



# SILVER JUBILEE BOOK

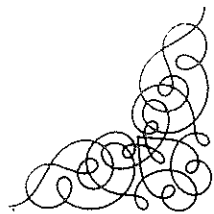
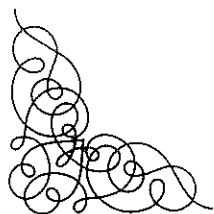


## CABRAMATTA HIGH

1958



1983





School 1955 - just trees!



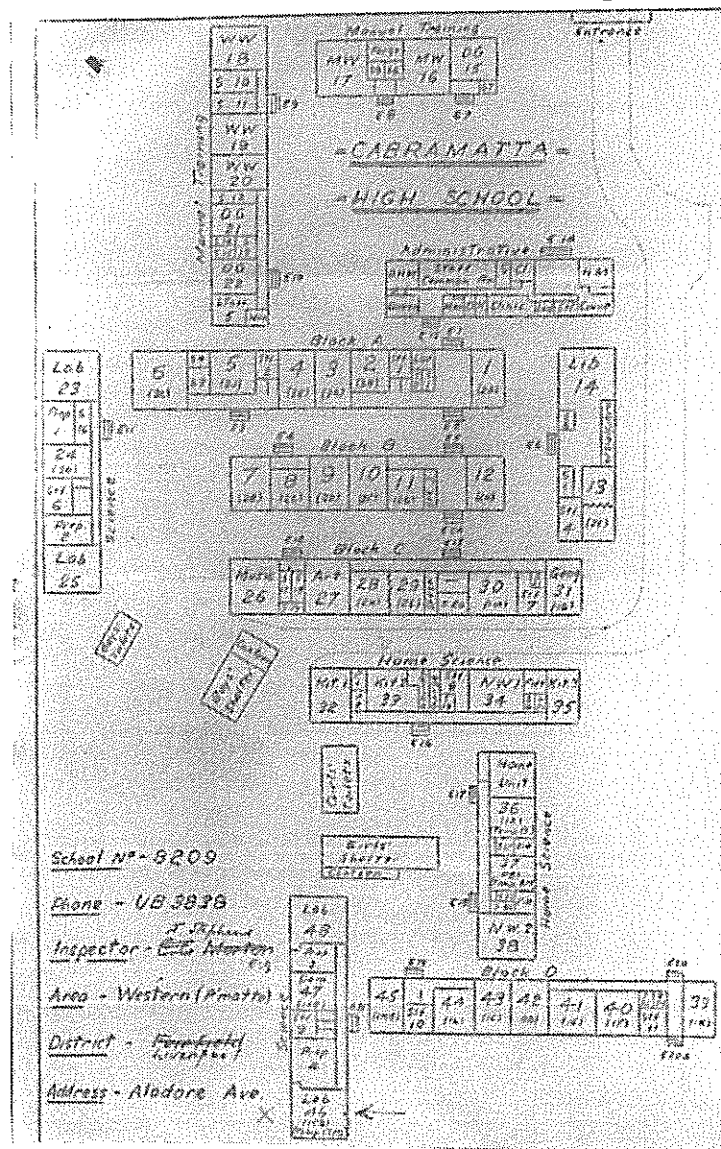
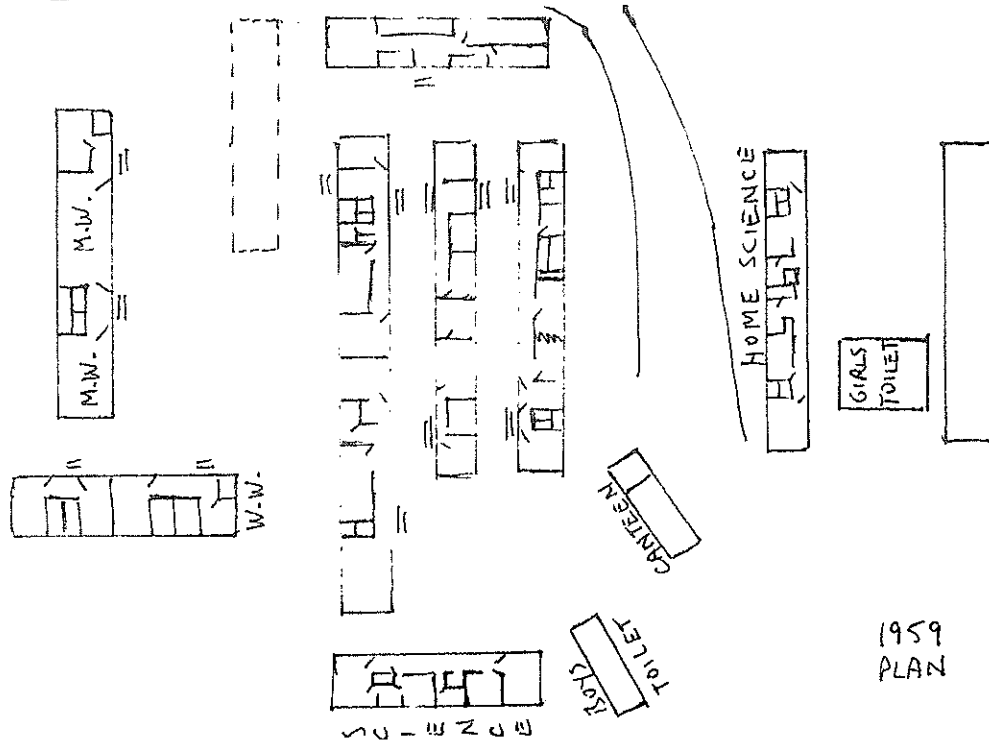
School  
1983



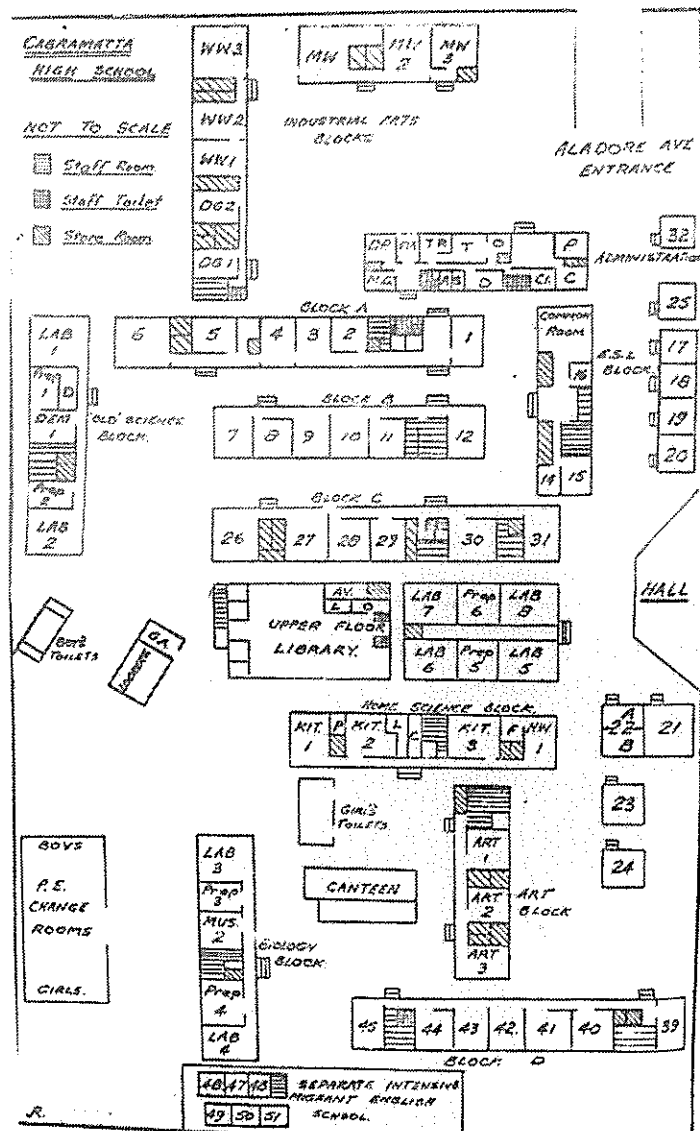


**INDUSTRIAL ARTS QUADRANGLE, 1960**

# SCHOOL PLANS



School Plan 1960



Current School Plan



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In this year of 1983 which is the Silver Jubilee of Cabramatta High School's existence, this book is a resume of the school from its inception to now. A great deal of research and effort has revealed much of the school's history and its now famous members, past and present. The book contains a record of heroic, humorous, tragic and interesting events which form the History of the school.

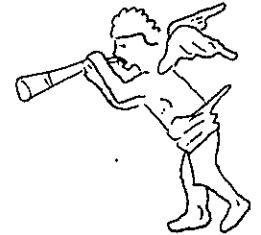
I am sure all who read the book will find it most entertaining.

J.B. Waide,  
Principal.

The letter that started us thinking....

The Principal,  
Cabramatta High School,  
Aladore Avenue,  
CABRAMATTA. 2166

Dear Sir,

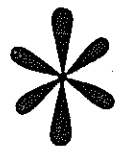
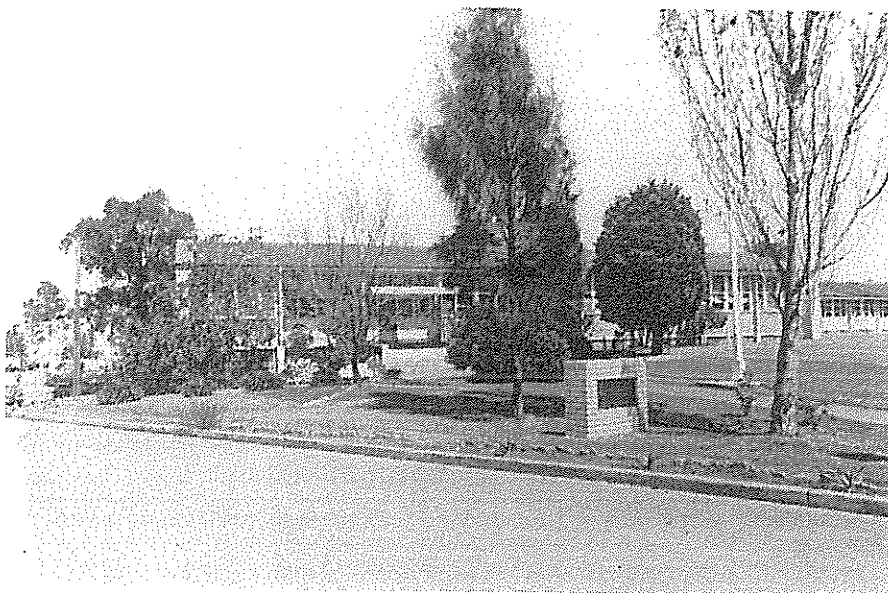


Congratulations to the School on having attained its Silver Anniversary. When I enrolled in 1961 the first students had only reached their Fourth Year, so Gail Radimey and Ray Cas of my year were only the fourth set of School Captains. Being part of the school for five of its formative years, I sometimes wonder how its going, and my sharp memory tallies up twenty-five years since opening.

Best wishes to all the staff and students as they face the difficult challenges of this present age. Keep Striving and Serving.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Jean Percival





# EDITORIAL COMMITTEE<sup>3</sup>

The editorial committee decided from the outset that this book should record the history and achievements of C.H.S. Literary efforts were therefore left to Thuruna, although we did contemplate a special section entitled "The Best from Thuruna". Cost prevented such a supplement.

We were amazed at the variety of achievements from this school - academic, cultural, sporting. We have had people who competed at state, national and even world championships. Surprisingly much of the early history and achievements were already forgotten at school level, showing perhaps that we could cherish our local history more.

We regret not having more time to prepare this publication - each week seemed to turn up new information, another famous/interesting figure from the past, another fascinating story from the school. In a year's time we could have filled an encyclopaedia. We also regret not having been able to reach some people: either through their fault (they left no known address, or moved too far away) or ours (we didn't follow the correct clues). In some cases people did not reply or did not wish to be included.

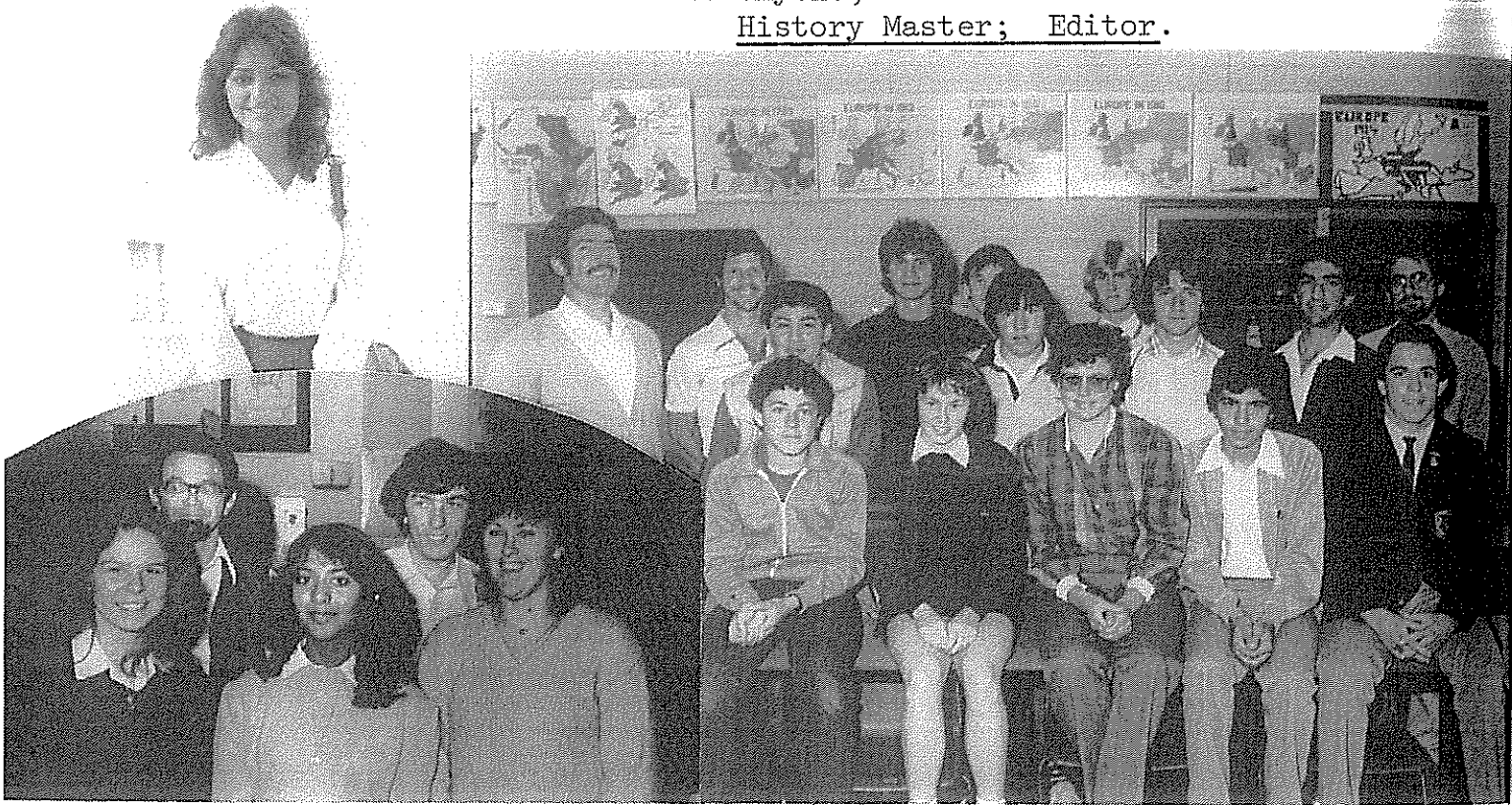
Special thanks to students who researched our past - at one time more than 100 were involved, and too many to name individually. Mrs. Taylor's history classes deserve special mention. The research team was ably led by John Bruno, and included Rod Bulmer, Joe Teixeira, Tony King, Kendall James, Paul Mitrovich, Andrew Groza. What they lacked in spelling skills they made up for in determination. Publicity was handled by Kirti Bhalla, Jean-Ann Coulter, Helen Stefanic, Jillian D'Costa, Vera Kulish and Maria Dobrijevic. A lot of the editing was done by a special panel headed by Mr. P. Wagner, and included Helen Stefanic, Graham Farnham. On some articles several red pens of correction were exhausted. Photography is by Ms. N. Kurovsky and Mr. D. McEwan. The latter proved particularly obstreperous in demanding rest time after several sleepless nights developing prints for this book. Art work, exclusive to this book, is by courtesy of Leo Castro, Aldo Capaldi, Michael Devlin. Lay-out strategy and general advice, help, from Mr. G. Martin and Ms. P. McLachlan.

Countless people have volunteered information and material for use, including Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Short, Mr. G. Robertson (a former school captain who also risked life and limb taking aerial shots of school), Mr. P. Reed (former student and teacher), Mr. K. Cohen (a former deputy), Andrew Chalmers, Mrs. Sainty (first school captain), the Heckenberg family, Ms. N. Kurovsky (former pupil and now C.H.S. teacher), the Ella families, Mr. J. Reddington (1958 pupil and now teacher here)....Many people have volunteered past copies of magazines, newspaper clippings, award certificates, school ephemera. The editor is grateful to all these, many of whom must remain nameless due to lack of space.

Skilful typing was by Mrs. M. Hull - some of the articles, corrected to the "n"th degree, needed her special patience and understanding.

As far as we know the information contained herein is correct, but should readers be aware of any errors of fact, would they contact me at the school so that we can keep our records straight.

W. Smythe,  
History Master; Editor.



Editorial committee (back row) Mr. D. McEwan, A. Groza, M. Devlin, K. James, Mr. G. Martin. (Centre) Mr. W. Smythe, J. Teixeira, T. King, R. Bulmer, J. Bruno. (Front) L. Castro, J.A. Coulter, Ms. N. Kurovsky, A. Capaldi, M. Mangion.

Top inset: K. Bhalla

Left inset - H. Stefanic, Mr. P. Wagner, J. D'Costa, G. Farnham, Ms. P. McLachlan.



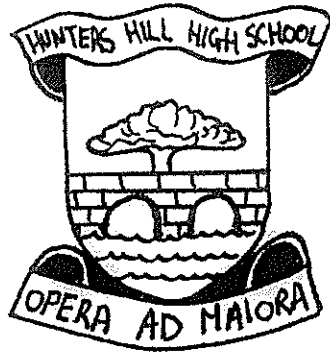
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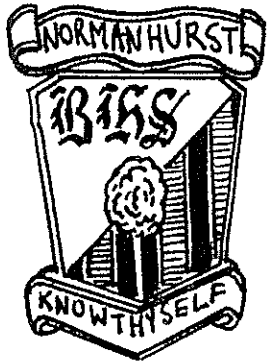
# MESSAGES FROM SCHOOLS CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



On behalf of the students, staff and parents of Hunters Hill High School I extend to all at Cabramatta High School our congratulations on 25 years of service to education and our very best wishes for the future.

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\* \* \* \*



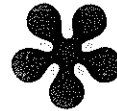
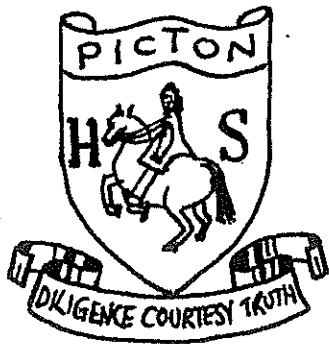
It is with great pleasure that the staff, students and parents of Normanhurst Boys' High congratulate Cabramatta High on 25 years of successful public education. We hope that other schools can further the path of the high standard of learning and achievement that they have shown.

\* \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*

Picton High congratulates Cabramatta High on their jubilee year. Both our schools celebrate this event this year and we look forward to mutual celebrations at the golden jubilee occasion.

\*\*\*\*\*



Mr. Editor,

I am delighted to join you, your Principal and earlier Principals in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of Cabramatta High School.

All associated with the booklet deserve our congratulations and support. The pleasing interest of ex-members of the Staff, as well as ex-students, has been an outstanding feature of the school for many years and long may it continue to be so.

Present pupils, staff and parents associated with the school must feel proud as they build their future striving and serving, side by side, at Cabramatta High.



John McDonnell,  
Principal,  
1958-63.



"THE LAND OF THE WHITE GRUB"

The aborigines may have found Cabramatta a good fishing place, as the name Cabramatta ("place of white grubs") implies. White explorers and settlers called the area "Moonshine Run", apparently because the trees were so thick that the moon could not penetrate. However, there were also illegal liquor stills along the Prospect Creek. Early residents of the area were known as "Moonshiners" to the people of Liverpool ("Moonshine Liz" was a well known powerfully built woman in the area during the early 1800's).

