



**NUMURKAH  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**



65 years of Secondary  
Education in Numurkah

1924-1989



# 'AT THE WORKFACE'

## SIXTY FIVE YEARS SECONDARY EDUCATION IN NUMURKAH

1924 - 1989

### — 'SOME REMINISCENCES'



*H.E.S. Numurkah — Forms E and F, 1/7/1924. Back row (left to right): Ron 'Riddles' Lee, Alf Sparks, Jack Fowler, ?, Norman Lease, Dick Pearson, Neville Fairless, Jack Carrol, George Bourke, Ted Barton, Gerald Heard, Keith Patterson, ?. Second back row: Trevor Peddle, Rodger Krutle, Harman Newby, Jack Bryce, ?, ? Pavey, Jack Brooks, ? Robinette, Nelson Findlay, Bill Sloley, Ellis Staggard, Bruce Johnson. Third row: Marie Marcus, ?, Flora Findlay, Elsie Morris, Dolly Bryce, ?, ?, ? Wall, Agie Richards, Ria McPherson. Front row: ? Baker, ? Dorley, ?, Winnie Greig, Madge Morris, Mona Pavey, Nellie Watters, Mollie O'Brien, Meryl Pearson.*

# Forward....

The text which follows has been prepared by the editorial committee created by the "back to" committee, which, in turn, was sponsored by the School Council.

The editorial committee was always conscious of the question mark over the wisdom of preparing a magazine at such an unlikely landmark as a 65th anniversary. However, after some soul-searching we proceeded with the task.

We saw our role as preparing a literary vehicle for the re-union planned for the second week in April, 1989. Thus the emphasis should not be on history, but more on the snippets of humour, information, learning, etc. which must be in abundant supply throughout a community such as has been created by the Numurkah High School over 65 years.

Why not history? Various committees worked hard at providing an historical background for the jubilee magazine of 1974.

To piece together history, there must be a background of need — and such need seems to be provided by anniversaries like the 50th, 75th and 100th.

However, as the present committee undertook its task, gathering the snippets of interest, it soon became obvious that many of the snippets are intrinsically tied up with the history of the school. So little pieces of information came into our hands the hard way - the individual editor pursuing the source, instead of the source coming to the individual.

This made us wonder how the wide advertising of our task - through articles in the Numurkah Leader, requests in a number of the school's weekly bulletins and a static display in the school library over six months - could yield so little response.

Thus it became increasingly obvious that the committee was undertaking a task of monumental importance to this school district.

The magazine that we here present is only an introduction to the task that lies ahead for the 75th anniversary in 1999, and the centenary (dare we attempt to forecast) of 2024.

One of our editors spoke to a member of the first Higher Elementary class of 1924: Will that sort of first hand evidence still be available in 1999? Or is it that in these next 10 years, we, as a district, have our last chance to dig out every last piece of surviving evidence. The whole community has to be made aware of its responsibility to have it recorded and passed on for posterity.

If the community sets out on this task with dedication and sincerity, then we, as an editorial committee, will feel that we have begun a task that was worthwhile, and will look forward to the completion in the next decade.

**Bette McKeown 1924-40**

**Bill Osborne 1946-55**

**Dot Macdonald 1956-70**

**John Sadler 1971-88**

**Frank Thomas, Co-ordinator**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Vera Wright, Primary School; Don Graham; Margaret McClelland; Colleen Holman; Nancy Owen; Melva McPherson; Helen Sigley; Ted Beck; Betty Heard; Olwynne Lewis; Keith Christie; Helen Cowan; Anne Falconer; Elizabeth Pyle; Bill McBride; Betty Moore; Ed Bouchier; Adrian Twitt; Tony Morris and Numurkah Leader.

# 1924 - 1940

## THE HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### DEPRESSION YEARS

1923-26. The Leader has this to say about these years that were crucial to the establishment of secondary education in Numurkah:

"After representation from the Numurkah State School committee supported by the Shire council, the Numurkah Leader and local people, Mr. Wrigley from the Education Department and the District Inspector of Schools, Mr. Jones, visited Numurkah on Wednesday, November 26, 1923 to discuss the establishment of a Higher Elementary School.

They told a group of interested people that to establish a Higher Elementary School in Numurkah three (3) criteria had to be met.

1. A minimum of 50 scholars.
2. A contribution of £1500 over 5 years by local people.
3. 8 acres of ground available for school.

The School Committee called a public meeting to ascertain support for the establishment of such a school. As a result the criteria for 50 scholars and a financial contribution of £375 were met and the Education Department was informed of this result.

On Monday, 24th December, 1923, the joint secretaries of the School committee, Messrs. J. C. Martin and F. A. Guenther, were informed by the local member of State Parliament, Col. Murray Bouchier, that on January 1st, 1924 the Higher Elementary School of Numurkah would be proclaimed as a provisional school for one to two years and it would open on January 29th, 1924.

Mr. R. J. Watters, Chairman of the School committee,

welcomed the staff at the opening of the school in the Presbyterian School and introduced them to the 55 pupils and others present.

Cr. W. Campbell welcomed the staff on behalf of the shire and local community. In welcoming the staff Mr. F. A. Guenther said the people of the district were conscious of the importance of the event and were desirous of higher education for their children and hoped it would not be long before a High School was established.

In June a committee was formed to canvass the district for financial support to raise £1500 over the next 5 years. The Numurkah Shire Council promised £100 for every £400 raised by public subscriptions.

Later that year a further public meeting elected the first Council of Numurkah H.E.S. They were: Messrs. D. Rendell, G. Bedwell, J. S. Christie Jr. and F. G. Moss (representing country districts), R. J. Watters, C. Corlett and J. Findlay (representing the town).

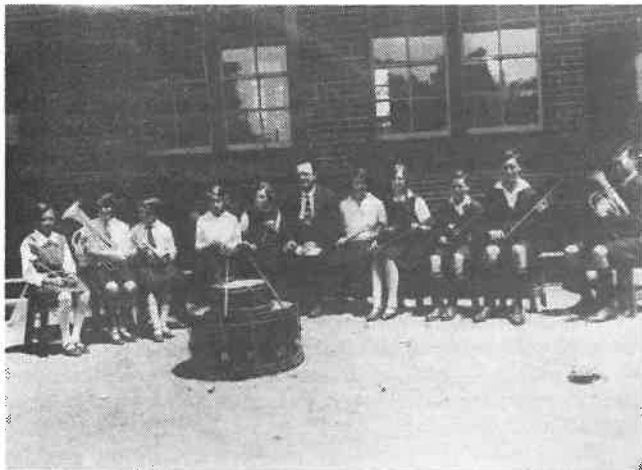
1925. Most of the 1924 staff had been transferred and the staff for 1925 were: Mr. Keogh (Headmaster), J. Miller, C. Jorgensen and Misses Davis and McIntosh to teach 109 pupils. In December, after a successful year, the first speech night was held. Mr. N. McHutchinson, who had replaced Mr. Keogh during the year, spoke of the work of the School Coun-

*1925 cricket team: Back row: J. H. Miller (Sports Master), H. Land, C. Bunnett, C. Flack, C. Coxon, H. McHutchinson (H.M.). Centre row: N. Fairless, T. Barton, G. Bourke (Captain), J. Fahey, G. Heard. Front row: G. Paterson, N. Findlay.*



cil, Staff and the Ladies Committee and appealed to country parents to send their children to the H.E.S. after Grade 6 and not to wait until obtaining their Merit certificate. Prize winner for the Intermediate Class was Elsie Morris, daughter of Klon Morris, Co-proprietor of the Numurkah Leader.

On 3rd June, 1925, the Committee was notified that extensions would be made to the State School consisting of two classrooms, a science room, teachers' room and a cloak room. The Government Gazette of October 14th called tenders for the construction of the building and the successful tenderers were Messrs. Hedger Bros., who commenced work on December 9th.



*The N.H.E.S. Orchestra was formed by Bandmaster, Mr. J. Lewis, and was the first school orchestra in country Victoria. Photograph 1926.*

1926. Lessons continued in Presbyterian and other Halls and on March 31, 1926 the first Intermediate Certificate was awarded to Elsie Morris.

The new building was finished on May 5 and the School council decided to ask Sir Alexander Peacock, Minister for Education, to open the new H.E.S. On October 22nd, Sir Alexander Peacock, accompanied by Col. Murray Bouchier, Minister for Agriculture and local member for Murray Valley, the Hon. G. J. Tuckett M.L.C. and Mr. J. T. Saxton (one of the first pupils at the Numurkah State School and Head Inspector for schools) opened the Numurkah Higher Elementary School before a large representative gathering which included children from every state school in the district.

Mr. F. G. Moss (Chairman of the School Council) welcomed the Ministers and spoke highly of the work done by Col. Bouchier, the School Council and particularly its secretary, Mr. C. Corlett, in establishing the school.

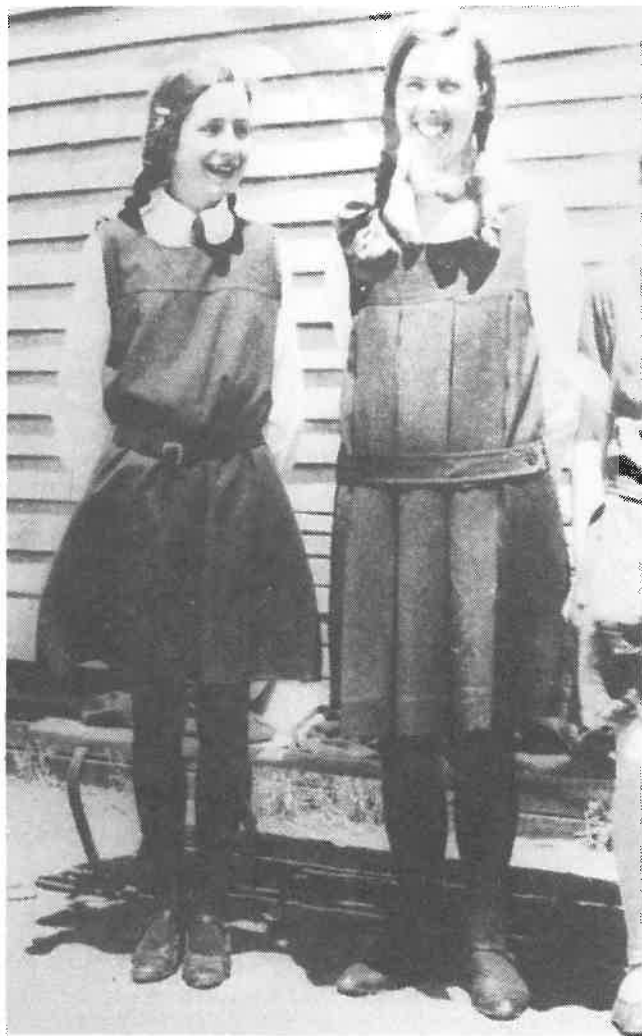
Sir Alexander Peacock also spoke of Col. Bouchier's persistence and said: "the buildings would stand as a monument to his energy and his interest in the education of district children for all time".

He also congratulated the people for their interest and financial contribution and the Shire council for its grant of £100 for every £400 raised by the people. He was delighted to see so many adults and particularly children present at the function. It showed that the people took a lively interest in the education of their children and he was delighted to formally declare the H.E.S. open for the advancement of education in the district.

Col. Bouchier thanked Sir Alexander Peacock for coming to Numurkah to open the school and exhorted the children to take advantage of the opportunity offered to them in their new school.

Messrs. R. J. Barton and G. Bitcon proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Sir Alexander Peacock after which the members of the ladies committee, in true Numurkah fashion, served afternoon tea.

To conclude the festivities Messrs. J. Miller, A. S. Marshall, A. Stringer and J. C. Martin conducted a sports meeting for all the children present."



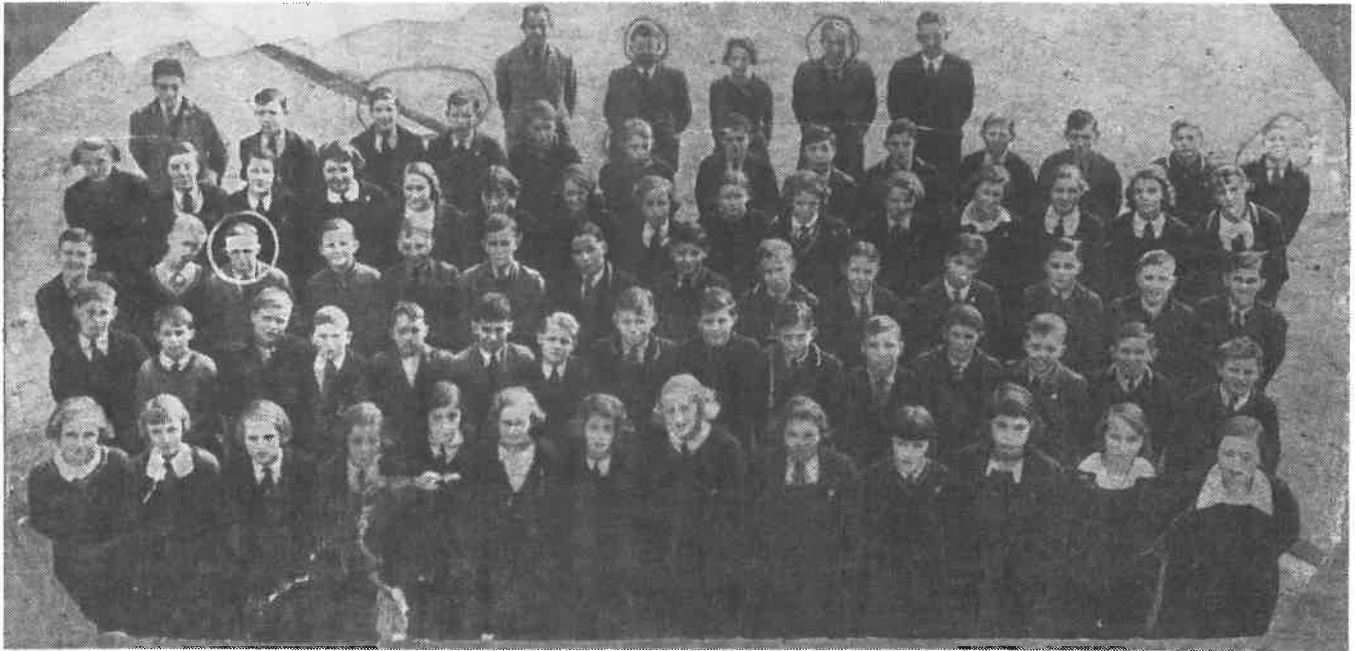
*1930 — Eileen Hyde (left), Lorraine Moss.*

## Some memories of pupils 1924-1940.

- Navy Tunics, white blouses and black stockings.
- Queuing up for the School Dentist's caravan.
- When the first staff car appeared - a Ford Prefect.
- When school was 'optional' due to the high rate of polio in 1937.
- The Numurkah H.E.S. Orchestra - the first in country Victoria.
- Travelling to interschool sports in cattle trucks - in wet weather we had a tarp put over us - with board seats down each side.
- Winning the marching competition in Wangaratta at the inter-school sports. (Numurkah's colour was purple.)
- When the punishment for spelling mistakes was a "cut" for every word wrong.
- When everyone entered writing in the Numurkah Show.
- When boys competed to achieve the most "cuts".



*1930 — (from left) Phyllis Heard, Elvie Cowan, Marj Stringer.*



*This photograph appeared in the "Weekly Times" about 1936. Mr. Doherty was headmaster and taught algebra, Mr. Kiellerup taught science, Miss Kettle taught French and English and Mr. McGregor taught Maths.*



*Some Senior Girls N.H.E.S. - 1937  
Left to right: Una Chilcott, Joy Bullough, Phyllis Kent, Beryl Tweddle, Nancy Tonkin, Beryl Kinnaird.*

## INTERSCHOOL SPORT A PERSONAL COMMENT

Inter-school sports: how different they were 'back then'... Remember how we practised for weeks — races, jumps, ball throwing, MARCHING...MARCHING...MARCHING.

And then the great day:- all ready at the school in our sports gear - the boys with a stripe sewn down their shorts and the girls with a two inch band around the hem of their sports tunic (no shorts for girls) and then into the trucks. I wonder how the students of the present time would view our transport...open cattle trucks with wooden benches down each side for us to sit on. If the weather was bad, as it often was, a tarpaulin cover was tied over the top, and off we would go. The sports meeting I remember best was at Wangaratta in 1937. Mr. Green and Mr. Harbor were at the school with their trucks ready for us and, with the teachers in charge sitting in comfort in the cabins with the drivers, we were off.

On this memorable day we stopped briefly in Shepparton and we were given a 'free time' to explore the shops. With huge amounts of money, (I remember I spent 6d. on a blue rabbit I had for years) our shopping was not a lengthy business and then we were off again.

Numurkah was not a force to be reckoned with in the sporting field in those days, but we did have Percy Hunt - he won every race and jump in his section and his records stood for many years. We were very proud of him. And then came the 'marching'... There we were lined up with our purple banner to lead us (Purple was Numurkah's inter-school colour back then) and feeling very 'small' — after all, we were only a H.E.S., and we were competing against Wangaratta High School, Wangaratta Tech., Benalla High School and Shepparton High — and they made us feel our place - very low down. But... we won... All that practice had paid off, and what matter if it rained going home and we had to have the tarp. up... we had won.

Another memorable trip - this time going to Nathalia for sport. No trucks this time: everything from private cars to open utes. One of the utes, turning a sharp corner, lost a passenger and had gone quite some distance before the other boys in the back were able to alert the driver to turn back and retrieve one of our competitors. I don't remember if we won or lost that day: Nathalia was our great rival at that time, and we were fairly even so if one school won 'today', the other would probably win 'tomorrow'.

## How examinations and qualifications have changed over the years

### Do you remember them?

Early years: "Qualifying Certificate" — From Grade 6 to H.E.S.; "Merit Certificate" — Grade 8 (Form 2) to E Form (Form 3); "Proficiency Certificate" — Form 3; "Intermediate Certificate" — C Form (Form 4); "Leaving Certificate" — Form 5; and "Matriculation Honours — Year 12 (HSC).



