the school's development could not be mentioned. Some mentioned perhaps would rather not have been mentioned; those not mentioned will probably be glad. We hope that the booklet finds ready and wide acceptance, that it serves to capture in a worthy manner, some, at least, of the memorable developments in the school's history, and that it will serve as a foundation for a better production to mark the next Jubilee, the Golden, in 2006 A.D.

**BRUCE ALCORN, (Organiser of Silver Jubilee)**  
Member of Staff 1956-57, 63-64, 66-81.



# Acknowledgements

A word of thanks is here recorded to the following in connection with the production of this booklet:

Mr. A.T. E. Walsh ('Doc') whose memoirs provide much of the information relating to the earliest years,

All who have loaned magazines, photos, newspaper articles, etc.,

The school typiste, Mrs. Lynne Duck,

Members of staff who checked the reliability of information,

Danny Vadasz of Western Region Education Centre (a former pupil of the school).

Adam Carr, artist and Noel Maloney, typesetter, of Correct Line Graphics  
5A, 252 Swanston St, City. Ph. 663 1671.

Supplementary Grants Printing Program, Hetro House, Moonee Ponds,

Sunshine 'Advocate' Staff,

The following have served on the Silver Jubilee Committee:

John Brooke and Neville Daynes (Principals), Roger Martin (Deputy Principal), Graham Brian (President School Council), John Cowl, Colin Thorpe (Community Representative), Thea Taylor (student), John Stachlewski, Mac Torki, Sandra Carlon, Renate Binder, Terry Murphy and Bruce Alcorn.



Some of the School's First Intake, the 1956 First Form

## From the '50s

The first day of school, February 7th, 1956; the location, the Presbyterian Church Hall, Anderson Road, Sunshine; the school, one hundred and twenty-six pupils (71 girls, 55 boys) from the St. Albans and Albion schools; the Principal, Mr. J.A. Barker, and staff, Mrs. Barker, Tom Walsh (affectionately known as 'Doc'), Leo Murphy, Harry Lahy, Bruce Alcorn, and office secretary, Mrs. W. Johnson. Mrs. O'Halloran joined the staff the next day as teacher of Needlework. Soon after the commencement of the day trestles and tables, vinyl chairs, portable blackboards, chalk, maps and other teaching aids arrived. A

screen divided the hall into sections whilst the kitchen annexe made the third class room. It was arranged that on two half-days a week the boys would go with Mr. Murphy to the Sunshine Technical School for woodwork classes.

Any account of St. Albans High must contain a proud and grateful reference to its international character. The awareness of this was particularly strong in its earliest years when efforts were made to feature the various cultural traditions of the nations represented. The awareness of that same rich cultural element is still in evidence as will be seen in the Silver Jubilee's International Display.

At an early staff conference it was decided to incorporate Australian characteristics in school colours and house names, green as the basic colour for girls' uniforms and boys' ties; and Australian native-plant names for house names. Green and purple became the school colours: Jacaranda (later we learnt that this was a native of North America) Kurrajong, Waratah and Wattle as the house names

with purple, green, red and gold the house colours.

Mr. Leo Murphy, the Art and Craft Co-ordinator, designed the badge, incorporating the Australian Broadcasting Commission's aerial (located on the St. Albans-Sydenham Road), the Olympic Torch, the laurel wreath with which the Olympic champions of old were decorated and the motto, 'Truth Is Our Light'. (It should be noted that 'Doc' suggested this as a possible motto, the suggestion arising out of his deep interest in history, and, in this instance in particular, in his knowledge of the Chronicle written by the Venerable Bede in the 8th Century, in which is recorded St. Augustine's reply to King Ethelbert who asked what light he brought, St. Augustine replying, 'Truth is our light'.).

The school was fortunate in being near the attractive municipal gardens, tennis courts, a sports oval and the H.V. McKay Reserve.

Inter-house sports competitions were organised. Sporting functions were arranged with Williamstown High, Sunshine Tech., and Sunshine High which commenced in 1955.

Mr. Barker, writing his recollections of these earliest days, refers to many pupils having to travel by train and so few going home to lunch as influences which helped to bind together the twenty-one nationalities into a solid group of students. He writes: 'Our difficulties such as erecting trestle tables, wall partitions every Monday (not to mention the ink; would you believe it biros were taboo in those days!) and removing all signs of our occupancy (of the hall) Friday afternoon seemed at times intolerable but in retrospect funny. A sound recording of teachers in the main hall all endeavouring by shouting, bellowing or squeaking according to their vocal style to communicate with their particular class to the exclusion of the others would be worth hearing. One might even hear in the middle of a lesson about Captain Bligh a strange interpolation such as 'George Pyers will play in the back pocket' after which the sentence reverted to history without a pause. Another recollection is the devotion and energy of our first secretary who coped so cheerfully with the fact that the kit-

chenette was the Head Master's office, secretary's office, dining room and staff room, even producing a school magazine which may well be the only memento some have of 1956.'

Some 'special' events of the first year included one which ought to be mentioned in the interest of the truth: One day the staff noticed that over twenty boys had a far greater supply of biros, pencils and toys than was usual. Mr. Barker discovered that one Australian boy had been organising certain boys into gangs after school. They had been visiting Coles' store. The store manager was contacted....(The reader is left to complete this narrative and is invited to compare with the original on file.) Other special events were a pupil concert in Term 1; a cross-country run, an open day at Massey Ferguson's, the Speech Night at the year's end and the last day's removal of books, teaching aids, and furniture to the permanent home, a 6 ha. site on Main Road East, St. Albans.



The Opening of the School, 1958. Pupils talk with the then Minister of Education, Mr. Bloomfield.





Nina Diakonow Winning the 1959 Broad Jump

The chronicler tells of the grass fire which broke out on the first day of the school year and which necessitated the calling of the Fire Brigade. He tells of Mrs. Maddox climbing on to the science table, yelling 'Snake!' as a science specimen slithered across the floor.

Some of the pupils became members of Doc's Electra Drama Group, Jeff Barlow, Jack McMillan, Dennis Thornton and Terry Smith and others making a trip to Darwin presenting programmes there and on the way.

Mr. Doug Hill succeeded Mrs. Maddox as science co-ordinator at the beginning of 1958 when Mr. Ken Chilton took responsibility for Woodwork and Miss Kennedy (Mrs. Lehy) Domestic Science.