However, it was not until the 1830's that Cabramatta could be said to be permanently settled. James Hoy perhaps built the first permanent residence, and others followed him to Hoy's Hill, on the Great Southern Road (now off the Hume Highway). The opening of David Lennox's Lansdowne Bridge in 1836, at the cost of some \$2,000, facilitated road transport to and from Sydney. Convict labour built this structure, still standing over Prospect Creek on the Hume Highway, but not without riots and rebellion caused by convicts discovering liquor on local stills. One thousand people saw the opening.

The coming of the railway ensured success to the small twin settlements of Cabramatta and Canley Vale. In 1856 the Parramatta-Liverpool line opened with a single track, and Fairfield being the only stop in between. Cabramatta Railway Station was completed in the 1870's, and the trip to Parramatta (now Granville Station) took only 15 minutes.

In the 1890's businessmen moved in: in 1895 Nicholas McBurney opened his Commercial Store opposite the railway station (the store left family hands in 1958, being sold to Woolworths). A Mr. Bossley opened a store at the junction of John Street and Railway Parade. Mr. Alfred Hirst opened a saw and timber mill near the present library, bringing in workers including the famous Heckenberg family. The Heckenberg men were all champion axemen of imposing stature (all well over 6 feet in height and 15 stone in weight). The first hotel (Cabramatta Hotel) was opened by Mr. Thurgood in 1888, ownership passing to Messrs. Hearne and later Toohey.

By the 1890's, then, the people felt sufficiently strong to ask for their own municipal government. Alderman Latham moved in 1892 "That the time has arrived when it is considered desirable and in the interests of the district that we separate from the Municipal District of Liverpool and that we form ourselves with the Municipal District of Cabramatta and Canley Vale". This was passed unanimously, but not before strong lobbying as to whether Cabramatta or Canley Vale should take precedence in the clause.

Cabramatta became modernised under the energetic work of its two main Mayors in the first part of the 20th Century. John McBurney upgraded the roads by using road metal; and ensured the Regents Park line came to Cabramatta and not Liverpool. J. Cook introduced electric power to the district - in 1924 the opening ceremony saw 160 street lights and 2 home lights switched on. Footpaths were concreted, shops had additional lighting provided, and Cook's Square (junction of Cabramatta Road and John Street) was beautified. By 1930 Cabramatta

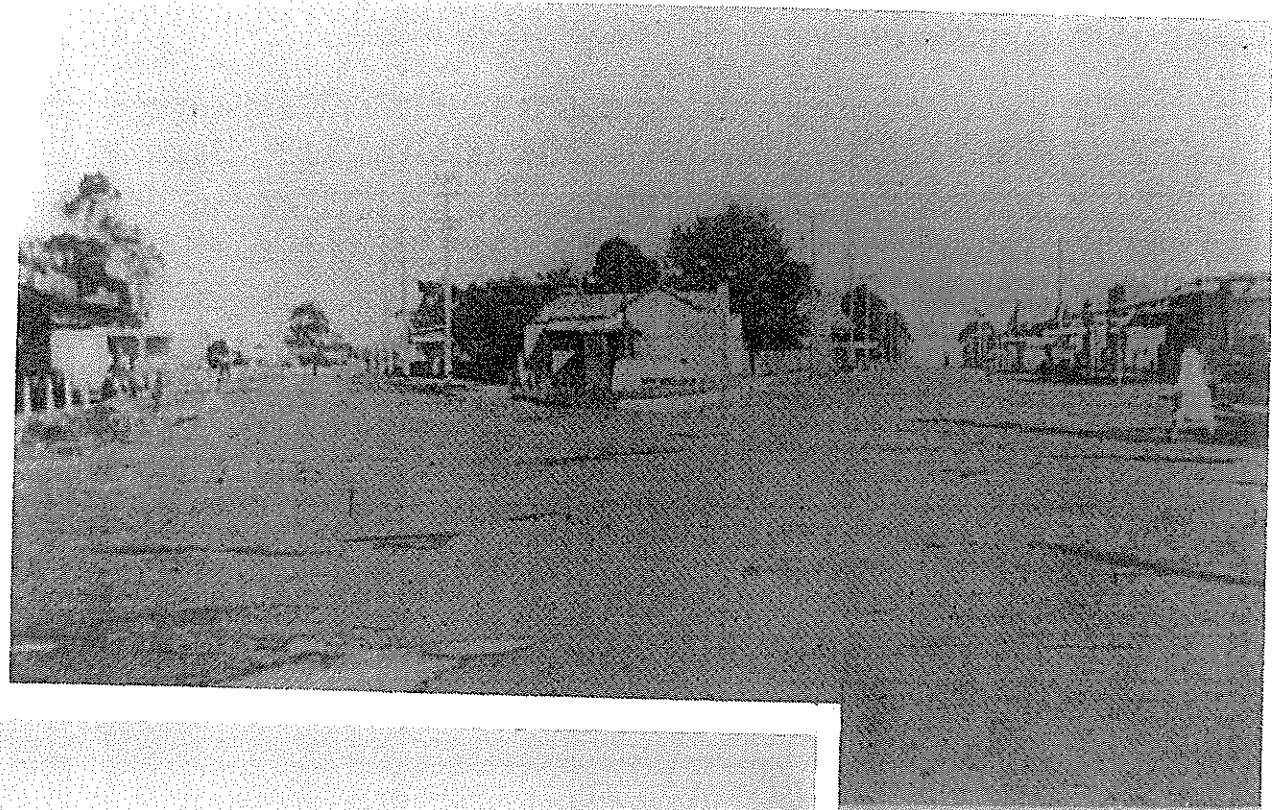


had topped 1000 residential buildings.

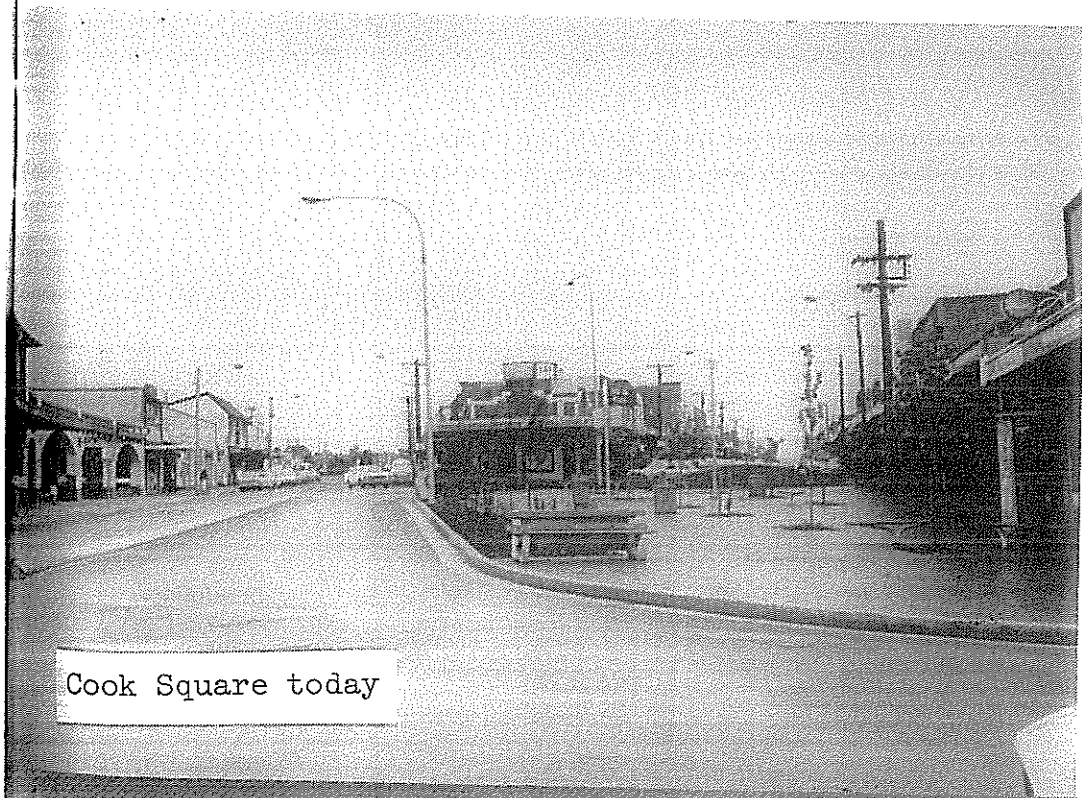
Formal education came to Cabramatta through the efforts of Nicholas McBurney, known as "Father of the School", and even "Father of Cabramatta" in 19th Century records. He made land available so that the first primary school could be built. Residents built the rooms and provided the furniture themselves. When the school opened in 1882 it had barely 20 students.

Students had to wait another 3/4 of a century for their first high school - opened in 1958.

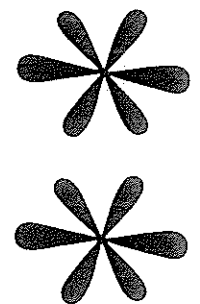
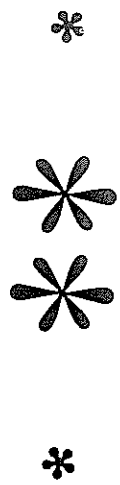
W. SMYTHE,  
HISTORY MASTER,  
EDITOR.



Cook Square 1933



Cook Square today



## THE HISTORIC HECKENBERGS

The Australian branch of the Heckenberg family tree began to sprout in 1860, when Captain Heckenberg sailed into Sydney Harbour, finding clients in the form of the Attwood brothers who needed transportation for the cedar they had cut.

The Captain's son William, who was working on his father's ship, became interested in both the cedar and James Attwood's attractive daughter, not necessarily in that order.

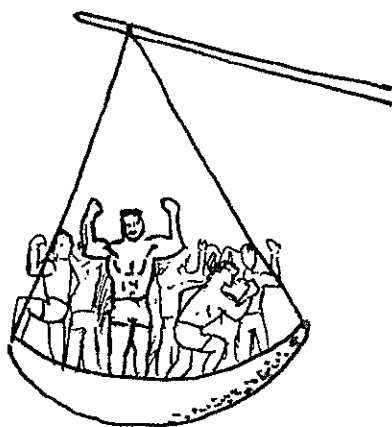
William married James' daughter in 1863, and became a cedar-cutter under the instruction of his father-in-law, and could not have found a better tutor.

Cedar trees became scarcer and less accessible, and William realised he had to find a locality where he could make a living without transportation problems. A little tract of country about 3 miles west of Liverpool interested him. Here he developed a mixed farm in the "Green Valley", while working at the job he knew best, timber-cutting.

Eight sons and one daughter were born to this couple in Green Valley. As each son grew old enough, through good outdoor living and inheritance of tall structure and large frame, they grew into young giants and took up the axe beside their father.

Once, after returning from a picnic spent swimming at Casula or Deadman's Creek, William lined up his offspring on a giant scale, then grinned proudly "There you are - a ton of Heckenbergs".

A newspaper clipping of February 7, 1912, gave a list of heights, weights and ages of this remarkable family.



|              |       |         |                      |
|--------------|-------|---------|----------------------|
| James, 44,   | 6'2½" | (1.86m) | weighed 17 st. 4 lb. |
| Casper, 42,  | 6'2"  | (1.85m) | weighed 16 st.       |
| Ernest, 40,  | 6'3½" | (1.89m) | weighed 16 st.       |
| Edward, 38,  | 6'2½" | (1.86m) | weighed 15 st. 4 lb. |
| William, 32, | 6'4"  | (1.90m) | weighed 16 st. 8 lb. |
| John, 30,    | 6'2½" | (1.86m) | weighed 15 st. 1 lb. |
| Alfred, 28,  | 6'2½" | (1.86m) | weighed 15 st.       |
| Colin, 26,   | 6'4"  | (1.90m) | weighed 16 st.       |

Gertrude's age and weight were not recorded,  
but she was said to have been more than 6 ft. tall.

All brothers were first class axemen, but James held the Australian Championship for 16 years, during which time he won 103 firsts, 33 seconds and 18 thirds, these being won in handicaps with James always last to start.

The Heckenbergs entered other sports, mainly tug-of-war events held at the Cabramatta Hotel on Saturday afternoons, and were just as good at this as they were at cutting timber.

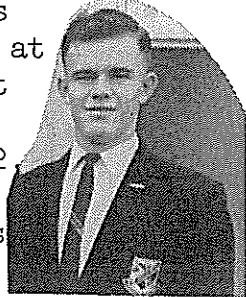


Finally, with much justification, local historians paid a gracious tribute to the Heckenberts by naming the new district after the family who had pioneered the area.

Only two generations passed before even more Heckenbergs entered the scenes of supremacy, this time at an academic level.

First, Norman Heckenberg, both Prefect and Dux of Cabramatta High School in 1960, had established a reputation probably equalling his famous grandfathers.

Apart from numerous achievements at school level, Norman was awarded a special scholarship from the Nuclear Research Foundation at the tender age of fifteen, which entitled him to attend a course at the Sydney University Physics School. Following school, Norman continued on to Sydney University where he achieved his PhD in 1972, and also spent three years at the Max Planck Institute of Physics. Norman now teaches at St. Lucia University, Brisbane, lecturing his most favoured science, Physics.



Then came Allan Heckenberg, another Prefect at Cabramatta High School, considered an academically gifted child at school. This proved true as after his schooling, Allan continued on at the University of N.S.W. for five years to earn his B. Sc Honors in Chemistry.

Michael Mangion,  
School Captain.



Heckenberg Training Camp, early this century.

THE ASPINALLS - A PIONEERING FAMILY

We interviewed Dan Aspinall and Don Thompson who were early settlers of Cabramatta and they had relatives who attended this school. They gave us these glimpses of our past.

Horse and dray was the only means of transportation in the early 1900's as cars had not been established in this area. This means of transportation was mainly for getting timber to the saw mills and providing social mobility the same as we use cars today. In 1935 a horse bus company was established, to provide the older generation with transport. These people were very poor and it was a luxury to have horses.

Cabramatta was mainly famous for its timber as it provided thick bushland, extending from St. John's Park all the way to Mount Druitt. The timber was used for fire wood mainly, but also for building construction. The going price for the timber was a bob a tonne, a small price to pay, however, expensive at that time.

Mr. Thompson delivering  
wood \* \* \*  
tonne, a small price to

The timber was carted to the three mills in Cabramatta. The Civic Hall replaced the first saw mill which was ever built. This saw mill provided the people with fire wood. The library replaced the second saw mill built. Woolworths replaced the third saw mill. The main part of Cabramatta was nothing like it is today. In the early 1900's Cabramatta virtually didn't exist, as it only had two stores, Blacksmith, Butcher, Post Office and a Bank. The roads were extremely poor, very muddy in heavy rain and dusty in the dry season.

There were no recreations for children, except Cabramatta Football Club, bird netting and swimming in Cabramatta Creek.

In 1911 a huge fire swept through St. John's Park area and a saw mill at Cabramatta was burnt down.

Behind Cabramatta Creek wineries were set up as water from the creek provided the source of irrigation. Don Dawson Cricket Oval was a winery, but was pulled down after a huge flood. Chipping Norton became a winery built by returned soldiers in 1918.

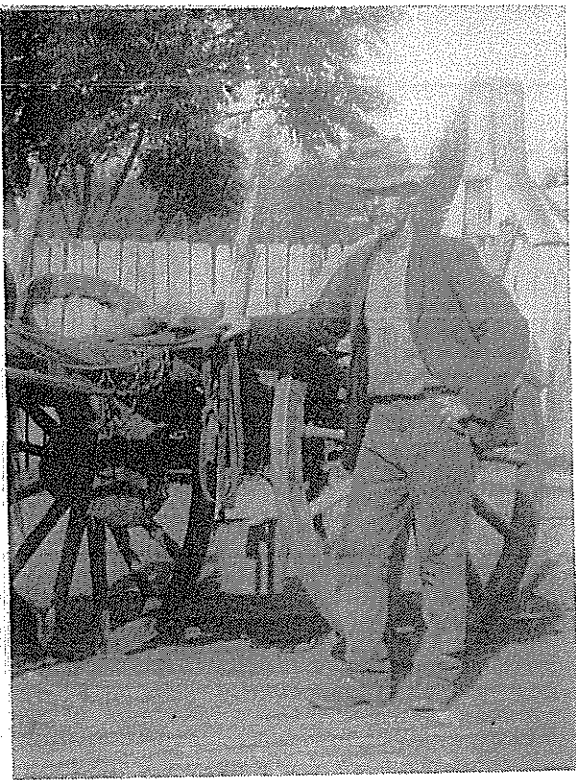
Cabramatta was also well known for its flooding, as the creek rose half way up Church Street and many rescues were made by wooden boats.

McBurney Road was named after Mr. McBurney who was a mayor, alderman and shopkeeper of Cabramatta. His wife is still living at the age of 96, and lived in Cabramatta for 80 years.

A shark attacked a swimmer in Cabramatta in 1925. The creek was famous for its swimming.

In 1920 the new rail links were opened and celebrations occurred as people could now have the advantage of enjoying transportation by train.

P. Clausen, 11H2.



The Hirsts operated the sawmill in early Cabramatta, attracting labour to the area (for instance, the Heckenbergs - see article elsewhere) and thereby encouraging settlement. The saw mill was where the library is now, and the Woolworths area used to be a grain store. One of their descendants, Ray Hirst, attended this school - as did his wife Rayma (O'Brien).

What are you doing now?

After leaving school I had several jobs - at Qantas, then pastry cook, then printer, finally as a pest controller. My wife is busy at home raising three children.

How was school different in the 1960's?

All the boys wore short hair and school uniforms. There were no jeans - you only got long pants when you were big enough "to be a man". The girls wore long dresses and roped petticoats.

We went to school on pushbikes - no one had cars.

School assemblies were near the Woodwork blocks and the canteen was the lockerroom. As we didn't have a school hall, night functions such as award nights were held at the Civic hall. There were no school dances, international days, discos - but we did have play nights, talent quests and fetes.

Classes were a lot bigger.

What are some of your school memories?

\* \* \*

Funniest? At a swimming carnival a boy rubbed chewing gum into my wife's hair. It was a terrible mess. On another occasion we found a picture of our English teacher in a modelling magazine wearing a bathing suit. When we showed it to her, she turned a brighter shade of red.

Saddest? For my wife, it was leaving school. To quote her - "they were the best days of my life". For me it was when I got my first pair of long pants to go to school with, and falling over, tearing a large hole in them.

Fondest? We both enjoyed just being there. My wife liked history lessons, I liked Geography and Science. We made stink bombs in Science for use later in the playground.

People who impressed? Some teachers were really good. The Metalwork teacher was great and Len Stacker was a football star even then. We had a first rate trampolining squad. Mr. Robinson was a great sports-master. The school was very sports oriented in its early years. We also had good divers and swimmers.

Regrets? Not being able to continue with school. In those days you didn't automatically stay on - father didn't think it was worthwhile. Many students were keen to get a job and a car as soon as they could leave school. We don't regret applying the school motto "STRIVING and SERVING" to our life situations.

J. Mountfort, 12H3.  
Vice Captain.



A PERSONAL REMINISCENCE

During the early years of World War II, Cabramatta remained a quiet little town which consisted of a post office, hardware store, sponge kitchen, a mixed fruiterer/groceries, two chemists, a dentist, doctor, milk bar delicatessen, men/boyswear shop, two barbers, radio shop, a grocer/haberdashery/manchester with some produce, a grocer/hardware/produce store, a cinema, Bank of N.S.W., a newspaper shop, one hotel and a saw mill.

Transport: rail (electric) bus service to Bonnyrigg (two buses), a very small car ownership, pushbikes, horse and sulkies, and shanks's pony.

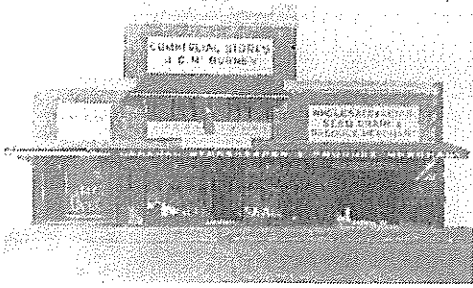
Life was quiet in general, and if one had money, perhaps a visit to the Cinema on Saturday night, or a dance would do for entertainment, both cost 1/6d (15¢) admission, 6d (5¢) for children, supper supplied at dances at no extra cost. School day followed school day, perhaps some days the pattern was broken by an army invasion of the grounds, or perhaps you arrived home from school to face down the barrel of a 25 pounder Howitzer, or become aware of soldiers lying in hiding - all in training! They would arrive during the day and often disappear into the dark nights. Most of the artillery was towed by horses. There were constant convoys (as the war progressed) of four-horse wagons driven by Italian P.O.W's in the maroon uniforms, flying between Moorebank and Walgrove via Mulgoa Road (Elizabeth Drive) - a dirt road which was not sealed until about 1943/44.

"Brown outs" were often the order of the evenings or "black out" (conserving the energy for war production). Radios were not in the possession of everyone, and if one broke down it would be months before parts to repair it could be obtained. The newspaper was the main source of news of the war and newsreels at the cinema.

