

DANDE. HIGH SCHOOL HEAD REVIEWS SUCCESSFUL YEAR Mr. J.L. Griffiths' Annual Report Records Many Fine Achievements

Mr. CHAIRMAN, Judge Stretton, Ladies and Gentlemen.—I have pleasure in presenting the 28th Annual Report of the Dandenong High School

Our Enrolment this year is 600 a slight decrease. The accommodation remains sufficient, but conditions will be much improved when new classrooms are added, thus obviating the need for using the Military Wards adjacent to the Scout Hall. With the continued shortage of building material and labor, however, it is difficult to estimate when the proposed additions will be made. It is abundantly evident, that when extensions are to be effected, there should be provision for amenities for the pupils, especially for those who travel long distances to school. We urgently need common rooms, prefects' rooms, gymnasia, with showers, and a canteen where in winter hot meals can be supplied. As soon as it is apparent that extensions are to be commenced at an early date, representations will be made with a view to having these included.

Room 31 has been in use as a library this year, and next year it is intended to make a start with the proper furnishing of this room. The boys who do woodwork under the guidance of Mr. Randles will commence to make library tables, and later, seats, to take the place of desks now in use.

Our Hall Fund now stands at £2,170.

I am pleased to say that Cranbourne Shire has joined with those of Berwick and Mulgrave in making a contribution to the Fund. To-date no contribution has been made by Dandenong Shire. We are hopeful that with a special effort we shall have the full amount required, £3,000, by the end of next year.

For this purpose I would urge parents to make as generous a contribution as possible to the School Improvement Fund which is at present

as possible to the School Improvement Fund which is at present earmarked for the Hall Fund.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

In 1945, 88 pupils gained the Intermediate Certificates, while 16 others passed in four or more subjects; 31 gained the Leaving Certificate, while 9 pupils matriculated.

More than 30 old pupils are at the University.

This year £68 has been expended on the Library, but we are still hampered by the difficulty of obtaining suitable books, especially those suitably bound for library use.

During the year £40 has been spent on the purchase of original paintings. The rooms we now use as a hall are fully decorated with originals, and we intend to make a start with classrooms next year. One of these paintings in the Hall—the water color of Dandenong Creek, was generously presented to the school by the Hon. F. Field, M.L.A., Minister of Public Instruction.

The Girls' Basket Ball Courts are being completely re-made by the Department at a cost of £400, and we are having two new en-tout-cas tennis courts constructed. The completion of these has been delayed by the difficulty of obtaining bricks and pipes, but we hope they will be in use early in the New Year. These are to cost the School rather more than £400.

The drive and quadrangle have also been resurfaced.

In Inter-School Sport the boys won premierships in Senior Football and Tennis, while the girls were successful in Junior Rounders and Basket Ball, also Senior Hockey.

In the Combined "C" School Sports the boys were second in the aggregate, the girls first, and the School was first in the combined aggregate.

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The House Sports were again very successful, and once more we are indebted to the ladies of the Welfare Club who gave up their afternoon to provide afternoon tea.

Too many pupils still leave school without taking full advantage of the facilities offered.

Now that fees have been practically abolished, and free transport provided, it should be possible for almost all parents to leave their children at School at least until they have completed the course for Leaving Certificate, which is, as its name implies, a certificate issued on the successful completion of what should be regarded as the minimum secondary school course—5 years from Grade VI.

Most members of the community make the mistake of assessing the value of education in terms of positions available to successful students, not realising that the most important work of the School is not evidenced in examination successes. Pupils leaving before the Leaving Certificate year miss a very valuable experience and training just at the stage when they are best able to respond to school influences.

1946 has been the most 'difficult year within my experience. At the beginning of the year Miss Cantwell was transferred to Camberwell High School, and shortly afterwards Miss Malseed resigned from the Department. No teachers were available to replace these ladies. In addition, Miss Smith and Miss Stone have been absent on sick leave for some considerable time, and no relief has been obtainable. A very heavy burden has thus been placed on the other members of the staff, who have responded splendidly with the result that the work of the School has been carried on very efficiently, and with satisfactory results.

As usual, we are to have a number of changes of staff. Mr. McAughtrie has gained promotion, and is to go to Hampton School, while Miss Molony and Miss Wood are transferring to Kyneton and Hersham respectively. I wish to thank these teachers for the admirable service they have rendered, and wish them well in their new positions.

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Again, I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the manner in which the staff have carried out their duties under very great difficulties. Without their enthusiasm and loyalty the work of the School could not have been carried on with anything like the real success that has been achieved.

The Members of the Advisory Council have maintained their usual interest and activity in striving for the welfare of the School, and I wish them to accept our thanks and appreciation.