The Advisory Council, which held its first meeting soon after the school began had, as its first President, Cr. J. Eddie, J. P. Over a period of twelve years in this office, he gave himself unsparingly to the school. Other members of the first Advisory Council of the school were Vice-Presidents Mr. F. Heaviside and Mr. W. Wild, Mr. R. Smith, Cr. J. Ainsworth, Mr. R.J. Armstrong, Cr. H. Easton, Mr. R. Hounslow, Mr. H. Johns and Mrs. W. McIntyre. Other early councillors were Messrs. W. Gist, S.C. Kerr, L.W. Fletcher, I.J. McCubbin, W.E. Perrett, J.P., and J.S. Crocker.

The Parents' and Friends' Association was set up in the school's first year with Mr. F. Heaviside as President, Mr. T. Walsh as Vice-President, Mrs. W. McIntyre as Secretary, Mr. R. Smith as Treasurer and Mrs. F. Fairweather, Mr. M. Shegydyn, M. J. McCubbin, Mrs. J. Cameron and Mrs. R. Hounslow as other members. Over the years interest in the Association has fluctuated. At present a renewed attempt is being made to encourage interest and practical support. Oral tradition has it that a meeting of mothers interested in the school was held at least once a month in the canteen, presumably for school improvement. We may understandably mention those who are active in the Parents' and Friends' Association currently, acknowledging the contribution of all who have supported it over the years. The President is Mrs. E. Thorpe, Vice-President Mr. A. Cook, Secretary Mrs. H. Craig, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Mrs. P. Grannas, and those actively engaged in it include Mrs. C. Lazendoerfer, Mrs. T. Kutin, Mrs. L. Cameron, Mr. A. Morris, and Mrs. M. Merceica.

This is an appropriate stage in the narrative to acknowledge the efforts made by those interested in obtaining a High School for St. Albans. Amongst these was Mrs. Lorna Cameron, whose interest in the school has continued throughout its twenty-five years, as a member of the Parents' and Friends' Association, a member of the School Council and, for a brief period, library assistant.

The year 1957 opened with the school being accommodated in what is now the centre wing of the L.T.C. (Light Timber Construction) buildings.

Doc. recalls that on the day before the 1957 school year began he met Mr. and Mrs. Keith Haynes, Mr. Haynes being the officially-appointed school cleaner. Mr. Haynes served as cleaner, and later as leading-hand cleaner, over a period of twenty-two years until his unexpected death in 1979. His contribution to the school included care of the grounds and sports coaching, especially in cricket.

Staff of that year included Mr. Jack Clark, formerly of the Alexandra Higher Elementary School, who came as Senior Master, Miss Gwen Bowles as Senior Mistress from Bendigo High, Mr. Geoff Reid as teacher of English and French from McLeod High, Mrs. Jocelyn Maddox (Science) and Mr. Harry Canty (Physical Education).

Mr. Barker set about a programme of school beautification for which the Sunshine City Council provided trees. These trees were planted along the boundary fences,

but watering difficulties over the long vacation and some instances of vandalism defeated the scheme. The school garden was established, Mr. Martin Blum being the first gardener. His achievements led to other schools obtaining his services.

Our new Form 1 (now year 7) intake produced some very interesting students. Amongst the girls were Rosemary Keegan, Rosemary Kiss, Sneja Gunew, Hannelore Henschke, easily the most academic-minded students one would wish to have in a school. Amongst the boys were Julian Castagna, Ian Sharp, Per Becker, Norbert Loeffler, Joe Darul, and Les Cameron, all first-class lads in their own individual ways.

In sport we were holding our own against other High Schools, the greatest rival being Footscray High. Mr. Mill was in charge of athletics. The combined sports that year were held at Geelong as the western division included, then, Geelong and Ballarat.

In 1958, Mrs. Johnson left for Darwin, her successor as Office Secretary being Mrs. Gwen Williams. Others to serve in the office prior to 1963 were Donata Gerbec, Wendy Fatcher and Mrs. Jean Cox.

There were four main highlights of 1958. One was Mr. Reid's drama pupils' success which put St. Albans High on the cultural map by winning the prize for the best one-act play in an all Victorian Secondary Schools competition. Doug Markham, Graeme Bolitho and Leigh Johnson who travelled daily from Riddell played prominent roles in this effort. A second was a visit to Drouin for sport, those students involved having, at least in some cases, their first experience of being billeted. Letters of thanks to hosts and hostesses were written by the pupils upon the suggestion of Mrs. Barker and Mr. Reid. A third highlight was the official opening of the school by the then Minister of Education, Hon. J.S. Bloomfield, M.L.A., on November 14th, 1958.

were added to the original list of feeder schools. This led to boys such as Henry and Ernie Steigler and Jim Cadzow attending and contributing much to our sporting success particularly in cricket, football and athletics.

Miss Bowles spent twelve months on study leave in England. Mr. Lahy, who, incidentally, was for a period a City of Sunshine councillor, developed music as a subject. It was decided to perform, at the old Sunshine Town Hall, an abridged version of "Lilac Time". Miss Kennedy, with her needlework classes, worked overtime preparing attractive costumes and stage decorations. This was an outstanding and memorable concert. Mr. Lahy obtained wonderful contributions from his singers, particularly Svetlana Bohudski who took the part of Lilli, and Andreas Kratsis who played the role of Schubert. Vanda Viti found it easy to flirt with Jack McMillen. Joy Deveson's piano forte playing was an excellent feature of the performance. Julian Castagna and Per Becker led the backstage team well.

Some of the well-remembered pupils of this period were Albert Van de Kuyt who showed early an interest in media which he has since gone to develop, Rose and Peter Metha, Ray Haynes, Jan Iredale (Ray and Jan were loyal Jacaranda House Captains), Les Cameron, David Pringle, the Czyz brothers, Ivan Volkov, Leon Trosczki, the Thurgood brothers, Mitko Neskov, Victor Brooks and John Belko who was like a sheepdog in the way he used to round up stray footballers trying to avoid a shower.

In 1959, our first Form 4 faced the external Intermediate exams. The results were so satisfactory that the school was approved for the internal examination in 1960.



Prefects, 1960

The fourth highlight was the establishment of the school canteen to which particular reference ought to be made because of its service to the school over twenty-three years. It may not be generally known that the canteen had humble beginnings in the very first year of the school. A certain member of staff who wishes anonymity sold soft-drinks at a profit of two cents (twopence in those days) a bottle — for school funds, of course.

This trade was continued in the second year, business being conducted from what is now room 05. Mrs. Gwen Johns was the first manageress, a position she held for twelve years. Other manageresses have been Mrs. Sharpe, Mrs. Del Re and Mrs. Viti who is the present manageress assisted by Mrs. Griffiths.

