

“EDUCATION NOT JUST A MEANS TO A JOB”

presented to the young editress and editor, Dorothy Griffiths and P. Newell, in terms of “niggers,” huns,” etc.

Speakers Drive Home This Point At Speech Night

DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL CLOSES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL rounded off another highly successful year with the traditional Speech Night — its 29th — in the Dandenong Town Hall on December 16th. Pupils, parents and other interested folk filled the hall to overflowing and showed their appreciation of the “Best School of All’s” brilliant achievements, both in the scholastic and sporting spheres.

No less than 203 of the 578 pupils attending the school received Honor Certificates from the hands of Mr. W. H. Frederick, M.A., esteemed “head” of Wesley College, who later made an at times amusing, and at times thoughtful contribution to the speechmaking.

Both Mr. Frederick and Mr. J. L. Griffiths, the popular headmaster of the school, regretted that education to-day was too often merely regarded as a means to a job. Mr. Griffiths, too, marvelled and deplored Dandenong’s indifference towards continued education, as demonstrated by the fact that most of his charges come from beyond the Shire of Dandenong’s boundaries.

The School is within £509 of its objective of £3,000—its contribution towards the erection of a new hall at the school—but there is little prospect of the promised additions being proceeded with in the near future. However, £1,300 is now being spent on repairs and re-decorating.

Last year 70 pupils gained their Intermediate, 35 their Leaving, and 10 qualified for matriculation, thus maintaining the high standard of past years.

After pupils had presented the ladies in the official party with lovely floral bouquets Mr. F. A. Singleton, J.P., chairman, warmly welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Frederick, guests of the evening. It was a pleasure and a privilege, he said to preside at yet another Speech Night. In his opinion there were three essentials in acquiring a sound education — the first, good surroundings and environment; the second, an efficient and sympathetic



F. A. Singleton

head master and staff—which he knew they had in Dandenong. In his opinion their Mr. Griffiths was second to none in the State. (Applause). The third essential was pupils’ own recognition of their responsibilities to acquire education when they were given the opportunity and so develop a true

education when they were given the opportunity and so develop a true character. By right and true living, Christian outlook, principles, and vision they could help lift society to a higher plane, and it was up to the pupils going out that year into their chosen vocations, to honor the D.H.S. in the truest, noblest way. (Applause).

ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. J. L. Griffiths, popular headmaster, summarised the year’s achievements interestingly in his annual report:

“Our enrolment, 578 pupils, shows a slight decrease, due largely to the cumulative effect of zoning. The School continues to draw its pupils very largely from the district beyond the Dandenong Shire; the longstanding indifference towards continued education in Dandenong itself remaining most marked. It is remarkable that so few parents in the Town re-

that so few parents in the Town regard education as having any value beyond that of securing a qualification for employment, and in the present time of acute labor shortage, the effect of such an attitude on their children's education is easy to determine.

More than 80 years ago, John Ruskin asked whether there was not an education that was an end in itself, but even to-day, this question is not sufficiently often answered in the affirmative.

CAMPAIGN TO INTEREST DANDENONG PARENTS

The Advisory Council of the School views the matter so seriously that it has decided to plan a campaign to attempt to make parents in the locality realise, at least in some degree, what their children are losing in not taking more advantage of the educational opportunities offered them.

£1,300 BEING SPENT ON SCHOOL

Much needed repairs and decoration are now being effected at the School, a sum of over £1,300 having been allotted for this work. The interior of the building has not been painted since the inception of the School; while the exterior had not been done for a number of years. The work is now well in hand and should be completed very shortly.

There appears little prospect of the promised additions being made in the near future. We still feel that the hall and such necessities as common rooms, gymnasia, cafeteria and cloak-room accommodation are even more important than these additions, and your Council is watching the position closely, with a view to making further representations in this direction.

During the year, boys doing woodwork under the skilled direction of Mr. Randles, have made four Library Tables, and sufficient chairs having been provided by the Department on a contributory basis, next year Room 81 will be used exclusively as a Library.

We have again expended a considerable sum of money (£81) on the Library and have purchased another original oil painting, in both cases the amounts spent being subsidised on a £ for £ basis by the Department. Recently the Dandenong Youth Movement made a gift of £10 towards the purchase of

books, and this will mean that an additional £20 can be spent. We are most grateful to the donors.

HALL FUND GROWING

Our Hall Fund now stands at £2,491, being £509 short of our objective. We intend making a determined effort to complete this fund during 1948, and solicit the wholehearted co-operation of all connected with the school towards this end.

PROVISION OF TENNIS COURTS

During the year £167/10/-, has been spent on our two tennis courts, but inability to purchase bricks has led to the work still being incomplete. A further £226/10/- still has to be spent before the courts will be ready for use.

SCHOLASTIC SUCCESSES

In 1946, 70 pupils gained the Intermediate Certificate, while 20 others passed in four or more subjects; 35

This year we are fortunate in that we are faced with fewer staffing changes than usual. We are, however, losing the services of Miss Thompson, who has been in charge of the Commercial work for eight years. Miss Thompson is receiving well-merited promotion to Horsham High School. She has rendered the School outstanding service and we wish her all success in her new position.

