

Growing Enrolment Makes Early Extensions At Dandenong High School Essential

normal purpose, namely, pro

621 Pupils This Year—More Next Year

DEPUTATION TO GO TO MINISTER OF EDUCATION

WITH AN ENROLMENT of 621 for 1948 and prospects of an increase next year, accommodation at the Dandenong High School is sorely taxed—so much so that a deputation is to go to the Minister for Public Instruction to urge an early start on the extensions already planned sometime ago.

The School itself is within £110 of its £3,000 objective—the amount of its contribution to ensure the inclusion of a new school hall in the plans.

The Dandenong Town Hall was all too small to hold the large crowd which attended the School's thirtieth annual Speech Night and presentation of Honor Certificates on Tuesday night of last week.

The Honor Certificates were presented by Professor I. R. Maxwell who had a congratulatory hand-shake and a word of commendation and encouragement for each of the proud recipients. Applause for each of the successful scholars intensified when particularly brilliant records were read out. Some of the pupils obtained Honors in as many as nine subjects—a record reflecting credit to themselves and their teachers.

Applause greeted Mr. F. A. Singleton's announcement that Dandenong High School had been raised in status to a Special First-class School, and that Mr. J. L. Griffiths, the present popular principal, would continue as headmaster.

MORE TO EDUCATION THAN JUST SOMETHING WITH WHICH TO EARN A LIVING

vice to the community in which we lived.



Welcoming Professor Maxwell, parents and pupils, Mr. F. A. Singleton, J.P., Chairman of the Advisory Council said he would like to impress upon the people the wonderful facilities for education that the Dandenong High School provided. Education was not merely to be regarded as something with

After the presentation of the Honor Certificates the A.N.A. Cup was presented to the captains of Orchid House, winners of this year's athletic title.

There were specially bound copies of "The Gate," the School magazine, for the joint editors, Dorothy Wilson and D. McDonald.

Responding to a vote of thanks proposed by Messrs. A. H. Murden and Brad Tharle, Professor Maxwell declared himself as greatly impressed by the large gathering and by the extraordinary array of talent that he had just been rewarding with Honor Certificates. He offered his congratulations to the scholars, and the staff on the year's fine results. For some, he said, this was the end of a school

which to make a living, but also something that would enable us to make a worthwhile contribution and give service to the community in which we lived.

the year's fine results. For some, he said, this was the end of a school year; for others the threshold of a new existence. He could not help feeling that children to-day received a much more complete education than in his days. A lot of the subjects which pupils now thought dry and uninteresting would be of great value later on. There was hardly anybody who didn't look back on their school-days without regretting that they did not make greater use of the opportunities provided for learning. Stressing the value of good reading, and of the classics, the Professor said that books enabled you to get inside a somewhat different kind of person. He regretted, too, that to the average person's education had developed into something almost wholly utilitarian—something with which to earn a living.

To live better and more fully was the root aim of education. (Applause).

After the interval the pupils showed their talents in another direction, presenting a grand entertainment, with choral singing, a one-act play and physical culture as the chief ingredients.

The characters in the amusing "Murder At The Bugginses" were cleverly portrayed by Beverley Close, Pat. Egan, Edith Barratt, Wilma Monk, Beverley Marshall, Jean Robinson, Beth Tonks, Elaine Berry and Kath. Eyre.

HEADMASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT SHOWS PROGRESS MADE

"I have pleasure in presenting the 30th Annual Report of the Dandenong High School," stated Mr. J. L. Griffiths.

OUR ENROLMENT — 621 pupils—shows an increase over that of last year, and it appears that a further increase next year is probable. The accommodation is already severely taxed, but it is unlikely that the proposed additions to the School will be commenced for some time. The School Advisory Council intends to take the matter of the inadequacy of the present accommodation together with the urgent need for the provision of canteen, gymnasium and other necessities by deputation to the Minister of Public Instruction at an early date.

REPAIRS and DECORATION mentioned in my last report have been

REPAIRS and DECORATION mentioned in my last report have been completed with great advantage to the appearance of the School, both internally and externally.

LAST YEAR I reported that our Hall Fund was £509 short of the objective—£3,000—and I expressed the hope that the Fund would be completed this year. We still need £110, but as the amount invested will very soon make up the deficit the School Improvement Fund will in future be used for its normal purpose, namely, providing desired improvements at the School. The School has done well in raising nearly £2,900 in 3½ years.