The year 1959 saw the school population grow to over six hundred. Ardeer, Deer Park and West Sunshine



# Through the '60s

In 1960 Mr. Clark moved on to be Principal of Beaufort High; Mr. Strauss joined the staff from Burwood High as Senior Master; Miss Taylor, who had been studying on a Fulbright scholarship in U.S.A. became Head Mistress and Miss Bowles returned from England. The standards of the school in every area were very high. Some may remember Mr. Strauss' little black book.

1960 was the first year of external Leaving Certificate examinations. Results were gratifying.

At the end of the year Mr. Barker transferred to Strathmore High, much to the disappointment of all at St. Albans. Mrs. Barker went to Footscray Girls High, her going being a loss to the academic and personal relations aspects of the school.

Members of staff of this period not already mentioned included Mr. Eric Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Pavlov and Mr. Norm McLeish. Leo Murphy transferred to Hawthorn Central School. Harry Lahy married Mary Kennedy. (The untimely death of Harry a few years later was a severe shock to all who knew him.)

Mr. Max Wilkinson became principal of the school in 1961 and was to return for a second period as principal in 1971. One of his contributions was to have on the staff in that early period a psychologist, Miss Mary Meyer. This was an innovation indeed as far as High Schools were concerned. Many can still recall the "pinkies" which Mr. Wilkinson used to ensure that his communication with any member of staff actually came to the notice of that person. Extra-curricula activities were encouraged at the school at this time. Doc's history nights were a popular feature not only because distinguished academics and officials from various organisations came to speak to the students but also because the students were involved in debating, dramatisation and discussion – and there was supper.

Mr. Wilkinson became principal of Fawkner High School at the beginning of 1962 and was followed at St. Albans by Mr. Brian Torpey, 1961 – 1968. That same year saw the addition to the staff of Mr. George Sinclair as Senior Master, Laurie Burchell in charge of Art, Erast Ziemelis (a very highly respected member of staff, thoroughly professional in attitude, who died suddenly in 1973), Mrs. Sturesteps (who for several years, particularly in the latter period of her time at the school, 1959 – 1975 was a maternal figure in staff-room and class-room, and respected too), both Erast and Mrs. Suresteps being capable teachers of German and History, Tom Scarff and Ian Smith.

At the end of 1962, Mr. Sinclair, Mr. (now Dr.) Strauss, Mr. Everson, Miss Taylor, Miss Bowles, Mr. (now Dr.) Reid moved on to new appointments. Limited space precludes us from telling of the exploits of Barry Reyner (Maths.) who later married Joan Butler (History), David Worland (Commerce), Annie Gibson (Music) and others too numerous to mention.

The cultural talent amongst the students of the period was amazing. As an example we may cite that Barry Chappell, Albert Van de Kuyt and Knut Werner were all interested in electronics and had made their own films. Albert had directed a class activity at Form 4 level related to the arrival of John Batman, adapting the Koroit Creek to represent the Yarra River.

That year saw one of the famous Cross Country Runs organised by Doc. On the appointed day a farmer let loose some bulls in one of the paddocks. 'Never', says the chronicler, 'have I seen such natural hurdlers as when our athletes came face to face with nature in the raw.' He adds,

## MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

Committee would like to express its appreciation to Mr. Shaw for his typing classes for the year and for typing out the proofs for the magazine.

The design of the magazine was extended to all contributors. The design was by Mr. Shaw from an original design by Mr. Shaw.

The design of the magazine was also extended to all contributors. The design was by Mr. Shaw from an original design by Mr. Shaw.

It is an aboriginal name of the peninsula, meaning "wind." It was an open paddock of St. Albans especially windswept in those days. Svats, Marilyn Hulet, Leo Doherty, Simeovic, David Beighton



Alba Magazine Committee, 1967.



'The loyalty of the students in the classroom, on the sporting fields and in extra-curricula activities came from the family atmosphere'.

At the end of '63 Doc. transferred to Strathmore High and Mr. Eric Ford moved to Glen Waverley High.

The academic achievements of several of our pupils of this period should not be forgotten. Names such as Stuart Rodda, Hannelore Henschke, Sneaj Gunew, Rosemary Kiss, Bella Ajayoglu, Rosemary Keegan, Peter Tucker, Enver and Timor Bajraszewski, Claude Calandra, Broderick Smith, Leon and Viktor Troszczyj, Peter Bevez, Slawko Muc, Leo Dobes and Helga Mucke are mentioned representatively of a very productive period, academically and otherwise-culturally.

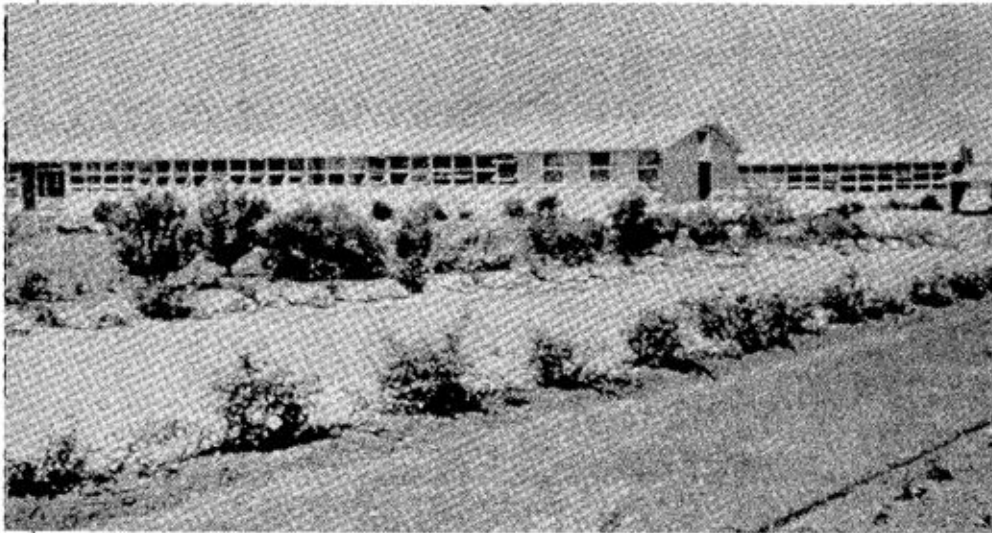
The outstanding development in the 1960s with regard to property development was the erection of the Assembly Hall. Mr. Torpey (Principal 1962 - 1968) saw the need to have the hall, and, with the backing of the Advisory Council and the Parents' and Friends' Association, set about organising the programme to obtain one. The St. Albans High School Co-operative Society was set up to raise the necessary funds. Mr. Frank Pringle gave much time and expertise to the task of co-ordinating the activities of the Society. Mrs. Mary Smith and Mr. F. Scheurer (Secretary after Mr. Pringle) worked hard to further the co-operative. The cost of the hall (in excess of \$100,000) was met by contributions from individual persons in the school and wider community, the school canteen, business firms of the locality and the Education Department which contributed on a one-to-two basis. Some may remember the

highly successful monster-fete, organised by the late Mr. Arnold Shaw, (at that time a staff member) proceeds of which went towards the cost of the hall. Several forms raised money through activities of various kinds - toffee-stalls, cake-stalls, out of uniform days, auctioning teachers, etc. - as part of pupil involvement in the hall project. The plaque commemorating the opening of the hall (quoted because the plaque is not very conspicuous) reads:

