

Dandenong High School Speech Night

CONTINUED PROGRESS OF

SCHOOL.

The Boomerang Theatre was crowded on Tuesday, 18th ult., for the tenth annual speech night of the Dandenong High School. Mr. F. A. Singleton, president of the School Council, was chairman, and after the singing of "The Best School of All" by the pupils, Mr. P. Langford, head master, read his annual report, as follows:

It has been a great pleasure in presenting this, the tenth annual report of the Dandenong High School. I desire on behalf of the school to thank Dr. Ellis for kindly presiding at our Speech Night, and Mrs. Ellis for her offer to present the prizes and certificates. Major General Forsyth, who was present with us on a previous occasion, had kindly offered to be chairman. We sympathise with his family in particular, and, indeed, with the State itself in the sad and severe loss sustained by his untimely death. The Prime Minister, Hon. S. M. Bruce, then agreed to preside, but owing to the pressure of Parliamentary business had to reluctantly withdraw his generous offer. We fully appreciate the stress of circumstances which demanded the adoption of this course. Dr. Ellis has consequently, at very short notice, agreed to preside, and we thank him for his very generous action in doing so. The school and staff have followed with deep concern the lamented illness of His Majesty the King. We are conscious of the seriousness of his illness, and are very pleased to note the more hopeful tone of the latest bulletins. We earnestly look forward to the re-

ceipt of news of his ultimate complete recovery.

Growth.—The school records still reveal an increase in the gross enrolment. Last year we enrolled 355 pupils, while this year the number is 384, with an average attendance of 318, an increase of 15 on the previous year. This further taxed our accommodation, which, even last year, was by no means adequate. We have been promised additional rooms, but, despite the efforts of the school council, we are in the same position as we were two years ago. The demand for higher education is ever increasing. This school serves a very wide district, many pupils travelling long distances. Altogether 237 pupils travel daily to school. One hundred and fifty-two new pupils entered the school during the year. Many others could not be accommodated, as the junior forms filled rapidly in the first few weeks. An innovation was the institution of a scholarship class of twelve pupils, who hope to secure some of the scholarships offered.

The Grounds.—During the year marked improvements have been effected in the appearance of the school's precincts. A tapering strip of land, the greatest width being 12 feet, has been adorned by its use for lawn and flower beds. It is bordered by a row of cypress trees. When these grow, the school will possess a pleasing main entrance. The front garden has been in excellent order throughout the year.

Prize Fund.—This year we have enjoyed very practical support in the

joyed very practical support in the matter of providing prizes. Cr. E. C. Butler, ex-president of Dandenong Shire, has donated £3/3/, and this amount is to be shared in the purchase of prizes for boys and girls. Mr. R. Mitchell also kindly donated £1/1/ for similar purposes. Mr. Mitchell said he was anxious to show his appreciation of what the school had done for his daughter. Dr. F. E. Langley each year presents two tennis trophies, which are keenly competed for and highly treasured.

The Clergy.—To the Clergy of Dandenong and district we are very grateful for their faithful attention. We realise that the arduous character of their ministry must at times be a severe strain upon them. We regretfully record that several of them suffered illnesses during the year, though it is pleasing to hear that the recoveries have been complete.

Contests.—The House contests have been continued, and the rivalry of the several houses has materially helped in maintaining a high standard of service and of excellence in games. Last year Clematis House won the aggregate. This year the Bluegum House won with 40½ points, after a fairly close contest. The others finished in this order: Orchid, 37½ points, 2; Clematis, 35½ points, 3; Wattle, 35 points, 4; Waratah, 21½ points, 5; Boronia, 19 points, 6. Bluegum won the the athletics, football, cricket and tennis, and were second in swimming. Clematis finished second in basketball, hockey and rounders, and achieved the envied distinction of winning the "Service" section. Orchid were best at basketball, rounders, swimming, and were second in tennis and "service." Wattle won the hockey, and were second

second in tennis and service. Wattle won the hockey, and were second in athletics and football.