I again wish to pay a sincere tribute to the loyalty, skill, and enthusiastic co-operation of all members of the staff which have resulted in the completion of another very successful year.

WIDER REPRESENTATION ON ADVISORY COUNCIL

Recently the representation on School Advisory Councils has been widened, and included in the membership are representatives of the Shire Councils of Berwick, Cranbourne and Mulgrave, Crs. Lloyd, Kirkham and Bunny respectively. We welcome these gentlemen to our Council, and feel that the interest and helpfulness displayed in the past by their Councils will be stimulated by this direct representation.

I desire to thank the members of the Advisory Council for their continued interest and assistance." (Applause).

pupils gained the Leaving Certificate while 10 pupils qualified for matriculation.

iation.

FINE SPORTING RECORD

In competitive sport we were successful in winning premierships in Boys' Senior Cricket, Football and Tennis; and in Girls' Senior and Junior Hockey, Senior Tennis, Junior Basket Ball and Rounders. In the Combined "C" Grade School Sports, the boys came third, the girls second, and the School was second in the aggregate.

The House sports were again very successful, and, as usual, we are very much indebted to the ladies of the Welfare Club who, as usual, provided afternoon tea. Following the decoration of the school rooms, the Welfare Club generously offered to bear the expense of furnishing the office and staff rooms, and very much needed improvements have been effected at a cost of £74. The staff and I wish to thank the members very sincerely for their very generous help.

PUPILS HELP OTHERS

The School has, as usual, been actively interested in Social Service during the year. £20 was donated to the Yooralla Hospital appeal, and £9 to the appeal for Blind, Deaf and Dumb children. A considerable number of garments was knitted for the "Woollies for Britain" appeal, and 700 dozen eggs were sent to various hospitals.

PRESENTATION OF HONOR CERTIFICATES

To the accompaniment of frequent outbursts of applause Mr. Frederick then presented the Honor Certificates to those pupils who qualified for them. He also handed the A.N.A. Cup to the captains of Bluegum House, the top sporting house of the year, with appropriate congratulations. Specially bound copies of "The Gate," too, were presented to the young editress and editor, Dorothy Griffiths and P. Newell.

In moving a sincere vote of thanks to Mr. Frederick, head master of Wesley College, for coming along to present the pupils with their certificates, Mr. F. Ward said they were honored indeed to have a gentleman with such a great scholastic record and high public position with them. In his opinion the gathering in the Town Hall that night was the most important of the year, it being in the cause of education.

Mr. J. W. McAfee also paid a tribute to Mr. Frederick in seconding

Mr. J. W. McAfee also paid a tribute to Mr. Frederick in seconding the vote, which was enthusiastically carried.

Opening in lighter vein and thanking the scholars and parents for their great welcome, Mr. Frederick said he wished to congratulate Dandenong folk, not only on their intellectual achievements, but also on their robust health—as evidenced by their handshakes! (Laughter). After keeping his audience rippling with laughter for some time the speaker, lapsing into more serious vein asked: "What would you like to have on your school report?"

In his opinion, he continued, success was one of the main things; if not in school studies or games, then in team spirit—playing the game. If a pupil left school having been a success at something, then the teachers had not done their work in vain. It would give the pupils a new dignity to be praised; they wouldn't be weighed down and melancholy; their morale would be high. That was why the modern trend in schools was to give a rich and varied diet of study so that everyone could find his or her particular mark.

Another thing he thought they would like on their report was enthusiasm for knowledge—to value it for its own sake.

Nowadays most people looked on education as a means to finding a successful job, and increasingly in the terms of £ s. d. To his way of thinking education should not stop at the age of 14.

"Another thing that is being submerged in our materialistic age is the enthusiasm for creating things—the spirit of craftsmanship and the happiness and satisfaction of making things with our own hands," proceeded the speaker. "Too many people look on work with a grudging spirit—as something that has to be done, not as a joy, even if it be in the garden, woodwork, clay, etc. Education should also give us an enthusiasm and a liking for other people. There will be no real peace in the world when we treat other races contemptuously, thinking of them in terms of "niggers," huns," etc.

We should learn, too, to be fair-minded, to adopt a clear, just and un-biassed method of judging things. We should realise our sense of obligation to society, and if we go forward combining all these things, and after we left school kept on a continued pro-

left school kept on a continued process of absorbing things we would be truly educated, better equipped for the future, and able to make our contribution in life." (Applause).

The second half of the programme took the form of a delightful concert provided by talented pupils from the school.

THOSE WHO RECEIVED HONOR CERTIFICATES

Ic.—Valeria Black 1 subject, Pam Brown 2, Nola Bursill 2, Joan Clark 2, Joan Gowland 2, Valerie Rodber 2, Marlon Smith 2, Mary Nemet 3, Judith Painter 3, Shirley Guest 4, Kathleen Gribble 5, Beth Tonks 7.

Ib.—Pat Egan 1 subject, Betty Lang 1, Lorraine Threlfall 1, Merle Ackland 2, June Duke 2, Gwen Evans 2, Dulcie Hine 2, Beverley Marshall 2, Janice Mitchell 2, Carol Closter 3, Nancy Taylor 3, Pat. Jennings 4, Noela Thomas 4, Mary Barlee 5, Nell Cussen 6, Max Hobbs 1, Don Pocknee 2.