*H.E.S. CAMERA CLUB — 1937 (about)*

*Back Row: John Rendall, Max Taylor, Ted Coxon, Ian Charlesworth, Bill Sealey, Claude Wearne, Ken Moss. Second Row: A. Pell, B. Moss, Joy Bullough, O. Lewis, Ethel Girdler, Noella Walker, John Kent. Front Row: Ian Nesbitt, ? Heard.*



*D Form N.H.E.S. - 1937*



*Form C - 1937*

*Back row: Ian Nesbit, Dudley Clarke, Jim Osborne, Bill Knox, Ted Coxon, Ellis Miller, Keith Cowan.*

*Middle row: Melva Simpson, Betty Bennetts, Nancy Bourke, Isabel Tweddle, Joyce McLeod.*

*Front row: Graham O'Brien, Geoff Hendy, Selwyn Barnes.*



*1936-37. Back row: Bruce Johnson, Doug Wade, Des Meiklejohn, Graeme McLeod, Doug McPherson, Allen Vickerman, Howell Marshall, Edward Bouchier, Richard Pocknee.*

*Middle Row: Sylvia Poard, Betty Murray, Judy Morris, Joyce McPherson, Margaret Knox, Florence Thornton, Peggy Stringer, Mary Harris, ?, Peggy Rogers.*

*Front row: Ken O'Brien, Noel Holmes, Warren Dibbs, Alex Thornton, Maurice Poole.*



*Girls N.H.E.S. - 1938*



*1930 — Gladys Tweddle (left), Phyllis Heard.*



# SECONDARY EDUCATION IN NUMURKAH 1941 — 1955

This period is one in which great changes took place in the school. It began in the second year of the Second World War with its shortages of money, materials and equipment, and saw the doubling of the student numbers with the resultant accommodation problems. The long struggle to establish the Numurkah High School finally succeeded and at last the new complex became a reality, bringing to an end the sharing with the Primary School of its buildings.

**1941** — This year saw the establishment of a Leaving Class with 10 students. It was hoped that parents would continue to take advantage of the opportunity for students to proceed to Leaving Certificate and Matriculation, as the continuation of the Class depended on satisfactory numbers.

Domestic Science and Woodwork classes were extended to Form IV. The Head Master, Mr. Matthew A. Hogan, acknowledged that the actual manual training was inadequate but was the best possible with the accommodation and equipment available at the time.

A School Fair held in August featured a Messerschmitt 107 1, which had been shot down over England, and raised ten pounds for Patriotic Funds.

Swimming and athletic carnivals were held by the North Eastern Secondary Sports Association at Euroa and these were the last held until after the war.

Classes for R.A.A.F. trainees were held in the school and members of staff acted as honorary instructors.



*Form IV Girls - 1941*

*Back row: (left to right) Ruth Binns, Vivienne Guthrie, Rose Gordon, ? Cole?, Pat Kirne, Melva Harris.  
Front row: Pat Kelly, Maureen Hunkin, Aubre Denson.*

**1942** — 130 students were enrolled in 1942. As the minimum number of seven could not be achieved, there was no Leaving Class that year, although one student did study by correspondence with assistance from school staff. Form IV had to assume the mantle of Senior Form and provide School and House Captains after having been the middle form of the school with no responsibilities the previous year.

In the absence of the combined sports carnivals, two cricket matches were held against the ex-students, who won both. The only inter-school sporting events were on a trip to Shepparton.

Articles as required by the Armed Forces were made in the Woodworking and Sewing classes, and a total of ninety pounds was contributed by the school to the War Service Fund administered by the Education Department. The Social Ser-

vice League raised ten pounds five shillings and ninepence for various charities. Six pounds ten shillings of this was from proceeds from the school garden plot.

**1943** — August 1943 saw the departure of Head Master, Mr. Matthew A. Hogan, who was replaced by Mr. Carl W. Petterson. In his annual report at Speech Night, Mr. Petterson referred to statesmen beginning to speak confidently of the end of the war and asked if we were prepared for peace, particularly in education. He paid tribute to the manner in which the community supported the school.

A Leaving Class was again established in 1943 with eight students, while total enrolment was 141.

In referring to the movement to have the school raised to the full status of a High school, he asked for the full support and help of the School committee, Mothers Club and Numurkah Chamber of Commerce in their efforts to bring this about.

Two innovations that year were the introduction of a High School Assembly (held in the Methodist Hall) and the formation of a School council made up of Prefects, Form Captains, Senior Staff and the Head Master. The School Council undertook the task of formulating a complete set of school rules.

School uniforms were being worn by most of the girls in spite of difficulties caused by clothes rationing, while the boys were adopting a summer uniform of khaki shirt, shorts and long socks.

Dux winners for the year were: Form V: Merle Hodge; IV: Alan Backhouse; III: Dorothy Haynes; II: Ron Lang; I: Bob Bitcon.

## School life, as World War II ended

"It's the war effort of course", was sufficient explanation to justify shoddily made goods, and even the total unavailability of some very essential items. The acceptance of this situation was rarely questioned, but it quite often made a dramatic impact on school life. No more was this so than in the sporting area.

Games such as the Potato race were introduced: and the sack race and Siamese race became prescribed events, to fill up the programme on sports days in the absence of such important items as balls.

Basketballs and footballs, for a period, were unprocurable, and then only arriving one at a time (to a school of 250?). There was a period when boys stood around restlessly, with hands in pockets (having literally kicked the cover right off the football), watching the girls continue to play basketball. The odd incursion onto the netball court "to get a kick" was viewed very seriously, and anyone caught was dealt with severely by those in authority. Cricket bats were similarly very scarce and, at one stage, the school's only bat was clad in a heavy pig skin sleeve to save it from splitting. Gradually it splintered away at the end, below the sleeve, to become six inches shorter. Eventually the alternative had to be a piece of 4 x 2, with a roughly shaped handle and a tennis ball (to stop the jarring).

Inter-school sports were abandoned completely during the war, due to petrol rationing, and sometimes the absence of a bus, as well. It was a gala event for us all when, in 1947, they were re-introduced and we all were able to travel by bus to Wangaratta.

**1944** — With three bus services bring 99 students to Numurkah, there was a dramatic increase in numbers to 185.



*FORM V 1944*

Accommodation at the school was severely overtaxed and the leasing of the M.U.I.O.O.F. Hall for use by two of the Primary School grades eased the situation.

Mr. Petterson referred to the difficulties of terminal examinations and quoted the instance that the Form V Physics class had to visit Shepparton High School to carry out vital practical work because apparatus was not in the school and could not be obtained.

For the first time, a choice of subjects for those preparing for the Leaving Certificate was introduced.

**1945** — Enrolment of 186 was almost the same as the previous year. All the ministers of religion had visited the school, which meant that all students had received some measure of religious education.



*Form V Boys — 1945*

*Left to right: Lloyd Betts, Norman Crighton, Allen McCallum, Geoff Harris, Pat Payne, Max Lukies.*

Sister Knight ran classes on child management and mothercraft. Because of accommodation problems, Literary classes had to be held in the Woodwork and Cookery Centres.

In his Annual Report, Mr. Petterson said that Australia was looking to the young men and women who had taken part in the war, to give her a new faith and a new spirit. One of the greatest forces that could help the development of that spirit was education and, in that regard, what this district needed was not a senior technical school, but a modern building, up-to-date equipment and the best internal organisation that educationalists could evolve.

War ended on 15th August and, with the announcement, came strict instructions that classes were abandoned for the day, but under no circumstances was anyone to leave the school grounds. No one even listened and the school was deserted in minutes with everyone heading for Melville Street. Gladys Lee commandeered Kilpatrick McLennan's cow bell, and crocodiles of children raced up and down the street. It was an exciting day and no one returned to the school ground until it was time to catch the bus home. Some shopkeepers even gave out free icy poles. Great stuff!



*Form V Girls — 1945*

*Back row: (left to right) Lesley Gibson, Dorothy Haynes, Joan Miller, Eunice Guthrie.*

*Front row: Norma Chapman, Shirley Lukies, Jean Osborne.*

**1946** — Enrolment in 1946 was 180, including 38 transported on the Cobram Express bus, 27 on the Cobram-Strathmerton, 21 on the Cobram-Katamatite, 16 on the Bearii and 24 on the Mundoona-Wunghnu buses.

Hot drinks were provided to those requiring them during the winter. This was organised by the bus drivers, staff, Mothers Club and School Committee.

It was not generally recognised that all ex-service personnel were entitled to sixty pounds worth of training after the war, and eight classes for this training were established at the school.



*N.H.E.S. Teachers - School v Staff tennis match  
December 1946*

*Left to right: Miss N. Smith, Mr. R. Reed, Miss J. Horman, Mr. E. Keith, Miss M. Harrington, Mr. C. Petterson.*

Form I — 1946



Back row: (left to right) R. Sanders, L. Graham, ?, K. Lawrence, R. Ritchie, ?, ? Eddy, G. McKay, E. Hicks. Second back row: Y. Harris, J. McLeod, J. Woy, C. Hansen, K. Oakley, J. Loof, M. Morieson, V. Harrison, ?, V. Rutherford, B. Graham. Third back row: J. McPherson, B. Crozier, E. Coppin, R. Lorenz, H. Morey, M. Lawler, J. Sutton, W. Ackland, A. Poad, M. Miller, N. Poad, M. Holmes. Fourth back row: T. Hamilton, B. Allan, J. Gardner, K. Thomas, K. Firman, G. Little, W. Sutton, H. McGlocklan, G. Billingham, ?, B. Sutcliffe, ?. Front row: K. Linehan, P. Peters, K. Sanders, I. Lowe, H. Holmes, M. Leefers, B. Thomas, F. Watson, ?, S. Roughsedge.

Form II — 1946



Back row: Don Graham, Max Sanders, Bryan McNamara, Noel Carlisle, Graeme Marlen, Doug Elliott, Kevin Dunne, Alan Twitt, Neil Chapman, Max Crammond. Second row: Osuna Thompson, Pat Nunn, Lauris Gillespie, Joan Bau, Valerie Ryan, Marion Little, Margaret Henderson, Colleen Allen, Betty Twitt, Margaret Appleby, Irene Stewart, Barbara Payne, Esme Ritchie, Jean Rimbeak, Mary Lorenz, Julie Hill, Gwenda Lang, Margaret Sloley, Rita Haynes, Miriam Viviea, Iris Patrick, Pat Tuck. Third row: Geoff Whitby, Noel Cator, Henry Gordon, Ken McLachlan, Trevor Lukies, Maurice Roughsedge, Pat Lawlor, Kevin Horridge, Henry Hyde, Clem Twitt, Colin Scott, Colin Eddy, Jock Adams, Neil Guthrie.

Form IV — 1946



Back row: (left to right): Graeme Downing, Alan Hodge, Barry O'Brien, Graeme Stanyer, Bill Walsh, Gordon Rembiak, Rex Wyatt, John Lorenze. Second back row: Isa Thomson, Olive Eddy, Hazel Jorgenson, Valerie Scott, Eva Shier. Seated: Val Denson, Coleen Belt, Norma Gale, Pat Lumsden, Pat Fletcher, June Cole, Beryl Hawker, Margaret Quinn. Front row: Graeme Coxon, Hugh Guthrie, Bill Gardiner, Russell Little, Roy Thomson, Leo Firman, Ewart Henderson.

Form V — 1946



Back row: (left to right) Hugh Creighton, ? Burke, G. Ball. Front row: C. Johns, Betty McNamara, P. Stife, E. Petterson, J. Goodman, M. Haynes, M. Ryan.

1947 — Total enrolment reached 205 including 138 transported on five buses.

For the first time there was a Prefects Installation Ceremony. This was carried out by Hon. G. C. Moss M.L.A. and Cr. J. W. Lancaster, Shire President, both ex-students of the school.

Prefects were:— Girls: Norma Gale (Head), Val Scott (Sports), Eunice Rolls, Margaret Quinn, Isa Thompson and June Meadows. Boys: Graeme Cowan (Head), Hubert Creighton (Sports), Graham Downing, Graham Stanyer, William Walsh, Ewart Henderson and William Gardiner.



Senior Girls Choir — 1947

Conductress: O. Lewis

Standing: (left to right) June Meadows, Pat Wilson, Val Scott, Marg Quinn, Nola Walsh, Leslie White, Mary Bourke-Finn, Val Denson, Mavis Schier, Wilma Hamilton, Marg McLeod, Norma Gale. Kneeling: Shirley Bouchier, Marjorie Heal, Dorothy Janeski, Audrey Heal, Isa Thomson, Nancy Osborne, Val Fussell.



Inter-school sports, Wangaratta - October 3, 1947

Graeme Coxon, Isa Thomson, Val Scott

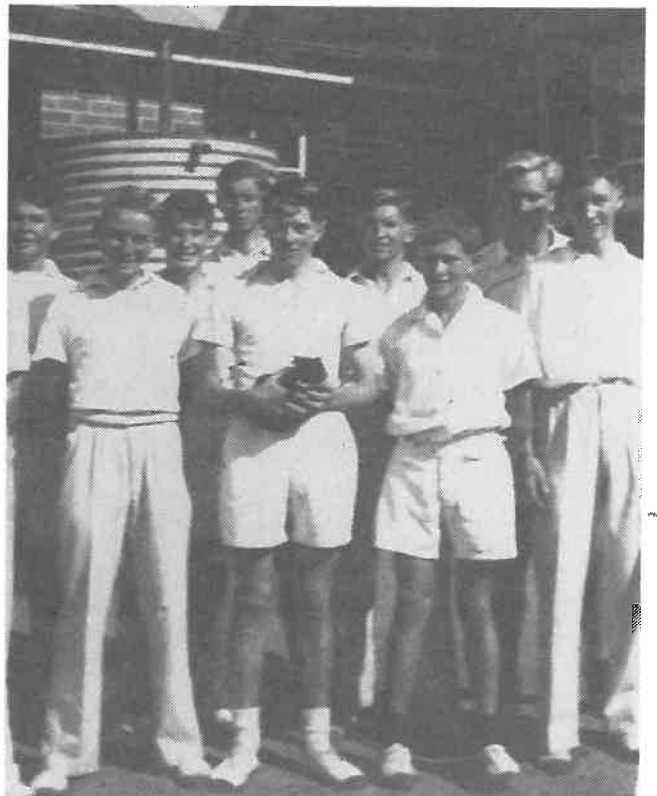
Trophies Numurkah Won: Open Boys Cup, Open girls Cup, Junior Aggregate Shield.



Tennis team — played Rochester H.E.S. on 8th May, 1947  
Lesley Wyatt, Marg McLeod, Mardie Heal, Nola Walsh

Combined sports were resumed and 170 students travelled to Wangaratta. Two cups and a shield were won and the school finished in second place.

In September, a meeting of the Numurkah Citizens Association agreed to enlist the aid of Hon. G. C. Moss, M.L.A., to urge that a High School be established. There would be an increase in enrolment in 1948 and accommodation was already overcrowded. Mr. Petterson said that a Consolidated School in Cobram would not substantially affect the numbers to come to Numurkah from that area.



Cricket team — played Rochester H.E.S. on 8th May, 1947  
From left: John Baldi, Tom Seymour, Doug Elliott, Hugh Creighton, Ewart Henderson, Tom Kennedy, Bill Gardiner, Graham Downing, Bill Wignell.



*Form V — 1948*

*Back row: Nola Walsh, Mary Bourke-Finn, Mr. Gazzard, Beth Burkitt, Irene Stanyer.*

*Front Row: David Shepherd, Mavis Schier, Val Fussell, Nancy Osborne, Peter Cassidy.*

**1948** — Mr. David L. Bartholomew replaced Mr. Carl W. Patterson as Head Master and there were 210 students enrolled, 140 of whom travelled by bus.

During the year an Army Hut was transferred from Tatura and provided for Needlework, Art and Commercial classes.

Little progress had been made regarding the High School but a promise had been received that when any such new school was being erected, Numurkah would be one of the first two.

Some will remember an exasperated Head Master, tiring of the sight of the perpetually untidy top of a set of lockers outside their classroom, removing all the books, pencils, rulers, etc. with one sweep of his arm as he “pranced” by. It didn’t have the desired effect of instant reformation as, not only did the class crack up into gales of laughter, but the teacher was barely able to control her mirth as well.



*Marching Team, Benalla sports, 1948*



*Senior Passball Team — played at Benalla September 30, 1948*  
*From left: Colleen Allen, Nola Nye, Moya Smith, Betty Twitt, Valerie Harrison, Betty Graham.*

**1949** — In 1949 there were 235 students and accommodation was even more overcrowded. While there was some fear expressed at a meeting of the Numurkah Citizens Association that the High School would not proceed, a deputation to the Minister of Education was assured that the school building would be erected. Although the Minister gave an outline of the dimensions of the building, which would accommodate 400 students, he was unable to say when it would be built.

Those who were in Form V that year will remember that they used the Methodist Church Hall kitchen, yes, a whole 10 feet x 10 feet for their class room, lunch room, study block, everything room. They sat around an old wooden kitchen table, teacher at the head, with class of 10. Can anyone imagine this being acceptable now? For learning it was very difficult, but for socialising it was great!



*School staff — 1949*

*Front row: (left to right) Mr. L. Scnini, Miss J. Anderson, Dr. Alder, Miss Z. Riley.*

*Back Row: ?, Miss E. Dee, Mr. C. Gazzard, Miss N. Smith, Mr. D. Bartholomew (H.M.), Mrs. L. Scnini, Mr. E. Crowl.*

The Church Hall was strictly “out of bounds” but, with a “guard” on duty to watch for an approaching teacher coming across the road, a game of badminton was always on. The Badminton Club left plenty of shuttlecocks but never any rackets. Not to be deterred, the players decided that the church collection plates were second best, and that was exactly what happened to one of them when being used for a scintillating smash and, “horror of horrors”, it flew out of a sweaty hand and splintered into about a dozen pieces. It was decided that Mr. Lou Scnini, Art and Woodwork teacher, was the best one to whom to confess as, apart from being a good sport, he was also a clever tradesman. The plate was soon restored to its original splendour, or almost anyway, and the perpetrators still do not know if anyone was ever aware of the incident.

On another occasion, some of the town boys breakfasted on their way to school on the radishes from the Primary School garden. This wasn’t very clever as this garden was behind the Headmaster’s residence and the Headmaster was also an early riser. Six of the best was the order, and some of the boys not only had hot tongues, but were hot elsewhere.



*The Art Class — Form V, 1949*

*From left: Colleen Allen, Mary Bourke-Finn, Marion Little, Marg Henderson, Betty Twitt, Kevin Thomson, Nola Walsh. Tutor: Mr. Lou Scnini.*

**1950** — During 1950 the Education Department confirmed High School status for the school for 1951 and Mr. A. M. Rogers was appointed as Principal.

Enrolment reached 228.

Mr. Richard Clements took over as Head Master from Mr. Bartholomew in September and presented the final report of the Numurkah Higher Elementary School at the annual Speech Night. He made a special plea to parents to enrol their children in the new school.

**1951** — The High School became a reality although it still had to share the site with the Primary School. Enrolment reached 277.

The School magazine was launched, with the title "Bangerang" being taken from the general name of the nine small tribes of aborigines found living around the district creeks when white settlement first began in the area.