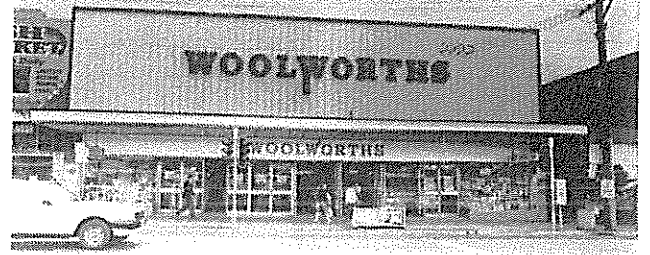
Prior to the war Warwick Farm was a race course as is today, but it served as an American army camp during the war. Negroes inside the course, and white Americans outside the track, all in tents. Hargreaves Park (opposite) was an airstrip but soon became an army area and later a hostel for European displaced people. The hostel (beside the school) came into being around 1945. Formerly the area was used for open warfare training (open area) and carried over into what is the school grounds, which were owned by a Mrs. Bull who had a small mixed business where the Vet surgery now stands.

Dwellings were scattered throughout the area (rather sparsely) in between patches of fairly dense tea tree scrub. On recollection, there were about twenty houses between the railway line and Bonnyrigg along Cabramatta Road, Church Street having some 12 houses and, perhaps, being one of the most populated. The shopping area started at the railway opposite the station and ended approx. at Park Road., with vacant blocks between most shops, and on the south side of Cabramatta Road for approx. 100 yards.





Woolworths Building 1935



Same building today

Most people travelled to places of employment at points from Granville to Sydney, or were lucky enough to work at Cablemakers or the Woollen Mills (now McGrath's Workshop) at Liverpool.

Organised sport didn't exist during the war years but started to appear afterwards. Cabramatta started a rugby league team and a cricket team, as did Mt. Pritchard, original home grounds being Cabramatta Park (beside the Police Boy's Club), then Lumm's Paddock (today's ovals off Sussex St.) and Cook Park for the Mounties respectively.

Many items were in scarce supply during and after the war. This created hardship for some, but our family rode out things reasonably well being lucky to have parents who had the attitude that, if something was not available, then we would do without or find a substitute; and we made do with what was available. Life for us was school and chores, the chores being tending fowls and ducks, a vegetable garden, and a cow - all part of achieving our self sufficiency.

The Cabramatta-Canley Vale (Cabra-Vale) area was dotted with residents, market gardens and poultry farms. Anyone could get work in the market gardens (10¢ per hour) as labour was short. These properties were mostly run by Yugoslavs and Italians. (There are relations of some of these people at Cabramatta High today).

Cabramatta-Canley Vale boasted a fire brigade, a town hall and an administration building and a power station (transformers), all being on the site of today's Police Boys' Club. Of these buildings only the administrative building remains, the weatherboard place on the corner of McBurney Rd. and Railway Parade. The double storied Council chambers (community centre)/library were completed about 1946/47 and served as the new municipal council building for the area including Fairfield (that council going bankrupt and being foisted on the Cabra-Vale council in 1948) until sometime later.

The R.S.L. building consisting of two ex barracks placed on the blocks (circa 1948) on the present site, a Tea tree swamp area, started the beginning of today's Digger's Club, "a club that would not succeed", being the cry of the day!

It is interesting to note that the residents were referred to as "moonshiners" for one or another reason, but the Mt. Pritchard area was an estate, which bore the name Moonshine. Meadows Road at one



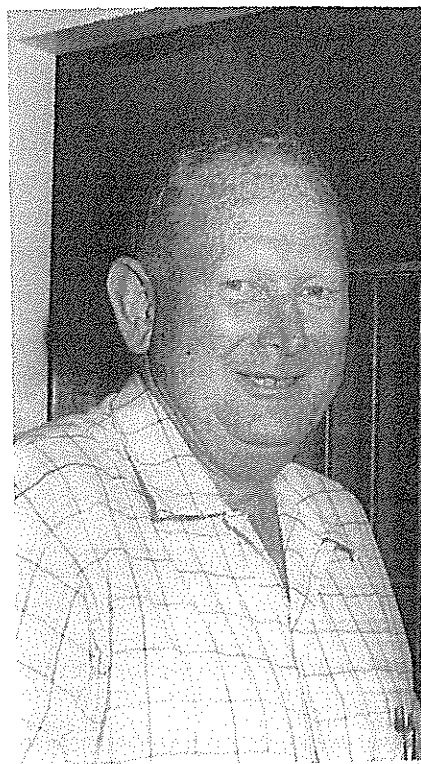
stage was called Moonshine Road.

I worked for J.G. McBurney in Cabramatta whose business was opposite the railway station. This business consisted of groceries, hardware/crockery (if available) and produce. My duties consisted of assembling grocery orders, counter service, assisting in the produce sections, assisting on deliveries, collecting grocer's orders and accounts by pushbike in an area bounded by Mulgoa Rd., Cabramatta Creek, Cowpasture Rd., Canley Vale Rd., east of the railway to the George's River bounded by Cabramatta Creek, and Little Orphan Creek. Unloading fodder from rail trucks and delivery trucks and the like, and ensuring that the spring cart was okay and the draught horse was fed and watered and that her shoes were in good order. Our deliveries were carried out by a truck for the larger runs (post war), horse and cart for the closer in runs, (horses and carts were used for all deliveries during the war) and some on pushbike, and by foot for those deliveries within easy walking distance.

In those days some of the prices were a pound of butter 2/2d (rose 8d in the year), average price for jam 1/6d except strawberry and blackberry 5/-, salt 1½d, sugar 4d, cheese 1/3d per pound, bacon 1/9d to 2/3d per pound, biscuits (when available) average 1/3d per pound, potatoes 2d per pound, onions 4d per pound, flour 3d per pound, wheat 2/- a bushel, bag of chaff approx. \$2. Tea, sugar and butter were all rationed items, together with all clothing. The collection of grocery orders and accounts and deliveries followed a strict routine - you were expected to be at certain places at a certain time, a cup of tea being supplied at a point about midway on the round, and no business was mentioned until the tea was made and served, this being the equivalent of today's morning/afternoon tea breaks and you were expected to be back at the shop at 12.30 for lunch and 5.15 p.m. prior to closing at 5.30 p.m. 9.00 a.m. start weekdays, 8.15 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. on Saturdays.

A. Birkett,  
I.A. Teacher

"Bull's Paddock" 1930's - now school grounds



# THE SCHOOL GROUNDS - BULL'S PROPERTY

We contacted the previous owners of the school grounds to ask them what the property looked like before the Department of Education got hold of it. This is what we were told.

\* \* \* \* \*  
School oval area 1929: Oats,

orchards and dairy cattle

occupied area.



The original cottage is now on  
corner of Maple and Bolivia Streets.

The property was originally used for growing crops, dairy farming and orchard purposes. Two cottages were erected on the lower portion of the land, one of which was moved to an allotment facing Cabramatta Road, in the 1920's. Then around 1949-50 it was shifted to where it now stands - on the corner of Bolivia and Maple Streets. Both were of weatherboard and iron roof construction. There used to be a well or bore for domestic water supply.

Somewhere around 1949-50 the property was sold to a syndicate of four persons for the purpose of a Residential Subdivision. It was named "Sunny Homes" estate. Some homes were constructed and foundations laid for others, then things came to a standstill for quite a while.

It was around 1953 rumours started that a hospital was going to be built on the lower part of the land, but nothing came of this, then about 1955-1956 the Education Department was rumoured to have acquired the land for a High School.

Ms. Derley  
 (Niece of four brothers who initially  
 owned the property).





The Editor wishes to thank Mr. Tim Prescott, Officer in Charge, Properties Branch, Liverpool Area Office - who kindly made Establishment and Accommodation Files available for perusal. Photostated documents were also made available by the Division of Planning, Department of Education Head Office.

# 1. A TWINKLE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S EYE

As early as Autumn 1955 the Department of Education became aware of the need for a new High School in the area. The earliest filed reference to this issue dates from 26/5/55: two departmental letters, identical except for the headings (one headed "GIRLS", the other "BOYS") -

## "LOAN PROGRAMME CABRAMATTA HIGH FOR BOYS

As a result of review for the loan Programme 1955/56 Mr. Inspector Gollan has commented in regard to the above school:

(1957)

A sketch plan should be prepared for the project, which is required by the date indicated....."

As the primary school population in the region increased, the need for a new high school became acute. A departmental survey recorded 13/2/56 states:

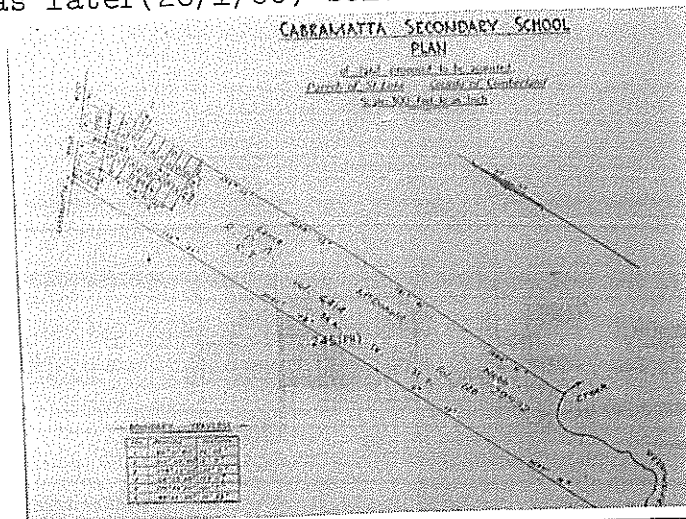
"On 25th January, 1956, Mr. Staff Inspector Gollan prepared a survey of accommodation of secondary pupils in 1956...the following is the relevant extract from the report:-

'Two new schools must be built during 1956 and 1957 on the Cabramatta site. Monocrete units will assist in getting State I ready for 1956.'

In April 1956 the necessary land was purchased as this letter to the Building Branch indicates:

"I desire to inform you that an area of 34 acres 1 rood 31 perches, within the Parish of St. Luke, County of Cumberland...was resumed for Secondary School purposes on the 13th April, 1956."

The area purchased included land up to Cabramatta Road along Grace Avenue, but this was later (28/1/60) sold for housing development.



\* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \*

Meanwhile, letters and telegrams poured in from P. & C. Associations, Teachers' Federation branches and other concerned groups indicating public concern that existing high schools would not be able to cope with the increasing number of students. This letter from the N.S.W. Teachers' Federation to the Minister for Education (Hon. R.J. Heffron), dated 11/7/56, is typical -

"Dear Mr. Heffron,

Representatives from teachers and parents in the Liverpool/ Cabramatta area express concern because the construction of the proposed new High School at Cabramatta is not yet under way.

A survey of the enrolment in the sixth classes in the schools in the area indicate that there will be approx. 1600 additional secondary pupils at the beginning of 1957.

Since all the High and Secondary schools available are already overcrowded, it is most urgent that the proposed High School at Cabramatta which is planned to accommodate these pupils, should be commenced immediately...."

Similar correspondence came from the Southern Metropolitan District Council of P. & C. Association, the Liverpool Primary School P. & C., the Bringelly P. & C., Canley Heights P. & C., the Fairfield West Progress Association, Fairfield P. & C., Lansdowne School of Arts, Fairfield Infants Staff, Fairfield Girls High School Federation branch, the Cabramatta West P. & C....

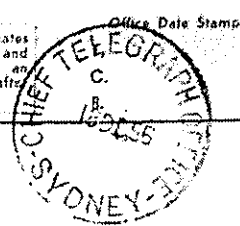
T.G. 42.

This Telegram has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations. The time received at this office is shown at the end of the message.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

TELEGRAM

This date stamp indicates the date of reception and lodgment also, unless an earlier date is shown after the time of lodgment.



Chl. No. Office of Origin. No. of Words. Time of Lodgment.

2. CABRAMATTA 24 11-30A

MR HEFFRON  
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION  
SYDNEY

WE REQUEST THAT STAGE ONE OF CABRAMATTA SECONDARY SCHOOL  
BE COMMENCED IMMEDIATELY  
CABRAMATTA WEST P AND C ASSOCIATION

11/57P DG

FOR ACTION  
(MINISTER)

*Mrs. J. Trasher  
Hon Sec.  
Phillip Av.  
Cabramatta*



The Department of Education acknowledged the crisis in this letter to the Building Branch (27/11/56) -

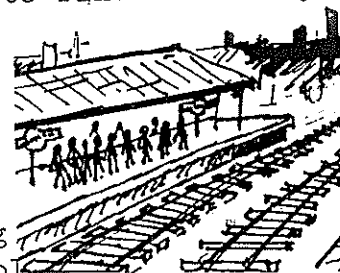


"The next major problem is that it is quite certain that this school (i.e. Cabramatta High) cannot be available for occupation in February 1957, nor until very late in 1957... This Committee came face to face with the fact that both High Schools at Liverpool and both High Schools at Fairfield cannot accommodate their pupils coming forward for 1957. What must be done in 1957 is to pack Liverpool Girls High School to the stage where 22 classes are formed for 989 girls. This is in a school which has but 10 classrooms and in which classes exceeding 50 have been in operation this year. For 1957 classes will be put in two hatrooms, in the Home Science Change Room, in the basement (2 classes) and in an open space over a stairway...."

On a personal aside, the editor remembers starting high school at Fairfield Boys' in 1958 when classes were held in little cloakrooms, teachers' studies, and - the highlight of each week - at the Girls' High School 5 minutes walk away ("Business Principles and Accounting"). Girls used to line the pathways for our approach, cheering us on, while our heads spun with figures....

Some of our students went as far afield as Birrong to find secondary schooling -

"...the realities of the 1957 position are that these schools finished up with considerably more pupils than were expected. They are at present seriously overcrowded, particularly Liverpool Boys' High School with 1243 pupils in a school built for 800. All surrounding schools are equally crowded... Birrong Home Science School was used to accommodate 165 girls drawn from Cabramatta." (Departmental letter dated 1957).



But where was the money going to come from? By December of that year, (1956), the Department decided that Cabramatta High was priority number one -

"Attention is invited to the statement of 28th November, 1956, the submission of the Coordinating officer....

- \* suggesting that the proposed Rydalmere Secondary project
- \* be deferred and the saving of approx. £75,000 be diverted
- \* to permit commencement of work on the new high school at
- \* Cabramatta early in the new year.
- \* The previous statements have adequately confirmed the
- \* urgency of the Cabramatta High School project and the local
- \* interest displayed in this matter is evidenced by the
- \* number of representations made within the last fortnight".
- \* (Departmental letter to Building Branch 28/12/56)

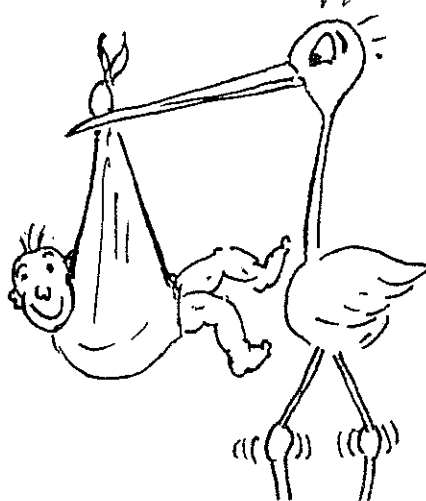


In the new year of 1957 the Minister for Education (R.J. Heffron) was able to write to the Cabramatta West P. & C. in the following terms:

"...You will be pleased to learn that following a re allocation of Loan monies for secondary projects for the balance of the financial year, it has been possible to release sufficient funds to enable an early start to be made on the Cabramatta High School..." (dated 11/1/57)

Cabramatta High was on it way!

## 2. BOY, GIRL, OR NEUTER?



The unfortunate geography of the school (with its enormous distances between Maths and English classes, for instance) is a legacy of our first identity crisis. Should the school be co-educational or a split boys' and girls' school? This issue was not clearly decided in our formative years.

The first references indicate that two separate schools were planned: the Boys' in the north (near Aladore Avenue); the Girls' in the south (near the current oval). However there was no money or time to finish both schools simultaneously, so right from the start existing buildings had to cater for mixed groups -

"The Director of Secondary Education has concurred in a recommendation for the establishment of a coeducational High School at Cabramatta to cater for all classifications of pupils from its natural feeder area..."

The Director...also concurred in the schedule...by the growth of the co-educational school to a Boys' school and the later construction of a Girls' High School on the same site..." (Departmental letter 8/3/56)

So the school was meant to be split up eventually. However, by 1957 the Department was not so certain:-

"Provision was made when drawing up the plans for the school for dissecting the present school buildings into separate Boys' and Girls' High Schools if enrolments at a later date warranted the establishment of separate schools..."

(Departmental letter to Building Branch 8/4/57)

This vexing issue - separate schools or co-educational - reared its head on virtually every aspect of planning -





"This proposed girls' toilet block will need to be carefully sited. It may have to serve the contemplated separate Girls' High School. If this school is not approved, the proposed toilet block would have to continue to serve a co-educational school. Assuming that a separate girls' school will be established, toilet provisions should be made for a final enrolment of 950 girls and 35 staff." (Departmental memo to Building Branch 28/1/58).

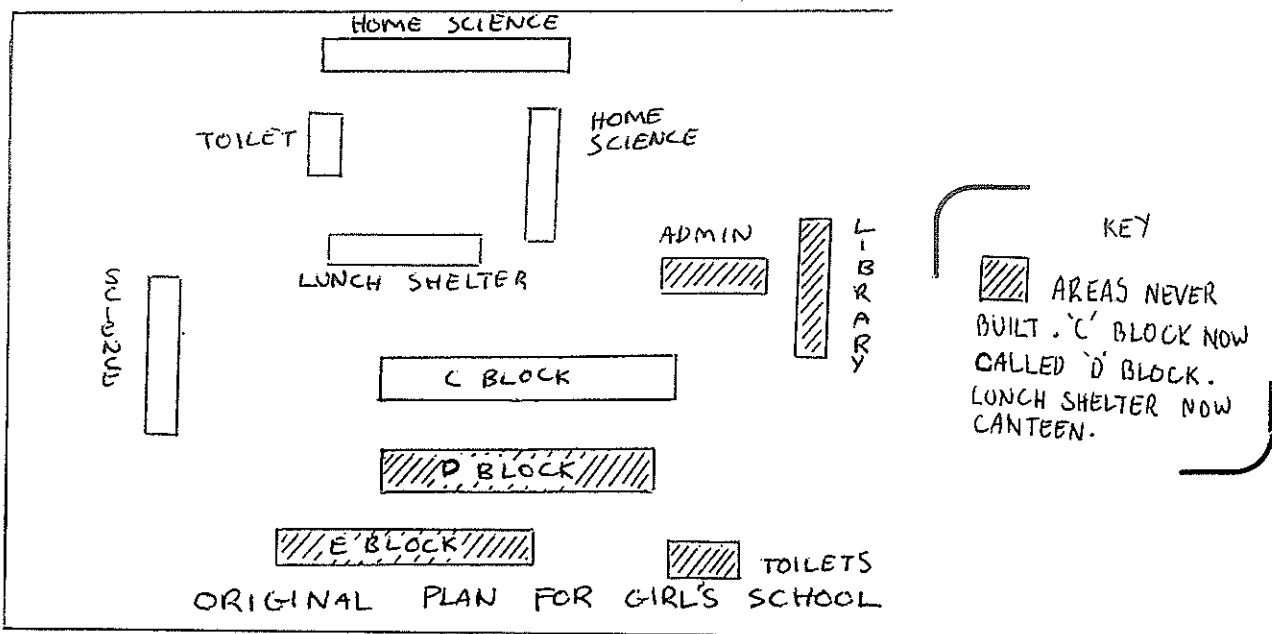
As late as 1959, one year after the school had opened, a departmental memo (20/3/59) could still state:

"...it is considered that the solution must be the same as that adopted at Blacktown, viz, run a co-educational school for as long as possible, build the additional accommodation in conformity with a master plan which envisages an ultimate split into Girls' High School and Boys' High School and then make the change at the appropriate time..."

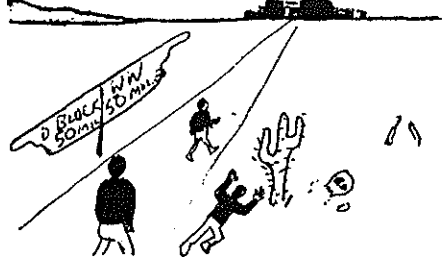
By 1960 this idea of splitting the school was abandoned, as a hand written footnote to a letter from the regional Secretary to Staff. Inspector Gollan indicates -

"The original idea of a separate Girls' High School on the site has been abandoned in favour of retaining a co-educational High School in existing buildings..." (18/2/60)

It was cheaper this way, and the school missed out on projected classroom blocks near the oval -



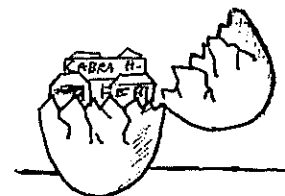
Unfortunately, though, we still have to walk from the Maths block to Metalwork because we were meant to be two high schools!