Ia.—Joyce Brown 1 subject, Dorle Hein 1, Margaret Tharle 1, Dorothy Hunt 2, Joan Simpson 2, Betty Harris 5, Marjorie Harvey 5, Shirley Lightfoot 5, Michael Kinsella 1, Noel Maughan 1, Barry Simon 1, Max Finegan 2, Peter Bruce 3, Lindsay Hewitt 3.

Iic.—Grace Kiddell 5 subjects, Gerald Curtin 2.

Iib.—Margaret Crabtree 1, June Oakes 1, Valerie Parker 1, Jean Crawford 2, Diana Murphy 2, Beverley Saunders 2, Peggy Dickson 5, Beryl Bolch 6, Ida Miron 6, Kelvin Higgins 1, John Mitchell 1, William Owen 2, Geoffrey Wigg 3, Joe Mulvaney 3, Ian Thomas 3, Geoffrey Brindle 5, Geoffrey Davidson 5, Ernest Perkins 6.

Iia.—Janice Cravino 1 subject, Violet Dines 1, Carlyn Nettlebeck 1, Mary Whiteside 1, Joan Rickey 2, Lorna McLaren 3, Pauline Rae 3, Merle Godfrey 4, Mae Griffin 4, Lillian Reveleigh 4, Erica Tabor 4, Barbara Freeman 5, Rosemary Ellett 6, Gwen Lloyd 6, Lesley Barnes 7, Barbara McKay 7, Marion Barraclough 8, Beryl Smith 9, Ian Dusting 1, John Hansen 1, Leonard Robinson 1, John Stollery 1, Alan McIntosh 2, Noel Paroissien 2, Graeme Ragg 2, Ian Russell 2, Ian Stuart 2, Ian Sim 3, Glenthorne Prior 5, Gordon Young 6, John Smith 7, Richard Speed 8.

IIId.—June Weaven 4.

IIIc.—Fay Himbeck 1 subject, Joyce Hinrickson 1, Mary Latham 1, Wilma Kennedy 1, Jean Harding 2, Elsie Moore 2, June Burrows 3, Lois Plant 3, Isabel Mitchinson 4, Gloria Gillingham 6, Eileen Way 6, Lorna Perkins 8.

IIId.—Yvonne Newton 1 subject, Mary Howell 1, Rosalyn Jarvis 1, Phyllis Hartnett 3.

IIia.—Marion Pearce 1 subject, Ruth Kinsella 2, Pam. McKaskill 2, Adele Lanigan 2, Jeanette Berry 3, Yvonne Fry 5, Valerie Ball 7, Judith Russell 9, Ruth Bradford 10, Alex Geckie 1, Max. Stephens 2, William Jamieson 3, John Guest 4, David Hughes 4, Graeme Wilkie 5, Graeme Simon 8, Denis Read 9, Graham Stork 10.

IId.—Rose Ridgway 1 subject, Mair Evans 2, Pam. Hillbrick 2, Joan Dalgleish 3, Lorraine Harris 3, Marjorie Castle 4, Ronald Moss 2.

Ivc.—Aileen Cabble 1 subject, Madge Bailey 2, Heather Champion 2, Norma Detez 2, Beryl Johns 2, Margaret Robertson 2, Merle Wanke 4, Mynys Evans 5, Edna Gallus 5, Beth Holloway 6, Margaret Jones 9.

Ivb.—Margaret Clucas 3 subjects, Peter Davidson 1, Alan Owen 2, Barry Smith 4.

Iva.—Dorothy Aspinall 1 subject, Nell Griffin 1, Diane Streeter 1, Lois McCabe 2, Audrey Stead 2, Pam Bedwell 3, Lorna McDonald 3, Lorna Hosking 4, Margot Pegg 4, Barbara Hogg 5, Joan Russell 7, Jennifer Newton 9, Keith Pocklington 1, Edwin Cadwalader 2, Walter Harris 2, Geoffrey Rosetti 2, Geoffrey Hayes 5, Brian Hill 5, Colin Pierrehumbert 5, Valmont Wilson 6.

v.—Patel Scholz 1 subject, Dorothy Wilson 1, Brenda Jeffrey 2, Beverley Vance 2, Dorothy Smith 3, Bruce Carrott 1, Rex Gorwell 1, Brian Hatfield 1, Loxam McGrath 1, Peter Taylor 1, Frederick Cowen 2, David McDonald 2, Clive Pointon 2, Donald Prentice 2, Keith Anderson 3, Bruce Kennedy 4, Keith Robinson 4, Wilfred Williams 5.

VI.—Olive Egerton 1 subject, Naomi Ward 1, Joan McKeon 2, Judith Bonser 3, Helen Wilson 3, Rosalie Brown 4, Helen Oswell 4, Dorothy Griffiths 5, Stuart Brown 1, Graeme McCahon 1, Graham Ward 3, Phillip Newell 4, Frank O'Shea 4.





F. A. Singleton