A new Badge was designed by Bettye Sloley, a Form V student, using the old N.H.E.S. motto of "Non Nobus Sed Omnibus" - Not for ourselves but for all.

In its first year the Numurkah High School won the Book Project Competition conducted by the Murray Valley Development League against 22 other schools in the region. The project was on the history of Numurkah district and its future in the Greater Murray Valley. The prize for this project was a film of the Murray Valley, but as the school did not possess a projector, the film had to be stored.

An Open Day was held in Education Week and was attended by some 270 visitors who were escorted to displays arranged to illustrate the various aspects of school work.

## Houses

"Blue House" and "Gold House" were the initial two House divisions for sport until 1951 when the increased enrolment made a division into four houses necessary.

It was decided to give the new groups the names of men who gave their lives on active service during World War 2, and whose families have had long associations with the school and district.

The names chosen were Christie, Gray, Hunkin, and Tweddle.



**John Christie**



**Gregory H. Hunkin**

John Christie, who died of wounds received in action in North Africa, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Christie of Katunga, and a grandson of John Scott Christie, who came to the Goulburn Valley in 1876 and first selected land at Yalca.

John Adam Gray, who died of illness in a Japanese prison camp, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Gray, of Drumanure. His grandfather, Donald Gray, was a pioneer settler at Tallygaroopna before moving to Drumanure in 1887.

Gregory Herbert Hunkin, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hunkin, of Numurkah. He died whilst serving with the R.A.A.F. in England. His father, Mr. W. H. Hunkin, was Chairman of the school committee over a period of many years.

Charles Tweddle, who was lost at the fall of Rabaul, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Tweddle. The Tweddle family was



**John Adam Gray**



**Charles Tweddle**

among the original settlers of the Waaia district.

The first house captains were: Christie: Marjorie Reynoldson and Hugh Henderson; Gray: Barbara Sanders and William Holman; Hunkin: Margaret Watters and Kenneth Morgan; Tweddle: Alice Brown and Ronald Harding.

In 1952 the families for whom the houses were named donated a Shield to be awarded each year to the overall champion House. This was determined on an aggregate of points for Citizenship, Scholarship, and Sport.



*Form 1b: Back row, left to right: M. Rhodes, R. Campbell, L. Addison, B. Woolcock, G. Brewer, N. Warburton, S. Palmer, B. Smith. Third row: J. Piper, L. Ralston, G. Lowe, B. Noy, L. Thomas, N. Sutton, D. Grenness, K. Decker, F. Addison, N. Baker. Second row: B. Garner, M. Williams, P. Bolt, M. Sperling, J. Tweedie, D. Milovitch, H. Campbell, L. May, M. Carey, G. Taylor. Front row: L. Morris, P. Smith, L. Sutton, J. Gunn, W. Heard, J. Brown, M. Stott, A. Decker, V. Pigdon.*



*Form 1a: Back row: A. Twitt, M. O'Dwyer, H. McAuliffe, L. Hocking, J. Fowler, G. Anderson, J. Hamilton, R. Maskell, R. Saxton. Second row: L. George, G. Gray, N. McCluskey, V. Chandler, B. Curtis, B. Noble, D. McKenzie, T. Nuttall, G. Crothers, B. Jorgenson, G. Dryden, F. Locke. Third row: J. Poad, L. Goodwin, M. Taylor, B. Sandilands, P. Sanders, M. Wilson, Barbara Bristol, M. Mitchell, J. Sloley, L. Hodge. Front row: J. Gread, F. Hendy, B. Williams, E. Adams, R. Henderson, B. Carnie, N. Heard, K. Roberts, D. Retallick, C. Danaher, S. Gould.*



*Form V: Back row: M. Menzies, B. Sanders, J. Barbour, A. Brown. Front row: B. Sloley, M. Watters, M. Reynoldson, P. Gibson.*

**1952** — The year opened with an enrolment of 306 students which grew to 326 later in the year. For the first time a Form VI was established and there were three Form I's, two Form II's, three Form III's and two Form IV's.

A highlight of the year was a visit to Bacchus Marsh High School by 45 students who also enjoyed additional excursions to Ford Motor Works and International Harvester Co. at Geelong as well as to a Brown Coal Mine and Werribee Gorge. On the way home they visited several places of interest in Melbourne.



*Basketball: Back row: M. Stone, N. Graham. Front row: G. Hyland, E. Cowan, Y. Watt (Capt.), M. Watters, J. Barbour.*



*Hockey team: Back row: F. Cleave, I. Mackenzie, E. Pendlebury, P. Walsh, C. Wright, J. Day. Front row: N. Ryan, J. Little, R. Miller (Capt.), B. Markey, P. Brown.*

For the second year in succession the school had success in the Murray Valley Development League Project Competition, winning first prize in both the regional and State-wide competitions. The project, which was devised to provide information for Europeans intending to migrate to Australia, was to be sent to Holland for display at the International Exhibition in 1953.



*Football team: Back row (left to right): J. Hamilton, G. Sanders, D. Ryan, J. Eddy (Capt.), V. Raco, L. Munro. Middle row: G. Hocking, M. Reynoldson, H. Henderson, W. Rutherford, W. Bourke, W. Harding. Front row: C. Stewart, C. Cole, L. Hocking, N. Hicks, M. Napier.*



*Boys Athletic team: Back row: A. Twitt, V. Raco, L. George, M. Napier, B. Bellis, L. Hocking. Second back row: G. Brewer, D. McPherson, W. Rutherford, H. Henderson, D. Campbell, L. Munro, G. Hocking, J. Eddy. Second row: R. Rutherford, W. Harding, N. Hicks, G. Sanders, J. Hamilton, E. Walker, A. Butler. Front row: N. Alchin, G. Gray, G. Lahore.*



*Vigoro team: Back row: N. Ryan, B. Garner, I. Mackenzie, L. Gale, A. Brown, M. Watters. Front row: G. Sanders, B. Campbell, J. Little, B. Marshall (Capt.), R. Miller, P. Farrall, E. Morris.*



**1953** — Enrolment continued to increase and the year commenced with 340 students. Difficulty of finding accommodation for teachers and their families contributed to the staff shortage and added to the school's problems.

The Minister of Education, Mr. E. Shepherd, together with the Director, Major-General A. H. Ramsay, and the District Inspector, Mr. R. J. Chapman, visited the school and were entertained at luncheon prepared by Miss E. White and some of the senior girls.

The visitors were able to see for themselves the cramped conditions under which the school operated.

In July the commencement of construction of the first unit of the new building was witnessed by the whole school. However, progress was very slow. In December a deputation to the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Merrifield, urged the speedy completion of Unit 1, which had been postponed due



**Choral Club** — Back row: L. Burkhill, F. Adams, J. Nield, M. Kellet, T. Visser, E. Gooding, J. Needham, B. Hutchinson, M. Saunders. Third row: J. Preston, J. Poad, N. Parker, C. Shiels, M. Rudd, B. Retallick, B. Campbell, K. Fussell, J. McArthur. Second row: Mr. Terrill, A. Light, J. Bell, M. Stone, J. Chant, M. Curtis, M. Mills, I. Mills, G. Dempster, L. Gread, Miss Moore. Front row: H. Hixon, D. McPherson, V. Goggin, S. Marshall, E. Adams, T. Caldwell, T. Coppin, L. Shiels.



**Bus Prefects** — Back row: V. Raco, B. Campbell, N. Stedman, B. Bourke, R. Rutherford, B. Jorgensen, A. Twitt. Front row: M. Waters, I. Mackenzie, W. Welch, R. Miller, N. Ryan, J. Farrall.



**Form Captains**: Back row: V. Pigdon, G. Miller, J. Haywood, L. Grant, C. Gray. Third row: G. Hicks, K. Bourke, B. Bourke, M. Reynoldson, R. Ratcliffe, J. Hamilton. Seated: B. Bristol, L. McArthur, R. Miller, B. Twitt, V. Morgan, M. Sperling. Front row: D. Alchin, L. Chandler, R. Carey.

to lack of funds, and sought the aid of Mr. G. C. Moss, M.L.A. to urge the Minister of Education to call tenders for Units 2, 3 and 4 without avoidable delay.

School clubs were begun and students had the choice of Folk Dancing, Leatherwork, Puppets, Chess and Draughts, Stamp Collectors, Physical Culture, Dramatic, Choral Work, and Library Clubs. Some of these clubs gave displays at the Open Day in Education Week which also featured addresses by ex-students: Chaplain-General Alex Stewart on the School Motto, and Mr. Bruce Tunnock on the history of the school.



**Scholarship holders** — Back row: J. Farrall, P. Clark, B. Marshall, S. Hardy, M. Watters, J. Chant. Third row: M. Waugh, A. Twitt, N. Payne, R. Ratcliffe, B. Campbell, G. Gray, R. Miller. Seated: S. Gould, I. Mackenzie, W. Welch, M. Shiels, B. Twitt, G. Emerson, B. Bell. Front row: L. Coppin, L. Addison, N. Holman, P. Farrall, D. Day, J. Fowler.

**1954** — Enrolment reached 339 and Mr. Rogers reported that the new range of subjects would continue to be restricted until the new buildings were completed.



**Vigoro team** — Back row (left to right): P. Schmedje, U. Ryan, D. Cameron, P. Adams, J. Chant, B. Williams, R. Sutcliffe, W. Heard. Front row: G. Hooper, L. Sutton, P. Clark, P. Farrall (Capt.), V. Pigdon, S. Marshall.



**House Captains** — Back row: J. Hamilton, R. Ratcliffe, D. Emerson, G. Anderson. Front row: J. Farrall, B. Bell, L. McArthur, J. Chant.

In March, most students and teachers travelled to Shepparton on the occasion of the visit of Queen Elizabeth.

Lady Brooks deputised for the Governor, Sir Dallas Brooks, at the North Eastern Secondary Sports Association sports which were held in Numurkah in October. Numurkah High School finished in second place to Benalla in the sports. The same night, Lady Brooks attended a concert in the Town Hall presented by High School students and other district performers.



*Softball team — Back row: B. Campbell, M. Young, P. Purcell, E. Dove. Front row: M. Mills, H. Murdock, J. Farrall, B. Carnie.*



*Football team — Back row: T. Stokes, K. Hollands, B. Curtis. Centre: V. Raco, W. Seymour, B. Bellis, N. Wilde, D. Greig, T. Ennals, D. Emerson. Front: G. Brewer, R. Ratcliffe, D. Mackenzie, W. Bourke, J. Hamilton (Capt.), T. Bellis, G. Anderson, K. Bourke.*

**1955 — Empire Day,** 1955 was an historic day as it saw the occupation of the first unit of the new Numurkah High School. The enjoyment of the freshness and brightness of the new surroundings more than compensated for the difficulties - transferring back and forth to the old school for practical work, the noise of construction of the other units, the mud during the wet winter, etc.

This was the final year at the school for Mr. A. M. Rogers, who was promoted to Horsham High School. He had played a leading part in the first years of Numurkah High School and in all spheres — study, sport, religious teaching and music classes — had done his utmost for the well-being and enjoyment of his students.

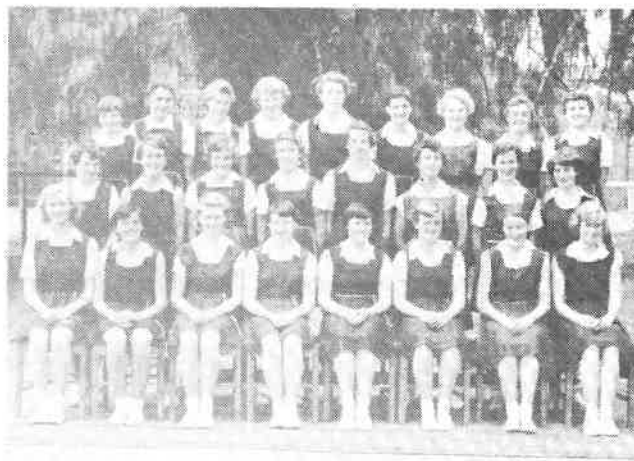
The first Open Day was held at the new school during Education Week. During the year a visit was made to Alexandra High School and the visitors were taken on tours of Rubicon Power Station, Snob's Creek Fish Hatchery, Cook's Sawmill and Eildon Dam, which was under construction. A visit was also made to Yarrawonga and was made in company with a group of visitors from Bacchus Marsh High School. On the way the party inspected the Kraft Factory at Strathmerton, packing shed and a citrus orchard at Cobram, and at Yarrawonga, the Yarrawonga Weir on the Murray River.



*High School Advisory Council — Back row (left to right): Cr. R. Batey, G.K. Cowan (Treasurer), C.F. Goodwin, J. Tuttle, J. Christie, L. Adams. Seated: A.C. Müller, Cr. G. Hooper, G.H. Morieson (President), A.M. Rogers (Secretary), Hon. G.C. Moss M.L.A. Those absent from the Advisory Council photo were: Messrs. R.J. Chapman (D.I.), W.J. Little, J.J. Thornton, J.E. Martin, Cr. J.C. Fairley, and Rev. Wm. Ellis.*



*School Staff — Back row: L.A. David, H.B. Corneliusen, B.R. Rogers, A.B. Nicol, W.R. Terrill, I.C. McKean, B.G. Baker. Seated: Miss T.J. Reid, S.V. Dyson, Miss H.H. Hossack, A.M. Rogers (Headmaster), Miss E. M. Graham, V.J.D. Tippet, Miss J.A. Moore. Absent: Miss N. Mooney.*



*Girls Athletic team — Back row: C. Boucaut, G. Young, G. Dempster, J. Munro, D. Jorgensen, J. Pidoto, N. Holman, V. Pigdon, U. Ryan. Second row: C. Wilkinson, J. McArthur, D. Dodd, L. Barbour, F. Cottam, E. Dove, P. Adams, A. Dawson. Seated: T. Taylor, G. Miller, A. Gladstone, P. Farrall, J. Bell, D. Cameron, L. Sutton, M. Mills.*

## Miss Tyres Boarding House

Just before the war, and before the start of school bus services, Misses May and Hilda Tyres began boarding students from Cobram at their home at the corner of Saxton and McDonald Streets, Numurkah. As the war continued and petrol rationing made transport difficult, the number of boarders increased and included students from throughout the district, including Barooga, Strathmerton, Katamatite, Drumanure, Wunghnu, etc.

At its peak, the "Tyres Mob", as it was known, included students from every form in the school, and the older ones used to help the younger ones with their homework. This working together helped to produce some good examination results and the members of the "Tyres Mob" were usually well to the fore in the class lists. Some days were "French" days when only French was spoken and this helped in learning that language.

The house was very crowded and there was always a battle to be first to the only bathroom in the mornings. If a boy got there first, the bathroom was held until all the boys had completed their ablutions, while, if it was a girl, the boys all had to wait.

Food rationing was in force and each boarder had his or her own supply of butter which had to last them for the week.

As well as running the boarding house, the Misses Tyres also milked a few cows and supplied milk around the town.

The boarding house continued to operate until about 1946 when Miss Hilda Tyres died. It had played an important part in the life of the Numurkah H.E.S.



*"Tyres Mob" — 1945 or 1946*

*Left to right: Max Crammond, Shirley Lukies, Maurice Denson, June Meadows, Max Lukies, Jean Osborne*

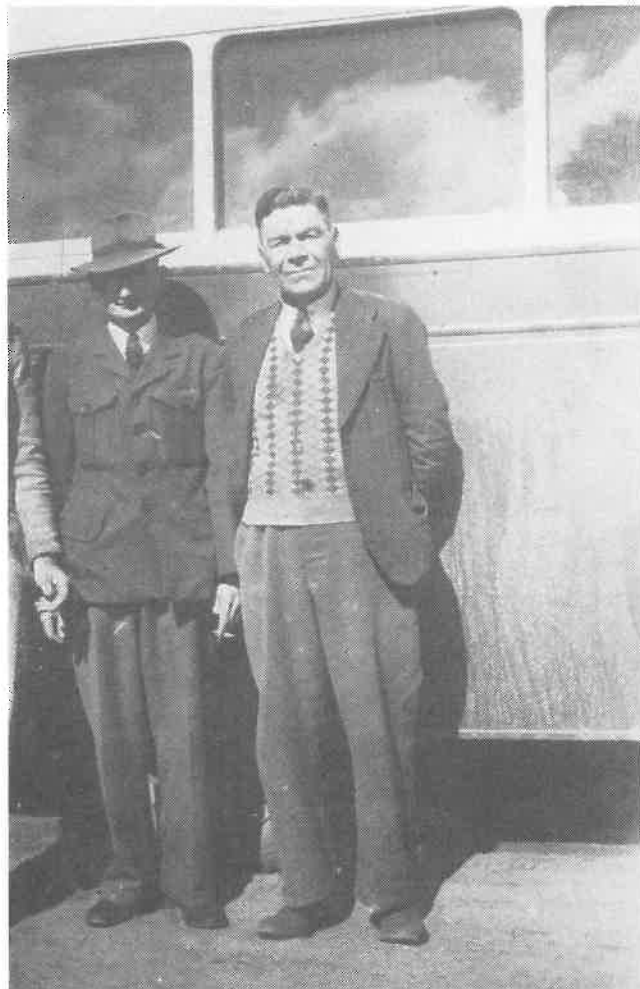
### Cobram Bus Service

A bus started in 1940, driven by Michael Stokes of Yarroweyah, from Cobram to Numurkah H.E.S., after a deputation to the then Minister of Education, Mr. Field, led by Mr. Roy Denson and consisting of Messrs. Bill Ritchie and Des. O'Dwyer from Cobram and Hubert Guthrie from Strathmerton.

Mr. Gordon Anderson of Cobram took over the bus route on February 3, 1942. Charlie Hill, George Freeland, Harry Barber and Harry King were the drivers in the early years. Eventually there were four buses to Numurkah.

Other drivers in latter years were Leo Barber, Laurie Freeland, Til Eldridge, Norman Eldridge and Henry Hyde.

### The Rise of the Bus Routes



*George Freeland, Vic Campbell*

The transfer of country students by bus to Numurkah High has been an important part of the education scene from as early as 1940, when a service was instigated to bring students from Cobram and district. This came as a result of a deputation, led by Mr. Roy Denson, with Mr. Bill Ritchie and Mr. Des O'Dwyer, from Cobram, and Mr. Hubert Guthrie from Strathmerton, to the then minister for Education, Mr. Field.

The first bus was driven by Mr. Michael Stokes of Yarroweyah. Mr. Gordon Anderson then took over the service in 1943, and eventually he had four buses leaving Cobram by various routes, picking up students on the way.