### 3. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Initially the Department of Education expected the High School to open in 1957, or possibly even late 1956 -

"Two new schools must be built during 1956 and 1957 on the Cabramatta site. Monocrete units will assist in getting Stage I ready for 1956".  
(13/2/56 Departmental letter)



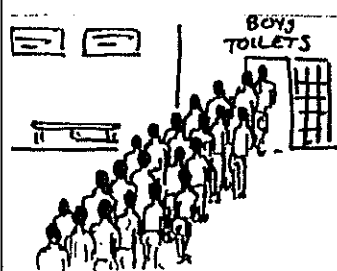
Moreover, the Girls' High School should have been ready by 1959:

"Projects essential for 1959 ... Cabramatta Girls' High School".  
(Departmental letter on Secondary Accommodation dated 6/6/56).

When Monier Builders Pty. Ltd. submitted their tender for Stage I on 25/10/56 they sounded optimistic also -

"The tender is in the sum of £116,679....Every effort will then be made to enable occupation of that building to be taken in February, 1957..."

However, the money problem mentioned earlier meant a delay of one year. In the meanwhile Moniers supplied an additional tender for £93,360 to increase the scope of the school (Stage II). The combined plans called for two classroom blocks (now A and B blocks), two manual arts blocks, home science block, science block (top end of school), library (now E.S.L. block) and shelter block. The toilet block (now boys' toilet) was split into girls' and boys' sections. The last building mentioned posed further difficulties as this Parramatta Education Office memo of 12/12/57 suggests:



"The main problem of this school is one of the connection of sewerage. The toilet blocks have been completed but as yet it is not certain whether it will be possible to connect them to the sewer. The proposal is that the connections will be made to the sewerage scheme operating in the adjacent Migrant Hostel. Some doubt exists as to whether this scheme is capable of taking the extra load..."

Undeterred, the school opened on 28th January, 1958, with an enrolment of 477 first year pupils, and Mr. J. McDonnell as the principal. The following year (on 6th March 1959) the Hon. R.J. Heffron, M.L.A., Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, opened the school officially. By then the school population had risen to 888 pupils and 32 teachers. Part of the Minister's speech read:

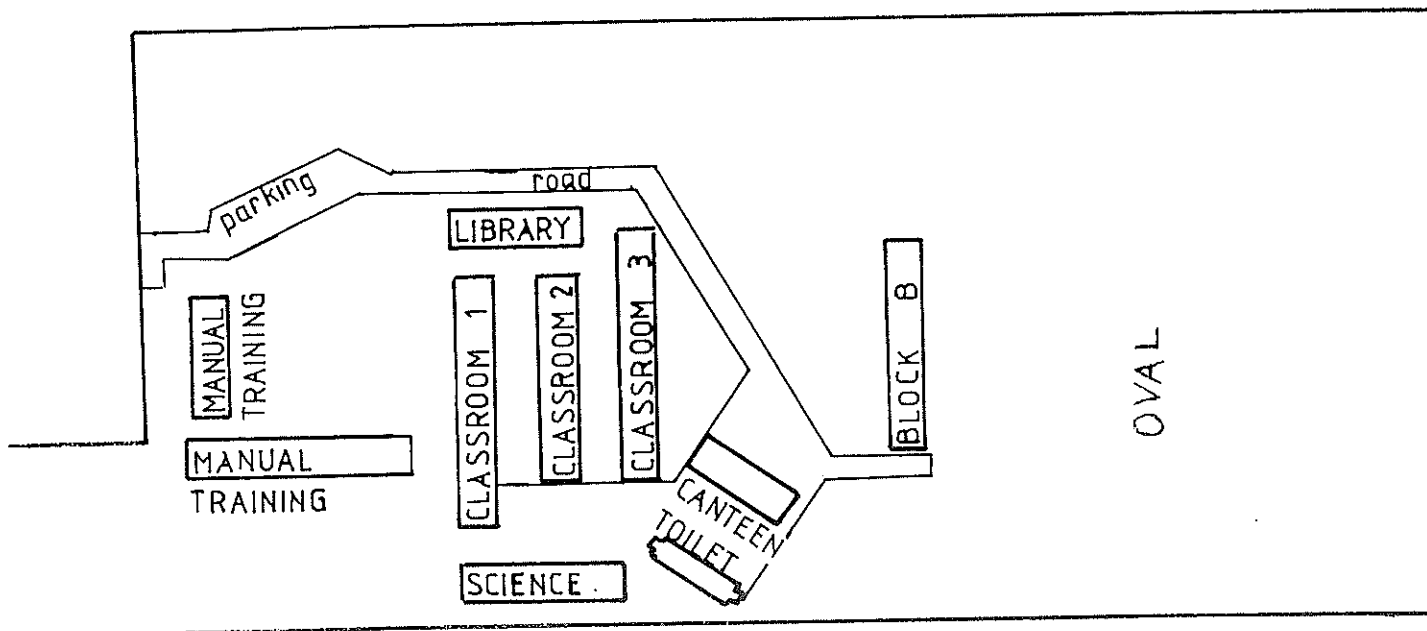


"Over £280,000 has been required for the establishment of Cabramatta High School...There are many features of this school which could be mentioned, one of the most important being the careful use of colour schemes both in classrooms and corridors...Already, Cabramatta High can look back on a most successful play night and an impressive speech day... Your representatives have especially distinguished themselves in athletics and tennis...while within the classrooms practical effect is being given to the school motto



'Striving and Serving'...I therefore have much pleasure indeed in declaring it officially open."

We were on our way!



#### 4. TEETHING PROBLEMS

The school was continually changing, not only from two single sex schools to a co-educational school, but also from a small high school to a large one. The Accommodation Plans of 12/7/60 revealed the growth rate:

"STAGE 1 Classroom Block  
Science Block  
Manual Training Block  
Toilet Block  
Shelter & Food Prep. Unit  
Commenced 15/2/57  
Occupied 28/1/58

STAGE 2 Manual Training Block (No. 2)  
Classroom Block (No. 2)  
Home Science Block  
Library Block  
Commenced 1/10/57  
Occupied 28/ 1/58

STAGE 3 Classroom Block(No.3)  
Art and Music Block  
Toilet Block(Girls)  
Shelter Block  
Commenced 1/8/58  
Occupied 23/2/59

STAGE 4 (Classroom Block(No.4)  
(Science Block (No. 2)  
1. (Home Science Block(No.2)  
2. Administration Block  
Commenced 18/9/59  
Occupied (1) Feb; (2) May 1960

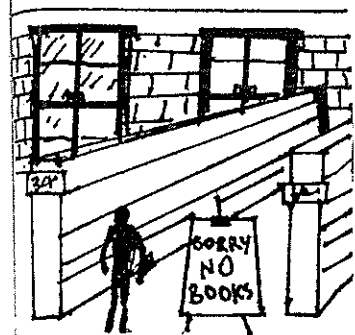
STAGE 5 Covered Ways  
Amenities Block  
Extension of all existing toilet facilities  
Plans requested 12/7/60".

All this activity caused a few problems and some confusion. In the first few months we had metalwork rooms with electrical equipment



inoperative, a library without books, home science rooms without stoves. A Départemental memo headed "New Buildings" reads:

"This school was again visited on 16th April to check on the completion of the buildings...Three drills have been supplied...one has been wrongly installed in one of the woodwork rooms while the other two are waiting installation in the metalwork rooms...The school is still awaiting the supply of library books...The Home Science Block was occupied during the 4th week in February. In the first kitchen, 3 gas and 2 electric stoves have been installed. The 4th gas stove has been supplied in error, and is to be exchanged for an electric range...In the second kitchen, 2 electric stoves have yet to be delivered and installed..."

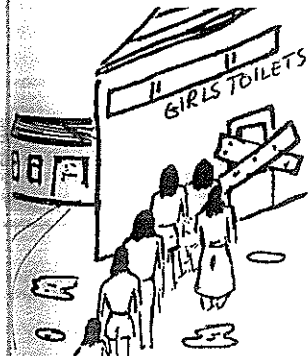


Moreover, the playground was dangerously strewn with tree stumps, and extremely muddy in wet weather. Because the hooter faced the wrong direction, children could not hear it in the playground. Because there was no school gate, "cars cross the school grounds to reach the adjacent hostel". (Memo to Public Works 16/3/59). There was a large, semi concealed well between the hostel and the school which was "a possible source of danger to children". (Public Works memo 17/12/59) Except for one empty area outside the manual arts blocks, most of the area was fresh ground. The headmaster wrote in July 1962 -

"In wet weather the movement of staff and pupils - sometimes 200 yards - every 40 minutes results in damp or very wet clothes, and the slippery clay surface introduces danger and discomforts..."



There were no showers or change rooms - "boys or girls are required to use the toilets as change rooms before and after physical education lessons..." (headmaster to Director 11/5/60). The school was not fenced off, and this encouraged vandals to come in. The P. & C. wrote to the Minister for Education (15/5/61) in the following terms: "...three of our fathers are patrolling the school during vacation to try and stop vandalism, but they cannot be there all the time..." New buildings brought new problems to sort out. The following information is from an inspection report dated 19/2/59 -



"...the music room has not been furnished...No art tables have been provided...The chalk board has not been fitted into position...the two G.A. rooms separated by a folding partition have not been furnished...the Staff Study has not been furnished...The third G.A. room and the Geography room have been furnished but no chalk board provided...The girls' toilet block is apparently finished but, as it was locked and the Headmaster has not received the key, a full inspection could not be made."

We salute our pioneers! How did they ever cope?

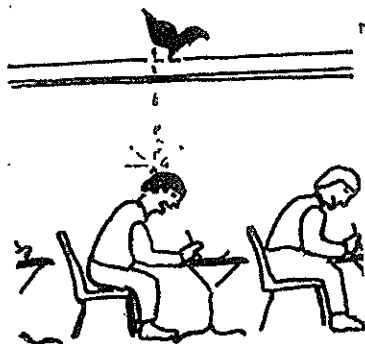




## 5. MATURITY 24

After these initial problems were solved, the school went from strength to strength. A second school assembly area was approved - "Approval has been granted...to prepare an estimate for the provision of a second school assembly area adjacent to the home science block... against the 1961/2 Loans Vote." (Department of Public Works letter 13/12/60).

An Assembly Hall was contemplated as early as 1961, "to hold functions, the sitting of examinations and for dramatic work, for our pupils have not a hall in our district". (P. & C. to Minister for Education 26/4/61). Funds were released in the same year for this project and plans called for. However, money problems and drainage of the site meant postponement for several years. In August 1965 the Siting Committee was still saying "...considerable drainage and ground improvement works should be undertaken at this school...The Hall to be erected...will provide seating for approx. 860 persons...". The Assembly Hall was eventually finished, occupied on the 28/2/68, with only a few trifling matters to fix up, viz

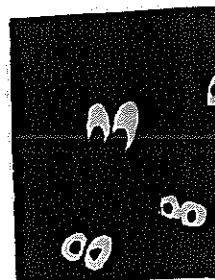
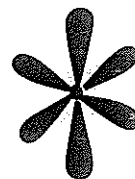
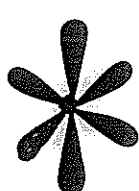


"During the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Exams held in our Assembly Hall in 1971 several candidates were inconvenienced by pigeon droppings from the six fan vents in the ceiling..." (Principal to Director 14/2/72).

While the Assembly Hall project was being debated, the school acquired its cricket pitches (1961), its tennis courts (approved 1963), change and shower rooms (approved 1961, but in 1963 the P. & C. were still complaining "there is absolutely no provision what-so-ever for either staff or students to shower after a period of Physical Education..."), lighting in the Needlework block (the principal complains in 1965 "During the recent wet weather the problem of lighting in the Needlework, Art and Music Rooms...became acute once more. I wish therefore to apply for the installation of lights..."). Once this was granted, the school became bolder and asked for lights for the Biology Block as well -

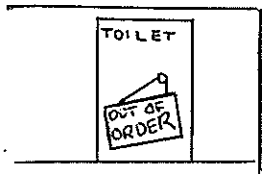
"There are no lights in the Biology Section of the Cabramatta Evening College...I wish to make application for at least two sets of fluorescent lights..." (Evening College to Department 3/10/66).

Biology lessons in the dark? Just what went on in those days?



The boys' toilet block was fixed up in 1968 - ever since the girls had moved out, one half of the block had been used as a storeroom. Now it was cleaned up, repainted and opened both ends.

The last major addition to the school was the Library/Science complex. In 1970 the school was informed that we would get one of these, at the cost of \$254,883. Siting and draining problems caused unexpected delays - "excessive work was necessary to relocate both the sewerage mains and power lines and a resultant delay occurred..." (Departmental letter 28/2/74). Strikes, wet weather, and shortage of materials aggravated the problem. The building was officially handed over on the 17th September, 1975. Early the next year Public Works were still rectifying these problems (amongst others) -



"...refrigerator door jamming in Preparation Room 6... doors jamming Lab. 5 and Prep. Room 5...Lab. 8, 2 gas turrets not working...leaks have occurred in following areas: group discussion room 1, mezzanine level under air vent, on bottom floor below cracked window...handle broken on front door...". And the male toilet was not operating. Still, it was a magnificent building, and

the old library could be converted to a Staff Common Room.

In 1976 some \$35 thousand were spent on Administration Block alterations, conversions in the Old Library, the building of a larger English Staffroom in 'B' block, a storeroom adjacent to old Music Room 2, and a Laundry. In 1977 the old 'A' Block English Staffroom became a security room. In 1980 work was started on the Industrial Arts Garage (to be completed by the Golden Jubilee?)

What would the school look like now IF WE HAD

- a) A Bus Terminal in the School Grounds? (proposed and considered by the Department in 1959).
- b) A "large lockable bicycle shed"? (proposed by headmaster 1963)
- c) Playground area right up to Cabramatta Road along Grace Avenue? (sold 1960)
- d) Covered ways from the Admin Block right down to 'D' block, girls toilet and lower Science block? (planned 1961, but partly abandoned later).
- e) The hostel removed? (proposed by teaching staff in 1963)
- f) Another doorway in the ESL block facing the Hall or car park? (proposed by principal in 1967)
- g) The Library/Science block south or north of the Assembly Hall?

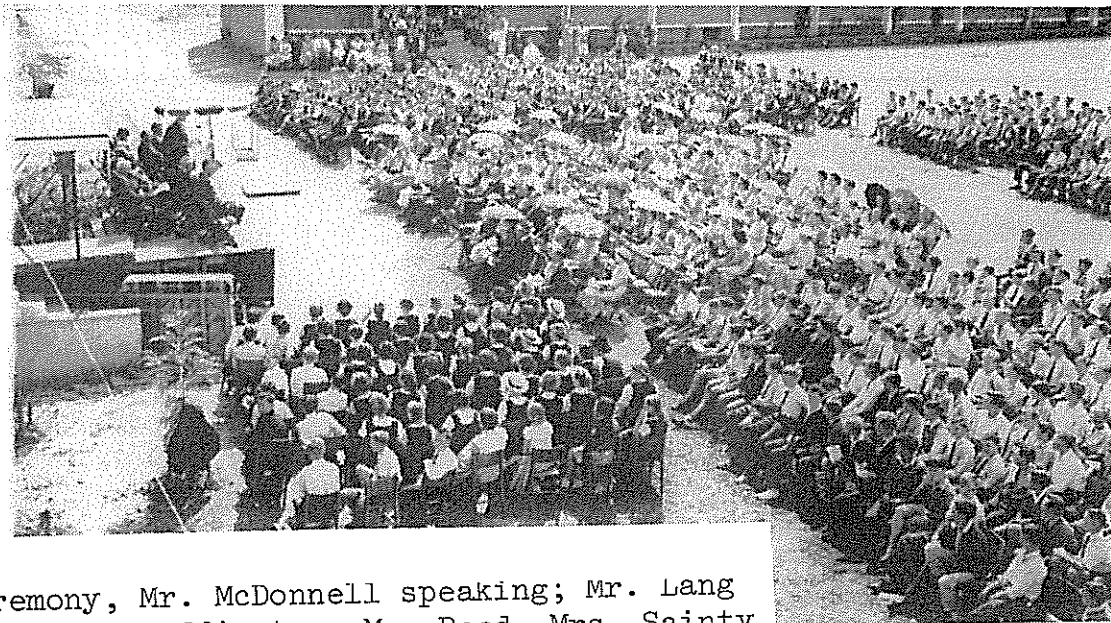


What changes will there be in the next 25 years? Only the historians will know, although the geographers claim to know the lay of the land....



W. Smythe,  
History Master,  
Editor.

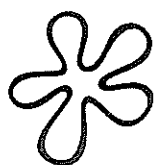




1959 opening ceremony, Mr. McDonnell speaking; Mr. Lang middle right; find Mr. Reddington, Mr. Reed, Mrs. Sainty (Clements) - pupils at time.



1959, March 6th: Mr. McDonnell speaks at official opening ceremony. Mr. Whitlam on left; Mr. Heffron left of table; deputy P. Piper in between both.

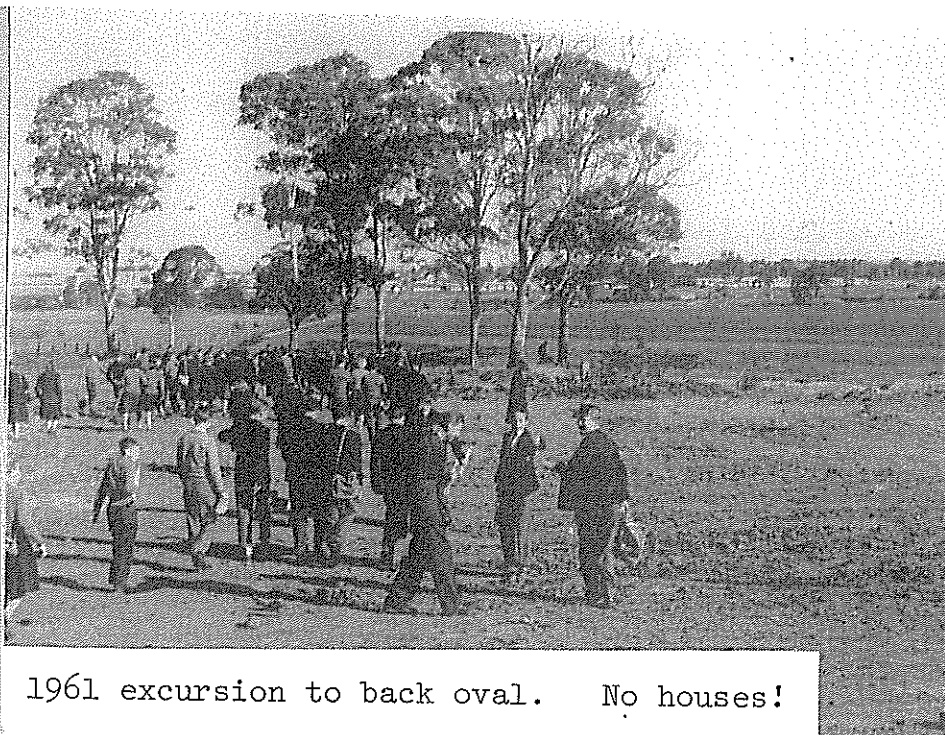
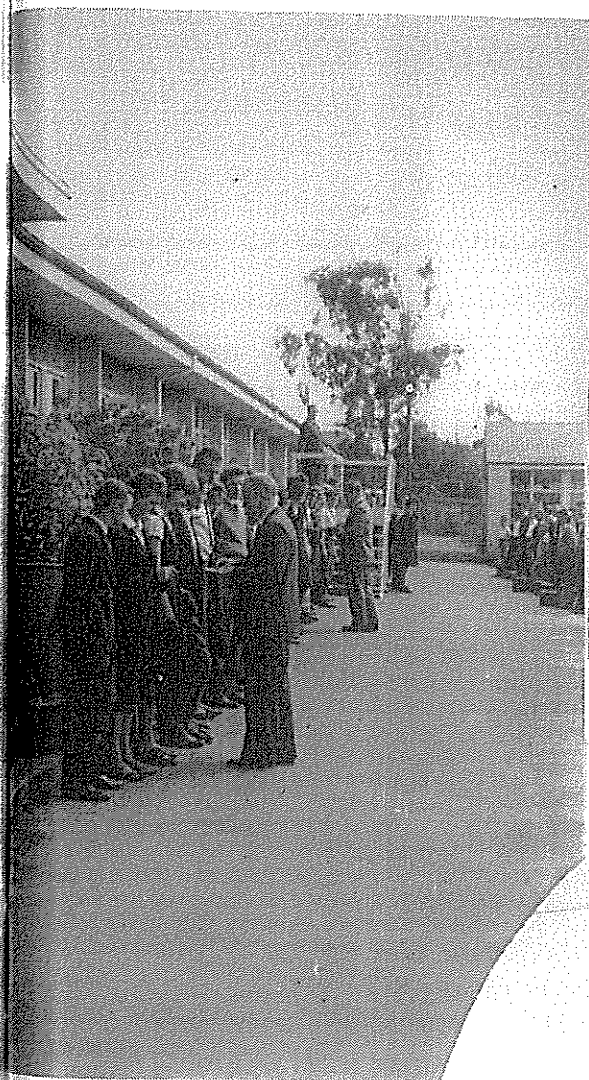


Minister for Education (Mr. Heffron) officially open school 1959. Mr. Whitlam (local member) far right, Mr. McDonnell (1st principal) next to him.