IT IS HOPED to expend a considerable sum on the library next year. We have been hampered by the difficulty of obtaining suitable and suitably bound books, but these are gradually becoming more readily available, and an endeavor will be made to increase the part played by the library in the development of the School curriculum, and to train the pupils in the use of a wide range of text and reference books instead of relying largely on information imparted in class lessons.

IN AUGUST two very successful performances of "Quality Street" were given in the Town Hall by the Dramatic Club, the play being produced by Mr. Alexander. It is hoped to continue and develop the work of this Club.

The **TENNIS COURTS** are still incomplete, but following a good response to our appeal for Secondhand bricks, we now have sufficient material for the completion of the work and hope to have the courts ready for use early next year.

The **OVAL** is to be ploughed, harrowed, and re-sown, and should be ready for use by the beginning of the football season.

IN 1947 71 pupils gained the Intermediate Certificate, while in addition, 12 passed in four or more subjects. 33 pupils gained the Leaving Certificate, while 15 pupils qualified for matriculation, obtaining six first-class and 12 second-class honors. One Senior Scholarship was gained.

IN COMPETITIVE SPORT we won premierships in Boys' Senior Cricket, and in Girls' Senior and Junior Hockey. We were equal first in Senior Basketball, the first in Junior Basketball, and in Rounders. In the combined "C" Division Inter-school Sports the

and in Rounders. In the combined "C" Division Inter-school Sports, the boys came second, the girls first, and the School was second in the aggregate.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in the history of the School, bad weather compelled cancellation of the House Sports, which were held on a School Day.

THE SCHOOL has again been actively interested in Social Service. In addition to the usual provision of garments for the Woollies for Britain Appeal by the Social Service Club, and a large number of eggs for various hospitals, more than £50 was contributed to the appeal for the Children of Europe.

EARLY IN NOVEMBER the School was saddened by the death of Miss A. E. Doherty, who had rendered conspicuous service to the School, especially as teacher in charge of music, and as Sports Mistress. Miss Doherty's infectious cheerfulness as well as her teaching skill are being, and will be very greatly missed. The excellence of her work in producing Gilbert and Sullivan operas for some years at the Annual School Entertainment will long be remembered.

I WOULD AGAIN urge on parents the necessity of encouraging their children to avail themselves to the full of the educational opportunities offered to them at little or no cost. All pupils enrolling should regard the School Leaving Certificates as their minimum leaving qualification, and it is disquieting to find many parents being tempted by the monetary inducements offered to boys and girls willing to take up comparatively unskilled employment in what will prove to be dead-end occupations without taking into account their children's capabilities, and to estimate the value of what the School has to offer entirely in terms of more or less immediate wage-earning capacity.

EXCURSIONS have been freely used to supplement the academic instruction given. Parties of pupils have visited Parliament House, and were conducted over the House by Mr. Dawnay-Mould, and after listening to debates were entertained by the Member for Dandenong, who is awarding trophies for the best essays on the visit. Visits were also made to Police Headquarters at Russell St., where pupils were given an insight into the

headquarters at Russell St., where pupils were given an insight into the highly technical nature of modern crime detection, especially the working of the wireless branch D24. A large number of pupils also attended A.B.C. Orchestral Concerts at the Melbourne Town Hall. The School entered a Senior Girl's Choir and a Junior Boys' Choir in the Victorian Secondary Schools' Music Festival at the Melbourne Town Hall in August.

WE ARE AGAIN losing valued members of staff. Miss Mahoney and Mr. Sinclair are receiving well-earned promotions. Miss Mahoney is to go to Lilydale Higher Elementary School and Mr. Sinclair to Warragul High School. Both have rendered outstanding service to the School for a number of years, and our good wishes go with them.

SHORTAGE OF STAFFING has again made the year a difficult one. Where it has been possible to keep classes small the beneficial effect on the work has been most marked, and I look forward to the time when reasonably small classes will be the rule rather than the exception.

THE CO-OPERATION AND PROFESSIONAL skill of the Staff have again triumphed over difficulties to compete another successful year.

I AGAIN wish to thank members of the Advisory Council for their help and interest.