The early buses were very basic by today's standards, and present day students would probably hesitate to even board them! It has to be remembered however, that the war effort had taken priority here, as in all other areas. Typifying this was the commencement of a service to Wunghnu and district, by Mr. George Campbell, in a bus which was actually a modified Hoadley's Chocolate van. It had a high and narrow body and a section high on each side was removed for light (and ventilation), and roll-up canvas curtains were fitted for wet weather. With a seat along each side, knees almost touched in the middle!

As well, quite often the friendly and generous driver, Mr. George Poole, would be "doing a favour for someone", bringing out from the town a couple of cans of oil, or some fencing droppers, which somehow fitted up that narrow centre aisle. The front seat was invariably carrying bread and meat orders to be delivered on the way.



*Four school bus drivers, 1946-47  
Left to right: ?, George Poole, George Freeland, Harry King.*

As time went by and enrolment increased, more bus routes were started, serving the Waaia, Bearii and then, the closely settled irrigation areas to Katunga and further north.

Bus services have been provided by other well known district names, including Wannemacher, Holmes, Dickinson and Stonehouse; the three latter names continuing to serve the needs of school transport.

A charge of six shillings per week was initially made to all students using the bus service. Where two came from the one family, a concession was made, with ten shillings being the charge.



*"Chocolate Van" used on the Wunghnu run*

## **Numurkah High School in Change Some recollections between 1951 and 1956**

As a 'country' boy leaving Mundoona School with its rural security, I was, to say the least, ambivalent about the prospect of going to Numurkah High School in 1951. I had heard about the fagging that descended upon fresh arrivals to Form One, and the sheer size of the school, recently elevated to the status of 'High School', was quite intimidating.

But it was amazing how quickly we adapted. You had to! There were about 48 students in each of the two first forms, so it was a question of survival. The school was just beginning its great growth period as the 'settlers' continued to arrive and their families enrolled. Added to this was the inconvenience, to we privileged high schoolers, of having to share the school ground with hundreds of primary schoolers. We seemed to forget that they had preceeded us by generations.

The calm within the school buildings was extended to nearby places around the town. Assemblies were in the Methodist Hall across the road, with first formers sitting on the floor in the front. In later years, as the school grew, the Town Hall became the venue for assemblies, at least on special occasions. But of course outdoor assemblies were held at school every day, with Mr. Rogers, the headmaster, mounting

the rostrum to give his words of wisdom, and on Mondays to 'honour the flag'.

For classes, it was not unusual to troop over to the back rooms of the Methodist Hall or over to the band hall, all used regularly by the school. I never did belong to a class that used the R.S.L. Hall or the Masonic Lodge, and somehow envied students who did. (I had always wondered about the mysteries of the Masons, and perhaps thought that the building may give up some of their supposed secrets!)

Of course, the relative isolation of these buildings allowed for more skylarking and adventure than the main campus could afford. Teachers sometimes took some time to reach their destinations on foot, going from room to distant room. I can remember two boys taking down one of the stage curtains in the Methodist Hal whilst we waited for our teacher in the back room. Did he get a surprise when he saw a floppy 'horse' straggle in and waddle up and down the aisles between the desks!

Outside the Band Hall there was a fruit tree. One balmy afternoon, during a History lesson, boys quietly scrambled out the window while the teacher was not looking, to pick peaches. They probably tasted all the better for being forbidden fruit.

To me, the teachers were semi god-like creatures, full of knowledge and wisdom, but with a few weak links in the chain. Miss Burt, our French and Music teacher, not only seemed to know every French word in the dictionary, but expected us to learn them too, and almost certainly could sing like a prima donna. But class control was not wanting. On the first day, Miss Burt had given one of our class members a blood nose for daring to question her authority. On another occasion one winter morning, my desk mate, Barry Jorgensen, was scribbling on a ten shilling note, a sum sufficient to buy all his lunches for the week. In strode Miss Burt, spotted the offending scribbler, and threw the paper into the fire. It took some courage for Barry to indicate that the paper was his ten shilling note. To Miss Burt's credit, she replaced the money. It was said that, as senior mistress, she probably earned twenty pounds a week, a salary of unimaginable size. the implication being that she could afford such mistakes.

We were admiring of many of our teachers. Mr. Rogers was a fountain of knowledge of Shakespeare and History, Mr. Butler played the violin magnificently, and Mr. Terrill and Miss Gill were both great actors in our estimation, as anyone who had seen them perform in the local theatre group would attest. Mr. Senini, the woodwork teacher, produced such a superlative show with marionettes, that we knew that he would have to become famous at some future time.

Not all our teachers seemed destined to fame. Some had literally disembarked from the last immigrant boat, and had a very trying time while we broke them into the Australian way of life. I felt sorry for them, if not always sympathetic. They generally did not last long at our school.

As time went by, the building of the new school at the northern end of the town proceeded. I was, at least at first, very much against it. The site was my grandfather's old cow paddock. But eventually it eased the pressure at the old site. In 1955, when I was in Form Five, a shuttle bus operated so that some classes could take place there. The following year it was completed.

But 1956 was the year of the big wet. By the end of March, the new shcool had been surrounded by water so often that difficulties of entry became commonplace. As winter approached, the situation worsened and ramps had to be built to enable a relatively dry entry. Even then, dozens of gum-boots lined the covered breezeways outside the classroom blocks.

For myself, the flooded creeks of the district proved the adaptability of country families. When the school bus could no longer do its circuit due to inundated roads, we took to reaching it by boat. Our bus route could not operate from May to November. Eventually that meant boarding in town with relatives. For me, one of only four students left among those first formers of 1951, including the school's first male students in Form Six, it was a memorable end to my student days at Numurkah High School.

**ADRIAN R. TWITT**

1956 - 1970

# AFFLUENCE

## The rise of a new freedom — Vietnam



*The assembled crowd at the official opening of the school.*

The years 1956-1970 were growth years: post-war economic growth, population growth, growth in scientific research, and growth in ideas mainly due to improved communication with the advent of television.

In this section of the history of our school, in addition to recording the development of the school, we will see how that growth influenced the students both in their activities, and their attitudes to events of the day.

The first section of the new building, comprising six classrooms and several storerooms was occupied in 1956, the year that Mr. Arthur Hart became Headmaster. The enrolment was 337. There was a steady annual increase in student numbers, and in 1961 the projected enrolment of more than 650 for that year was reached; total enrolment was 651, Form 1 intake was 209, and in Form 1C there were 51 students. Enrolment peaked at 670 in 1962, with 52 students in Form 2P2.

The first year of occupation was difficult because of the abnormally wet winter. Duckboards were necessary between bus and building, and gumboots were worn by many students. One junior girl wrote of "The Dangers of Going to School":—

"Many people think that going to school is a very easy operation. Well, I can tell you that it is not at all simple. During the floods, armed with raincoats and rubber boots, we set off bravely down the road. After being driven for over a mile, we prepared to go boating. Boating on the way to school, you say. It should have been reported to the headmaster! Well, it was a case of boating or swimming. Across the swiftly running creek we paddled to meet our trusty old friend, the school bus, on the other side. After bumping and rattling over the roads (or

canals) we finally reached school to be confronted by more water. It's a wonder we all didn't die of pneumonia".

In September, 1956, the building work was completed, and by March, 1957 the whole new school building was occupied and only a few minor works remained to be completed.

On May 10th, 1957 the new Numurkah High School was opened by the Hon. J.S. Bloomfield, M.L.A., Minister of Education. The "Numurkah Leader" gave a comprehensive description of the school: .... "has a total of 29 classrooms, occupies an ideal 15 acre site and is of ultra-modern cement and glass construction (it has 1765 windows). Features include a huge and imposing auditorium, acoustically lined, neon lighted and with a massive, electrically operated ventilating system; a drama room, impressive library, spacious indoor gymnasium, and throughout, a complete inter-communication system". The domestic arts section comprised kitchen, dining room, laundry, needlework room, and a practice flat designed to accommodate three female teachers. Mr. Bloomfield paid a special tribute to both Mr. G.C. Moss, M.L.A. and Mr. A.M. Rogers, the previous Headmaster, as well as local citizens for the effort that had been put into obtaining the building that cost almost a quarter of a million pounds. "I can assure you that there is nothing finer than this school anywhere in the State. It is particularly satisfying to reflect that it will benefit the sons and daughters of soldier settlers in this region", he said.

The head prefects of the school, Barry Dourlay and Gwen Miller presented Mr. Bloomfield with a silver tray as a memento of the occasion.

In later years, Gwen and Barry married and their children have all attended the high school.



*Numurkah High School*

# Official Opening

of the

## NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS

by

Hon. J. S. Bloomfield, M.L.A.

Minister of Education

on

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1957

at 2.30 p.m.

## Programme

MR. A. BAXTER,  
President Advisory Council

THE HON. G. C. MOSS, M.L.A.  
MAJOR - GENERAL A. H. RAMSAY  
C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., B.Sc.  
Director of Education

HON. J. S. BLOOMFIELD, M.L.A.  
Minister for Education

UNVEILING OF COMMEMORATIVE TABLET

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL ANTHEM

PROCESSION OF SCHOOL

THROUGH MAIN ENTRANCE.

AFTERNOON TEA

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF SCHOOL

*Official opening programme — pages 1 and 3.*



*Gwen Miller and Barry Dourlay making a presentation to Mr. Bloomfield.*

In 1959, the school was very fortunate to have Mr. Alan McLeod, a very inspiring and energetic man, appointed as Headmaster.

During his three years at Numurkah, Mr. McLeod's enthusiasm encouraged everyone associated with the school to give of their best, in all areas, at all times. He and his Senior Master, Ian McKean, were a good team who earned the respect of all the students. He had foresight, too, which was apparent when he suggested to the Education Department that it purchase the land adjoining the north of the school for another oval, upon the State Rivers vacating it when their work in the area was completed.

Mr. McLeod did not ever expect anyone to do anything he himself was not prepared to do. By the end of 1959, with the assistance of Advisory Council members: the Hon. G.C. Moss, M.L.A., Messrs. G. Morieson, E.J. Coxon, G. Cowan, H. Fox, J.T. Christie, W.J. Little, A.R. Watters, J. Tuttle, C. Goodwin, C.R. McPherson and I. Corlass, teachers Ian McKean, Norm Stewart, and Don Moore, and some students, much work had been accomplished.

Mr. A. Weston, a surveyor with the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, supervised the taking of levels on the playing area at the rear of the school and the lawn area at the front and south-west corner where a considerable amount of filling was required. Mr. Goodwin graded the front lawn area, Mr. Moss grubbed and removed large tree stumps from the eastern end of the schoolground so that trees could be planted along the eastern boundary fence, and Mr. George Cowan disced, graded, and harrowed the proposed lawn area on the south side of the school.

Mr. Col McPherson, grounds councillor, advised as to the selection of one hundred trees and forty shrubs, and these were planted by Form 3G boys under the supervision of Messrs. Ed Visser and Brian Heard.

In addition to the development of the school grounds, the front fence was completed, and two additional classrooms were added to the northern wing of the building.

Mr. McLeod sought the assistance of district organizations and individuals who responded willingly to his requests for help at working bees and for the loan of equipment. He was especially grateful for the remarkable cooperation of Mr. F. Harding, Shire Engineer, Mr. F. Mills, Works Superintendent, other Shire officers and councillors. Mr. Ed Coxon donated a tractor, and a mower was bought.

By the end of 1961, when he was transferred to Kerang High School, a fire reticulation service had been installed, and a watering system for the sports oval had been connected. Physically, the school had grown.

But that was not the only type of growth that interested this Headmaster. He encouraged his students to grow. At the end of his first year as Headmaster, through the school magazine he said:

"I thought that I would like to talk to you, the pupils of this school, about living, rather than learning; about school activities that have to do with growing up.

For a start, one thing that all of you can be relied on to do is to respond to appeals for people who are less lucky than you. Your consistent contributions to the Social Service Fund, your buying of badges and poppies on Anzac and Remembrance Days, your record of 423 dozen eggs brought in for hospitals — all these show that you are able to think of something else but your own enjoyment. If you can do this, then you are beginning to know how to live, not only in a school, but also with people.

Another thing we have been pleased about is the way in which you can organize your own activities. It was good to see pupils playing a part in helping with sport, socials, the school fete, the cafeteria and other matters that needed organization. This too is an important part of living. You are getting practice in relying on yourself rather than other people.

The Director of Education, Major-General Ramsay, was happy about the way in which you are looking after your magnificent school. So are we. We hope that if you can take pride in a building like ours, you will be just as careful and proud of buildings and amenities in your town.

We feel that if you can think of others, rely on yourselves, look after the things that belong to all of us, you will be well on the way to learning how to live outside the school."

On another occasion he wrote:

"I suppose that the most interesting excuse that I have ever read in a Late Book was written by a very small boy. It was put very simply and said, 'I went to see the tiger'.

You see, there was a circus in the town, and the late-comer had never seen a tiger before. But he had curiosity, a determination to see and to know exactly what a tiger was like, in spite of possible discomfort to himself.

We want more of this urge to find out things, to learn for oneself, this determination to 'get there'.

These things can be seen in your own school. Many pupils have that determination; they know what they want; they know that if they are to succeed in a world in which jobs are becoming more and more competitive, they must learn and they must concentrate.

Others though, are content to drift aimlessly through school, only to discover that the job they wanted is out of their reach for ever because they were not prepared to do some rugged work.

These latter are those who will never 'see the tiger'. Be sure that YOU don't miss him."

Mr. McLeod will be remembered as a fine English teacher. He paid great attention to detail. He also knew the name of every pupil in the school, read and signed every pupil's term report, and often added his own comment of praise or encouragement.

Alan McLeod died suddenly at Kerang in 1964, and the following tribute was paid to him:

"In 1959 one-hundred-and-fifty Form 1 pupils and one Headmaster embarked on a new experience.

Those Form 1 pupils will remember that Headmaster. They will remember the characteristic sound of footsteps which



Mr. Alan McLeod

heralded his approach and brought an awareness of things to be done or, more often, things which had not been done.

They will remember that the cessation of the footsteps meant one of two things —

The Headmaster had stopped outside the classroom.

The Headmaster had allowed a nervous little Form 1 girl to pass on ahead of him.

Form 1 learned to be concerned with conscientiousness and courtesy.

The Headmaster remembered Form 1. He remembered them with affection and amusement. He was aware of them. After he moved to a new school he was concerned with their progress and attainment.

The experience of those 1959 newcomers was mutually rewarding.

Form VI — 1964 were that Form 1. Mr. A.L. McLeod, B.A., B.Ed., was that Headmaster.

In the words of Form VI, 1960, 'He loved chivalry, truth and honour, freedom and courtesy'."

On August 24th, 1967, the Shire President, Councillor H. Prentice, in the absence of Gregor McLeod, Mr. McLeod's eldest son, unveiled the memorial scoreboard for the official naming of the Alan McLeod oval.

## SPEECH NIGHTS

During this period Speech Nights were formal occasions, with students all correctly attired in school uniform. There were flower arrangements in the foyer, programmes for invited guests had distinctive covers, the work of senior Art students, and the centre of attention, the table on the stage, was laden with certificates, books, medallions, and glistening silver trophies.

Students in Forms One to Four who had achieved an examination average of 80% in a subject were awarded an Honour in that subject. Dozens of students crossed the stage to receive their certificates, some with one Honour, a few with as many as ten Honours. Book prizes were awarded to the Dux of each Form group.

Following the Headmaster's report, the Guest Speaker's address, the presentation of academic and sports awards, House Cups and Shields, entertainment was provided by the students. Always there was music, usually the school choir, and perhaps, a play, judo, fencing or gymnastic display. Mr. Don Moore's gym. squads performed many spectacular feats and we held our breath as we watched the final act, the pyramid, taking shape. There was a sigh of relief as the last man nimbly made it to the top, teetered slightly, then stood balanced and poised.

# PROGRAMME

## PART ONE

1—Chairman's Remarks	HON. G. C. MOSS, M.L.A. President Advisory Council
2—Annual Report	Mr. A. L. McLEOD, B.A., B. Ed.
3—Address	Mr. C. A. McCALLUM, B.A. Chief Librarian Public Library of Victoria
4—Vote of Thanks to Speaker	Mr. J. T. CHRISTIE Vice-President Advisory Council
5—Presentations and Awards:—	
(a) Scholastic	Mr. C. A. McCallum
(b) Special Awards	Mrs. R. H. Robinson
(c) Sports Awards	Mrs. D. D. Macdonald
(d) House Awards	Cr. R. H. Robinson President Shire of Numurkah.

## PART TWO

1—Girls' Choir:	"Away With Melancholy" <i>Mozart</i> "On Wings Of Song" <i>Mendelssohn</i> "Girls And Boys Come Out To Play" <i>Two Part Canon</i>	
2—Girls' Physical Training Display	Tumbling and Springboard Work.	
3—Play — <i>The Crimson Coconut</i>	An Absurdity By Ian Hay	
	SCENE: SPAGHETTI'S RESTAURANT, SOHO	
Characters (In Order of Appearance):		
Jack Pincher (A Detective)		Laurie Batey
Robert (A Waiter)		Euan Carter
Mr. Jabstick		Bryan Cole
Nancy Jabstick (His Daughter)		Carol Frawley
Nitro Gliserinski (An Anarchist)		Malcolm Stewart
Madame Gliserinski		Margaret Blackley
Prompter		Roslyn Parrott
Properties	Gale Clarke and Valerie Edwards	
4—Boys' Physical Training Display	Ancient Sport in The Modern World.	
5—Girls' Choir:		
	"In The Bleak Midwinter" <i>Holst</i>	
	"Cold and Dark is Holy Night" <i>Floyd</i>	
6—National Anthem.		
	Accompaniste	Fleur Cottam

### 1959 Speech Night programme.

## THE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL

On October 30th, 1959, Mr. G.C. Moss M.L.A. unveiled a plaque bearing the inscription: "The A.M. Rogers Hall. This hall is named in recognition of the work and service of A.M. Rogers, who was the first headmaster of the N.H.S. 1951-1955."

Mr. Rogers acknowledged the honour bestowed on him by a community that really appreciated his contribution towards obtaining a high school for Numurkah.

In the following year, Mr. Rogers presented a table and a cloth for the stage. The cloth features the school crest and motto, richly embroidered in gold on a royal blue background. Mr. Charles Goodwin, a former member of the Advisory Council, presented four chairs to match the table.

During 1960, the House Captains' Board was presented by the Students Representative Council, and a Dux Honour Roll board was presented by Mr. Charles Thomson.

That students regarded the assembly hall as the "heart of the school" is evident from the following contribution to "Bangerang" in 1959.

"We are indeed fortunate to have such a fine centre for our school activities, and our assembly hall is truly a centre in function as well as design.

There we have met each Monday morning to be berated or praised depending on our performances the previous week. During those assemblies we have heard all the school news, seen our sporting stars receive, or present to the school many trophies, listened to interesting and closely contested debates and learned the fate for the week of the Form Room Cup.