Scholastic.—On the scholastic side we are maintaining our usual standard. Seventeen complete passes in Intermediate were secured, nine other candidates passed in either four or five subjects, which entitles them to complete the examination at a later date. In addition, five candidates completed the Leaving Certificate, and three others passed in three out of the four subjects required for a pass. The successful candidates for Intermediate were: J. McGibbon (nine subjects), J. Duff, J. Melven, Muriel Schinckel, R. White and W. Worth (eight subjects), Beryl Stuart (seven subjects), G. Cox, J. Dundas, Margaret Mudge, A. Neil, J. Orr, Una Russell, Marjorie Scoble, C. Wynne, B. Evans, and D. Melven (six subjects). The Leaving Certificates were obtained by: Edna Hopkins (six subjects), H. Drake (five subjects), Edna Ireland, Annie Manks and Frances Noack (four subjects). Doris Hopkins, who had previously passed the Leaving Certificate examination, secured second-class honors in English and French, and added Algebra to her list of subjects already passed. During 1927 35 candidates from the school obtained the Merit Certificate, and this year we had 50 successes.

More Success.—We are pleased to report further successes achieved by past pupils at the University and other institutions. At the University, Dave Lombard is in 3rd year Engineering; Fred Searle, B.Sc., has passed Diploma of Education, with honors; Keith Gregg, Engineering for Postal Department; Ron. Henshaw, 2nd year Arts; Tom Standish 2nd

3rd year Arts; Tom Standish, 2nd year Arts; Alan Russell, 3rd year Law. At the Teachers' College: Ella Service, Eric Simpson, Marie Jaboor, Jack Rice, Violet Chapman, Edna Griffiths, Thirza Quinn, Maggie Morris, Marjorie Painter, Agnes Rice, Mollie Welsh, and Freda Bushell. Ida Hillard is in her second year at the Alfred Hospital, and Madge Slater has passed her final examination at the Pharmacy College. Twenty-eight are in the teaching service, excluding those at the Teachers' College, and 10 are in different banks. Bert Smale has passed the municipal clerks' examination, and Kitty Bloomfield has returned from a post graduate course in America. We extend to all who are studying our very best wishes for their continued success.

Old Pupils.—The Old Pupils' Association is still a very live factor in the progress of the school. Much of its success is due to the energy imparted to its efforts by the newly-elected president (Mr. J. Sharkie), the secretary (Mr. J. M. Hall), and the treasurer (Mr. A. Kingsbury). Attention is directed to the fact that the annual reunion will in future be held on the Thursday of Melbourne show week. Last year the function was highly successful, and tournaments were organised for past and present pupils. Trophies for these contests were generously donated by Messrs. J. Sharkie, A. Kingsbury, M. Hall and W. Brodie. This year the High School cricket team was reformed, and to date has won all its matches, and is leading in the Berwick District Cricket Association's competition.

Obituary.—During the year the school has mourned the deaths of four

scholars. During the year the school has mourned the deaths of four ex-students who were well-liked, popular comrades of other days.

Margaret Campbell entered the school in April, 1919, and after completing the course for intermediate certificate in 1920, was appointed junior teacher shortly after at Springvale. Three years later she was promoted to the charge of a country school, and in the midst of a very active and promising career she contracted the illness which caused her death in June.

Jack Monkhouse and Sidney Bailey were both entrants to F Form in 1923. Jack was very popular in the cricket field, and soon won a place in the school team. Ill health forced him to leave school in 1925, and, though he recovered somewhat his former vigor, the disease from which he suffered was not eradicated, and he died in March, at the age of 16.

"Sid" remained with us until 1926, and then he passed on to Melbourne Grammar School. He obtained his Intermediate certificate last year, and was studying for his Leaving certificate when an attack of appendicitis caused his death in August.

Norman Casbolt was at the school in 1919. Towards the end of that year he was transferred to another district, after a successful beginning in the secondary course. We regret to learn of his death in most tragic circumstances.

Accident Fund.—The institution of the accident fund last year has provided the pupils of the school with a very practical lesson in the matter of insurance. The receipts for 1927 amounted to £8/14/, in subscriptions of one shilling. Several pupils met with more or less serious accidents

of one shilling. Several pupils met with more or less serious accidents during that year, and their expenses were defrayed by the fund. Only a very small balance remained for 1928, but subscriptions for this year have produced a credit balance of £7/9/, and fortunately no accidents have occurred.