"This Assembly Hall was erected by the Parents and Friends of the school in conjunction with the Education Department and was officially opened on the 21st day of April, 1969, by the Hon. L.H.S. Thompson, M.L.C. Minister of Education".

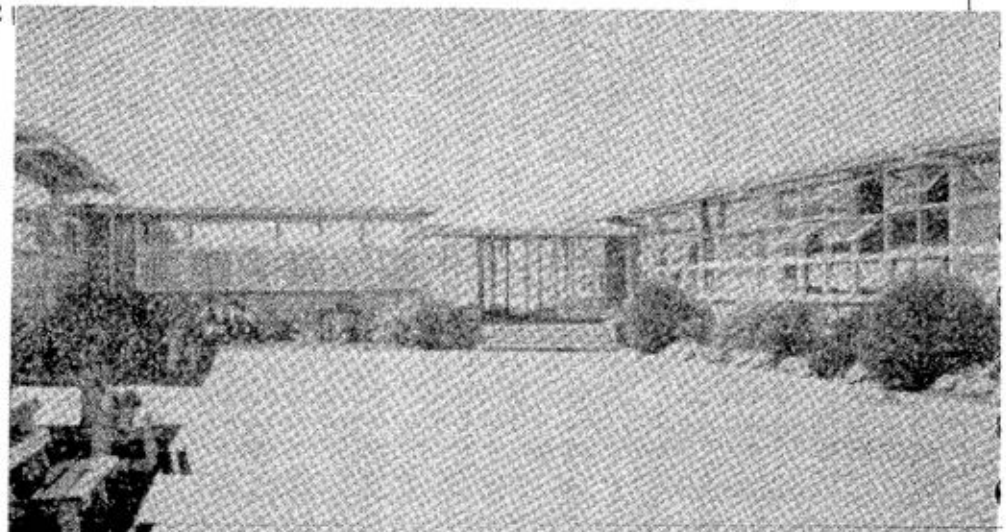
Recognition should be given to the valuable contribution made by Mrs. Alison Gliddon (who speaks with deep appreciation of her time at the school) as Head Mistress from 1963 until 1969. The contribution of Mr. Ivan Mathews, Senior Master from 1963 until 1968, a fine teacher of English and a man of irrepressible humour who occasionally gave indications of possible Roman ancestry by his occasional flashes of Latin, should not be overlooked. Remember his promises of chocolate frogs?

Mr. Arnold Shaw came to St. Albans High in 1963 as a teacher of Art and Manual Arts. He became the Time-Tabler and so responsible for day-to-day organisation of the school programme. In this task he evinced those qualities of meticulous care, patience and thoughtfulness, always combined with a warm and pleasant attitude towards staff