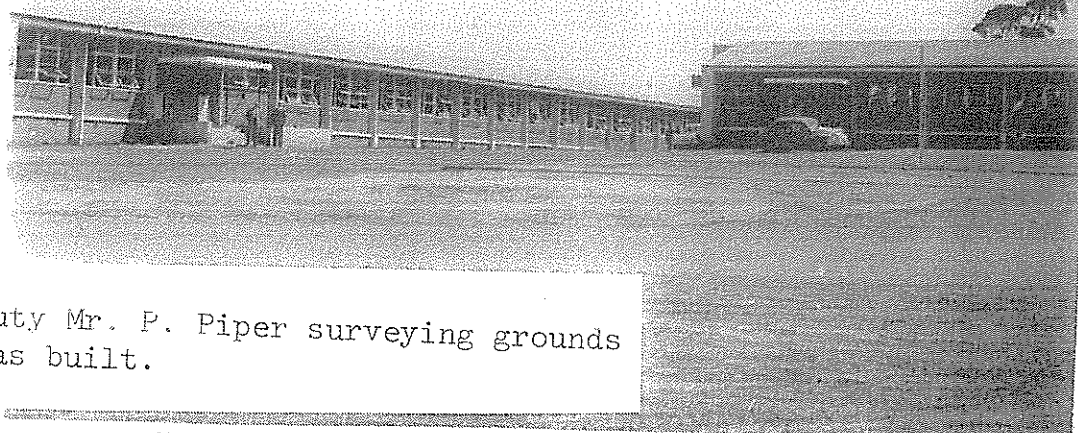
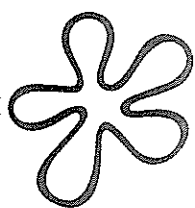




School Assembly in Industrial Arts quadrangle, late 1950's. Class captains in front.



1961 excursion to back oval. No houses!



Mr. McDonnell and deputy Mr. P. Piper surveying grounds before Admin. Block was built.



Home Science 1958. Note uniforms. 1st school captain top left.



FOOTNOTE

We contacted Mrs. Trasler, the Secretary of the Cabramatta West Primary P. & C. during the years 1956-7, and signatory to the telegram mentioned in the article above. Does she remember why residents of Cabramatta felt so strongly about the need for a local high school? She replied -

"Parents were concerned that their children had to travel by train to Fairfield or Liverpool for secondary education. Girls electing a Home Science course had to go as far afield as Birrong. Also, the growth of migrant population at the hostel and the development of Housing Commission homes meant that there were many more young families coming into the area".



THE NEW LIBRARY-SCIENCE BLOCK WITH RUSSELL AND FRIENDS

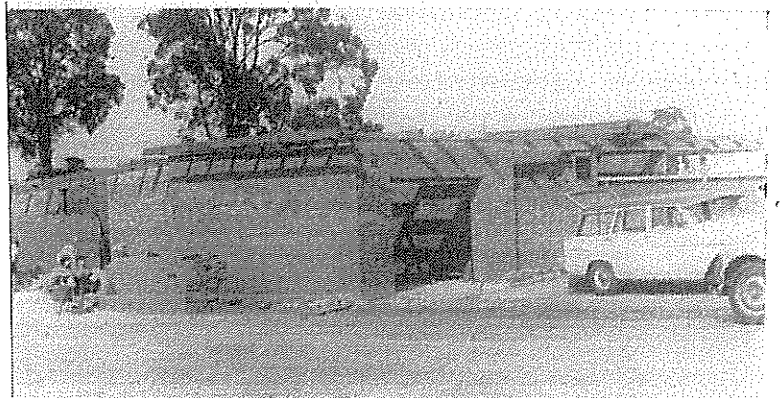


\* \* \*

School grounds mid 1960's  
no hall, no portables, no  
Library/Science block...  
← just wide open spaces.



THE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL APPROACHES ITS FINISHING STAGES



THE AMENITIES BLOCK — Showing Progress in Construction in September, 1965





AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR FIRST PRINCIPAL,  
MR. McDONNELL.

What were some of the early problems?

They related to nearly 500 First Year boys and girls and a small staff. Certainly here was an established suburb partly prepared to identify itself with a new high school but about 200 of the 500 were drawn from distant suburbs and included many recently arrived migrants.

Wanted urgently were text and library books, school uniform for boys and girls, developed playing fields, sporting equipment, some attractive gardens, mothers

willing to organise and man a canteen and more buildings erected.

Where was your office?

The principal's office was a temporary arrangement. I did not have to worry about a clerical assistant; there was none. Also I was my own telephonist.

Who decided the details about school uniforms?

A meeting of parents was called to establish school uniforms for boys and girls. The formation of a P. & C. Association followed. As did the formation of an active Ladies Auxiliary. Mr. Bill Carr was the P. & C's first president.

How did these early classes operate?

Classes were very large. I remember one class of 53, another of 61 and waiting months for replacement of staff. The large classes did not dampen the enthusiasm of the small staff who showed great interest in sport, music, drama, some class gardens and even encouragement of preparations for the annual fete. Striving and Serving was our motto. It almost became Striving, Serving and Rejoicing.

Was the school well established by 1959?

In 1959 the school population rose to nearly 900 pupils.

Additional buildings appeared and new subjects were introduced to the courses of study.

The feature of the year was the official opening of the school by the Minister of Education, the Hon. R.J. Heffron M.L.A. on March 2nd. It was held in the quadrangle in the presence of Mr. E.G. Whitlam and Mrs. E.G. Whitlam, the Hon. N.J.M. Mannix (Minister for Justice), the Mayor, Ald. K. Howiek, Area Director of Education, Mr. J. Evans, Rev. H.H. Davison, the Principal, Mr. J. McDonnell and Mrs. McDonnell, members of staff, parents and pupils.

How did students participate in school organisation?

An associated feature of importance was the introduction of the prefect system with maximum self government and pupil participation. A system



intended to emphasise the school's faith in its prefects, captains and senior students.

When did the school song start?

The school song was finalised about 1960.

Where did the school perform its early plays etc.?

For annual play nights, school ball and speech days, because we lacked a hall, it was necessary to hire the local town hall and transport equipment more than half a mile for rehearsals and performances. These activities were very helpful for the wider educational and cultural development of our students. An excellent feature of the 1962 Play Night was the school's presentation of Gilbert & Sullivan's Opera "Trial by Jury".

Is it true that Bonnyrigg High was actually born at Cabramatta?

Yes, we had the experience and extra work associated with holding a group of "boarders" (Form 1 pupils in this case, for another new high school, Bonnyrigg). This necessitated keeping separate records and the unenviable distinction of introducing another school uniform. The following year we failed to lose our "boarders" - Bonnyrigg was not yet ready. So we "accommodated" the new school (Forms 1 & 2 and staff) for a number of weeks pending completion of its buildings. The use of sheltered or shady patches of the playground were favourite teaching spots at this time in our history.

Did the school do well, academically?

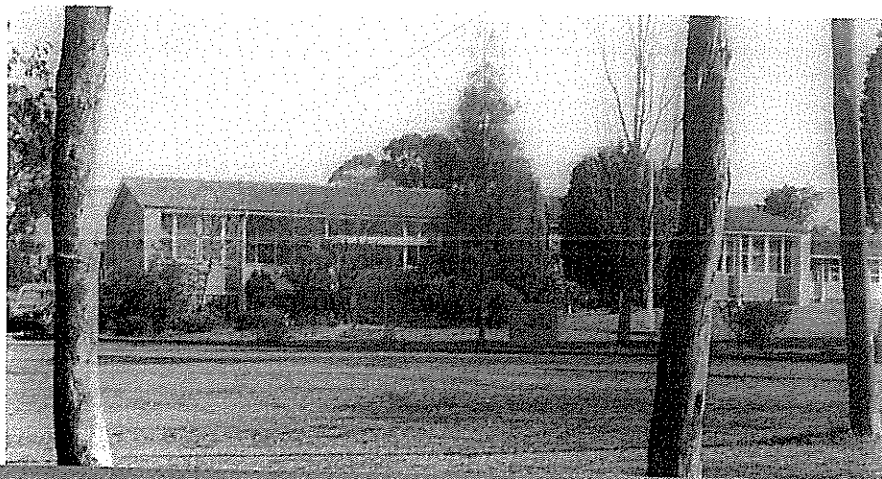
Yes, special congratulations to the school's first Leaving Certificate candidates of whom 95% passed and eleven gained coveted Commonwealth Scholarships. As pioneer students they were also leaders in school service and extra curricula activities.

Did the school offer a range of non academic activities?

The school continued to offer a wide range of subjects - examination and non-examination. An amazing staff continued their keen interest in all sports, drama, music, debating and art and achieved fame in outstanding trampoline displays over a wide area. Their formation of the ex-students association was a notable achievement.

When did you leave this school?

With mixed feelings my wife and I left Cabramatta at the end of 1963. Fortunately we have had the pleasure of renewing acquaintances on a number of occasions with several members of staff and ex students.







## 1958 - MY FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

### Mr. Reddington Remembers....

In January 1980 I returned to the school as the Industrial Arts Master and I could not help but look back on my first day as a student way back in 1958.

What a difference. There were only First Year students (Year 7) and the school was co-educational - something unusual in those days as most of the schools were separate Boys and Girls High Schools.

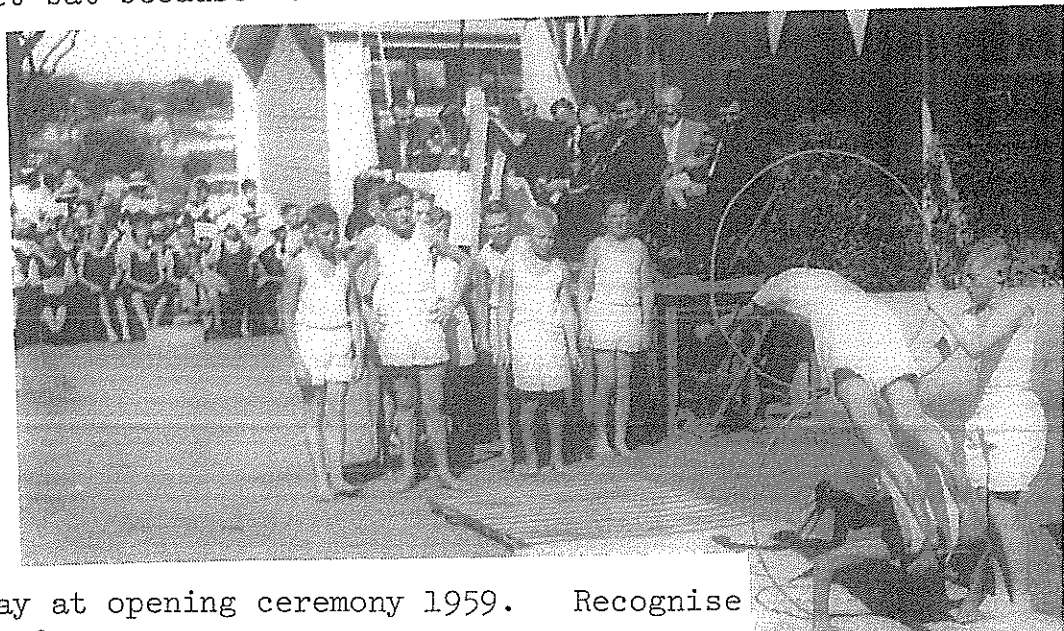
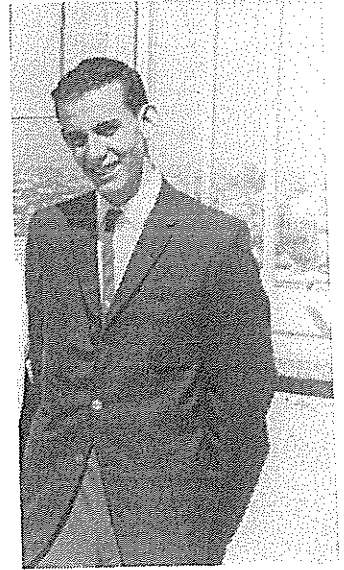
There were very few buildings and a lot of red clay. There were very few paths and so when it rained a few weeks later the place was a mess.

The students came from Cabramatta, Cabramatta West, Canley Vale, St. John's Park, Villawood and even one student from Kemp's Creek Primary School. So the first day was characterised by groups of students from each school congregating for security. As the days progressed these groups broke up and we became members of Cabramatta High School.

There was no official school uniform but it was not long before the P. & C. met and school colours of green, maroon and grey were decided upon. In six months most of the school was in school uniform.

The school was small by today's standards and the the original plan for separate Boys and Girls High Schools was a nuisance even in those days. The Industrial Arts and Home Science blocks were there; A, B, and C blocks; the library was in the present E.S.L. block; the Canteen was in the building used by the General Assistants and the boys' toilets were divided into two parts - one for the boys and the other for the girls.

There was very little sporting equipment so it meant that you too your own cricket bat because for a while the school did not have any gear.



Tumbling display at opening ceremony 1959. Recognise our future stars?

### The Beginning

You could say there was a P. & C. here before there was a school. Official meetings were recorded from 19th June, 1958, usually with about twenty parents present.

The first projects concerned making the school more presentable. An oval with seating arrangements and fences would be desirable. Pathways from Cabramatta Road to the school were another objective. Parents were also concerned about vandalism - a burglar alarm system was financed through the P. & C.

Fetes, door knock appeals and a family donation scheme raised a lot of money (over \$1300) towards an oval.

### The 1960's

The P. & C. tried to have the normal facilities provided for the school. The Department of Education was petitioned for an assembly hall, an amenities block, tennis courts, sporting and library equipment.

They were particularly concerned about the muddy conditions in the school on wet days - there was a special drive to get better pathways in the school.

Fetes were very popular - they usually raised over \$2,000, sometimes \$3,000. A lot of this money went on subsidising excursions, providing audio visual aids to various faculties and helping deck out the Hall when it was completed (for instance the piano cost \$850).

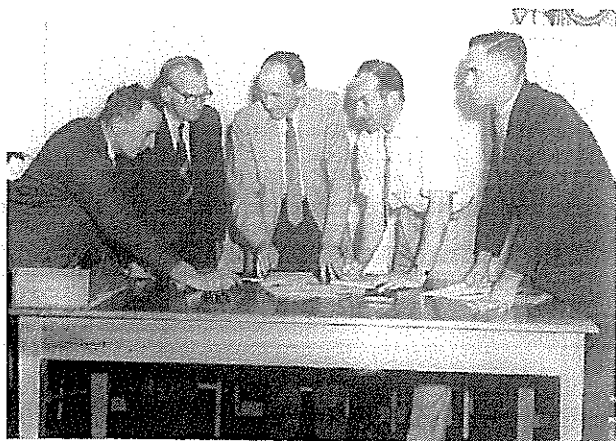
### The 1970's

With the accelerated emphasis in technological teaching techniques, the P. & C. funded duplicators, projectors, and a host of audio-visual aids. Sporting equipment (e.g. the trampoline) was also improved.

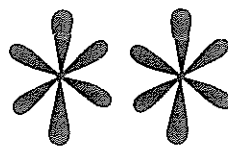
Fetes and fund raising projects helped equip the new Science/Library block.

### The 1980's

The P. & C. continues to take a strong interest in all affairs of the school. Equipment difficult to obtain through other sources is provided for by the P. & C. The P. & C. also helped finance this book.



Kay Renwick,  
P. & C. Secretary.



Mr. McDonnell with 1st P. & C. 1958



# THE CANTINA



The school canteen has always been an essential and somewhat special component of Cabramatta High. However, many of its most ardent consumers are not aware that, before 1968, there were two canteens, one for the boys and one for the girls because the school was originally planned to be a boys and girls school and Mr. McDonnell, the Headmaster at the time, was in favour of a co-ed school. However, neither canteen was considered big enough for the entire school so they kept both canteens.

The former boys' canteen is located behind C block and next to the boys' toilets. Since then it has been used as a makeshift gymnasium, a locker room and Domenic's hideout.

Mrs. Mirfin, as canteen operator, has been closely associated with the school since 1959. During our interview, she recounted some interesting stories, and a few funny ones too.

For example there was the time she made a special order for Mr. Newton who has since left the school. It seems he used to complain perpetually about the condition of his sandwiches. In retaliation, she made him a "practical joke" roll. This special order included ends of onions, outside lettuce leaves, ends of tomatoes, a milk bottle top and cigarette butts. It was all held together by sticky tape and string. What a mouthful! The most unusual food order was a tuna sandwich ordered by a P.E. teacher, Miss King. As every canteen creature knows, a 'normal' tuna sandwich consists of tuna and vinegar. But the tuna sandwich that met its fateful end in Miss King's iron cast stomach had vanilla essence with vinegar and tuna. Another flight into imagination and we will leave it at that.

Just for fun, we asked for some early prices of food and the following is a passable comparison of the two periods.

|                | <u>1960's</u> | <u>1980's</u>                      |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| salad rolls    | 10¢           | 60¢                                |
| pies           | 12¢           | 60¢                                |
| flavoured milk | 15¢           | 42¢                                |
| milk shakes    | 12¢           | 60¢                                |
| chips          | 5¢            | 30¢                                |
| cream buns     | 5¢            | (not available in canteen now) 50¢ |

Overall, the changes in the school canteen have been for the better. The canteen has now moved from selling quite unhealthy food (e.g. lollies, soft drinks, etc.) to more nutritious food for a healthier, balanced diet for Cabra High students.