Then, each Friday morning we have contributed vocally to a half hour of singing our favourites from the school song book. These sessions have been pleasant highlights of each week even though some of us are not exactly nightingales.

During August and September we hurriedly ate our lunches in order to be on time to hear the many talented performers taking part in the Talent Quest, always a popular section of the annual fete. On fete day many parents and students crowded into the hall to enjoy the final and to vote for their favourite

items. The hall that day was also the setting for a parade by needlework students who modelled their own work.

At various times during the year we have been summoned to the hall to hear very interesting lectures by visiting speakers and in April we had a very impressive Anzac Day service. During October, a Careers afternoon was organized and into the hall went many students in need of advice on courses of study and fields of work.

But for most pupils perhaps the strongest memories associated with our hall will be those connected with the school socials. These dances have been very well organized and enjoyable functions providing the perfect atmosphere for the end of term".

Ten years later, in July 1969, students and staff gathered in the hall, all eyes on the television as we watched the first men to set foot on the moon and heard Neil Armstrong say, "one step forward for man, a giant leap forward for mankind".



*Alan Hubbard at the 1970 school social.*



## WELFARE LEAGUE

In 1956, with the completion of the school building in sight, the Welfare League accelerated its fund-raising activities to cover the cost of developing the school grounds. The Government subsidised all work done, but the parents had to have their share of the money in hand before work could start. Mrs. C. Goodwin was President and she appealed to all parents coping with muddy boots and wet socks to help provide "tennis courts and playing fields, not to mention dry footpaths". The fete that year resulted in a total of £470 being raised, and by the end of the year a substantial sum was in hand to go towards ground improvements.

In April, 1958 the Welfare League assumed responsibility for running the cafeteria. Mrs. Jean Batey was the first manageress, assisted by mothers on a monthly roster system. Students also helped in various ways.

After the first year of operation of the cafeteria a cheque for £300 was handed to the Headmaster for the purchase of books for the reference library. The cash value of voluntary labour given by mothers on the roster system was calculated at 1328 hours of time, and at the award rate of 6s/10d. an hour was worth £453/14/8. Without this donation it would have been impossible to provide high quality lunches at low cost.

The cafeteria was regarded as a special place at N.H.S. One student described it as being a place "full of interesting faces; busy faces, earnest faces, laughing faces. The caf. is the centre of school life — for is not life centred around nourishment? Its windows are full of notices and it is outside the caf. that the student body is regimented twice daily."

Mrs. Jamieson became manageress in 1962.

The Welfare League responded willingly to continual requests to raise money for sports equipment, books, sewing machines, and items necessary to broaden students' educational opportunities, as well as providing afternoon teas, luncheons, or suppers for any school activity.

## TEACHER STORIES ....

### ADRIAN THOMAS

Adrian Thomas, a very dynamic Music and Maths teacher arrived in the staff room bemoaning the fact that "that last period cost me 1/6d." His rather unenthusiastic students were not working very well so he paid 6d. to the first one to get the correct answer — three problems solved for 1/6d!

### THE MORNING SONG

In 1961 it was usual to have a Friday morning assembly in the hall and we all took along our school song books for a singing session with Mr. Douglas encouraging, and Mr. Thomas playing the piano. At the same time a Form 1 group would, in turn, have ballroom dancing lessons with Miss Vincent and Mr. Gooding in the gymnasium.

At a later date, timetable alterations caused the Friday morning assemblies to be abandoned. However, the idea of a song to conclude Monday morning assembly was retained.

Often there was a guest speaker at assembly. On one occasion the speaker was from the Gideon Bible Society, who told of the work of the Society. At the end of assembly each student was to be given a Bible. Then came the time for Mr. Thomas to announce the song. "This morning's song," he said, "is 'What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor'. It's on page ....". Anything else he said couldn't be heard for laughter. Really, he hadn't done his homework!

### RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTIONS

There was a time in the late 1960's when it was decided to hold Religious Instruction sessions in the Assembly Hall in senior and junior groups. Teachers were rostered for "guard duty" while one of the local clergy conducted the session.

It was during these periods that keen readers sat at the back and finished their library books that they'd smuggled in. Some duty teachers felt that silence was most important, as a courtesy to the speaker, and at least the readers weren't talking. It wasn't easy for two teachers to supervise three hundred students. One teacher, when she noticed someone speak, would put pencil to paper as if recording the offender's name. The offender didn't realize that she didn't know many of the pupils, and actually was preparing a lesson or making a shopping list.

## THE MEN'S STAFF ROOM

In 1962, a student wrote: "If you ever looked into the men's staff room, you would notice a cloud of smoke floating out the windows from Mr. Gooding's pipe and Mr. McRaid's also. In the left hand corner, from the door straight down the wall, you would note Mr. Eller and Mr. Thomas playing darts, while the others keep their distance from the board, because they value their lives. In the middle of the room would be Mr. Nelson and Mr. Pearson trying to play table tennis, while in the far corner, Mr. Denham would be blasting away on his trumpet".

If you looked in the same staff room in 1969 you would have seen this: "The Staff Room Cricketers".



Left to right: Ted Beck, Peter Fewster, Geoff Ireland, Jack Harvey, Alan Hubbard.

### ROOM 5

Room 5 was the French room when Mr. Haugh taught in the early sixties, and it was the most attractive room in the school. A very inviting room with colourful displays of things French. Mr. Haugh spent many nights at the school changing displays so there was always something new to see and to learn. But there was a problem: a phantom drawing-pin remover. Many times at assemblies Mr. Haugh would politely ask students not to remove the pins, but with limited success.

One day, in an English class, Wayne was behaving very childishly so the teacher said, "Wayne, if you will insist on behaving like a pre-school child, you'd better sit on the floor out front with your back to the class". As Wayne sat, his visible shoe soles and heels revealed dozens of drawing pins. His explanation? "Just saving shoe leather, Miss."

### SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

Until the late 1960's regular school inspections were as certain as taxes and death. For a few days in a given week each year a group of dark-grey-suited men, occasionally there was a woman inspector, arrived at the school and were seen making their way purposefully to various classrooms. Always they carried a notebook, and rarely did they smile.

Inspection days were enjoyed by the students more than the teachers. Often some bright students used the occasion to "show off" and fairly leapt from their seats, with pumping arms, eager to answer every question. Others, usually reliable and knowledgeable, sometimes chose that particular day to be obtuse and sit sullenly silent. This often happened when the teacher was desperate for SOMEONE to come up with the right answer. Occasionally the Inspector took over the lesson, and invariably fired questions at the dreamers, or those who had not finished their work. This really boosted the teacher's confidence!

One teacher once gave a "repeat" lesson. No good. A very "co-operative" student announced, "Sir, we had that lesson yesterday".

For the most part, students were genuinely helpful during those years of school inspections, and always the Inspectors' reports praised the good tone of the school, the pleasing attitude of the pupils, and the enthusiasm of the staff.

## “DANCE WITH ME HENERY”

Five past four Monday afternoon. “Come on, you chaps. You should be inside ready to begin. Now line up, boys this end, girls the other. We’ll run through the basic steps of the Old Time Waltz again, because once you can do this you can adapt yourselves to any old time dances”. And so, another dancing lesson in the gymnasium has begun.

Strains of music break out upon the air as the instructor, Mr. Gooding, begins his chant of “one-two-three, one-two-three, dum, dum, dum .... keep it up! Now, I want to see all the girls try it. No, you haven’t quite got the rhythm! It’s like this. Yes, that’s right. You all seem to have an idea of it, so we’ll have dancing now. Right boys, choose your partners for the Old Time Waltz! Go up to your partner, ask her politely, and offer your arm to escort her on to the floor.”

“Now don’t rush the girl off. Give her time to refuse,” yells Miss Vincent.

And so, six couples take the floor and valiantly try to master the Old Time Waltz.

Dozens of students will remember with gratitude the hours “Sammy” (who sometimes arrived at dancing classes on his go-kart) and Miss Vincent spent teaching them how to dance.

## A SCENE AT SEWING

“A flared woollen skirt, I said, not a pleated one! So why have you bought a pattern for a pleated one. Well?”

The sewing student stands helpless under the killing stare of the sewing mistress.

“How many of you have bought CHECK material for your skirts?” Several frightened students raise their hands uncertainly.

“You realise that you will have to match the checks, don’t you?”

Silence.

“Well, do you?”

Barely audible murmurs from the class.

“Then you’ll find it much easier to have two or four gores in your skirts. How many of you have more than four gores in your winter skirts?”

Again a few hands raised.

“You realise, of course, that you have to oversee each side of each seam — therefore if you have six seams you have twelve sides to oversee. If I were you I would have plain material with as few gores as possible”.

Poor me! Feeling completely flattened I sigh as I think of my check material and six-gore pattern.

## CAFETERIA ON “SMOKE”

There are always the lighter moments at a school. On one occasion the ever-vigilant Mr. Visser saw the cafeteria filled with smoke and smelt a smell he had never before associated with that area. Post haste he made for the Headmaster. With no thought of self, determined only to save the cafeteria, the intrepid pair entered the smoke-filled room. Then began extensive search, but, to their consternation, both realized that there was no truth in that old saying, “There is no smoke without fire”. Yes, smoke bombs can be very effective.

## K. ROWE v A. BLOOR

Mr. Alan Bloor joined the staff in 1966, and Mr. Ken Rowe in 1967. Both were colourful characters who contributed much to the school, Ken as Sportsmaster and Commerce teacher, and Alan as a Maths teacher, and supervisor of the boys’ sick bay.

Alan, an Englishman and ex-R.A.F. member, had lived in various parts of the world and was extremely knowledgeable, no matter what the topic. Ken, who had a great thirst for knowledge, would manage to turn a peaceful recess into a raging battle by making some outrageous statement, usually not complimentary to Alan’s homeland. In the “discussion” that followed, Ken, as well as anyone else present, would soak up the information imparted by Alan. From the time he arrived at Numurkah, Ken conducted various anti-smoking campaigns, which disturbed Alan, who was a heavy smoker.

These friendly rivals provided many laughs in the Staff Room. One wonders if Alan, in his retirement in England, has ever realized how much knowledge and wisdom he gave to teachers at Numurkah.

## SHERLOCK TOOMEY?

Isn’t it strange, that after death threats from Mr. Toomey, boys, and girls I might add, continue to pursue the hobby of aviation.

The favourite period for constructing these jets would be hard to judge. For whilst we are having manoeuvres in history, the boys are planning for a full scale attack in science. The situation got so bad that Mr. Toomey had to devote his yard duty to hunting down all fliers without licenses. He has abolished the majority. But, what of the minority? They have formed an underground chain. Sometimes, when we are suffering a boring period, they chance a few jets. The whole lots are inscribed with some comment but the last jet to come always reads:

“Disregard previous messages: Destroy all planes”.

There isn’t much the ordinary commonplace student can do, but, carry on Sherlock Toomey!

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF HIGH SCHOOL

My first impression of High School was how big it is, the number of pupils, and the many teachers. There are long, crowded corridors, and in some of these it is necessary to use torches to get books from lockers. The assembly points confused and baffled me at first, but after getting the hang of them I soon began to enjoy High School. I was lonely at first because I never had met or seen all the tall and short children before. The first term exam I didn’t like for it was the first time I’d ever had such a large test and I became very nervous because I thought I would fail .....

The teachers are very strict. There are always teachers watching the children .....

Some rules at High School are ridiculous, such as girls doing yard duty, and pupils not being allowed in the history and geography rooms at recess and lunch time to work on assignments or do extra work. Why do teachers spend so much time setting up displays in rooms if children are never allowed in them to read what is on the walls? .....

The socials should be at night. The dances are old-fashioned and aren’t much good because young people like to “twist”, etc.....

I enjoy the sports and travelling in the school bus. I hate yard duty and detention. I like most of the prefects and nearly all the staff, but some are too strict .....

A thing I don’t like and hardly ever do is homework. I don’t think French is any use to us. I often feel like leaving school for good .....

I think everything is all right and well balanced. I don’t mind any of the lessons.....

I get awfully bored in class, especially when we have private study .....

I am in a Form with many nice girls — I wish those persons who borrow rulers, rubbers, pens, pencils, etc. would please return them; all my pocket money is used to replace the things I lose .....

The best part of school is lunch time .....

When you get to school a so-called “five minute” bell rings. We all believe it is 3½ minutes. I imagine all teachers as slave drivers with huge whips. When the first bell rings there is a maniacal rush for the lockers. All around you there are avenging prefects ready to pounce on you for the slightest offence. The second bell rings. You slam the locker, grab your books and make a vain rush for your assembly. When you get there the teacher’s voice booms out, “You there, get out front immediately.”

You slink out front in shame. When everybody has gone the teacher says, "Go to the office and sign the late book". You go and sign it. The teacher there says, "It's detention for you". You run like a hare and get apprehended by a teacher and given a day of detention. When you finally reach your room, the teacher gives you more detention for arriving late.....

The last period of the day is the worst of the lot. You get very light in the spirit and toss a piece of paper around and a very irritable teacher happily gives you a couple of hundred lines. You just can't win!

Various Form 1 students, 1962.

## UNIFORM INSPECTION

Absolute Silence! Slowly, inexorably, the X-ray squad (teachers) glide with gleaming eyes through the ranks of grey-clad, sombre boys. With meticulous care, each of the four judges examines the individual, seeking to expose the slightest flaw in the unfortunate lad's apparel. Occasionally, a growl of triumph, reverberating from wall to wall, indicates that another soul has fallen victim to the fiendish mercies of a prosecutor. As a vision of doom approaches each boy in rank, that unfortunate instinctively stiffens to attention. With the passing of the crisis, he just as instinctively permits a sigh to wander forever in the deep chasms of time.

At last, an order is given. The company right turns, and the assembly disperses in orderly rank and file.

From a Form 4 student, 1964.



A correctly-attired group of boys (and girls) — Form 1A, 1963.

## MISS GLOVER

Ask any girl who attended N.H.S. between the years 1961 and 1964 what they remember most and the answer is likely to be, "Miss Glover's discipline and uniform inspections". Few dared to be caught down the street after school without hat and gloves on. Girls' assemblies were regularly held. Teachers and Prefects inspected length of hair and length of uniform — sometimes rulers were used to check hemlines as students knelt. General cleanliness of person, uniforms, and shoes, length of nails (and definitely NO nail polish) were checked. All articles of clothing had to have name tags, socks had to be the right length, and underwear the correct colour. Failure to comply with any of these rules meant you lost points for your House.

But there was another side to Miss Glover. A girl with a problem would find her to be warm and helpful. At assemblies she urged girls to "earn respect from boys by putting yourselves on a pedestal and have the boys look up to you". Just before a school social she would ask the girls always to accept a request to dance because "It may have been an effort for that boy to pluck up enough courage to ask you to dance and if you refuse his request his confidence could suffer. Some boys are very shy".

Perhaps, in later years, many girls would have reason to thank Miss Glover for the values she held and passed on.



Mr. and Mrs. Rammag and Mr. MacGillivray at a school social, 1968.

## TECHNICAL EDUCATION

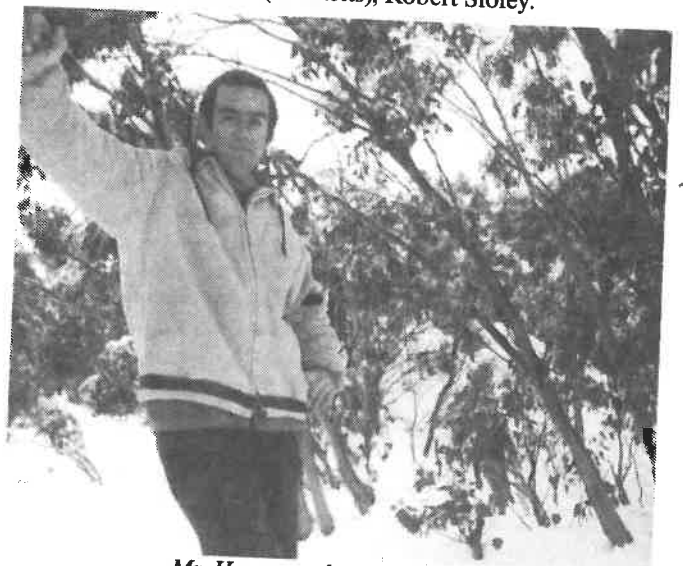
A push for technical education for Numurkah students began in 1962. Some students found their own means of transport to Shepparton Technical School. Following pressure from the local R.S.L. branches and Numurkah Shire Councillors the Education Department provided a bus service to Shepparton. By 1967 there were eighty district students using this service. Mr. H. Sloane, District Inspector of Schools researched the area to ascertain the community's future need for technical education, and with assistance from Mr. C. Newman a submission was prepared, and after several meetings and deputations to the appropriate authorities it was decided to develop comprehensive education at Numurkah which provided for a significant increase in the number of technical subjects offered.

The school year in 1970 opened with a new Principal, Mr. T. Lloyd, and 561 pupils, 47 of whom were technical students. Mr. Barry McGregor was appointed to supervise the development of the technical component. He was a man of extraordinary talent who gained the co-operation of everyone concerned with the merging of traditional secondary schooling and the new technical courses.

## "I WILL RETURN"

It would seem that some students enjoyed their school days at N.H.S. so much that they returned to teach.

These we have found: Margaret Cossens, David Cowan, Elizabeth Cowan, Phyllis Cowan (Heard), Kathy Eddy (Wallace), Dianne Hanna (Rendell), Anne-Marie Jackson (Burch), Colin Jordan, Lois Lowe (McArthur), David MacDonald, Betty Moore (Bennetts), Robert Sloley.



Mr. Harvey at the snow in 1968.

"My candid opinion is that teachers should wear school uniform. If the teachers don't wear school uniform, why must the pupils?" .... Dennis Garner, Third Form, 1962.

*APRIL FOOL'S DAY, 1966 — SOME OF THE STAFF.*



Back (from left): S. Gooding, G. Balaam, R. McCausland, R. Borschmann, K. Lacey, G. Brown, R. Fawns. Front: D. Macdonald, D. Lee, M. Tyrell, S. Conn, J. Borschmann, L. Vincent, D. Berzins, P. Toomey. **HAPPY NOW, DENNIS?**

*HOW MANY OF THESE "OUT-OF-UNIFORM" SENIOR STUDENTS OF 1966 CAN YOU IDENTIFY?*



# POT-POURRI — 1956-1970

## BOLDFINGER ELLER

A novel fete event, as reported by Basha el Pasha (one of Abdul's camels) in 1965, was when Abdul Eller, the proud Nhill marbles champion (he was the first and last one) challenged the best student marbles player to a contest. Abdul, colourfully dressed, and complete with drums, fanfare, harem, and camels was carried to the tennis court for the show-down. His firing thumb was bandaged, which could have caused his opponents to feel very nervous, because they soon were beaten. Abdul emerged triumphant from the arena, to the cheers of his admirers, and was borne "home" in state.