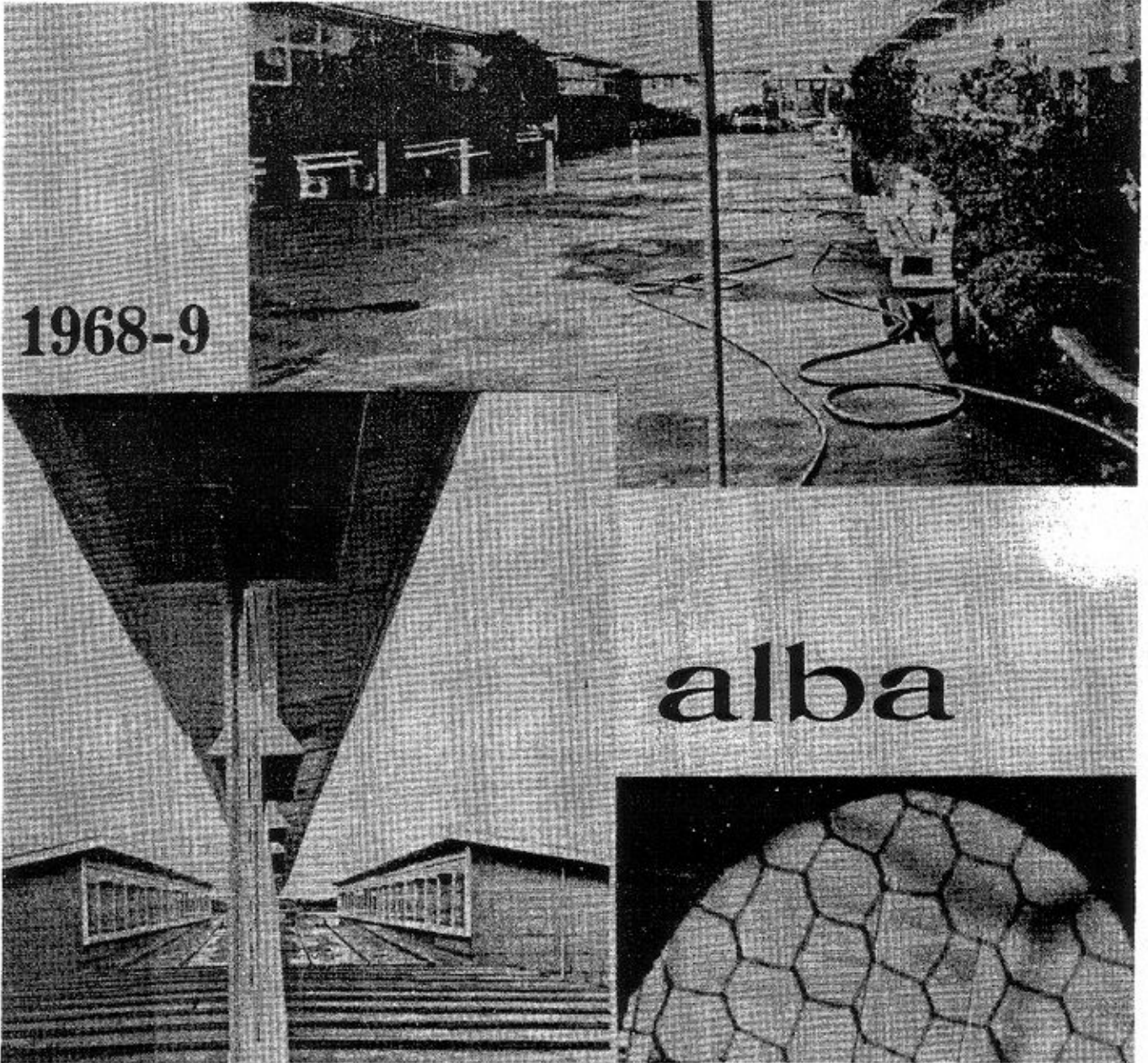


St. Albans High School, 1962

St. Albans High School, 1962



1968-9



# alba

and pupils. Mr. Shaw left St. Albans to become Deputy Principal at Laverton High from where he moved to take up the Principal's position at Point Gellibrand High School. His sudden death, at the beginning of the school year 1977, was a shock to many.

Mr. John McInerney became the Principal in 1968 and remained with us until early 1970, when he transferred to Beaumaris High. He came to us after being involved in a famous 'long-hair' confrontation. His death, which occurred in the time of his next principalship was genuinely regretted by all at St. Albans.

Because of the non-English speaking background of many of our pupils and because of a general illiteracy problem a well-organised English centre was set up by Mrs. Gliddon and Miss Chris Riddell in the late 60s. This centre was later located on the 'B' floor of the M.H. Wilkinson Education Centre. Mrs. Margaret Sala was a dynamic influence in this programme. With particular interest in

new arrivals from overseas. Mr. Somaratne was involved in the teaching of 'migrant' English. Mr. Harischandar has taught 'migrant' English exclusively at the school for seven years and has had the assistance of Miss Margaret White, Mrs. Daniela Szlawski, Mrs Wendy Martakis and others.

The school was fortunate at this time to gain the services of Mr. R. Fehmel as its music teacher. Mr. Fehmel brought to the school a wealth of experience and developed the appreciation of music significantly. He generously made it possible for the school to possess one of his valuable grand pianos.

In August 1963 Mrs. D. Wright (Kath) became the head of the office staff. Every principal under whom she served, and every staff member with whom she served, has extolled her work in highest terms.

In 1964 Mr. Malaniuk joined the staff and is still with us.





7



From Alba, 1971



—M. H. WILKINSON, B.A., B.Ed. (Hon.), M.A.C.E.



Mr. McInerny with School Staff, 1968

## Along with the '70s

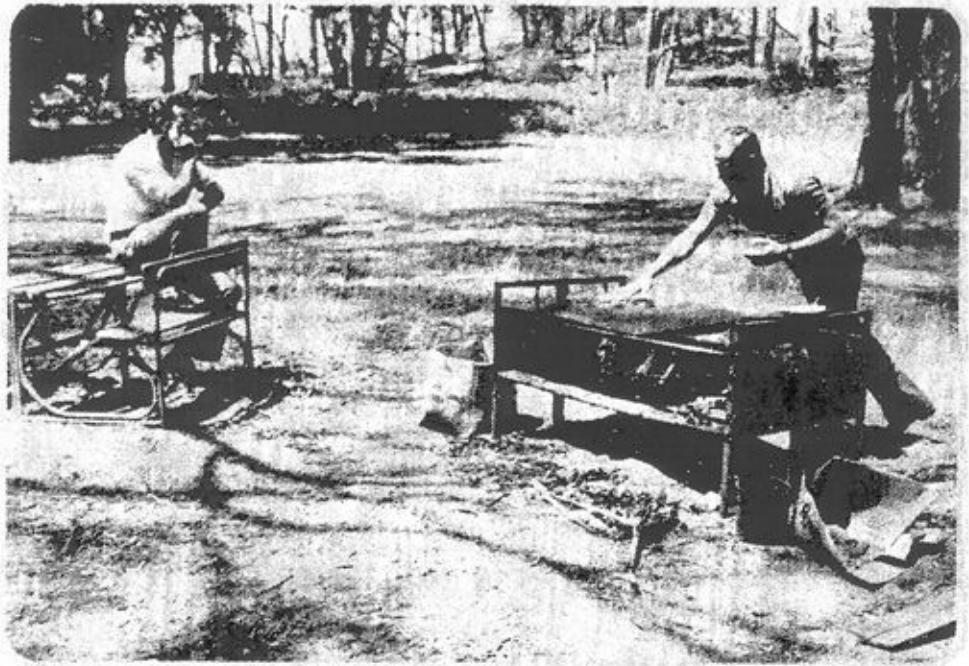


The decade of the Seventies was marked by vitality, innovation and adaption and adjustment to change. Out with insistence upon the wearing of the school uniform, though the wearing of some distinguishing feature of school identification has been repeatedly decreed, in with curriculum innovation, out with term examinations compulsory at all levels and in with a wide-range of electives.

Mr. Terry O'Brien served as Acting-Principal for one year only, 1970, before his appointment to Sunshine West as Principal from the beginning of 1971. All who served under him were sorry to see him leave.

The Musical Activities Club (known as MAC) with which the names of staff members including Mr. McMahon, Larry and Lyn Hills, Terry Murphy, Ann Mitchell, Graham Twist, Peter Kueffer, Ed Goodson, Julie Ryan, Raymond Lunde, Bruce Taylor, Jenny Stratford, and many others will always be appreciatively associated by hundreds of pupils, was established in 1970. A student, Chris Stafrace, was instrumental in forming MAC. MAC has provided opportunities for these pupils to gain experience in drama, singing, choreography, music and stagecraft. An annual performance has been a feature since its inception. Some of the presentations have been *Hair*, *Magical Mystery Tour*, *Othello*, *Hero*, *42nd Street*, *Let's Go To The Hop*, *No Place For A Woman*, *A Safe Bet*, *The Far Away Tree* and *Just Hot Gossip*, largely because of this experience many students have gone on to careers in the entertainment world; Cathy Achterberg, Gowan Farrugia, (presently with HSV 7), Steven Millechamp, (T.V. drama), Tim Penhall, (presently with NIDA), and Uta Aukstulewicz, to mention a representative few. A photograph in the school's administration areas show the MAC group which took part by invitation in the Moomba celebration of 1976.

