

Dandenong High School's Record Enrolment Of 793 Meant— Admission Restricted For First Time In 34 Years

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URGENT NEED FOR MORE TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS

AN HONORS' LIST of 300 names was a feature of the Dandenong High School's splendid scholastic record during the past year.

Last year the school had an all-time record enrolment of 793 and for the first time since it was established 34 years ago, admissions had to be restricted because of lack of accommodation.

At the climax to another successful year of achievements in both the scholastic and sporting spheres—last Monday night's annual Speech Night—the headmaster (Mr. J. L. Griffiths, B.A., Dip. Ed.) opened the school's 32nd annual report thus:

OUR ENROLMENT greatly increased this year, reaching a total of 793, almost 140 more than last year's record enrolment. It has, for the first time in the School's history, been necessary to restrict admissions, and unless prefabricated rooms are constructed before the beginning of the next school year, a considerable number of exit pupils from the primary schools which normally supply the High School will have to be excluded.

It appears unlikely that the additions already planned will be commenced in the near future, and the urgency of the position is likely to be aggravated each succeeding year. Although the £3,000 which was required from the School towards the cost of an Assembly Hall has been in hand for nearly two years the provision of the Hall appears to be as far removed as ever.

DURING THE YEAR a considerable amount of money has been spent on various School requirements. More than £250 has been spent on the Library; nearly £500 on the Grounds, a 'cello for the orchestra cost £17/10/-; while another piano was obtained for £140, £100 of this being provided by the Ladies' Welfare Club.

THE APPEAL for the Improvement Fund has this year realised nearly £200 while two very successful concerts given in the Town Hall in August provided £134 for School Funds.

THE SCHOOL TENNIS COURTS are extensively used, and the OVAL is now in excellent order.

IN 1949, 83 PUPILS gained the Intermediate Certificate, while in addition 16 passed in four or more subjects. Thirty-four pupils gained the Leaving Certificate, while five pupils qualified for matriculation.

THIS YEAR, for the first time, and due to the enthusiasm and untiring efforts of Miss Rofe and Mr. Mc-

efforts of Miss Rofe and Mr. McCubbin an Orchestra has been established and is making rapid progress. It is hoped to acquire further instruments, and to make the orchestra an increasingly important factor in the development of music at the School.

IN COMPETITIVE SPORT, our girls won the premiership in Senior Basketball, our Senior Hockey team was equal first with Frankston, the Seconds winning first place. The boys were equal first in Senior Football, while the Seconds gained first place in their competition. No competitive summer sports were held on account of the poliomyelitis epidemic. This year it seemed as though, on account of the rail strike, there would be no Combined Sports. However, the "C" Section Schools held their combined meeting on the Dandenong High School Oval on Thursday, November 2nd. The event was an outstanding success, more than 2,000 pupils attending. DANDENONG was particularly successful, both boys and girls gaining first place. We, therefore, won the aggregate.

The innovation was originated by Mr. Barnes, our Sports Master, to whom most of the success of the meeting was due. It was excellently organised, and the function was a memorable one.

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SOCIAL SERVICE. — The School, has this year, considerable increased its contributions to Social Service. Woollies, Toys and Fruit to the value of nearly £33 were sent to the Dandenong Nursery School; £9 worth to the Legacy Club; while goods (chiefly eggs and fruit) to the value of £140 were sent to the Menzies Boys' Home.

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For the United Nations' Appeal for Children £62 was raised, and £23 for the Women's Hospital Appeal; while eggs to the value of £280 were sent to various hospitals, making a total of £565 for the year.

CHILDREN TAKEN AWAY TOO EARLY

I HAVE FREQUENTLY DEPLORED the tendency of parents to remove their children from school before completing the course they undertook to allow them to finish when enrolling them. Unfortunately this tendency is even more marked now that considerable monetary inducements are offered to boys and girls to enter comparatively unskilled employment. Many pupils who are well equipped for completing the course to the School Leaving Certificate are thus deprived of a valuable general education, and leave school ill-equipped for the complexities of later life.

TWO EXPERIENCED AND SKILLFUL TEACHERS are leaving us. Miss Smith is to become Head Mistress of Richmond Girls' School, while Miss School, while Miss O'Keefe is receiving promotion as Senior Mistress of Warracknabeal High School. Both have given very fine service to the School. We wish them success in their new positions.