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In the days when formal examinations were held each term, supervision sometimes became boring for teachers who had to pace the room and keep a sharp eye on the examinees. To pass the time, some teachers, "answered" the questions.

Cookery exam papers were a good target for teachers' humour:

Q. Name four ways of cutting sandwiches.

A. (a) Use a knife; (b) Use a hacksaw; (c) Use scissors; (d) Use a blowtorch.

Q. Name three cereals.

A. (a) Blue Hills; (b) Dad and Dave; (c) Martin's Corner.

Q. How can you tell if a fish was fresh?

A. Why bother?

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Did you know that in 1963 there were ten rules for sweeping the floor?

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## THE SCHOOL FETE

Once a year the fete comes round

And organizers begin to bound

Button selling has begun,

Welcoming friends to join the fun.

Soon the competition excitement rises,

Form 5 or 6, to win the prizes.

Pre-fete activities get under way,

Toffees and dances every day.

The book and boys become awfully sticky

As the students peer under the desk to have a "licky"

of the toffees, or sweets, and delicious cakes

they bought at recess or during the breaks.

No uniform day, oh so gay

When people dress, not the usual way.

Witches and golly wogs, all types grand,

Competing with "Sammy" in his red waist band.

When fete day has eventually come,

From nine in the morning there's a continual hum

Of busy workers preparing their stall

Or kids put away with a film in the hall.

Lunch time begins with a barbeque steak

While hot dog sellers are trying, some money to make.

Now here comes Mum to support the school

With all the toddlers, and she still looks cool.

And casual Dad, not caring a hoot,

Into the gallery he goes for a shoot.

Kids get excited with the money coming in;

And there's still plenty of attraction at the Roman Inn.

When all the comics are sold and the sundaes are eaten

The crowds find out who's won, and who was beaten

In the competitions of skill or just good luck

Where the prizes range "from a pumpkin to a buck".

Weary and worn we finish our capers

With a surprise for the form one boys —

PICKING UP PAPERS!

## THE DROP OUT

Students, some work from dawn till after dark

These succeed and make their mark.

But Jim, he wiles away his days

With thoughts of fun in endless maze.

He won't succeed, he soon drops out.

He walks the streets, he yells and shouts,

"My pay's no good". He's lost his job.

He's fighting mad.

He gets another. It's just as bad.

The pay is worse. He starts to think

Why isn't life so nice and pink?

Others say it's nice and rosy.

Why isn't his so warm and cosy?

Why can't he get a better job,

Like all the others in the mob?

Opportunity didn't come his way

At least that's what he likes to say.

But inside he knows to his dismay

He didn't study while at school.

He didn't obey the golden rule.

He left too soon to qualify

to get a chance to go really high.

To make his mark upon the world.

To reach his goal like flag unfurled.

His life he would not wile away

If he could go back to that day

When study would have helped a lot

To get the things the others got.

One a doctor, one a nurse,

All are happy with a purse

Full of money, and happiness,

With wives and children to caress.

But he won't admit to his fate.

When asked, "how's life?" he says "real great".

But deep inside, his heart is bloody

Because at school he did not study.

"Wenjo", 1968.

## STOP

Stop these whirling colours, green, red, yellow.

These bright lights that blind,

Stop the yelling running children

And the rushing roar of sound from cars, radio, television.

Stop the fussing, stop the arguments,

Stop pounding words, thoughts, images against my frail spirit.

Stop telling me to do, to think, to work, to move.

Stop!

For just one moment — in silence

Let it be enough to live.

Pauline Madill, Form 3, 1970.

\*\*\*\*\*

## IS IT TOO MUCH? — YES

I expect to be able to go to school without any fears of being given an inferiority complex, and most important, without any fears of not having a good education. Let me explain myself.

By an inferiority complex I mean I don't want any of the seniors to thrust their superiority down my throat. I know I am inferior but they don't have to take advantage of it.

I expect to be able to pass matriculation and other important exams easily (providing I study for them). I also expect to be able to get a good job, or rather, take up a career when I leave school.

Of course I don't expect school to consist of only basic subjects, but to include sporting fixtures, science excursions, and socials, all of which will broaden my education.

I also expect the seniors to set an example of good conduct by obeying the school rules, and by having a respectful attitude towards all teachers.

## EARLY 1960's — VIETNAM

The latter part of Mr. Head's period as Principal coincided with the burgeoning of what has become known in later years as the "Me" generation. Society's values were changing, students were becoming more assertive and questioned authority and discipline. It seemed that more and more parents were abdicating their responsibilities and leaving schools to sort out problems that had their origin elsewhere. Schools were expected to teach subjects other than the traditional ones and, for the staff, there were hours spent discussing a curriculum appropriate to the needs of this district's young people. With workers striving for a shorter working week it became necessary to train students how to spend their leisure time profitably. Teachers at N.H.S. realized this need sooner than most other schools, and organized clubs to encourage hobbies and skills.

Miss Cook, Senior Mistress at this time, took charge of Social Service fund raising, and her gentle, caring manner encouraged students to think of others who were less fortunate than themselves. This was the dawn of the "Walkathon" age — a good way to raise money and a chance to chat while walking.

Encouraged to care and to talk about others, students began to express their thoughts in essays and poems.

They questioned the wisdom of, and the money spent on, space exploration. A Form 3 student of 1964 wrote, "when we read in the newspapers so often of the crime and disease of this world, do you think it is right that we should defile other worlds with it? We should strive to make this world a better place for all, spend the millions of pounds on food and necessities for the teeming multitudes who lack them, and on medical research. If man cannot properly care for this world, why try to be master of others and ruin them?"

The Vietnam War posed the question of patriotism. In 1965, a Form 4 student defended the Patriotic Ceremony which was held each Monday morning. She believed that "We seem to take our life too much for granted". She made the point that we owe our freedom to those who sacrificed their lives so that we might live in peace, and surely it should not be too much of an effort to honour our country and flag which others strove to maintain with such a costly effort in two world wars.

In the same year, a Form 4 boy expressed concern about his brother who was fighting in Vietnam and the fear that he might not return.

Another student wrote this poem:

He darts thru' the jungle, crouched low he runs,  
Amidst roar of explosions, the rattle of guns,  
His face is set, grim, of death he's seen plenty,  
Altho' (just believe it) his age is but twenty.  
After just two decades of life, a youngster still,  
He was taken away and taught how to kill.  
Then given a uniform and put on a boat,  
Old enough to shoot, but not to vote.  
And already the boy, young Australian so fine,  
Has seen his best friend lose both legs from a mine.  
He's waited in ambush, in the dead of the night,  
And mown down civilians who dared to show fight.  
He killed in Saigon, and in Nui Dat,  
but little the Government cares for all that.  
For as long as there's plenty of young men in our schools,  
They'll be called up to fight for these arrogant fools.  
Seems our worthy world leaders, with their brains and their skill,  
Have forgotten the words, "Thou shalt not kill!"

By contrast, a pressing issue in 1960 was the fate of future teenagers. "A Square" was concerned that the Beatniks, "some of the hairiest, scrawniest and most discontented specimens of all time, produced by the United States", might completely take over Australian teenage society and asked, "What have we done to deserve this?" "Nick-Beat" suggested that the invasion had begun as girls were dyeing their hair in strange colours, and added, "It is to be hoped that these 'unconventionals' of today will not cause the wrong judgement of the

teenagers of tomorrow".

A poem written by two 1969 students should cause us to consider what progress has been made on the issue of race relations in twenty years.

### "NEGROES BANNED"

"Go 'way nigger", they'd said  
With hate in their eyes,  
But it's just a little black kid  
that they fear and despise.  
He wanted to make friends, he wanted to learn,  
But instead he was turned away, beaten, spurned.  
Now he walks head down, alone in despair  
He is learning now the cross he will bear.  
He hears far away, through the sobs and the tears  
The whitey's yells, their taunts and jeers.  
He's only a child, he can't understand  
He can't even read the signs: "Negroes Banned".  
As the tortuous years pass, he'll soon comprehend  
That white man and negro can never be friend.  
While prejudice, bigotry reign on this earth,  
Every black man will regret his birth.



## WE BROADEN OUR HORIZON

So that Numurkah students would not be unduly penalized for living in the country, teachers arranged many excursion. With the co-operation of parents who often provided transport, business houses and local employers, students were able to visit the Stock Exchange, Radio Australia, the Supreme Court, and in 1962 attended the Student Bankers' Convention in Melbourne. At that time the students conducted their own bank at school. A percentage of deposited money was paid into school funds.

There were trips to Melbourne for senior students to see plays they were studying, Art students visited Art Galleries, and the years 1964-67 were especially busy for Science students when Mr. Balaam, Mr. Borschmann, Mr. Fawns and Mr. Harrowfield encouraged students to enter regional Science talent quests, and followed this up with visits to the finals.

In 1966, N.H.S. students won a major senior section award in the regional science talent quest. Senior Biology classes conducted by Mr. R. Fawns spent many hours making an ecological survey of the Barmah Forest Hut Lake area. It was a comprehensive undertaking involving many days of research at the lake. It enabled the students to appreciate the forest's vastness — the biggest red gum forest in the world, and its dependence for survival on spring flooding.

In their report the students suggested that the area had facilities and sufficient student interest to make it an ideal place for a permanent camp occupied throughout the year by various school classes.

Other awards were won by: John Burdett (model solar water heater), Greg Wilson (an electro-static machine), Ian Stewart (a method of measuring wave frequency by cathode ray oscilloscope), and Cheryl Kinross and her group (study of seed germination).

The senior Geography students of 1966 will remember going to Mirboo North with Mr. McCausland to do the practical section of their course, whilst the Form 4 folk of 1968-70 will recall their week in Tasmania. The aim of this tour was personal growth as well as sight-seeing. Students had experience in room-sharing, "dressing" for dinner at night, learning what behaviour was acceptable in a restaurant or theatre, and caring about each other.

## WE ARE HELPED TO GROW

Service Clubs contributed to the breadth of educational experience available to students. Each year the R.S.L. donated books to the Library, the Apex and Rotary Clubs awarded Scholarships to students. In addition, Rotary organized Careers information afternoons and initiated an international student exchange programme, whilst the Apex Club donated a shield to be awarded for inter-House debates.

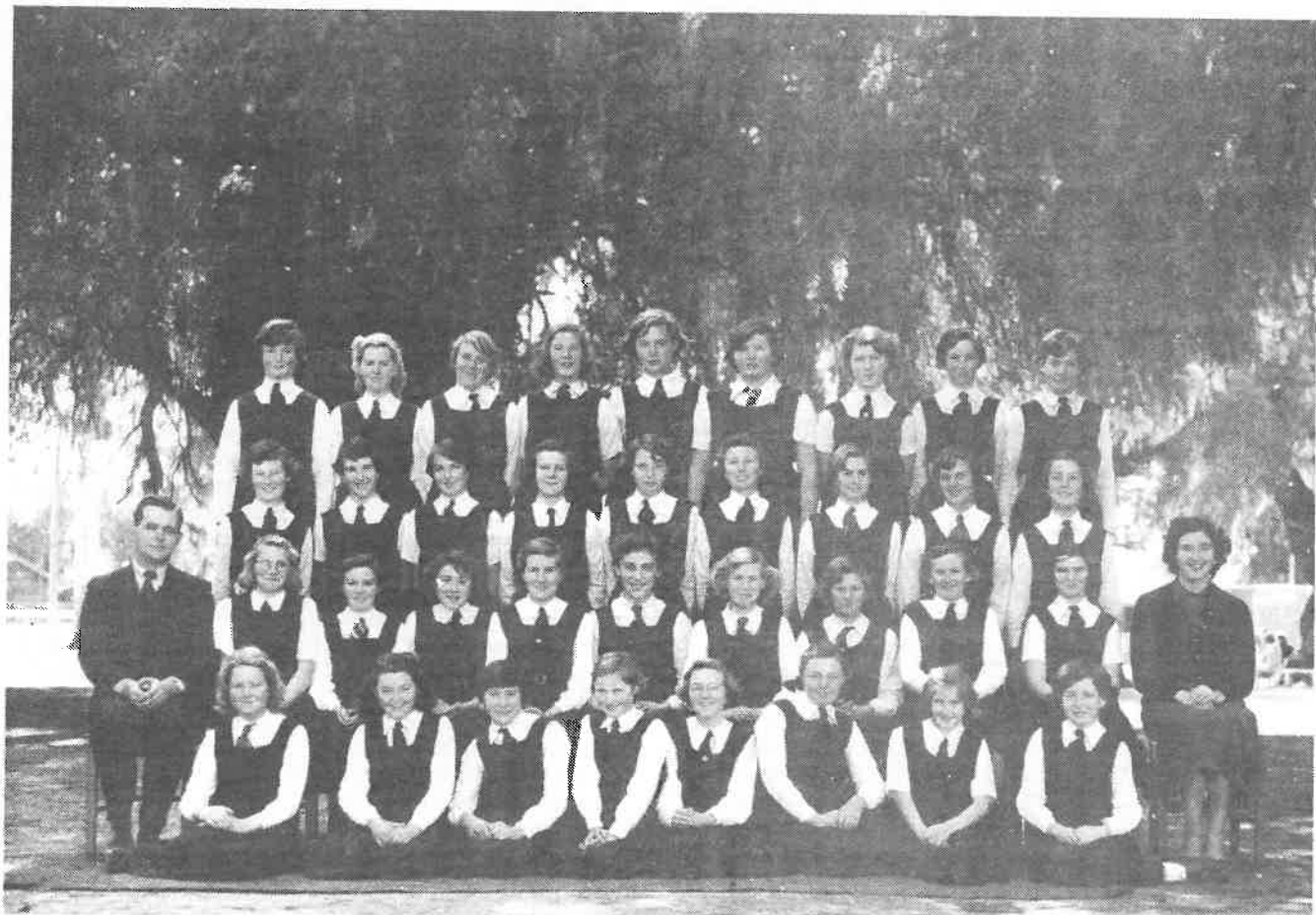
The Rotary student exchange programme began in 1960 when Leonardo Gallardo, from the Phillipines, spent a year with local families and attended N.H.S. Laurie Batey, in 1961, was the first local student to study overseas. Our students have visited Rhodesia, the U.S.A., the Phillipines, Canada, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, and Switzerland. Visitors to Numurkah have come from the Phillipines, the U.S.A., Japan, Canada, and Denmark. From these visitors we have learned much about the way of life and culture of other lands.

Inter-House debates began in 1959. One student considers that debating "broadened our horizons as we researched and debated topics such as: 'Television — a blessing or an evil?'; 'That the White Australia Policy is Outmoded'; and 'That there should be equal pay done for equal work for both sexes'. Thirty years later we are still debating many of the same issues".

## THE JAPANESE EXPERIENCE

Hand up if you were at N.H.S. in 1969 when Ken Rowe, Geography teacher extraordinaire, re-named and re-numbered the offices and classrooms in Japanese, tried to teach us all standard greetings in Japanese, and chose the hottest day of the year for the whole school to eat boiled rice and kippers (using chopsticks) for lunch, boys sitting on the floor in the hall, and girls eating in like fashion in the cafeteria. The sick bays were busy that day!

## SCHOOL CHOIR AT THE "OLD SCHOOL"



## THE FRENCH EXPERIENCE

Debonair Frenchmen wearing berets, the tricolor, onion soup a la Ramage, snail races, a film starring Mr. Lacey as Le Boulanger, Marie Antoinettes, Scarlet Pimpernels, amusing derivatives of "Franglous" in the sketches presented, choruses of Oui, oui, oui! Non, non, non! and an inspiring rendition of La Marseillaise were the ingredients for a novel soiree enjoyed by senior students of French in 1967. Owen Daniel and Sharon Alston provided the piano and guitar accompaniment.



Owen Daniel and Sharon Alston.

## "I WILL SING YOU A SONG"

Numurkah people, generally, love music, and over the years have shown they are good musicians. Occasionally, there has not been a school choir due to the unavailability of a music teacher, but between 1956 and 1970 the number of choristers increased from about thirty in 1956 to more than ninety students from Forms 1 to 4 in 1970. Well-remembered baton-wielders and pianists of this period are Ian Pulling, Adrian Thomas, Elizabeth Cowan, Phyllis Cowan, Peter Webb, Gene Haugh, Helen Lunt, Netta Henderson, student accompanistes Isobel Carter and Betty Prideaux, and in 1966 Mr. Head, who had a great love of music "took over" the choir for some months.

Speech Night, 1962, was chosen for the rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus". A few members of staff augmented the choir, and at times rehearsals were hilarious as Adrian Thomas tried to bring the various sections in on the right beat. One comment was, "The sooner he learns that it will be much easier for all concerned if he plays a record on Speech Night, the better".

Finally, to Mr. Haugh's excellent accompaniment, everyone did manage to sing their particular "Hallelujah" at the right tempo in the right place.

Geoff Welsh and Jack Harvey started a folk-music club in 1968 and taught several students how to play the guitar. In turn, the learners became teachers, and small groups could be heard strumming and singing in various corners of the school at recesses and lunch times.

Some fine talent was revealed at the annual Talent Quest. Among the items in the 1964 Quest were the "Black and White Minstrels", "A Musical History", which was a study of social customs from the seventeenth century to the present day, an abbreviated production of "Hamlet", a piano duet, vocal solos, folk singing, and a recitation by Peter Dealy of C.J. Dennis' "Wot's In a Name".

In 1965, Mr. Rieck organized a Music and Drama Festival. Three One-Act plays were presented. Mrs. Joyce Borschmann shared her stage talent and experience with the students and staff who assisted. In between the plays Mrs. Cowan's choir sang. This activity required intensive rehearsal and the participants gained practice in co-operation, self-discipline, and attention to detail.

### MUSIC AND DRAMA NIGHT, 1965



"Woody" Patching, Anthea Nicholls, Lorina Macdonald, Greg Irvine in a scene from "Queer Street".

### TALENT QUEST, 1969



Sue Rankin, Lynette Mapletoft, Cheryl Kinross, from the cast of "Oliver", presented by Form 6.

### HOUSE AND SCHOOL CAPTAINS 1969



Gray: Bruce Richardson, Heather Brown; Tweddle: Dianne Rendell, Geoff Mills; School Captains: Noeline Kerrins, Colin Munro; Christie: Cheryl Kinross, David Menadue; Hunking: Elizabeth Macdonald, Bill McPherson. The new House banners were made during 1968.