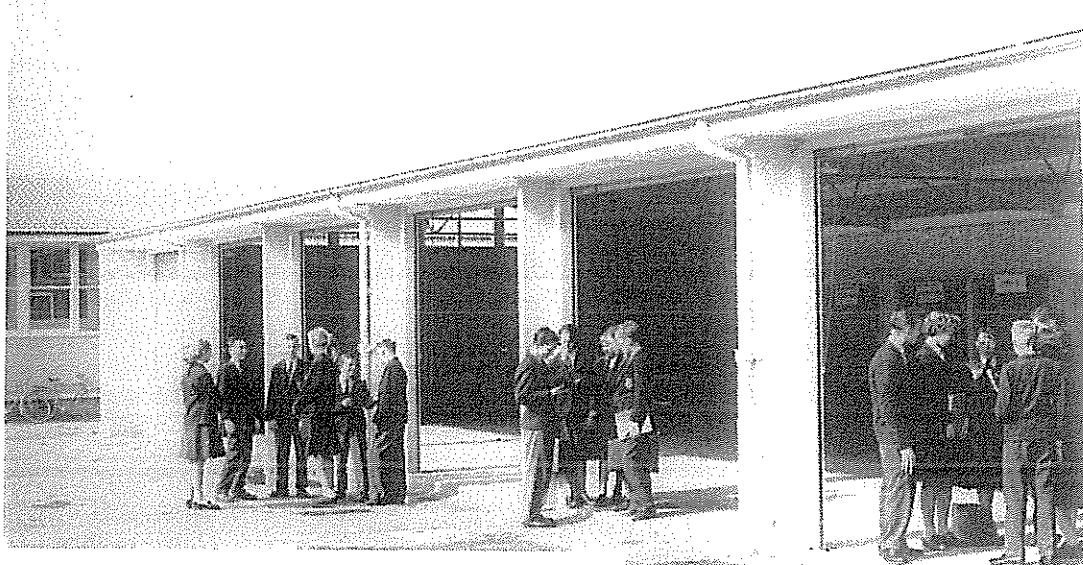
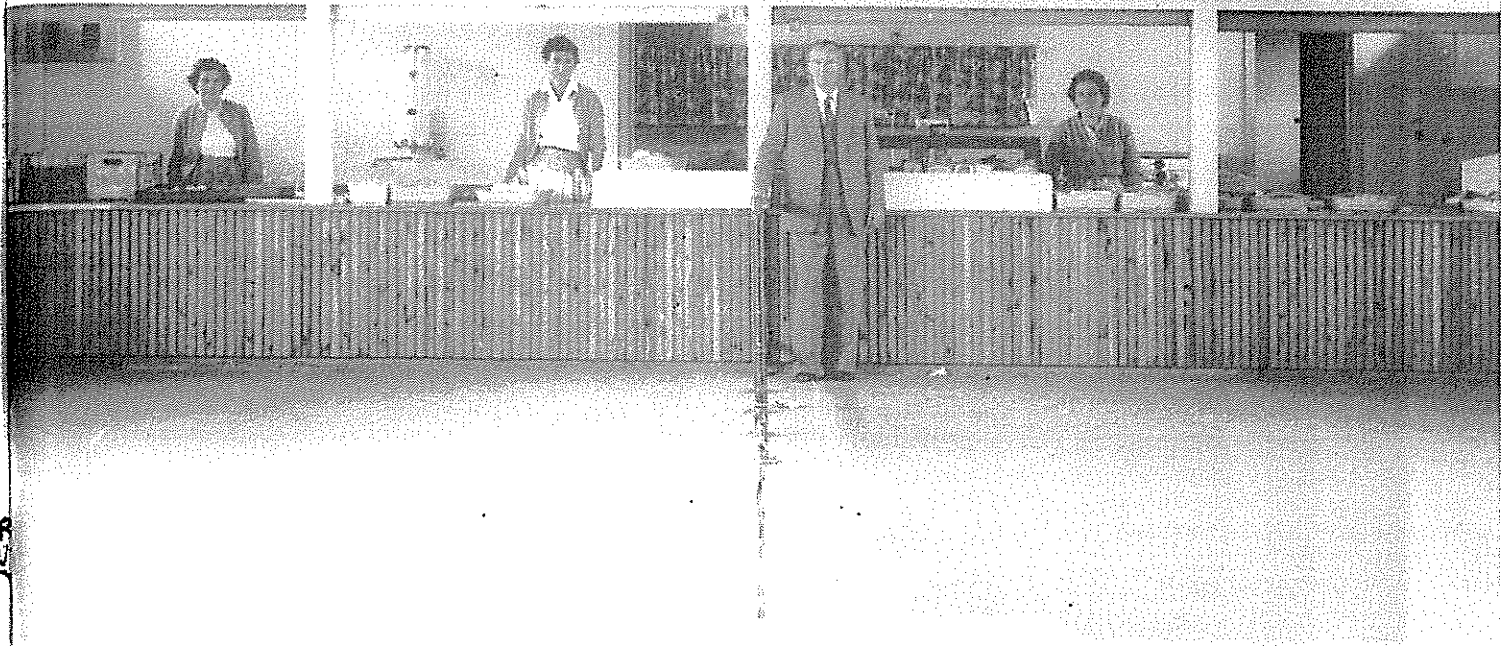
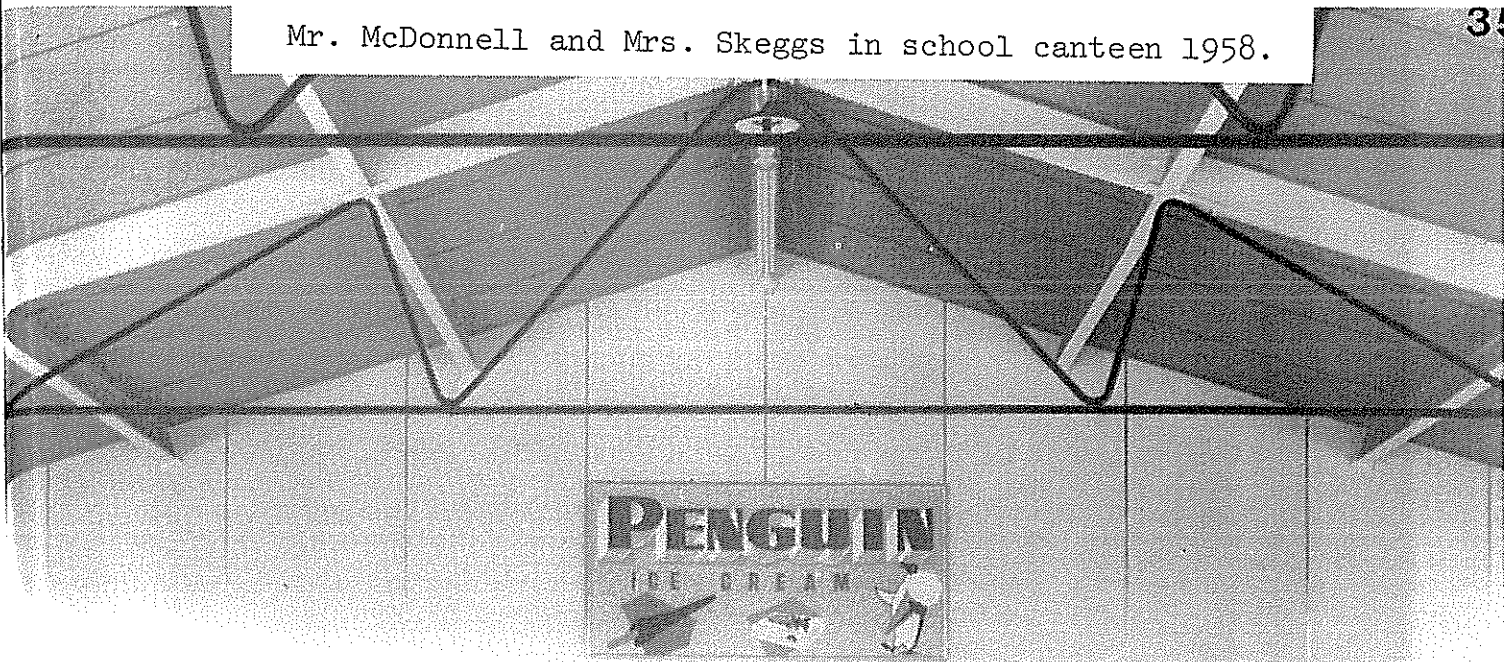
Andrew Mood and Paul Pun, 10H2.





Mr. McDonnell and Mrs. Skeggs in school canteen 1958.

34



Canteen 1960. Note uniforms.



## HISTORY OF THE E.S.L. DEPARTMENT 1968 - 83

\* \*

While many E.S.L. departments in State high schools have a short history, the department of Cabramatta has a relatively long one stretching back to 1968.

The first E.S.L. teacher was Mr. William (Bill) Irvin who arrived in 1968 out of retirement, to be midwife to the fledgling department.

In those early days,

E.S.L. teachers were housed in the present day P.E. staffroom, sharing this staffroom with Art, Music and General Activities. The pioneer department taught its "Non-English Speaking Classes" in the small Prep room and any other room that fell from the tables of the greater departments.

Since then much has changed. The E.S.L. department now has nine teachers teaching its students.

On 9th December, 1969, Mr. Irvin died. The whole school attended his funeral and his portrait was hung in the Administration Block.

In the sixteen years that E.S.L. has been offered at Cabramatta High there have been 22 teachers and an estimated 1200 students coming from 41 different countries. Today there are nine teachers and just under 300 students.

S. James, ESL Coordin

### A HISTORY OF THE CABRAMATTA INTENSIVE LANGUAGE UNIT 1978-1983.

Set up in July 1978, the Intensive Language Unit was part of the Commonwealth's response to Australia's reception of Indo-Chinese refugees.

At that time the Intensive classes were seen as something of an extension of Hostel services, being referred to by the Department then, as 'Hostel Schools'.

Initially, two classes were established on the edge of the oval with two full-time casual English teachers, Mrs. Anna Peiratos and Mr. Roger Mackell, a Vietnamese aide, Sung Bui and a part-time clerical assistant and counsellor. Mr. Paul Durack was the Special Master in charge.

The following year saw the addition of a Maths and Science teacher Frank Loh and English teachers Jim Kable and Miss Louise Morley. Art and P.E. programmes were begun with part timers Mrs. Margaret Goninon and Mr. Gary Steed.

1982 witnessed a dramatic shift in the nature of student enrolmen By the end of 1982 60% of students were of Cambodian nationality, most of whom had had no prior schooling. Mr. Michael Michell, Trans Ed. Tes

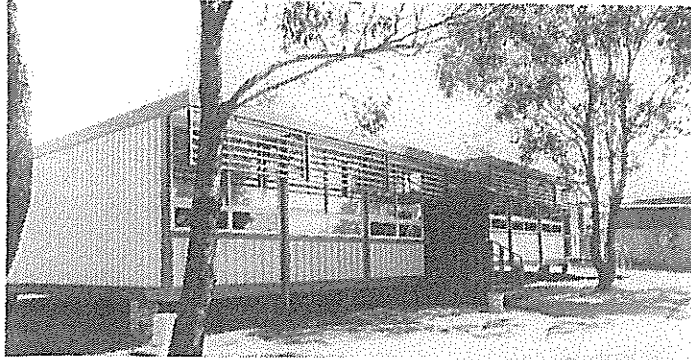


First Migrant  
English class

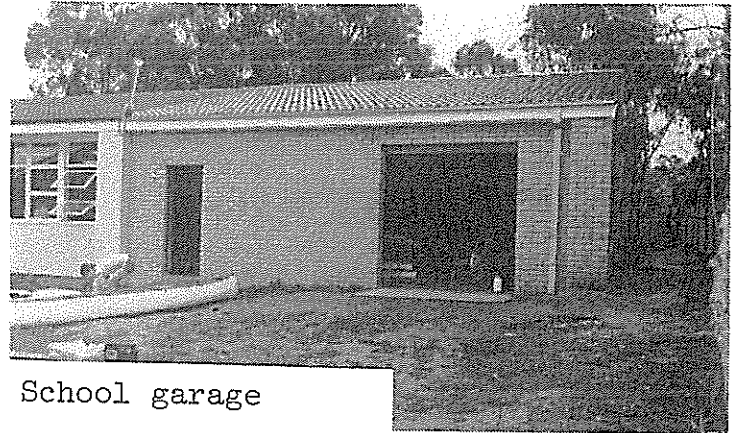
Mr. IRVIN AND HIS GROUP

# CABRAMATA SCHOOL

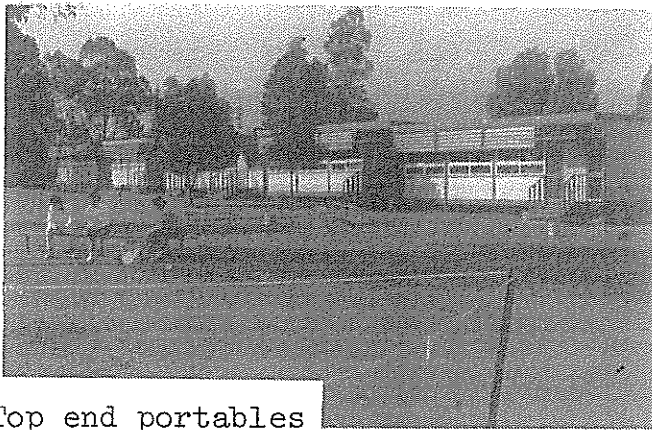
# WIGBY<sup>3</sup>



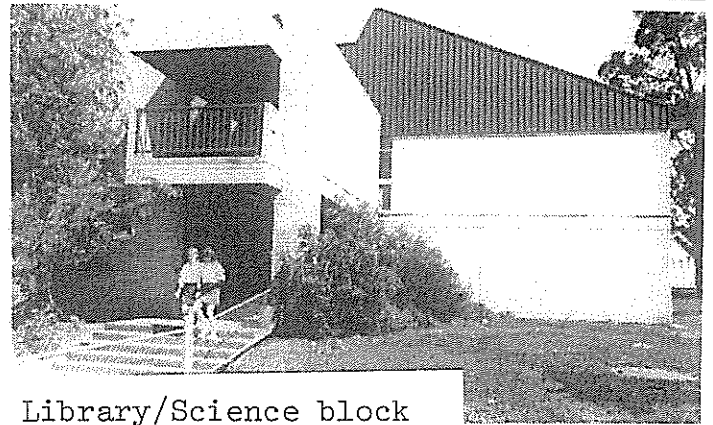
Rooms 32/34 portables



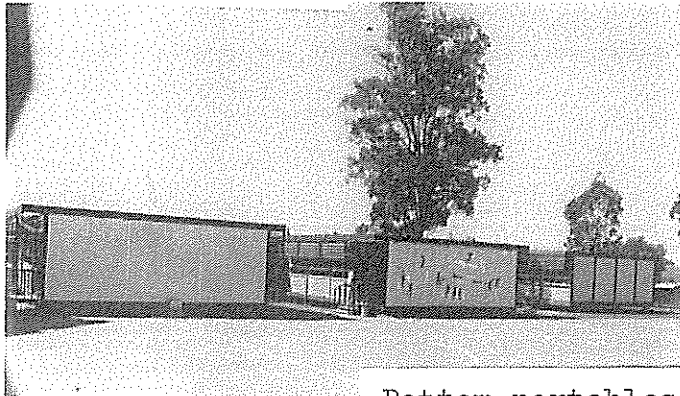
School garage



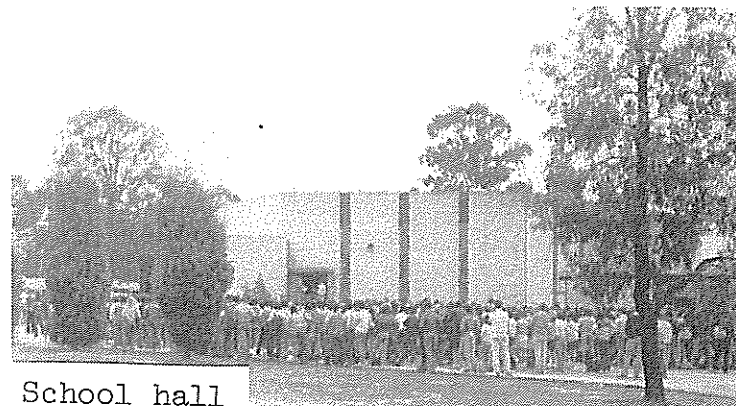
Top end portables



Library/Science block

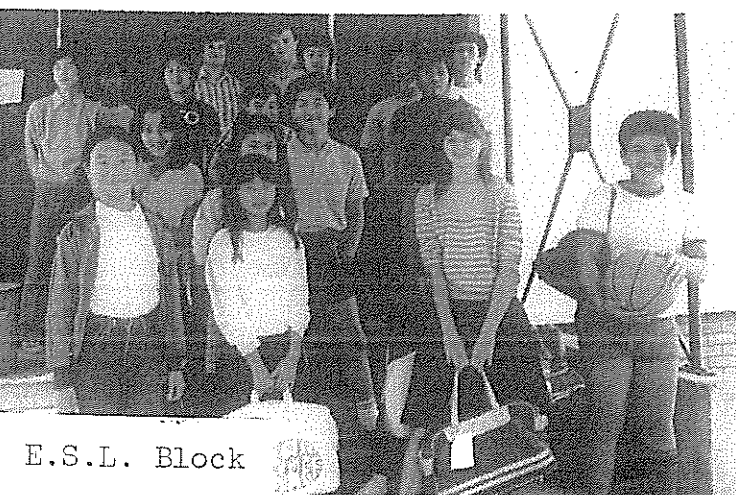


Bottom portables



School hall

I.L.U. building and staff



E.S.L. Block

# THE BOOK OF ISSUES

## CAPTAINS

### BOY

1959 Robert Dunlop  
 1960 Dallas Laundry  
 1961 Kalev Wilding  
 1962 Kalev Wilding  
 1963 Stephen Colagiuri  
 1964 Alex Walker  
 1965 Raymond Cas  
 1966 James Walker  
 1967 James Walker  
 1968 Philip Mataruga  
 1969 Frank Reed  
 1970 Juho Rattur  
 1971 Ronald Shere  
 1972 Denis Baker  
 1973 Ross Kirbyshire  
 1974 Bruce Draper  
 1975 Mark Bryce  
 1976 Ziggy Niebozynski  
 1977 Glenn Robertson  
 1978 Shane Maloney  
 1979 Ian Fisher  
 1980 Maurizio Zappacosta  
 1981 Riad Tayeh  
 1982 Lingsey Crosbie  
 1983 Michael Mangion



### GIRL

Janette Clements  
 Janette Clements  
 Eleanor Thomas  
 Eleanor Thomas  
 Rozanne Culley  
 Eugenia Czajkowskyj  
 Gail Radimey  
 Helen Lawson  
 Helen Lawson  
 Lynette Adams  
 Gillian Armitage  
 Patricia Kruse  
 Jane Bridle  
 Margaret Craig  
 Margaret Duncombe  
 Pamela Franklin  
 Helen Manefield  
 Sharryn Baddock  
 Lina Capaldi  
 Wendy Saunders  
 Jennifer Coon  
 Rose Loiacono  
 Yelena Lasek  
 Kayleen Maloney  
 Lee McMillan



## ERIC ROBINSON MEMORIAL TROPHY

### BEST SPORTSMAN

1965 George Erohin  
 1966 Edward Sabesiak  
 1967 Lonnie Semenetz  
 1967 Edward Sabesiak  
 1968 Gregory Davies  
 1969 Allen Kelly  
 1970 Juho Rattur  
 1971 Tony Pearse  
 1972 Tom Douglas  
 1973 Michael Bryce  
 1974 Ronald Clark  
 1975 Ronald Clark  
 1976 Mathew Horsnell  
 1977 John Rae  
 1978 Not Awarded  
 1979 Vladimir Kulish  
 1980 Renato Licata  
 1981 Alex Lujan  
 1982 Elbio Nunez



### BEST SPORTSWOMAN

Judith Trasler  
 Aleksandra Moskal

Judith Trasler  
 Patricia Kruse  
 Patricia Kruse  
 Susan Titley

Christine Wilks  
 Christine Wilks  
 Vickie Cox  
 Vickie Cox  
 Julie Lillingston  
 Jenny Alcorn

Barbara Penc  
 Julie Mountfort  
 Julie Mountfort  
 Sharon Fricker

## BEST PASS

### LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

1962 Norman R. Heckenberg  
 1963 Patrick S. Bull  
 1964 Alexander Walker  
 1965 Ian Craig

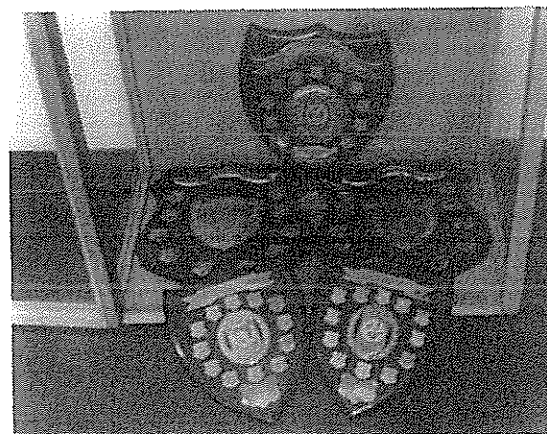


### HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

1967 Derek Roff  
 1968 Christopher Rowles  
 1969 Matthew Howlin  
 1970 Bruce Craig  
 1971 Ursula Maierl  
 1972 Stephen McAndrew

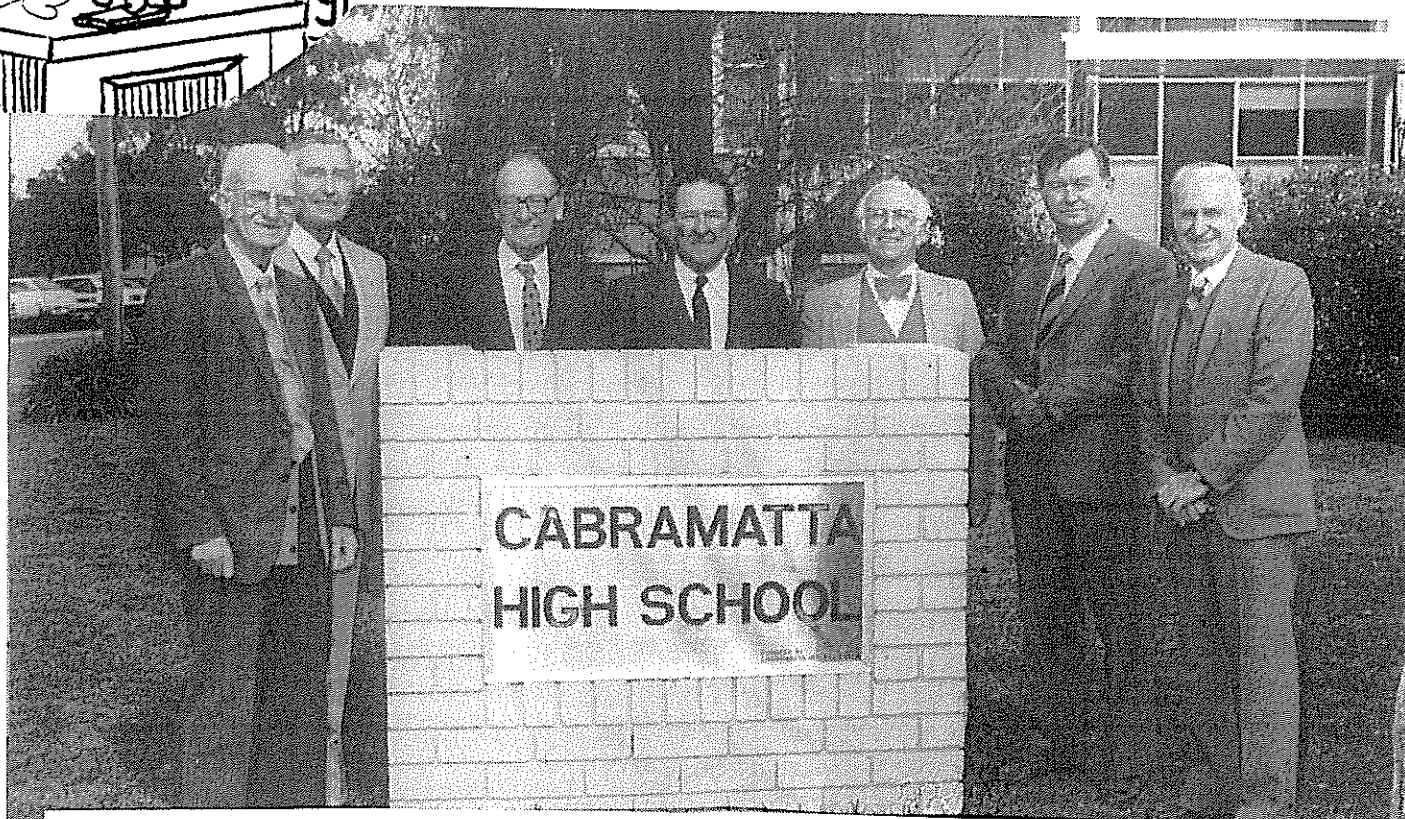
### ARTHUR WEST MEMORIAL ACADEMIC AWARD

1973 Tony Holzherr  
 1974 Candy Innes-Brown  
 1975 Jeff Buckpitt  
 1976 Susan Jones  
 1977 Colleen Krestensen  
 1978 Sue Hines  
 1979 Maureen Maloney  
 1980 Peter Coon  
 1981 Jonathan Shapiro  
 1982 Vesna Ratkaj





# THE ANCEAT AND<sup>3</sup> HODDARABIC



Mr. McDonnell, Mr. Rushbrooke, Mr. Holme, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Dudley, Mr. Waide.

