

High School Speech Night

At the annual speech night of Dandenong High School, held in the Boomerang theatre, the following report was given by the head-master (Mr. J. L. Griffiths):—

"The school enrolment again shows an increase, the total number enrolled being about 390, an increase of 20 over that of last year. A pleasing feature of the increase is that it entirely represents an increased number of pupils remaining to complete at least the Intermediate Certificate Course, and in the ensuing year it is probable that about 40 will be taking the course for the Leaving Certificate. This is the more satisfactory, as two years ago the number taking this course was eight.

"Three courses are provided, professional, commercial, and for girls who do not desire to proceed either to professions or a business career a course in Home Arts and Crafts. I must again express my regret that this course is not widely appreciated. It provides an excellent training in cooking, needlework and dressmaking, craftwork, and drawing and design, with household management; and the core of academic subjects is treated as far as possible in conformity with the needs of the girls doing the course. At the public examinations in December, 1937, and February, 1938, 20 pupils gained the Intermediate Certificate, while seven others passed in four or more subjects at the higher standard, and eight gained the Leaving Certificate.

"The rapid increase in the number remaining to complete the course is shown by the fact that this year more than 70 will have gained the Intermediate Certificate. Competition is emphasising the need for continued education, at least to the Leaving

education, at least to the Leaving Certificate standard, but there is as yet a lack of realisation of the value of a more complete career for boys and girls who do not intend to make immediate use of it after leaving school. This is particularly the case with those who intend to follow rural occupations. They should not be denied the best education the schools can give.

Secondary schools are frequently criticised for subordinating the needs of the average pupil to the necessity of providing those proceeding to the learned professions with the training they require. It is almost impossible for the school of normal size to provide sharply differentiated courses at the later stages, but I do not believe it impossible to evolve a syllabus which with slight modifications can be made to give a broad cultural basis while adequately meeting the needs of pupils desiring to matriculate.

"This year the school applied for and obtained approval to conduct the Intermediate Certificate examination under the Class "A" system. This, with the institution of short tests in lieu of the usual terminal examination, has done much to eliminate the loss of time that term examinations usually involved, and has at the same time enabled a continuous check of the pupils' progress to be made. I am satisfied that the innovation has been of considerable benefit to the work of the school generally, and hope at a later date the system may be extended to the Leaving Certificate.

"During the year classes have been comparatively small, and this has led to greater efficiency. The beneficial result of this has been particularly

result of this has been particularly evident in the case of Intermediate Certificate forms, where a small class was formed of those who for a variety of reasons were finding difficulty with the work. With a slightly more restricted curriculum, and the benefit of the increased individual attention that was made possible, very satisfactory results have been achieved. Next year two more subjects, Maths. III. and Chemistry will be added to those available at the Leaving Certificate stage, thus providing for the needs of those who have a definite bent towards engineering, or some course in science (including forestry).

"There is still a tendency in our educational system to consider examinations as the be all and end all of the school course. I feel that real progress in education is not possible until they are regarded merely as incidents—necessary as a supplementary but by no means the only method of measuring and recording pupils' progress, and not the chief purpose of the school. Until we can make the pupils feel that what they are studying is worth while for its own sake, and not merely because it is portion of an examination syllabus, so long shall we fail to make the progress educationally that we all desire. If such an attitude can be developed, examination successes will follow, even more markedly than when all effort is directed towards the examination—that is, provided the right type of examination is given. It is here that I believe the internal system offers scope.

"During the year the contents of the library have been considerably extended. We have spent nearly £90 on books, and this has provided a much wider reading course for our classes. All pupils up to and including Intermediate Certificate forms have at least one period in the library

at least one period in the library during the week for free reading, and the beneficial results of this are already evident. We are greatly handicapped by the fact that we have to

house the library in a class room. The school urgently needs a properly equipped library, as apart from the necessity for pupils being able to consult reference books under proper conditions, any increase in the number of books will involve serious difficulties in providing accommodation for them, and many hundreds of books are still needed before we can regard the library as reasonably well equipped. The school also greatly needs an assembly hall capable of accommodating the whole of the pupils, an additional art room, a general science room, and at least two more class rooms.

"During the year various efforts have been made to raise the money so urgently needed for school improvements. The school entertainment held in August returned £23/15/-; verandah stalls and socials netted £47/15/9; while the fete in October yielded a profit of £52/13/7. Contributions to the School Improvement Fund have been £45/7/2. The tennis and basketball courts have been resurfaced, and the fencing round the tennis courts put in order. The bicycle sheds have been completed, the school providing half the cost. The Old Pupils' Association has again materially assisted the school, donating altogether £15/9/3.

"Last year the municipal councils interested in the school contributed sums of money to be used as bursaries to assist pupils proceeding to the higher forms to continue their school career, and in every case those to whom the bursaries were awarded have completed a very successful year's work. The Dandenong, Berwick and Mulgrave councils have re-

years work. The Dandenong, Belwick and Mulgrave councils have renewed the bursaries for 1939, but unfortunately Cranbourne Shire has not done so. It is hoped that further representation may lead to a change of policy, as many pupils in this shire travel very considerable distances to school, thus adding to the financial burden of parents.