The School has been very adequately staffed during the year, but teachers' efforts have been hampered by the size of a number of classes, which makes it impossible to give the individual attention to pupils' needs that they wish to give.

In spite of this the year has been a very successful one; and I wish to express my appreciation of the professional skill and devotion to duty of a most competent and well qualified staff.

Since early in October we have been without the services of Mrs. Nicholson, who is in charge of the Girls' Physical Training. She suffered severe injuries when her horse fell on her. I am very pleased to be able to say that Mrs. Nicholson, who is with us tonight, has fully recovered, and I believe that she will resume her normal duties when school re-opens.

The members of the Advisory Council have given their customary support in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the School." (Applause).

Mr. F. A. Singleton, J.P., who presided, in welcoming the huge crowd present, said that Dandenong was fortunate in having a High School, a head master and staff that were all that could be desired. Education, he reminded the scholars, was not just a means to a living, but should be a stepping stone to good citizenship. Those who were leaving this year should go out determined to do their best to become fine citizens. As they

should go out determined to do their best to become fine citizens. As they went out into life they should not forget their school, but should endeavor to honor it and to honor society.

After Mr. Griffiths had submitted his annual report Dr. Aughterson presented the Honor Certificates, there being special rounds of applause for those pupils who took the greatest number of subjects.

Rosemary Ellett and Gordon Young were given an enthusiastic reception as they advanced to accept the A.N.A. Cup on behalf of "Wattle", the champion house of the year on the sporting field.

Specially bound copies of the School magazine, "The Gate", were presented to its young editors, Judith Russell and Ian Thomas.

Cr. Geo Rae moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Aughterson for so graciously and pleasantly presenting the certificates, at the same time paying a compliment to the headmaster and staff on having so many pupils obtain honors. His remarks and the vote were seconded by Mr. J. W. McAfee.

WHAT SORT OF A PERSON ARE YOU GOING TO BE?

Preferring to call his remarks a "rambling discourse" rather than an address, Dr. Aughterson said that many of his listeners were about to leave school, and many of them would soon be deciding what sort of occupation they were going into. "I wonder how many of you have decided what sort of person you are going to be?", he asked. "The answer to that question is important, because on the sort of person you are going to be, depends what this country of ours is going to be in the very difficult future."

Quoting from the poem, "Is This The Kind of Person You Are Going To Be?" Dr. Aughterson stressed that they should strive not to be "too occupied with making a living to live; too hurried and worried, to see, and smell and touch." He hoped every one of them would find a job they liked; a job in which they would be useful to their country, but not one in which they would become so absorbed that they wouldn't enjoy living. Let them not become persons without opinions of their own—so pliable that they could be used by unscrupulous persons, or have their minds moulded for them by newspapers and others who would want to do their thinking for them. They might say to themselves that they were going to enjoy life and at the same time be useful to their country. But they would find it was not so easy as all that. From this moment they had to make the decision when to be pliable and when not to be, so that they would become something better, and happy and good citizens.

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RECIPE FOR LIVING

To help them achieve this, Dr. Aughterson recommended: (1) That they cultivate the habit of reading, but that they not become just newspaper readers. When they read newspapers, let them do so selectively and critically. Good reading would help make them the sort of a citizen that was wanted in a good democracy. (2) Listen to good music. (3) Go to good pictures. Don't just go to any picture. Be selective and choose the good pictures—it helps to cultivate your taste. (4) Develop a hobby.

HAPPINESS ELUSIVE IF CHASED

"If you merely chase happiness you will never find it," Dr. Aughterson warned. "Happiness comes as a sort of by-product. We achieve it without knowing it. The best way to be happy is to be useful to others." We have reached a time in our history when we must be useful. These are difficult days and everyone will be called on to do what they can for their country. We can help by being tolerant in a big way. But there are some things we must not tolerate, such as evil, unkindness and injustice to others."

Let them not be too ready to misjudge New Australians, he added. They had invited these people out here because they wanted their help to hold this country. They had much to give us and we had much to give them. But let us not make the mistake of thinking the kindnesses and giving were all on the one side.

"This is the challenge", concluded Dr. Aughterson—

"We are in a very fortunate country — make yourself worthy of your good fortune." (Applause).

The second half of the programme was given over to a concert in which the pupils displayed their talents in the musical sphere. The school orchestra excelled and the choral numbers and individual items were of a remarkably high standard.