## MR. J. McDONNELL - PRINCIPAL 1958-63

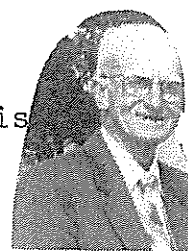
Our first principal is now completely retired; his hobby is bowls.

What did you try to promote at this school?

A good pleasant spirit - striving and serving, as our motto says. The prefect system was set up to help promote this. We also tried to develop sport, for an all round education - not just academic aspects. Our students compared very well with those of other schools in the area.

Funniest moment? Getting a call between 9 and 10 o'clock one night, informing me that one of our boys was imprisoned in the boys' toilet. We had to get the keys down to let him out. It was a totally inappropriate interpretation of our motto "striving and serving".

Saddest? The death of our sportsmaster Mr. Eric Robinson, who was wholly dedicated to the school.





Most encouraging event? The co-operation of parents who raised a lot of money for the tennis courts and other facilities. Also the staff - it was not unusual to see them work at school well into the night.

Most important step forward? The formation of the ex-students' association. It was typical of the enthusiasm shown by all those involved in the school.

Early problems? The buildings were still being built, there were few texts and no library books, no sporting equipment, no clerical assistants, no gardens, no sports grounds, no one to run the canteens. On the other hand we had enthusiastic staff, parents, pupils; we developed the motto, the song, the flag, and the Cabramatta spirit.

#### MR. R. RUSHBROOKE - 1964-67

Mr. Rushbrooke is also retired.

What did you concentrate on? Because C.H.S. was such a young school I tried to ensure that all aspects of education (academic, physical, social) were catered for.

Most encouraging event? Seeing the school perform so well in many fields - sport, academic results etc.

Most important development? The way everything was starting to function so smoothly.

#### MR. J. HOLME - 1968-70

Mr. Holme states he lives in comfortable retirement.

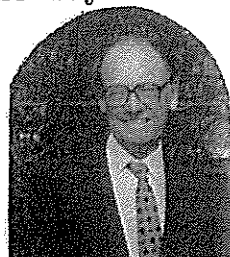
What did you try to develop? More interest in the arts - musicals, social functions like dances. Having our hall built made all these possible. Our first musical was "Bye, Bye Birdie".

Funniest moment? A boy was referred to me for truanting. I had his father called up. I later decided to check with the father again at his place of work, only to be told by an irate boss over the phone that he would like to know where the man was himself. Truanting from work like father like son?

Saddest? Talking to a migrant father who felt terribly disappointed at the attitude of his son who had been given everything the family could provide to give him a good start in life.

Most uplifting event? Our first speech day in the Hall. It was an exciting occasion, much more meaningful than going to the Civic Hall.

Most important development? The way staff and students could work together as a team.



MR. R. GALLAGHER - 1971-73

Mr. Gallagher is now a "farmer at Castlereagh".

What did you try to promote? Trust and reliance between staff and pupils. Also, schools should try to encourage academic excellence as an investment in the country's future. School uniforms were encouraged.

Funniest moment? The Year 12 farewell in the metalwork quadrangle where pupils imitated various teachers at the assembly with hilarious success.

Saddest? When our 84 year old teacher Mr. Ian Irvin died of cancer. On the day of his funeral the whole school formed a guard of honour.

Most uplifting event? Producing some of the best academic students in the state. Also the excellence achieved in musicals such as "Bye, Bye Birdie".

Most important developments? The turfing of the ovals to make them suitable for sport. The division of the ovals into rugby, soccer and hockey areas. Also, the motorbike and driver education schemes were started to help students cope with motoring.

MR. J. FREEMAN - 1974-78

Mr. Freeman retired as principal of Parramatta High and now devotes his time to his chief hobby, music.

What did you try to promote? I was happy to encourage the developing musical trends at C.H.S. - "Nowhere Man", "Macbeth", "Streetcar Named Desire". Also, the school needed a more comprehensive language curriculum - we introduced Spanish and Italian.

Happiest moment? Watching the successful performances of our musicals, especially "Nowhere Man". Our star pupil, Sharon Baddock, contributed significantly with her excellent acting talents.

Saddest? The last walk down the assembly aisle after being farewelled by the school. I left genuine friends behind. Mr. Freeman also made the suggestion that the school needs a new school song and motto to reflect the changed circumstances.

Most important development? The school developing culturally as well as academically. With musicals, plays, revues, international fairs, migrant parent meetings, talent quests, expanded language courses etc. C.H.S. really came of age.

MR. R. DUDLEY - 1979-82

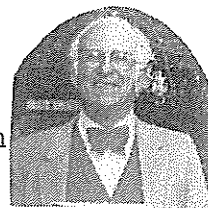
Mr. Dudley is now principal of Seven Hills High. His hobby is fishing.

What did you try to promote? Consensus - the school community (teachers, parents, pupils) was asked to suggest what the school should be doing and how it should go about this. RED time and the fortnightly timetable are two obvious results.

✱



✱



Most uplifting event? C.H.S. winning the 2SM Rock Eisteddfod. In the same week our soccer side was playing in the semis in a State wide competition. The basketball side was similarly involved. There was so much potential at the school.

Saddest? The death of Lana Schroeder, a fine student, who was run over by a car during the May holidays in 1981. We set up the "Lana Schroeder Trophy for Endeavour" in her memory.

Most important development? C.H.S. becoming an integrated society, with many varying ethnic backgrounds.



MR. J. WAIDE 1983 -

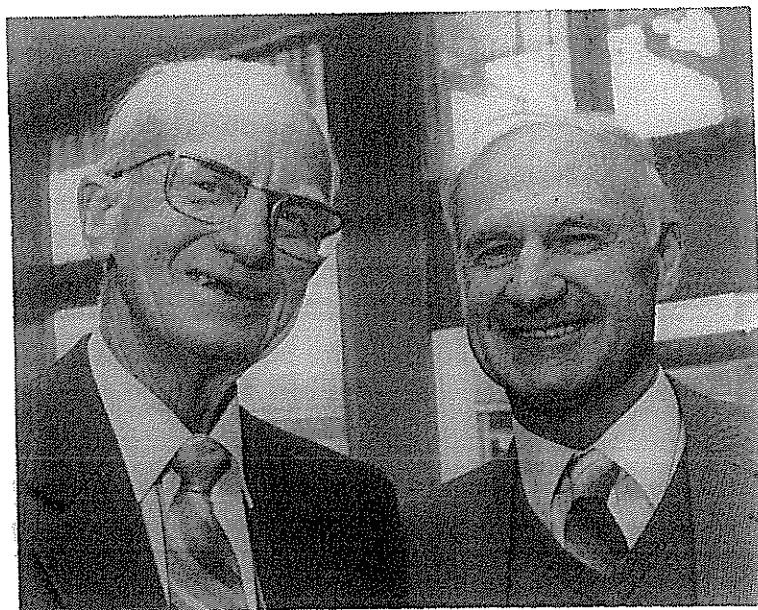
What do you try to promote? An all round education - academic, social, physical. I feel we have underachieved academically in the past, but the trend is reversing. We should try to instil a sense of pride in the school - our recent sporting achievements are one way of doing this.

Funniest story? When there was a mix up with awards at the recent sports assembly attended by Mr. Bedford and Mr. Rowland (local member and district inspector respectively). The winners had to come out again to sort it out, and the assembly broke out in pleasant laughter all round.

Saddest? The shocking injury suffered by one of our students in a petrol explosion (R. Holmes). Also, some of the problems faced by families in the area make me sad.

Most uplifting event? The improved attendances at sporting events such as the swimming and athletics carnivals. Our Captains are excellent choices. Also the way the staff volunteer for jobs at very short notice (e.g. the C.S.S., the School Magazine).

by the Jubilee Research Committee,  
J. Bruno, R. Bulmer, L. MacMillan,  
M. Mangion, T. King, A. Groza, J. Teixeira.



1st & last principals



# And the blind lead the blind, Both shall fall into the ditch

## "SELECTION FROM PAST CAPTAINS"

1959: JANETTE SAINTY (NEE CLEMENTS)

Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary, I have noticed many splendid advancements and hope the next 25 years prove to be as fruitful.

1972: DENIS BAKER

Congratulations - 25 years may have gone past but it is obvious that the spirit still remains.. This old school will always provide great memories.

1972: MARGARET HARDING (NEE CRAIG)

Congratulations on your Silver year. I have many fond memories of my part of the 25 year history. I hope I can celebrate the 50th Anniversary too.

1975: MARK BRYCE

25 years, it was great to be a part of that history - I now realise just how important those school years were. Thanks "Cabra" High.

1976: SHARRYN MILLER (NEE BADDOCK)

The class of '76 also celebrate this year, their 25th birthdays - so we can very well empathize with the school and know what an achievement it is. Congratulations!

1977: GLENN ROBERTSON AND LINA CAPALDI

Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary year. And count us in with all the rest to wish you all nothing but the best in the next 25 years.

1978: SHANE MALONEY

'Congratulations on the Quarter Century, 25 not out.'

1979: IAN FISHER

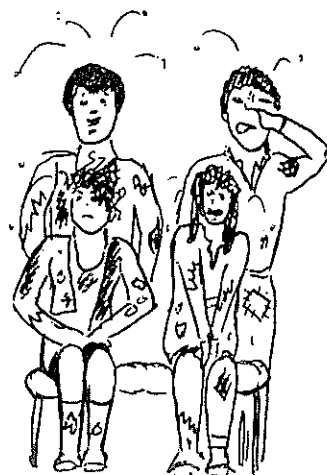
Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary. See you all at the 50th Anniversary celebration!

1981: YELENA LASEK AND RIAD TAYEH

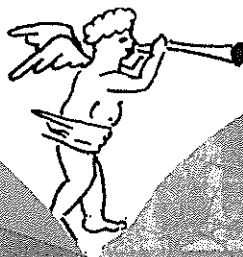
Congratulations on your Silver Jubilee and may the celebration suit the event.

1982: KAYLEEN MALONEY AND LINDSAY CROSBIE

Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary. We hope that the next 25 years are as eventful as the last 25.







Current captains Michael Mangion, Jorge Colvin, Lee McMillan, Julie Mountfort and 1st school captain Mrs. Janette Sainty (nee Clements).

\* \* \*

School captains on library steps from bottom: 1959 Janette Sainty (nee Clements); 1972 Margaret Harding (nee Craig), Denis Baker; 1975 Mark Bryce; 1976 Sharryn Miller (nee Baddock); 1977 Glenn Robertson, Lina Capaldi; 1978 Shane Maloney; 1979 Ian Fisher; 1981 Yalena Lasek, Riad Tayeh; 1982 Kayleen Maloney, Lindsay Crosbie; 1983 Michael Mangion, Lee McMillan, Julie Mountfort, Jorge Colvin.

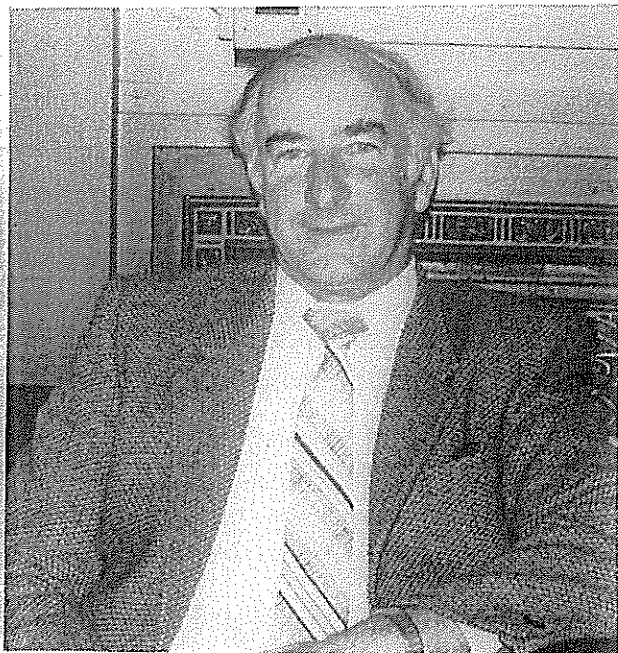
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# A TEACHER'S HISTORY

## THEN AND NOW

TEACHING THEN - MR. REG. LANG



### 1. What were things like to teach at C.H.S. during the First Year?

In the first week the school had a total population of 450 pupils and 12 staff. Only half the classrooms were finished as the school had not been given enough furniture.

C.H.S. was one of the hardest schools in the early years as they had nothing, but it was also rewarding as the pupils and staff worked hard to get the school established. Mr. Lang was the Sportsmaster and the only sporting equipment was one cricket bat. There were no sporting grounds, however the P. & C. and staff worked together after school and at weekends and many pupils turned up to help get the grounds established. Since the only equipment was a cricket bat, one of the first things built were practice wickets.



TEACHING 1983-MS. McLACHLAN



### What is it like to teach here?

Cabramatta High School has come a long way since its beginning in 1958. The school has come of age both structurally and in the growth of student population which has reached approximately 1260.

During this period of time the teaching staff has increased from 12 persons to 104.

School spirit is very evident today. It manifests itself in many areas of staff/student involvement with after school clubs and in the training of sporting teams.

Generally the climate throughout the school day is conducive in developing the interests and general well being of student welfare.

2. What subjects were taught during the first years?

The school offered traditional subjects such as English, Maths, Science, History and Geography and also taught a few different languages.

3. Were the students well behaved?

There was a tremendous amount of school spirit. On one occasion Mr. Lang asked about 20 pupils to volunteer on Saturday morning to write the school's name on sports equipment, and all twenty turned up.

4. While you were teaching at C.H.S. what disasters were there?

One day on the assembly, the school was surrounded by police. Everyone was stunned. The girls were removed from the assembly and the police brought out an 11 year old boy, who went around looking at all the boys in the school, trying to find the one he said he saw drown a little girl. Later the same boy confessed to the crime.

5. What was your funniest moment here?

One of the funniest moments involved the first C.H. pupils for the Leaving Certificate. At the assembly he sensed something was wrong as the door had been locked in the Manual Arts block.

Suddenly the senior students started moving towards the dais and over the P.A. system came the song 'Sadie the Cleaning Lady'. A student then came on to the dais dressed as Sadie and began to swab it down. Mr. Lang was captured and it was announced that he would be returned unharmed if every cane in the school was handed in to the school captains. Mr. Lang was kidnapped in one of the student's

The student population is a good sample of the total population that exists in Sydney today. In keeping with Australia's pluralistic society, it has all the benefits and the problems inherent with that situation.

Funniest moment?

One of the funniest incidents occurred in a match of the senior girls' cricket team. A student who always gave her one hundred percent effort, unfortunately, was not the Greg Chappell or Denis Lillee either with the bat or ball. One afternoon against Moorebank she caught a spectacular catch. The ball flew down mid off straight at Colleen's head. In pure self defence she lifted her hands to protect her face and to her and the rest of the team's amazement she caught the ball.

The proceeding congratulations (i.e. antics) would have done justice to the Australian test team.

The teacher and players on the opposition side were amazed at the reaction of just one catch. It was explained the reason why for the over-reaction and they then joined in the applause.

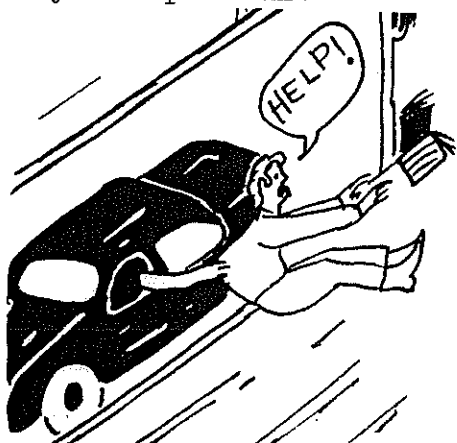
The match highlighted Cabramatta's spirit that it is not a matter of winning, but competing and playing to one's best ability.

Saddest moment?

One of the saddest incidents involved a Year 9 student who was severely burnt in an accident outside school.



cars and taken a few blocks away. However, the pupils spotted a police car and thinking they were caught, they took him straight back to school. The pupils had had their joke but they never carried things too far and were always respectful.



#### 6. Saddest?

The saddest moment for Reg. was when he left the school in 1961 to go overseas. He was to leave on the maiden voyage of the Canberra. With him he took tapes and posters from the pupils.

When he arrived at the dock many of the students were there to farewell him. In his cabin there were 60 letters, one from Lauren Anderson which said "When homesick open. Burn contents". On his first Christmas Day away he felt homesick so he opened the letter and inside the letter were gum leaves.

#### 7. Can you remember any early excursions?

There was one excursion where we had to go to the Conservatorium. The pupils had to line up in single file and walk to the railway station.

On the return trip from the Conservatorium the teachers realized that they had lost two students. They had sneaked off to meet one of their mothers at work only to find that she was not there. They also missed the

#### Details of an interesting excursion?

One notable excursion involved 25 pupils and two staff members, including myself, to Myall Lakes.

The four day camping, canoeing and bushwalking trip was arranged by Mr. Valler for the Canoe Club.

The excursion provided an exciting and educational trip which was highly successful.

#### Noticeable changes at the school.

One of the noticeable changes at the school has been the improvement of the surrounding gardens and the implementation of portable classrooms to cater for the increase in student numbers. These, unfortunately detract from the recreational areas of the students.

The school spirit has surfaced to a greater degree, resulting in Cabramatta becoming a major force in sporting competitions both at a local and State level.

One of the most exciting and significant changes that has occurred is the increased participation of the girls in both the politics of the school (the C.S.S.) as well as in sport.





last train home.

8. Can you remember anything about Mr. Eric Robinson?

Mr. Eric Robinson was one of the finest men I knew. He was the Sportsmaster at Cabramatta High for many years, and was always totally committed to the school. If ever he was going on a holiday with his family, he would always manage to take a couple of underprivileged children with him. Mr. Robinson tragically died of cancer. (See In Memoriam section)

9. Can you describe your first day as a teacher at C.H.S.

When I arrived at C.H. for my first day I had no ideas of what to expect. There were insufficient staff and facilities. At the assembly the pupils were divided into classes. Mr. Lang read out the names - many of which were ethnic. At the end there was one boy left crying because he didn't want to do Home Science. His name was Gert Boltz, but they thought he was a girl.

10. What other notable things happened in those early years?

Dawn Frazer, the swimming champion, used to present prizes for the school boxing championships. As there was no hall, students had to march to the Civic Centre with their chairs for any school function. The school established an ex-students association before there were any ex-students. Early swimming carnivals were held at nights. We also had an unusual complaints petition one year when people thought they spotted a pregnant girl on stage during a school play performance. It turned out that the girl wore a

pillow to represent Mary in the nativity play. The names of sport houses were picked from a book on Aboriginal names, the school song was selected by a Committee.