"Sporting facilities have been increased this year by the institution of separate sports afternoons for the senior and the junior school. This has enabled many more pupils to avail themselves effectively of the facilities provided.

In the inter-school sports the boys were successful in winning the senior football premiership, while the girls were victorious in hockey. At the combined sports meeting, while we did not win the aggregate, a remarkable performance was registered by the senior boys, who won every event except the high and long jumps. Our sports meeting in October was very successful. I wish to thank Mr. McPhee for again providing the microphone for our use. The school greatly appreciates his generosity and interest. The school garden has again been maintained in its usual excellent condition, and its appearance is a tribute to the untiring efforts and enthusiasm of Mr. C. Wines.

"The school is again faced with the prospect of a number of changes of staff. It is regrettable that when teachers have been accustomed to the work of a school, the fact that they have earned well-merited promotion so often involves their loss as members of staff. Mr. Smith, who has been the master in charge of history, and sports master, and has been on the staff for the past five years returns to Yallourn on the occasion of his promotion. We are to lose Miss Doherty, who since her arrival two

Doherty, who since her arrival two years ago has done so much for music in the school. Mr. Lancaster and Mr. Matthews, who came to the school at the beginning of the year, have won promotions, and will not be with us next year. Miss Donaldson is also to leave us, having gained a studentship at the Teachers' College. All these teachers leave us with our best wishes for their continued success.

"In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation of the loyal, enthusiastic and efficient service rendered by the staff during the year, which has contributed so much to a very successful year's work; and I also thank the members of the Advisory Council of the school for the interest they have shown in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the school."

Honour certificates were presented by Mr. J. R. Darling, headmaster of Geelong Grammar School, to the following pupils:

HONOUR CERTIFICATES.

Form Fd.: Joan Cooper, Sadie Brownfield, Betty Fairbairn.

Form F2.: Owen Markley, Ken. Batty, Graham Brown, Jean Edwards, Glen Warburton, Beth Gardiner, Pat Valentine, Nancy Boleh, Pat Roberts.

Form F1: Shirley Harrington, Gordon McNeil, Noel Woollard, William Harrington, Robert Miller, Lyl Towner, Joan Hargreaves, David Budds, Jean Cole, Harold Gascoigne, Marie Hill, John McPherson, William Llewellyn, Phyllis Whiffin, Marie Titcher, Ivy Mitchell, Gillian Ward.

Form Ed.: Alma Jones, Sylvia McPhee, Carma Woide, Elsie Beasant.

Form E2: Valerie Kibham, Richard Payne, Lindsay Collins, Roy Little, Gwen Marriott, Marjorie McPherson, Gerald White, Keith Potts, Audrey Gilchrist, Norma Hama.

Form A1: Geraldine Flanagan, Lois de Graaf,
Wallace Holcombe, Frank
Form E1: William Henry, Betty

Crump, Berris Flett, Ronald Mel-
gaard, Maxwell Newbound, Shirley
Stone, Alan Williams, Owen Davis,
Edith Drake, Keith Little, Verna Bell,
Kathleen Murphy, Nancy Young,
Marie Perry, Allan Pedder.

Form Dd.: Pearl Towers, Marjorie
Taylor, Joan Williams.

Form Dc.: Janet Plant, Gladys
Jennion, Jean Plowright, Muriel
Stephenson, Dorothy Masterton,
Thelma Whitehead, Cathleen Wilson,
Betty Hopkins, Mavis Smart, Betty
Couper, Bessie George.

Form D2.: Frank Adamson, Doris
Banfield, Larry Osborne, Carol
Webster, Arthur James, Nancie Don-
nelly, Betty Holcombe, Frank Prossor,
Joyce Wright, Robert Wilson, Andrew
Giles.

Form D1.: Dor's Capener, Betty
Rodd, Moira McDowell, Monty Rodd,
Joan Trewern, Phyllis Dawson, Neil
Bradbury, Ronald Weeks, Beryl
Robinson, Edna Gascoigne, Joyce
Stooke.

Form Cc.: Ruth Bean, Joan Gray,
Jean Grogan, Mary Harmer, Fred-
erick Keeble, Mavis Colvin, Walter
Crisfield, Beryl McCraw, Colin Mc-
Leod, Lillian Miller, James Trood,
Reginald Warburton, Phyllis Bellet,
Connie McFarlane, Audrey Bouchier,
Cherry Watson, Norma Fyfe.

Form C2.: Lewis Courtney, Keith
Fryer, Margaret Lund, Jack Robin-
son, Alison Donaldson, Donald Pol-
lock, James Reid.

Form C1.: Vera Coventry, Elfreda
Goepel, Dorothy Turnbull, Robert
Witham, Lorna Corbel, William Rodd,
James Adamson, Marjorie Aspinall,
Dorothy Gilbert, Gwen Longmuir,
Flora Miller, Mildred Carpenter,
Marion Dawson, Kenneth Griffiths,
Robert Hurley, Kathleen Keighery,
Heather Smith, Maurice Hamilton,

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Form B.: Ronald Horner, James
Harding, John Ferguson.

Champion House Athletics—A.N.A.
Cup: "Clematis."