Mr. Wilkinson returned at the beginning of 1971 to be Principal. During his second term in that position (1971 - 1975) some major developments took place.



A School Outing



At this time we saw the commencement of widespread and far-reaching curriculum change. The external Leaving Certificate Examination was abolished in 1972. (The school had been approved for the conducting of its own Leaving Certificate examination for several years). A curriculum programme providing for many subject electives at Years 9, 10 and 11 and for wide-ranging creative and recreational activities at Years 7 and 8 was evolved by the Education Council and that to which in 1975 it gave place – the Proposals Committee. The position of curriculum Co-ordinator was capably filled by Mr. Doug Smith for four years prior to his move on promotion to Deer Park. Miss Ruth Radke is presently Curriculum Co-ordinator.

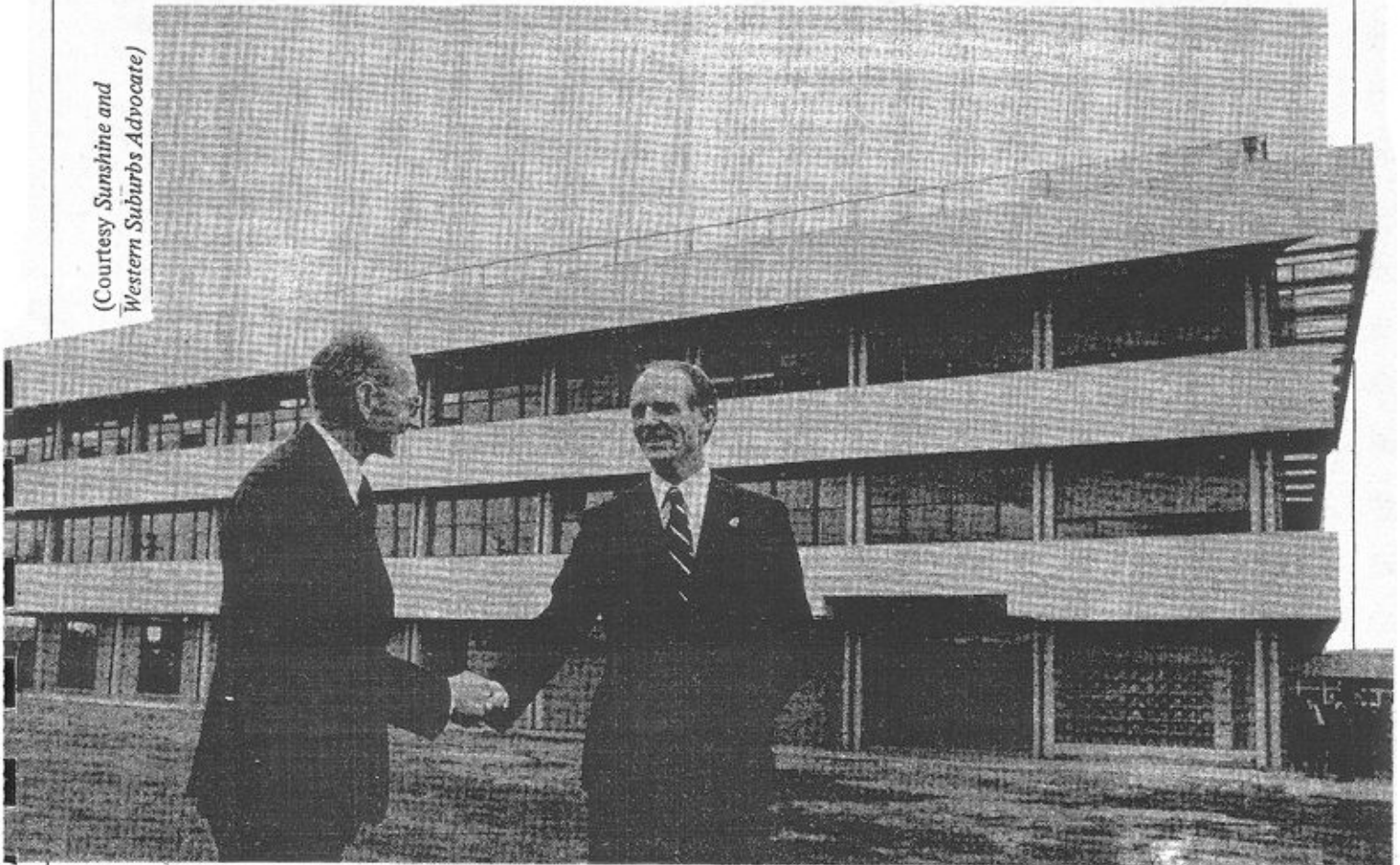
Another of these developments was the establishment of the School Camp. As early as 1973 Mr. Wilkinson set out with a staff member, Peter Carmody, to investigate possible sites for a school camp. One that was looked at was Strangeways. It was decided by the Advisory Council to accept the offer by the Education Department of the old Strathbogie School as a School Camp property. A Camp Committee has functioned since the beginning of the camp and vast improvements have been effected by Camp Co-ordinators (staff members Mac Torki, John Myers and Bruce Taylor), the only full-time Camp Supervisor (Bill Hunsberger 1976 – 1977), other staff, groups of parents and friends and pupils, all with the authority and genuine encouragement of the School Council. The camp now features tent accommodation for thirty pupils, an ablution block, dining, study and recreational facilities. Two railway carriages have been purchased for extra accommodation. In 1978 the School Council purchased a utility specifically for the purpose of transporting foodstuffs and other essentials to the camp. School policy is that every child shall be given the opportunity to have camping experience under the supervision of the school on at least two occasions during his or her six-year period.

Another major development was the setting up of a Careers department with an officially recognised careers teacher in charge. The first of these careers teachers in the school, and indeed one of the very first in Victorian Secondary schools, was Mr. Don Murdoch. Upon his being seconded to the Special Services Division in 1977, Mr. Graham Twist was appointed to the position. He was succeeded by Miss Sue Barr, now in her third year as careers teacher. It is a matter of fact that this department has proved of inestimable value to our pupils, the co-operation of several local employers and others further afield in the work-experience scheme contributing to the overall effectiveness of the department. The school has co-operated with the local C.Y.S.S. (Community Youth Support Scheme), from the time of its foundation under Mr. Mykel Ziolo in 1977 through to the present day under Mr. Ranjit Das.