# SCHOOL WAR CRY (HEARD FREQUENTLY IN 60's)

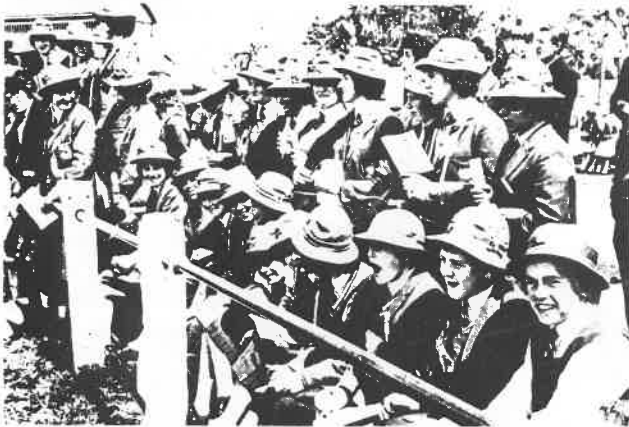
Hoya, hoya, Mulla culla hoya,  
Wunghnu, Waaia, Bearii, Moira.  
Near and far from yaly - yaly Yalca,  
We are the sports from NUMURKAH.

In 1956 sporting activities were severely curtailed owing to the extremely wet winter, and lack of grounds. Nevertheless, Numurkah teams performed well in the North-Eastern High Schools' Association. For the first time at the swimming carnival the school won the Grand Aggregate Shield, Girls' Aggregate, and Junior Aggregate trophies.

During this period, late 1950's and early 60's, Numurkah children had an advantage over children from other towns. This district produced many strong "channel" swimmers; other towns did not have swimming pools so there was less opportunity for children to practise.

With student numbers increasing and limited playing fields, the school depended heavily on the support of local clubs that made their facilities available. The Lawn Tennis Club, Youth Club, and Football Club co-operated with the school to enable junior and senior sports programmes to be run.

At this time the school was grateful to Mr. Ed. Holmes who provided bus transport for sixpence return fare to the venues and would even run a bus for as few as a dozen tennis players at lunch time so they could practise on the lawn courts prior to inter-school matches.



*Spectators (girls) at the 1964 combined athletics.*

As the school grew, classes were becoming larger, and time for lesson preparation and correction was shrinking. However, teachers found time during recess and lunch breaks, and after school to coach their teams and this encouragement motivated the students to high achievement. In particular, Don Moore's contribution to sport was invaluable.

Parent involvement was also a factor in the successes of school sports teams. Arthur Aldridge and George North helped with athletic coaching; country parents were always prepared to pick up their children following after-school training sessions, assist with marking out playing fields, and umpiring inter-school matches.

Visiting netball teams soon realized they had to stick to the rules when they had Lorna Morris, Nance Davis or Betty Moore in charge. Despite being numerically small in comparison to most other N.E.D.S.S.S.A. schools, Numurkah students performed creditably and established a reputation for good sportsmanship and behaviour. Staff involved with sports excursions were always proud of their teams, who could win graciously, accept defeat cheerfully, and did not question umpires' decisions.

A pleasing aspect of finals matches was that Mr. Head attended whenever he could. When the girls' tennis team won the premiership cup for the third successive time at Benalla, defeating Wangaratta, in 1968, a team member wrote: "We decorated our cars, including Mr. Head's, with blue and gold streamers to return to Numurkah in triumph. Before we reached the school Mr. Head 'shouted' milk shakes all round

## BOYS AND GIRLS TENNIS PREMIERS 1967



*Both teams met Wangaratta High in the N.E.D.S.S.S.A. final played at Yarrawonga.*

*Left to right, back row: Mr. O'Day, Sue Dudley, Greg McLaren, Helen Cowan, Owen Daniel, Claire Pell, Colin Munro, Gayle Groves, Mrs. Macdonald. Front row: Arthur Latham, Bev Secomb, Colin McKeown, Chris Learmonth, Jim Bowie, Rhonda Hendy, Ian Blackley, Noela Sargent.*

at McKay's cafe. Then, to the applause of our friends, we drove around the school oval, feeling very proud that we'd created a little bit of history for our school".

The boys had won the cup for three successive years from 1964 to 1966, and when N.E.D.S.S.S.A. became S.S.S.D.S.A. in 1970 both cups were retained by Numurkah and are in the trophy cabinet in the school foyer.

Players in the teams were — Boys: I. Stevens, I. Taylor, D. Farrar, D. Mares, D. Garner, G. Miller, W. McKeown, J. Gunn, C. Munro, T. Patterson, R. Staggard, M. Poole, A. Dudley, P. Edgar, C. McKeown, G. McLaren, A. Padgett. (Coaches: D. Cowan, T. Treacy). Girls: H. Carmichael, C. Learmonth, A. Elkington, K. Retallick, A. Carr, S. Dudley, A. Aldridge, H. Cowan, N. Sargent, Claire Pell, Gayle Groves, B. Secomb, E. Macdonald, R. Mapletoft. (Coach: D. Macdonald).

## SPORTSMAN AND SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

The C.T. Rothwell Cup for boys and the Browne Corke and Co. Cup for girls are presented each year to a senior boy and girl, who, throughout their years at school have performed well over a wide range of sports, and have shown a high standard of sportsmanship. It was first awarded in 1967.



*1967 Swimming Champions — Back row: O. Daniel, G. Peace, R. Richardson, P. Dudley, D. McKeown, C. Heywood. Front row: G. Denman, S. Alston, T. Paterson, E. Follett, J. Clutterbuck, J. Corken, E. Macdonald.*

INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS 1967



Standing, from left: Christine Learmonth, Bernard Wallace, Colin McKeown, Helen Cowan, Ross Booth, Joyce Watson, Alan Menadue, Sue Farrer. Kneeling: Stuart Miles, Rosemary Mapletoft, Robyn Rodgers, Wayne Harbor.

## NOTES FROM THE SPORTING PAGES

1956: Numurkah swimmers win Girls' Aggregate and Grand Aggregate at Nagambie. Anne Dawson, Robin McBride, Tossy Visser and Ted Speed won individual events.

1957: The Athletics Carnival at Shepparton attracted a crowd of 5,000 students, teachers and parents. Towards the conclusion of the sports a spectacular display was staged. Small marching teams from each school, directed by Army personnel, exhibited precision drill when crossing the arena to their places near the presentation table to music supplied by the Dhurringile Pipe Band.

Boys' basketball was introduced by Mr. Don Moore, and the new gymnasium was the venue for a match against Finley.

A successful year for Table Tennis with Mr. Erdelyi. High School Hall and Common Rooms were used for Numurkah and District Championships.

1958: Inter-School Swimming: Events won by Anne Dawson, Margaret Cossens and Kevin Heard. Numurkah third in Victorian Schoolgirl Athletic Championships, only 5 points behind the winning school.

1959: At Echuca Junior Olympiad Ros Parrott broke record in javelin and won high jump. Dennis Connor broke record in hop, step and jump. Judo Club formed.

1960: Fencing classes started with Mr. Don Moore and Mr. Ralph Cohen.

Table Tennis: Ross Cleaves, R. Sloley and Mary Cleaves outstanding N.H.S. team.

Girls retain softball cup for third successive year.

1961: Ross Cleaves won Victorian Under 19 Country title and Jan Newnham reached final of Victorian Junior Girls' Table Tennis.

N.E.D.S.S.A. Combined Athletic Sports at Numurkah — Great organization by Mr. Coulson. Stephen Lea and Noella Thornton win individual events, and Under 13 Girls win age-group shield.

1962: Boys' basketball exhibition on Open Night. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Moore coached the teams, and Mr. Moore donated two cups for the winners.

At the Combined Swimming Sports, Jenny Bacon, Christine Hook, Ann Visser, P. McBride and G. Stanley broke seven records.

Girls won N.E.D.S.S.A. Hockey premiership for first time.



Back row: R. Sloley, D. Greig, B. Dourlay, R. Pidoto, J. Fowler.  
Front row: B. Baxter, A. Visser, L. Bernard, G. Miller, L. Barbour.  
TABLE TENNIS 1956

- 1963: Doug Fielder outstanding athlete of the year.
- 1964: Daryl Mares trains with Hawthorn.  
Jan Newnham's intra-State table tennis victories.  
Athletics: W. Irvine, D. Fielder, W. McKeown win at Benalla.
- 1965: A comment in 1965 "Bangerang" read: NOTE — "This year the only event won at the inter-school swimming sports was won by a swimmer who trains at Cobram — Channel swimming does not breed champions. Numurkah Council take note!"  
Doug Fielder, David Macdonald (Track) and Bernard Wallace (Field) make a clean sweep of the Under 19 events at N.E.D.S.S.S.A. Combined Athletics at Shepparton.
- 1966: Combined schools athletics — Wins in boys' Under 19 (fourth consecutive win) and girls' Under 16 sections, and equal first with Shepp Tech. in boys' Under 13 division. Individual winners: Ann Aldridge, Marilyn Hudson, Sue Farrar, Warren McKeown, Ian Taylor, Alan Menadue.  
Boys third successive tennis premiership win.
- 1967: Girls' Cricket team, despite inspired coaching from Mrs. Powell and Mr. MacGillivray don't win.  
Phillip Rothwell selected to participate in Interstate Schoolboy Football Championships held in Tasmania.
- 1968: Geoff Boase outstanding athlete with convincing wins in the N.E.D.S.S.S.A. Under 16 880 and mile events.  
Girls third successive tennis premiership win.
- 1969: Girls' cricket team play in grand final for second time — beaten by Benalla.  
Girls fourth tennis premiership.  
With Sportsmaster Ken Rowe's excellent organization and an army of volunteers we stage final of N.E.D.S.S.S.A. athletics. Robyn Currey breaks Under 17 shot putt record, and Geoff Boase breaks Under 17 880 yards record.
- 1970: New Association formed — no longer meet Seymour, Wangaratta and Benalla schools. Social games against Cobram and Fawkner High School (Melbourne) with an overnight stay. Dance at night, and debate the following day.  
S.D.S.S.S.A. Swimming: Wins in boys' Under 12 and Under 13, and girls' Under 15 and Under 16. Athletics: Wins in boys' Under 13 and Under 14 sections.

After four years of showing us how to achieve by himself achieving, and insisting that nothing but your best effort is acceptable, Ken Rowe leaves to go to Melbourne.

## SPORTSMAN & SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

1967	Bernard Wallace	Christine Learmonth
1968	Noel Parrott	Helen Cowan
1969	Wayne Garner	Elizabeth Macdonald
1970	Geoff Boase	Lydia Bertrands
1971	Peter Dudley	Rosemary Mapletoft
1972	Denis McKeown	Robyn Rodgers
1973	Noel Watson	Lorraine Beverley
1974	Robert Cowan	Helen Woodrooffe
1975	Mark McNamara	Barbara Sutton
1976	Chris Bell	Heather Bain
1977	Les Harrison	Karen Hay
1978	Garry Lawlor	Debbie Kerrins
1979	Richard Kennedy	Katrina Henderson
1980	David van Ryn	Debra Kinsey
1981	Mervyn Chessells	Juanita Bloor
1982	Darren Lawlor	Sue Callahan
1983	Scott King	Jodi Woolcock
1984	Mark Schifferle	Trudi Hobley
1985	Trevor Doody	Nicole Thorne
1986	Colin Doody	Deirdre Cossens
1987	Ross Duffy	Kellie Bartlett
1988	Stephen J. McPherson	Jane Wallace

## GROWING TOGETHER

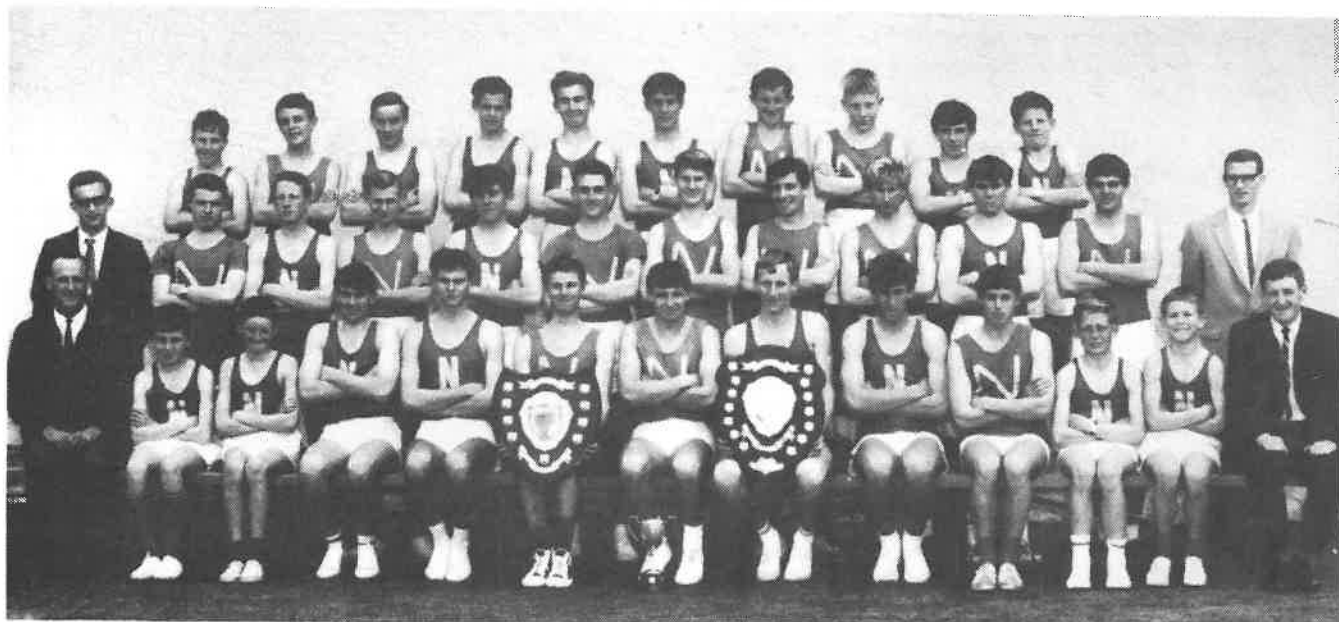
Quote from 1964 student about the social organized for Seymour High School:

"The night was fine, the music was 'WOW', the girls couldn't have looked prettier, and the boys were in terrific dancing form — was it any wonder that the Seymour crowd voted it one of the best socials ever.

"Seeing certain staff members make a valiant attempt to put as much effort into their 'jazzing' as the energetic kids managed to do certainly gave the evening a lift and it they felt the worse for it next day, we certainly felt the better for having them join in with us".

The above paragraph, in this writer's view, expresses the essence of happy achievement at N.H.S. between the years 1956 and 1970 — staff and students "joining in", and growing.

1964 BOYS ATHLETIC TEAM



# 1971 - 1988

## COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION ON TO TODAY

The years 1971 to '88 resulted in very substantial developments in our school. These ranged from the transformation of the waste land just north of the area into excellent playing fields, the considerable planting of trees and landscape beautification, the creation of the Tech. Wing and its opening in '75 and the Departmental Cyclic Maintenance Programme completed in 1988. This programme transplanted, recreated and enlarged the library to the east end of what was 'C' corridor. As well, the school, in its entirety, was transformed with new paint and carpet.

Teachers and others attending the 1989 "Back To" NCHS may recall some of the following personalities and events of these years. Our principal in '71 was Thos. Lloyd while Andy Ferguson and Barrie McGregor shared the Secondary and Tech. top spot.

We are not intending to list every teacher of these years but a selection — teachers who in 1989 have now moved on having left their impress on the school to a large or small degree.

In '71 Frank Peck's name must loom large. Also that of Geoff Ireland, Alan Hubbard, Hazel Duncan, John Boyce, John Nicholls, Eliz. Clucas, Ray Muller, Ian Mitchell, Graeme Skewes, Alan Bloor, Trish White, Kim Fallon, Dot McDonald and Paul Palma.

The latter had great allegiance to France and the French language he taught and, on Bastille Day, at lunch time, having commandeered the P.A. system, turned it up full and sang with gusto 'The Marseillaise'. Regretfully, some years later, Paul suddenly passed on.

Dux of school was Ian Kilgour. Peter Webb's 65 voice choir performed Britten's "Noyes Fludde". School Captains were Sue Bryant, Phillip Helmore.

In '72 the Tech. component was in the planning stage. Teachers may recall Mr. Schrumm's visit and speech to sell the staff on the necessity of offering Tech. training to the young people of this area. Some further names of staff in this year were: Barry Coleman, Bruce and Marilyn Pascoe, Lyn Lister, Rob Elliott and Paul MacNeal (from Canada).

Year 10 camp at Howman's Gap was a great success. Mamiko Akiyama, the Japanese girl student, demonstrated some of the martial arts at a school assembly. Mike Harrison, Anne-Marie Pell were school captains. Eliz. Mitchell was dux.

1973 saw Jim Howie Vice Principal, Secondary, and Barrie McGregor, Tech. Senior Master, Eileen Booth, Sr. Mistress, Frank Kitchen, Senior Master, and other teachers: Ken Hadley, Geoff Partington, Steve Graham, Frank Lotrich (U.S.), Barbara Hall, Rex Valena, Steve Wadsworth and Barry Coleman. Do you recall the red-hot chile con carne little Mrs. Lotrich served to us all in their tiny Campbell Street Home? It was a job to get in!

Mrs. Lotrich had her latest child here in Numurkah. This was greatly to her relief and comfort for here she enjoyed five days of hospitalization. She explained that in her homeland it is a case of 'in' in the morning, 'out' after lunch!

Barrie McGregor, to whom must be ascribed the major credit for the assembly and initial operation of the \$400,000 Tech. Wing.

Bruni and Bisogni commenced the lay out of the new Workshop Block in June. School Captains were Rob Bryant and Pam Braybon. Maxine Baker was Dux.

About this time the Advisory Council made excellent progress with the development of the northern block of playing fields. Gordon Hendy, Jack Henderson and Jim Christie used their big equipment for the job. The result was the two new football ovals, four tennis courts and another basketball court. The planting of the beautiful row of Australian trees lining the main road was undertaken by an enthusiastic Kim



*Barrie McGregor*

Fallon, John Nicholls and a staff working bee one Saturday morning. Well done, Kim!

Some other teachers were Netta Henderson, Betty Moore and Helen Sigley.

The big production in '74 was Frank Kitchen's masterpiece — the Joseph show — "Genesis 39". Quite a lot of money was raised from activities such as the Walkathon — \$1900 (\$1000 of this went to the Special Developmental School) the fete, \$1200 and the "Genesis" play.

Frank Kitchen, who, over the years of his stay at Numurkah High produced several very successful plays.

Barrie McGregor moved on promotion to Principal, Wodonga Technical School.