The First Aid and Wireless Clubs have been active institutions during the year, while the Dramatic Club presented in this hall one of our most successful public efforts. Misses Schneider, Tassell and Abbott are to be complimented upon the very fine performance of J. M. Barrie's "Quality Street," for which they were responsible. The net proceeds amounted to £32/10/7.

The Penny Bank.—The number of contributors to the Penny Bank is increasing, and has nearly reached 90. Some of the deposits are being withdrawn—in evidence of the approach of Christmas.

Hospital Effort.—It has been arranged that each year the Dandenong schools put forward an effort to assist the hospital. Each school took a turn to supply the goods for a stall in Lonsdale street, in connection with the Dandenong market. Our effort, on the first Tuesday in August, realised the sum of £7/10/.

At the end of second term, we held a bazaar in aid of general funds. The houses took charge of a stall each, and altogether raised £47/5/11.

The Junior Red Cross branch has been doing very helpful work. It sent a portfolio describing our school to the Red Bluff Union High School, California, in exchange for an interesting one from that centre. The branch has also contributed to various charitable organisations for children.

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I.O.R. Examinations.—We have recently received the results of the Temperance examinations, conducted by the I.O.R. for 1928. Our best essays were written by Wesley Henshaw and Albert Bishop, who scored 94 per cent. Lionel Elmore wrote a good essay also, and gained 92 per cent.

An essay competition conducted by the "Herald" has revealed in our midst a promising young writer. Henry Jordan, Form D, came equal first in the contest with a highly commendable essay upon "Disarmament."

Thanks.—This year Miss Holt has conducted her physical culture class as an institution distinct from the school. We are, however, indebted to her for two very fine items which her girls will present to you during the evening. We have also to express to the proprietor and management of the Boomerang Theatre our sincere thanks. On two occasions during the year we have visited the theatre at their invitation and witnessed pictures of a highly educational value.

Early in the first term we received a visit from Mr. A. P. Newey, representing the R.L.S.S. Mr. Newey examined our candidates for the white medallion and senior certificate, and subsequently delivered to us a very informative lecture. Kathleen Brumley, John Melven, and Les. Macpherson gained the white medallion, and nine students the senior certificate. Fifty-seven students secured the junior certificate.

In March, we were fortunate enough to receive a visit from Mr. Krone, of the Agricultural Department, and the assembled school witnessed a practical demonstration in apple growing.

assembled school witnessed a practical demonstration in apple packing. All the devices for securing perfect grading and stability while packing, and tightness without injury proved very interesting. The apples were kindly donated by Mr. J. J. Ahern, of Pakenham, and our thanks are tendered to him—the school declared them the best apples ever tasted.

Sports.—Our outstanding performance in the Metropolitan Schools' Association was our premiership victory in the tennis final, when our team, coached by Mr. Brumley, defeated Melbourne High School, who were first in their section. In addition, we were runners-up to Essendon in rounders, hockey and junior football, after very close contests.

In 1923 the Gippsland branches of the A.N.A. donated a challenge shield to be won three times in all branches of sport. We secured sole possession of that shield in 1926. It is now proposed to offer it for competition between our school and Warragul for the next six years until all the inscription plates attached are inscribed. This year Warragul defeated us at both cricket and football, but the contests did not affect the destination of our shield.

Personal.—At the end of 1927, Mr. H. E. Glover and Misses K. Crooke and A. Watson were transferred, and during this year Miss E. R. Little left to be married. Mr. H. F. Tonkin returned from Williamstown, and Misses L. M. M. Tassell, F. Baxter, M. Banks, K. Axford and E. Herwig were appointed to the school at the beginning of this year. Miss Gwen Abbott has recovered from the illness which necessitated her withdrawal from the Department, and is

drawal from the Department, and is now teaching at "The Hermitage," C.E.G.G.S., Geelong. Miss Annie Manks and Mr. A. J. Butler were for a short time on the staff as temporary junior teachers, and Miss Jean Abbott has been with us in that capacity all this year. We have been notified that Misses F. Baxter and E. Herwig are transferred to Gisborne and Korumburra H. E. S's. respectively, and Mr. C. Hill to Warracknabeal. Miss E. M. Schneider has booked her passage to England, and, with Miss Watson, intends to leave early in March.

Mr. Langford concluded by thanking the staff, school council, parents, pupils, and residents for the interest they had taken in the school and the loyal support they had given, and wished all the compliments of the season.