The construction of the three-storey building was begun in 1974 largely as a result of representations made by Mr. Wilkinson and the Advisory Council. The value of a Commonwealth library with science rooms, theaterette and other classrooms was appreciated and by the end of 1975 the building was ready for occupancy. At the same time a much-needed car-park was provided. It is not without significance that the person who had so much to do with procuring this valuable building was through ill-health compelled to relinquish the work he loved, after a lifetime of dedicated and effective service just as the building was about to become available for school and community use. The plaque commemorating the opening of the building reads in part:

'The M.H. Wilkinson Education Centre named in honour of dedicated service as Principal 1961, 1971-1975 officially opened in 22nd October, 1976, by the Hon. L.H.S. Thompson, Deputy Premier of Victoria, Minister of Education.'

(Courtesy Sunshine and Western Suburbs Advocate)



The Opening of the M.H. Wilkinson Education Centre. Mr. Wilkinson (left) with the then Minister, Mr. Thompson.



It was in 1975 that the school was declared a 'disadvantaged' school according to a series of weighted criteria, including notions of socio-economic level of parents, ethnicity, and distance to the nearest tertiary institution, recognised by the Federal Schools Commission. A Proposal Committee was set up to develop, implement and evaluate school programs, funded by Supplementary Grants, under the Disadvantaged Schools Program. Members of our school staff who have served on the Area Committee for Supplementary Grants are Mr. Neil Davis (left St. Albans 1977), Mr. S. Sheltawi, Ms. Jeni Livingston and Mr. J. Stachlewski; a parent, the late Mr. Frank Cassar, also served on the committee.

Since 1975, an amount in excess of \$250,000 has been provided through the scheme, enabling the development of an enriched curriculum and the acquisition of valuable equipment and materials. A noteworthy development made possible by Supplementary Grants is the employment of two qualified Health and Welfare Aides who share the one position (Mrs. Pam Panczel, and Mrs. Pam Tobin), a Printing and Duplicating Aide (Mrs. Josette Libon), the Audio-Visual Aide (Mr. Andrew Oliver who recently succeeded Mr. Peter Maloney).

The year 1979 saw the establishment of the Priorities Review Committee, a sub-committee of the School Council, authorised by the Council to make recommendations on the apportioning of funds according to the needs of the various faculties and other areas of school expenditure.

Mr. Neil Davis served as Acting-Principal for a brief period following the retirement of Mr. Wilkinson.

Mr. J.B. Betson was Acting-Principal through 1976.

In February 1977, Mr. John D. Brooke became the Principal. During his time at St. Albans (February 1977 to May 1979) the school felt the impact of dynamic leadership and challenging ideas.

On July 27th, 1977, the school library was named the F.B. Pringle Library in recognition of his services to the school. Following the Resource Centre's re-instatement after the fire, referred to later, a ceremony was held to mark its re-opening on 13th November, 1980.

After a lapse of several years the house system was revived in 1978, largely because of the influence of the Sports Master, Mr. Stan Hope, and several other members of staff. They saw little prospect of improving school performance in inter-school athletics and swimming competition without an effective house system. So once again the banners of Jacaranda, Kurrajong, Waratah and Wattle appeared. As a result, after a lean period of disappointing performances, the school's record improved-dramatically.

Following Mr. Brooke's resignation, Mr. R.B. Martin became Acting-Principal for the remainder of the year. In May 1979 the up-grading of the Administration Area, the staffrooms, the Year Level Co-ordinators' room and the Home Economics area began, the work taking the whole of Term 2 to complete.

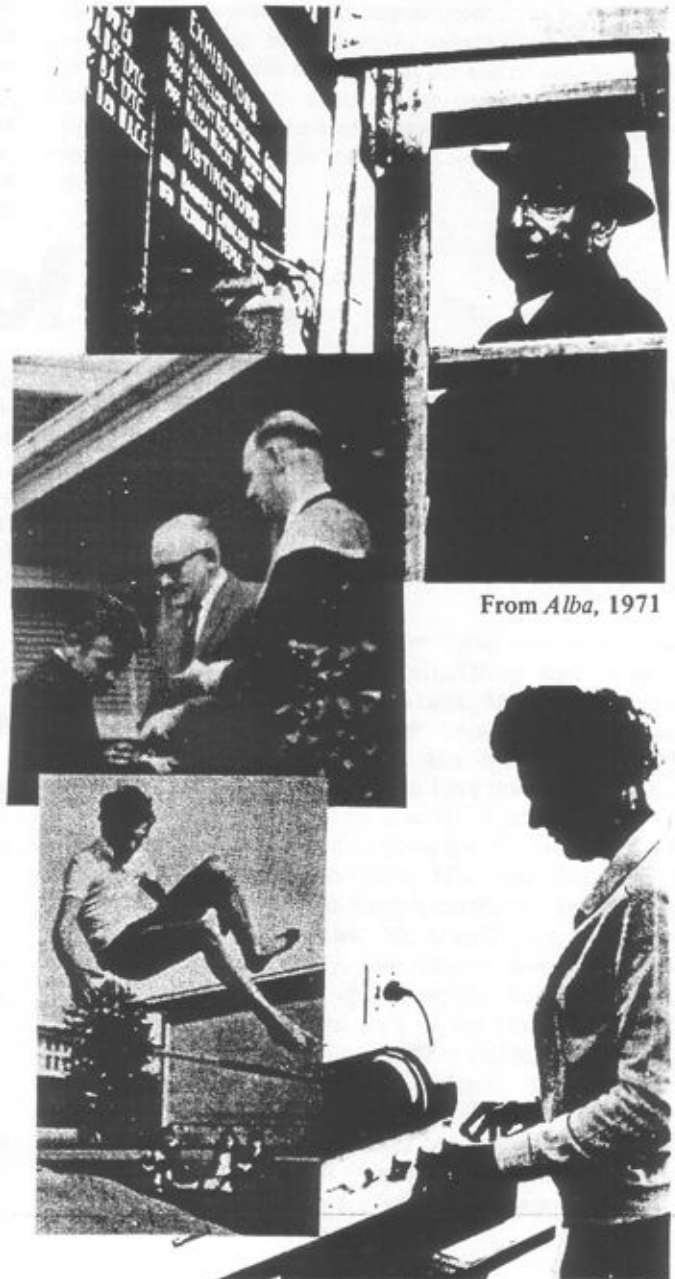
On Sunday evening (about 5.00 pm), June 10th, 1979, a neighbour noticed that the M.H. Wilkinson Education Centre was on fire. A prompt response by the Fire Brigade confined the fire to the Audio-Visual and Library-office area on the ground floor. Extensive heat, smoke and water damage rendered the entire library area unservicable. The loss of, and damage to, books, Art-Craft exhibits, Audio-Visual and library equipment was assessed for insurance purposes at \$43,000. The estimated cost of the damage to the building, furnishings and fixtures was \$250,000. It was not until October 1980 that the

re-instated Resource Centre was ready for normal school use.