*Frank Kitchen*

For a long period Mr. Lloyd was unwell. Jim Howie and senior staff carried the school on. Some of our teachers were: Garry and Joy Board, Neil and Carmel McKenzie (first school for Carmel), Maureen Collins (nee O'Shea), Barbara Hall, Pat McCaffrey, Alan Sutherland, Jane McCooley, Terese Trotter and Jennie Mason. Japanese exchange student, who came from Hondo City, was Emiko Namisaki. Emiko became an avid Collingwood supporter, having seen the Collingwood-Richmond match at the MCG. Martin Bertrands was noticed

round the school and in contributions to Bangerang. School Captains were Faye Cowan and Michael Mew. Phil Menadue was President of SRC; Dux was Jim Watson.

July '74 — The E.I. McKeown Playing Fields were so named in recognition of the outstanding leadership of Mrs. Bet McKeown in the Welfare League over a long period of fund-raising for this grounds development.



*Mrs. Bet McKeown*

Over \$400,000 had been spent this year on the new Tech. Wing. It was officially opened on March 27, 1975.

1975 was an auspicious year for this event. It was the centenary of Numurkah and as well, the 25th year of 'Bangerang'. Rod Ogilvie was the new Deputy Principal, Secondary, Norm Seymour, V/P, Tech.

There was an excellent centenary procession through the town, NCHS being well represented. Frank Kitchen produced another of his revues, this time it was "Country Boy". The Senior Citizens had the benefit of a concert from the "C.B." choir. Ken George (UK), who later married June Morris, Kathy Boyer (US) and Shirley Malko (US) joined the staff. Jan Sinclair was Dux while Michael O'Hare and Fiona Guthrie were School Captains.

In 1976 Gordon Robins joined us as Principal.



*Gordon Robins*

Andrew Richardson and Linda Brown were School Captains, Julie Foster was Dux. Beth Elsum and Neil Devanny became engaged. Seven teachers were from overseas — Ted Vescio from Canada (wife Jan), Aine Dawson, Ireland, Gary Peterson (US) plus Shirley, Kathy and Ken mentioned in '75. Leslie Watts, Ashley Davies, Don Gargan and Diane Peterson were with us. SRC President was Anne Hurley, Noriko Nakashima was the exchange student from Hondo City.

Anglesea Form 2 camp and Howman's Form 4 again proved very successful and John Nicholl's Garden Club was started. It brought Kevin Heinze to the school to speak about his great passion. Twins were born to Trish Ryan (in hospital of course!).

In '77 the Form 3 Bush Day was instituted. Peter Sargent was proclaimed Mr. NCHS at the fete, the Garden Club thrived under the leadership of Russell Retallick. Unexpectedly, Kevin Heinze dropped in again to observe progress in the school beautification scheme. Sam Malko returned home in style (with an international banquet)! Micks Cusick and Glenister, Dick Schmidt (US), Johns Byrnes and Lancaster, Len Medson, Diane Coonan and 'Hornet' Simpson (Mark) were with us. Rod and Jenny Ogilvie left us for Mt. Eliza. Arthur Aldridge refereed at the sports. We had two staff weddings: Bethany and Neil Devanny (at Sherbrook) and Virginia and Ian Wodgate (Holbrook).

Very sadly Russell Firman, Keath Wills and Russell Kinross were killed on the Ulupna road.

Jack Henderson was chairman of the School Council. Howman's was again a great success. Form 5 Eco. students went to Bendigo with Joy Board. SRC President was Hilary McAllister while School Captains were Craig Sharp and Mary Thorp. Sue Sutherland was Dux.



*This is Mike Newham demonstrating something.*

1978 saw Frank Thomas joining us as Deputy Principal, Secondary. Also with us were Greg Rienits, Kevin Quin, Sue O'Brien, Frank DeSumma, Bruce Hussey, Janet Lobbe, Mike Newham, Patricia Newman and David McDonald. Jennie McKeown was ladies hockey best and fairest. She collected a lovely 'shiner' too! President of the Welfare League was Bette McKeown and Joan Ludington was secretary.

In his first year with us Mike Newham volunteered for the Hot Chips stall at the fete. Most of the day he slaved away over hot fat and steaming chips. However, to his dismay, he found at the end of the day the net result was a loss!!

The following year he decided to take on the Mini Golf. Financially this proved a great success until, towards the wind-up of the day, one of the more enthusiastic of the young golfers let go with a rather big swing. The result was a ball through one of the large Tech. Wing windows! Once more 'bang' went the profits!

Anglesea Camp also Howman's and Bendigo were successful ventures, the Garden Club, under Don Harrison began propagation of native trees, also the establishment of copses of these in the asphalted areas of the school. Very well done, Don! John Byrnes, heart-throb of all the girls, married this year — Gayle Roberts, Primary teacher. Mr. and Mrs. NCHS were Gary Lawlor and Tracey Woolcock! SRC President was Cathie Wallace. School Captains were William Hunter and Michelle Hanna while Kerrie Miller was Dux.



Seven worthy judges and a Chief Judge at the swimming sports.

April 2, 1978. Vale R.B. McGregor. The school community was saddened by the death this day of Barrie McGregor. Since leaving Numurkah Barrie had served with distinction as Principal of both Wodonga Tech. School and Wangaratta Tech. College.

Barrie left Coral, his wife, Gregor and Kylie.

The Advisory Council decided to institute, as a permanent memorial, the R.B. McGregor Technical Award. This was to be in recognition of his contribution and service to the school.

The award was first made at the conclusion of 1978. The first recipient was Wayne Hendy. The winning of the award was to be dependent on the over-all achievement of the student in the three or four Technical subjects studied.

1979. Gordon Robins announced that the new school Council President was Gordon Hendy. The usual Anglesea, Howman's and Bendigo excursions were held, Howman's this



Leslie Watts producing .....

year being co-ordinated by "Mr. Numurkah Hockey", Ashley Davies. Exchange student was Andy Fong. Steve Mitchell co-ordinated the Year 11 Melbourne excursion. Rob McLennan organised the Pre-driver Ed. course in Shepparton, R.S. Travaskis making available a Datsun 200B for our use.

Len Medson, Heather Watson, Hilary Morgan, Barb Crook, Paul Gooley, John Lancaster, Jocelyn Stuart, Ruth Warburton, Betty Moore, Jack Dell, Daryl Chislett and Yvonne Kidd were with us. Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award went to Stephen Learmonth, Graeme Brown and David Heap. Mr. NCHS was "Froggy" Thompson. Dux was Andy Fong while School Captains were Sue Fitzpatrick and Paul Hunter.



Rob MacLennan fixing some car or other.



Gerry Ryan with his hand in the Lucky Dip at the fete.



Two young chicks waiting for something to turn up at the sports.

1980 saw the 30th edition of 'Bangerang'. School Captains were Cathie Hanna and Neil Thompson. Viv Fayers was "official artist" with the magazine, and poet. A Numurkah-Altona student exchange programme took place. The Year 12 Report was written by Gayle Fitzpatrick and David Van Ryn. Ben Williams joined the school in Year 7. Len Medson revealed some of his hidden talents in teaching "Plastic Embedding" to his Year 11 Gen. Sci. class. Dux was Anne Schifferle.

Some more of the teaching staff were: Norma Pollock, Miss V. Hildebrand, Wendy van Kalken, Ron Daynard (Canada), John Coombs, Diane Hanna, and Brian Gourlay.

1981. Gordon Robins reported that most parts of the school were now being cooled in the summer months by evaporative coolers. An interview room was added to the Admin. area of the school.

School Captains were Heather Schifferle, Scott Hunter, Pres. of SRC was Cathy Fitzpatrick, and Dux was Merv Chessells. The Malaysian Exchange student was Molly Saw. Teachers included: Mrs. A. Gibson, Liz Dell, Debbie Patterson, Hank Hankenson, Trevor Hawkesworth, David Frecker, Jean Huffer, Anne Munro and Lorraine Mason.

Mrs. Perry retired after 19 years in the school. Gordon Robins paid tribute to her: "There could be no better clerical assistant in Victoria".



Mrs. Perry

The Garden Club continued to supply the flower baskets to beautify Melville Street. The development of the school farm took place. In the cleaned-out glasshouse tomatoes and other plants were grown while 1,000 trees were propagated, a shade-house and hay shed were constructed and experimental crops planted under the new horticultural/agricultural programme. There were 42 students in Year 12.

1982 saw further expansion of the farm programme. 2,000 trees were planted at the Shire's sewerage area. Bendigo and Howman's camps were again successful and a 'Walkathon' for the Paraplegic athletics raised \$1300. Pat O'Brien was very busy with the School Review Board eventually producing a report with excellent ideas to improve the school.

Gordon Robins announced his retirement and Bette McKeown did the same, after 22 years associated with NCHS.

School Captains were Martin Shannon and Viv Fayers. Sue Callahan was both Dux and SRC President. Teachers this year included Rex Direen, Peter Gale, Birgit Kreuzkamp, Gigi Simpson (who, in '83 was to marry Graeme Blanch), Lance Watters, Adele Swart, Leanne Cooper, Lorraine Mason, Deidre Marriott, Nancy Fotia, Alison Gibson, Marilyn Gourley, Barbara Tyndall, Julie Barnaldo, Heather Munro (who left for Melbourne to marry Hume), Denise Langley, Birgit Ingsel (who married Jan in October), Michael Cody,

Peter Anderson, Trevor Bond, Rick Courtis, Mil Benic and Mike Cody.

Ancillary staff were Marg Lucas, Doreen Hay, Gayle Cykner, Jeanette Saxton, Joyce Bain, Mick Coonerty, Brian Heard, Dennis Adams, Eddie Cers, Norm Jackson and Joan Graham. Ralph Willis was groundsman.

Tribute must be paid to Eddie Visser, who was the original maintenance supervisor of the school.



Eddie Visser



Brian Heard

Similarly, Brian Heard who has served on the cleaning caretaking staff for over 31 years.

1983. The new school Principal was Mr. A.E. McNaughton while Gordon Hendy became President of School Council. Philip Shannon and Jodie Woolcock were School Captains, Dux being Kathryn McClelland and Rotary exchange student Miyuki Moryiyama, again from Hondo, Japan.

The '82 School Review resulted in wide ranging changes to the school. Some of these were: Incorporation of Ozarts into the core at Year 9 level; USSR silent reading scheme introduced; Science wing upgraded; School foyer developed as a gallery area.

A notable event was the week-long visit of the choir and orchestra of Newington College, Sydney. This excellent group was led by Mrs. Elizabeth Swain (nee Cowan, the Numurkah family). 15 NCHS students joined the College choir in packed performances at the Town Hall and our School Assembly Hall. The orchestra performed at all local schools.

At the inter-school swimming carnival NCHS was champion school of the district with Jodie Woolcock being the outstanding swimmer. A Fun and Fitness track was established for the community. Year 9 Drama class produced "The Wizard of Oz" which was presented to all junior forms by Gwen Steele, and to Primary schools. Some teachers who were with us included: Tony Moylan, Jan Spinks, Hugh Crapp, Margaret Bird, Alan Hunt, Jenny Francis, Stewart Finn, Michelle Waites, Paul Martin, Ian Ball, Debra McCormack, Kerrie Horlock and Lois Lowe.

Several excursions were undertaken: Year 9, Bendigo; Year 10, seven days Flinders Ranges and 44 Year 11 students took a Cardwell bus to Canberra for three days.

Ernest Jones took over the leadership of the school in 1984.



Ernest Jones ..... new leader.

The School Council President was Jock Adams while School Captains were Jenny Mitchell and Mark Schifferle. Dux was Wendy Jones.

Year 11 spent one week at the Driver Training Complex in Shepparton. Year 10 German students attended the German camp at Belgrave and, with Birgit Kreuzkamp, the German Poetry competition at Monash. Work experience was offered to Year 10 students in many trades and professions in the area. We participated in the 3SR Radio Quiz, also the Rotary debate against Mooroopna High. The Ag. Sci. Poultry Project reared 100 odd chickens in the old glasshouse. Although not very profitable it was a valuable experience.

Office staff included Val Lestrangle and Gayle Cykner while Frank Milner joined the caretaking staff. Rob Elliott successfully produced "The Boyfriend" ably assisted by Lindsay Opie (piano), Gwen Steele, Jack Dell and others. Drama lessons produced "Cinderella", "Peter Pan" and "Snow White". These were played to local schools.

Teachers included: Val Bruce, Jenny Smith Patti Lewis, Jenny Penfold, Vicki Fisher, Pat MacGillivray, Lyn Emmer-son, Mike Gallus, Grant Long, Gerry Calnin, Nick Barker, Hugh Crapp, Darryl Perkins and Ian Birchall.

This was the "Year of the Computer" at our school. \$15,000 was raised enabling the purchase of a 16 unit facility. The "Music Hall" performances in the Town Hall raised \$2250 towards this.

Obit. Very sadly .... News of Gordon Robins' sudden passing.

1985. School Captains were Paula Hansen and Trevor Doody, Dux was Cathy Grant; Alan Clarke won the Barrie McGregor award. Japanese exchange students were Masako Nakamura and Lisa Morley. Ellen Miller was President of the P&F Association while Home Eco. assistants were H. Davidson, I. Gorse and S. Rodwell. In the Chamber of Commerce street procession NCHS won the best float competition. We were also first in the Victorian Tidy Towns competition — Schools division.

"Carousel" was produced by Grant Long, with Margaret Clarke and Rob Elliott. Sixty students of Year 10 attended the Howqua Valley camp. Nick Barker and Vicki Fisher took the Year 10 and 11 Duke of Edinburgh award groups to a three-day ski tour at Falls Creek. Thirty district organisations were assisted by our student activity during the "NCHS Community Day".

Our teachers included: Melissa Findlay, Glenda Cody, Fiona Leschen, Robin Lee, Cheryl Burdett, Josephine O'Shea, Margaret Clarke, Robert Rendich and Phil Fryer.

1986. School Captains were Craig Geddes and Gabby O'Dwyer while Dux was Lisa Morley. The SRC raised money for the Education Centre, Torana, the Yooralla Society and the 40 Hour Famine Project. The Canadian exchange student was Terry Penfold, of Oshawa.



Jan with Suan.



Kevin explaining .....

School production was "Half a Sixpence" produced by Grant Long. Grant did a great stand-in performance for Chris Cole on the last night when Chris became very unwell. Margaret Clarke and Rob Elliott were Director and Mus. Dir. Lisa Morley wrote the winning entry for Rotary's "Letter for Peace" contest. Her letter was addressed to Mr. Gorbachev.

After eight years as Deputy Principal, Secondary, Frank Thomas retired.



Frank Thomas

Twenty-four students of Year 9 had a three day excursion to Falls Creek. They had 'Down Hill' and 'Cross-country' experience. Gwen Russell as President of the P&FA. Teachers included Leslie Crompton, Glenys Lithgow, Ruth Mangan, Faye Kerr and Linda Gallus.

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards were won by Lynette Beer, Fiona Kinsey and Craig Furness. Goethe Institute German competition Major Prize was won by Vicki Brennan. Simon McKeown won the Westpac Maths competition prize.

Sportsman and Sportswoman of the year were adjudged to be Colin Doody and Deidre Cossens.

1987 School Council President was Jock McPherson, School Captains, Colin Doody, Rhonda Ford. Dux was Alan Schmedjie. "Oliver" was produced by the same tried and trusty team: Grant Long, Margaret Clarke and Rob Elliot. It was a great success. Ross Curnow, Garrick Robinson and Matthew Cowan were all nominated for the Shepparton 'Georgies'. Ross won the award.

Mick and Jan Cusick left us on promotion to Portland.



Betty resplendent on graduation day.



1988. Norm Seymour, after 14 years of faithful service to the school as Deputy Principal, Tech., retires. Our warmest wishes go with him.



*Norm Seymour.*

Teachers who left us at the end of '87 included Cheryl Burdett, John Byrnes, Pat MacGillivray, Darrell Perkins, Robert Tendich, Greg Rieniets, Jenny Smith, Ken Speedie, and Caryn Wood. During '88 Vicki Fisher and Joanne Yarwood also left. Darrell and Cheryl were married.

Geoff Durham took up his role as Vice Principal, Secondary, at the start of this year.

"Once Upon A Mattress" was the school play. Producers were Grant and Margaret again and Rob was the Music Man. Two of our actors gained distinction in the Shepparton Logie awards. Matt Cowan gained his for the best supporting role in a school production (Mattress). Ross Curnow gained his for his best supporting role in a local production. ("Hello Dolly" Numurkah Singers).

The school band travelled to Hamilton and Ararat. Andrew Parkin participated in the Bicentennial Horse Trek to Canberra. Nicole Grant and Anna Swinn won Bronze Awards in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Terry Furness attended the Science Summer School in Canberra. In the Cobram Bi-athlon Paul Crothers distinguished himself by winning the open age all-round champion.

The school won 27 distinctions in the Australian Maths Competition. SRC leaders and School Captains were Kelly Judd and Andrew Geddes. Sportsman and woman of the year were Jane Wallace and Stephen J. McPherson.

Some of the new teachers joining us this year were: Dale Caldwell, Melissa Findlay, Eileen Fogarty, Robert Hanns, Kim Major, Geoff Poulton, Nada Prlick, Darryl Tasker and Tracie Zotti.

The Departmental Cyclic Maintenance Programme '88. This programme produced prodigious changes to the looks, fabric and well-being of the school. The cost was in the vicinity of \$750,000 and it took about 12 months to complete. It was in planning for two years.

It was our School Council's Contract i.e. We chose the architect and the latter put out tenders. The successful tender was that of Hansen and Yuncken. It was the largest school council contract in this region.

Some of the extras that resulted from this work were new staff offices and the carpeting of all general classrooms. The school, after seeking a new library for 14 years, obtained a new, enlarged, carpeted library.

There is no question our school is in its best condition in living memory. Great credit is due to all those responsible.



*Bill Aitken  
with a  
young builder.*

Over the years of this section of our publication many wedding bells rang as a natural result of teachers meeting each other through the school. Here is a selection: Rex Valena, Terese Trotter; Don Gargan, Barb Crook; Jack Dell, Liz Gargan; Paul Gooley, Sue O'Brien; John Lancaster, Janet Lobbe; Mick Cusick and Jan; Ian Woodgate, Virginia Cottrell.

There were other teachers who wooed their future wives at a distance: Peter Kendrick and Pam (Cobram); Grant Long and Josie. There are probably others that we have not been able to recall.

*The Committee, Editors, and printers have all worked hard to produce this handbook for the re-union.*

*We welcome you back to the school we have all come to love.*

*We trust the weekend will be an enjoyable and memorable one.*

*We commit you all to the task of completing the history of Numurkah Comprehensive High School for the great re-union of 1999.*