By the close of 1979 the School Council was reconstituted, as were all other school councils, in accordance with amendments to the Education (School Councils) Act 1975. Our council provides for a two-year term of office for five parent representatives, five community representatives, five teacher representatives and five pupil representatives, the principal being an ex-officio member without voting rights and serving as the chief executive officer of the council.

The school has had four School Council presidents over its twenty-five years, rendering valued service to the school: Cr. J. Eddie, (1956 - 1967), Mr. Frank Pringle (1968 - 1976), Mr. Don Broadway (1977 - 1979), and Mr. Graham Brian (1980 - 1981).

Members of the present School Council are: Mr. G. Brian, Mrs. L. Cameron, Mr. A. Cook, Mrs. B. Haynes, and Mrs. E. Vasjuta. The community representatives are: Mrs. Val Bell, Mr. H. Glavas, Mr. M. Kierzak, Mrs. K. Moses and Mr. J. Stechlewski. Pupil representatives are: Joanna Bajada, Sue Glavas, Linda Grannas and Stephen Volkov. Staff representatives are Mr. J. Cowl, M. G. Davey, Ms. J. Livingston, Mr. N. Thornton, and Mr. B. Alcorn.



From Alba, 1971

## Into the '80s

1980 was the school's twenty-fifth year. Mr. Neville P. Daynes became the Principal at the beginning of the year. Already some major up-grading of the school grounds was underway, this being because of initiatives taken by Mr. Phil Gambin, Ms. Jenni Livingstone and other members of staff with the ready co-option of the School Council. 1980 saw the grading of the Main Road East aspect of the school ground, the establishment of a lawn with landscape gardening features on that area including the planting of Australian native shrubs. That same year saw also the up-grading of the school oval, incorporating athletic tracks and areas for soccer, cricket, football (Australian), and hockey. The oval will be named officially at the time of the opening of the Silver Jubilee by the Governor, Sir Henry Winneke, 'The Keith Haynes Oval' a plaque prepared by the Education Department being a permanent

reminder of the event.

In 1980 an outstanding International Display was presented featuring cultural activities of the diverse ethnic groups in the community — dancing, singing, cookery, costuming, embroidery, lace-making, books, pictures, etc. The efforts of staff members Renate Binder, Mireille Guebala, Daniela Szlawski, Yvette Spataro, Liz Viscio, Miriam Vella (Ethnic Aide), Nigel Tarr and members of the community were greatly appreciated.

An interesting innovation introduced by the present principal, Mr. Neville Daynes, was the end of year luncheon for Year 12 pupils. It is planned to perpetuate this. At the first of these luncheons held in November 1980 the speaker was Mr. Geoff Heaviside, one of the foundation students of the school.

## Also Worthy of Note

From time to time there has functioned an effective Student Representative Organisation. The earliest magazines make no mention of the S.R.O. In much more recent times interest in the organisation reached a high level under the supervision provided by Mr. Torki. Sandra Carlon, (President 1979), Linda Grannas, Vicki O'Shea, Sue Glavas, Henry Glavas, D. Briggs, V. Stoilkivska and B. Kafanelis have been amongst those who have provided leadership in this area recently.

In May 1980, an attempt was made to revive the long-dormant Ex-Students' Association. It is hoped that the Silver Jubilee Celebrations will rekindle the flame.

For many years the school has been associated with Melbourne University as a teacher-training school. By arrangement with Melbourne, the school has provided assistance for the same purpose to Melbourne State College, Rusden State College, Latrobe and Monash Universities and the Ballarat College of Advanced Education.

Over several years the facilities of the school have been made available for evening migrant English and Higher School Certificate classes, Saturday morning language classes, the grounds and hall being used by community organisations.

From earliest times there has been a pronounced person-for-person caring attitude. One of the ways through which this has been expressed is Social Service. The earliest magazine records that the work of the Spastic Children's Society of Victoria was the special Social Service interest in 1956 and that the amount to be given to the Society had reached 18 pounds (\$36). The school achieved distinction in more recent times in this area and has amongst

its awards a shield recognising the school's efforts on behalf of the Victorian Association for Deserted Children. Other expressions of caring are the Transition programme, home visits, pastoral care, State School Relief and the work of the Pupil Welfare Co-ordinators of whom there have been three officially: Ms. Meg Tait, Mr. John Cowl and currently Ms. Denise Kirton.

The school's enrolment at present is 1060. It reached a peak of 1250 in 1978.

Recognition is gladly given to those who have served as members of the ancillary staff. Office staff in more recent times have been: Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Covacci, Mrs. Missen, Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Bayliss, Mrs. Duck, Mrs. Krumnow and Mrs. Milekic (relieving). The school has been fortunate to have the services of efficient cleaners: the very first was Mr. Ingram — when the school was accommodated in Sunshine, the late Mr. Keith Haynes — from 1957 to 1978, Mrs. Bess Haynes who became leading hand after Keith's death, Mr. Ted Thorpe, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Axiak, Mr. Stan Taylor, Mr. Frank Marshall, Mrs. Dot Hardy, Mrs. Connie Rowley and Mr. Mario Axiak, and a new appointee, Mr. Ken Smith. Mrs. Weigh was on the kitchen staff of the Home Economics faculty for seventeen years until her retirement in 1980, her successor being Mrs. Pantalleresco. The gardeners who have given longest service are Mr. Blum and Mr. Farrell. In recent times the school has employed handymen on a part-time basis, Mr. Gottschalk, Mr. Tom Higgins (5 years services) and for a very brief period recently, Mr. Bob Blackwell.

# And Now the Jubilee!

The stage is set for celebrations!

A MAC program is arranged for Thursday night, March 26th.

The Governor, Sir Henry Winneke, will declare the Jubilee open and name the school oval 'The Keith Haynes Oval' at a ceremony commencing at 2.30 pm on Friday, March 27th.

A Supper Dance is to be held on Friday night, March 27th, at 8.00 pm.

Saturday, March 28th, commencing at 12 noon will feature an International Display, Reunions, a Look-Over of the School Buildings, Souvenirs, etc.

Welcome to all!



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