11. What will education be like at the Golden Jubilee?

Courses will be geared for human needs, personal development and leisure. Formal education will be computerised and teachers will tutor pupils on issues raised.

12. What has been your most notable achievement since leaving C.H.S.?

His most notable achievement since leaving C.H. was being a Consultant at Head Office and implementing a Personal Development course - emphasizing knowing yourself and others and relating effectively.

Mr. Lang is currently teaching at Hurlstone Agricultural High School (as Senior Resident Master for Boys).

S. Matheson,  
B. Safetli, 10F  
A. Groza,  
J. Bruno, 12H3. Ms. G. Taylor,  
History Teacher



# A STANDARD TEACHER THEN .... AND NOW

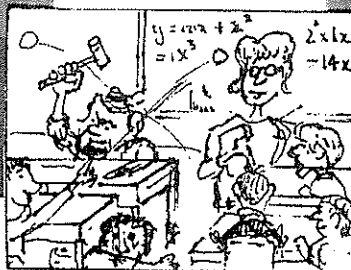


MRS. H. WATT

## PRAC TEACHING AT CABRA IN 1964

In June of 1964, Mrs. Watt set her eyes on Cabramatta High School for the first time. Mrs. Watt had been sent to Cabramatta High as a student teacher and one of the first things she noticed was the close relationship between students and teachers. She noted her observations in her day booklet: "....The mutual confidence between pupil and teacher was remarkably good" was just one of the many things she had written.

Mrs. Watt also recalls the time when the Assemblies were called every morning at 9.00 o'clock and were situated at the front of the school, between the front office and the metal work rooms. "Roll call was from 1.18 to 1.30 every afternoon" Mrs. Watt said. Tuesday was sport's day and Mrs. Watt quoted: "....the school maintained a high level of sport.."



ANTHEA MATIS

## PRAC TEACHING AT CABRA IN 1983

Anthea Matis is a prac teacher at Cabramatta High School in 1983. Anthea is from the "Sydney Institute of Education", studying to be a History and ESL teacher. Anthea attended Cabramatta High in the middle of the 1970's decade.

The most memorable moment was her Year 12 muck up day, when Year 12 students barricaded the entrance to the new Science Lab with garbage bins. Mr. Molyneux blew his stack and there were bins flying everywhere. The whole school was snow white as a result of shaving cream used by the pranksters.

One of Anthea's silliest actions was in Year 9, English. Each student was asked to write down a subject on a piece of paper. Then each student would draw out a piece of paper and

Other things that really caught Mrs. Watt's attention was the range of 25 subjects to choose from which was a great deal at this time. One thing that clearly remained in the back of Mrs. Watt's mind was that boys and girls were allowed to mix, and she told me that that was very unusual in those times.

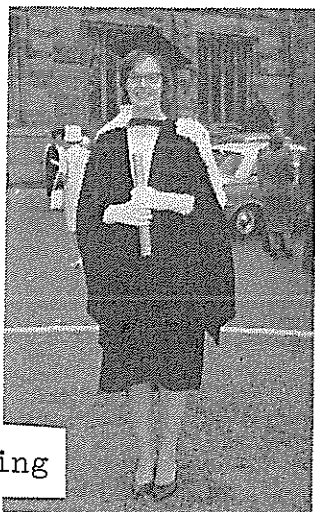
She also said that many children came from the Hostel and were allowed to go home for lunch and most of these children were either English or Russian.

Mrs. Watt also remembers the transition when the senior students (who were in Fourth and Fifth Forms) were finishing their Leaving Certificate, while the people who were in First, Second and Third Forms were going to be among the first to do the H.S.C. In 1965 the first H.S.C. was completed. Not a great deal of people would go on to senior years before the H.S.C. was introduced, but after it was introduced more people have been going on.

The school uniform in those days was very strict, and it has changed a great deal since then. Children who were very poor (and there were a lot) would receive a second hand uniform to wear if their parents couldn't afford it.

Anthony Sunjic,

11AHL.



Ms. Watt graduating

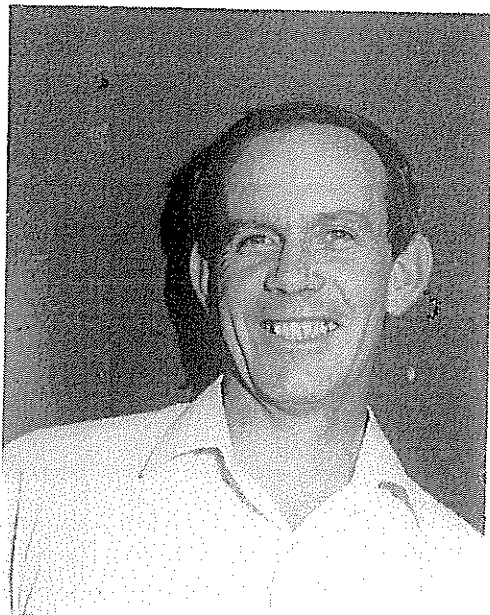
give a quick speech on the subject. Well Anthea drew out her piece of paper and the subject was "sex before marriage". Anthea stated that she was in favour of it. All hell broke loose. The boys began to shut the windows and door, they switched the lights off, and Miss Muddle didn't what to do as the class went wild. Another silly thing Anthea did was during an excursion to the city. Anthea and a friend decided to have their make-up done at David Jones. While casually walking through Hyde Park they noticed Mr. Okell and some Cabra High students. Because it was raining they had their umbrellas with them so they tried to hide behind them BUT (Sherlock Holmes) Okell spotted them. That was it, they were told to report to him when they got back to school.

One of the saddest moments was Anthea's Year 12 Farewell at the Belvedere. The speeches were touching and it was an overall pleasant evening.

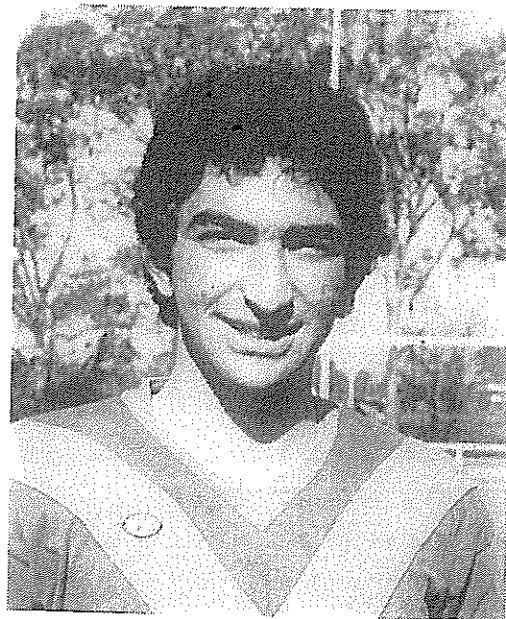
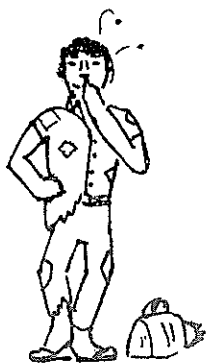
Anthea did well in the English exams and she did well at sport also; she was a member of the Senior Girls Cricket Team in 3rd, 4th and 5th Forms. The team was undefeated for three years running. The coach was Mr. Fogarty (suffer Ziggy).

The main changes Anthea witnessed were the new Science Block, the Library, the portables, and on her return Anthea has noticed a greater population of Asians. Besides that, Anthea believes the school hasn't changed all that much. Most people are still friendly and easy to get on with. Although she was nervous about coming to teach here, she found that there was the usual Cabramatta relaxed atmosphere between pupils and teachers. Sandra Sunjic,  
Stevan Stefanic, 9HL.

# A STUDENT'S VIEW THEN AND NOW



STUDENT 1958:  
MR. REDDINGTON



JOHN BRUNO - STUDENT 1983

What are you doing now?

Besides teaching, I'm in the Army reserves, teaching army cadets at Ingleburn as a rank-training officer.

What were you at Cabramatta during your student days?

House vice-captain 1962; in the open league team (where I collected an open head injury and sore knee); prefect; bus patrol person.

Your happiest moment at school?

When I found I passed the Leaving Certificate (like the H.S.C. now).

Saddest moment?

I copped the cane in my first year when I didn't have my Maths homework ready. I was very nervous on that occasion.

What are you studying to be?

I have no definite plans - a lot will depend on H.S.C. results.

Any special positions held at C.H.S.?

C.S.S. member in 1983; research officer for Jubilee Committee.

Happiest moment at school?

My happiest moment was when we played on T.V. in the Commonwealth Bank Cup at Leichhardt Oval in 1982. We were lucky to get on T.V. in the first game of the year. We had tremendous backing from all the teachers and students and had a very big crowd at the game. We played very well and didn't let the school down, even though we lost.



Funniest?

Locked myself in the classroom with a stray bulldog and pulled down the blinds. When the teacher came in, the dog chased him. We were punished with detention.

Silliest?

In 1962 we dressed up as girls for a mannikin parade to raise money for the school. The class that raised the most money got a day off school. I looked rather cute, but my wife won't let me repeat that performance.

Most exciting event?

Would have to be the first school ball at the Civic Hall in 1962. It was our first big occasion of that type of function. Also, we enjoyed inter-school visits (with Richmond High) which included sport, debating and social functions. We billeted with each other (stayed at their homes and vice versa).

Which people impressed you then?

I was impressed by my strict English teacher, Mr. Lang (see interview with Mr. Lang elsewhere). He really cared for students and helped us prepare for life.

What changes have you noticed?

Students no longer wear uniforms - we had to wear them or else. The school has got a lot larger - we started off with only 500 pupils. I think students in my day were keener to do well in exams. Now many don't have the same pride in their work. Raymond Lo

Craig Kelly, 10H2.

Funniest?

My funniest moment was at Warrumbungles when we were going down Bluff Mountain. I got instructions from Mr. Molyneux which way down. After a while a fellow student began to get worried that we were lost, she worked herself up, and was convinced we were lost. We kept ourselves amused by giving points to the best falls on the loose gravel (Fay Lupic won because she had the most points). We got to the buses, and we were always on the right track.

Silliest?

My silliest moment was when Julie Mountfort was sprung in History by Mr. Smythe combing the hairs on my legs, parting them down the middle and gliding them back.

Most exciting event?

The most exciting event was going to the Warrumbungles in 1982. Warrumbungles is a beautiful, quiet, National park, which has an observatory and a lot of wildlife, and was an appropriate spot to go for a science excursion. I think Cabramatta High is one of the lucky schools in the State, as it's only one of a few schools that go to the Warrumbungles every year.

Changes at school that you've witnessed?

Most people are now willing to participate in school events for the school, such as sport, and academically in various competitions such as Maths and the debating team. The attitude to sport is very notable, and everyone tries their hardest to win for the school. Looking at the results over the last couple of years is proof of this.



# HISTORY

## THEN AND NOW



1958 - MR. McKELLEHER

The year 1958 holds very fond memories for Mr. Brian McKelleher. Looking back over a successful teaching career that has spanned twenty five years, he recalls quite vividly his first teaching year, a year spent, quite appropriately, at Cabramatta High, a school also in its first year.

His most vivid memory of the school was the seeming 'newness' of everything - the buildings, the classrooms, the pupils, the teachers, and of how hard all worked together in that first year to make the school operate successfully. School spirit, he recalls, was exceptionally high and he felt proud of being part of the teaching staff.



1983 - MS. ATHERTON

Another teacher whose first appointment was also to that of the History staff of Cabramatta High (although some twenty four years later) is Miss Beverley Atherton. She notes that there have been many changes to the History Department, to its resources, courses and teaching techniques since 1958. She notes that it is now a separate department to that of English with six staff members who cater for the cultural needs of pupils in Year 7 through to 12. The textbooks room shelves are now somewhat fuller than they were in 1958 and (as funds will allow) are constantly updated. Staff members are always on the look out for new, interesting and innovative source material and texts to replenish stock.

Although trained in English and Latin, Mr. McKelleher found himself teaching both English and History (as did all six members of the combined English/History staff) to the first form students of Cabramatta - a task made difficult not only because of his lack of expertise in the field of history, but also because of the lack of teaching aids and texts. The initial non-existence of any English or History textbooks at the school did, however, make his newly appointed position as Textbook Room Coordinator quite a simple one to fulfill. Of course he had to quickly rectify the situation by buying books, but even so the expense account only allowed for just one class set of a few books and novels. Mr. McKelleher soon found that keeping the textbook room neat and tidy became very easy - there were never any books left on the shelves, as soon as one class returned a set, another class eagerly borrowed it. Not only were textbooks in short supply, so too were teaching aids. Mr. McKelleher essentially had to make do with his blackboard, a piece of chalk and his narrative skills.

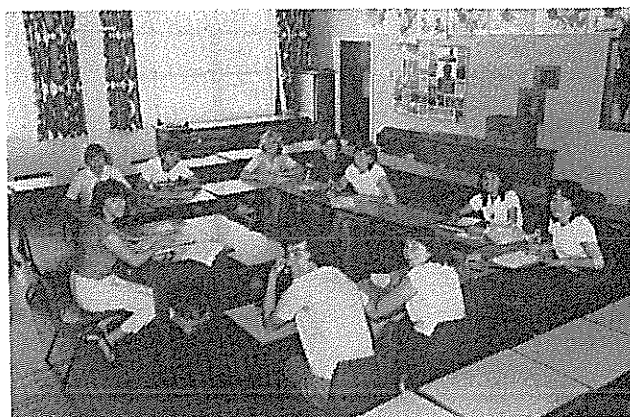
He recalls that the first pupils were so well behaved, co-operative, enthusiastic and industrious that discipline was never really a problem - which of course was a relief to an inexperienced first year out teacher.

Mr. McKelleher is currently Special Administration Master at Hurstville Boys High and sends his well wishes and congratulations to the pupils and staff of Cabramatta in this their "Jubilee" year.

The History classrooms are no longer as new and fresh looking as they were in 1958 but are now sporting curtains, pupil made models and colourful posters, maps, time lines and historical paintings and drawings. The rooms, she feels sure, are now more interesting.

The blackboard, a piece of chalk and a dramatic narrative ability are still necessary items for a History teacher at Cabramatta but now only form a small part of the wide range of teaching aids and techniques used. A large assortment of audio-visual equipment - slides, films, videos, television, records, cassettes and equipment for filming help to motivate and to increase the students awareness of the history of the world around them. A wide selection of innovative History 'Kits' help to motivate students into searching for themselves for historical clues and information and help to make them feel that they are themselves a part of History.

S. McCammond,  
C. Zappia, 12H1.



History lesson '83.

# When They Came To Be

51

## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW OUR SCHOOL MOTTO ORIGINATED?

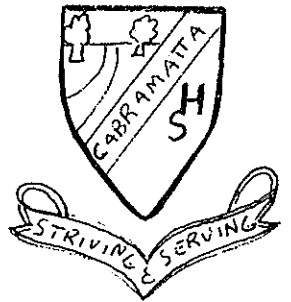
When the school was opened in 1958 it was found that a school motto was needed and ideas were obtained from both teachers and students. However none of the suggestions seemed appropriate.

At this time it was common to find school mottos written in Latin, but Mr. McDonnell, our first principal, thought it would be far more important to have the motto in English as it would add more meaning.

One day whilst a Miss Wheen (early Librarian) was visiting the McDonnells, the three began discussing what the school motto should be and Miss Wheen suggested that the motto carry the words "Striving, Serving and Rejoicing". Mr. McDonnell considered her suggestion a wonderful idea and thus Mr. Des Ward, an Art teacher, was asked to design the motto.

It was found that the words "Striving, Serving and Rejoicing" were too long, hence "Striving and Serving". Mr. Des Ward was also one of the first teachers at Cabramatta High.

Today, Mr. Des Ward is living in England where he has been highly successful and has won many awards for designing stamps. Miss Wheen has since passed away. Mr. McDonnell lives in retirement.



## THE ORIGIN OF THE SCHOOL SONG

The original version of Cabramatta High's school song was written in 1959 by Montana Eagles who was a well known Sydney composer and the words were written by a friend of the committee of staff.

Joan Kelly (now Mrs. Joan Derricks) was a music teacher at the time and was also the Girls' Supervisor. Mrs. Derricks was very much involved in producing the school song for Cabramatta and contributed much of her time for this.

This version lasted for quite a number of years until Mr. Freeman arrived. Mr. Freeman considered the tune old-fashioned and thought it would be a good idea to change it. He wrote two versions: the first was similar to the original and Mr. Freeman decided he didn't like the melody and thus changed some note values. This resulted in a few words not fitting in and so the words too, were changed. Eventually Mr. Freeman's second version, which is still used today, did not bear any relation to the original.



Helen Stefanic,  
Graham Farnham, Year 11.

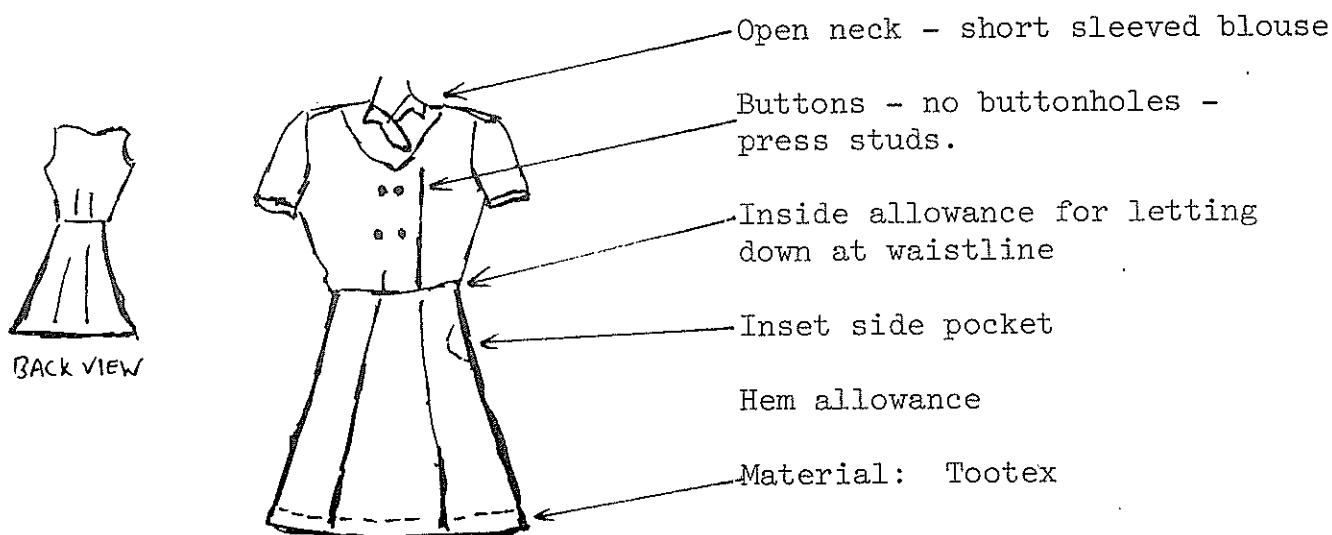


## THE SCHOOL UNIFORM

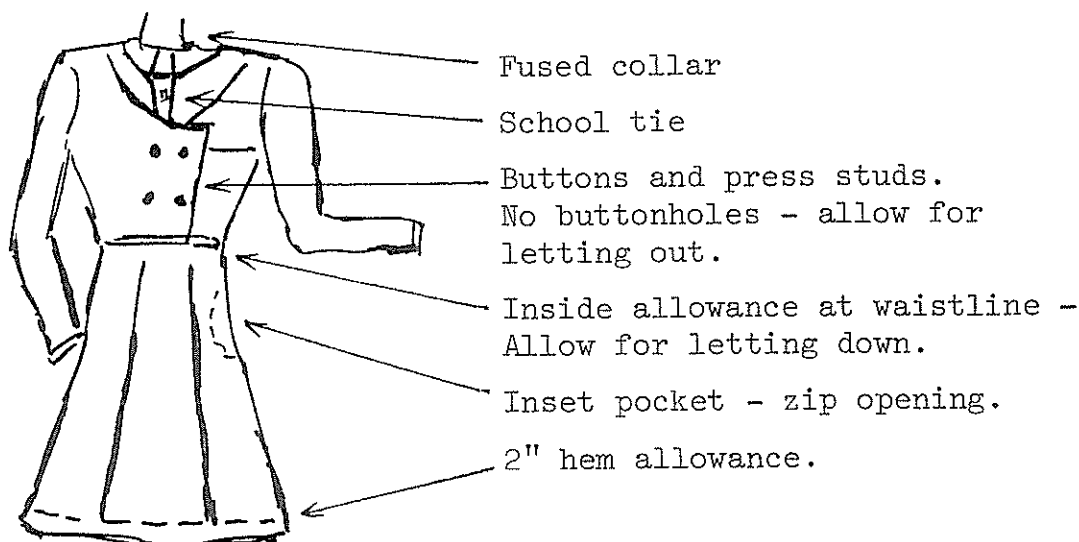
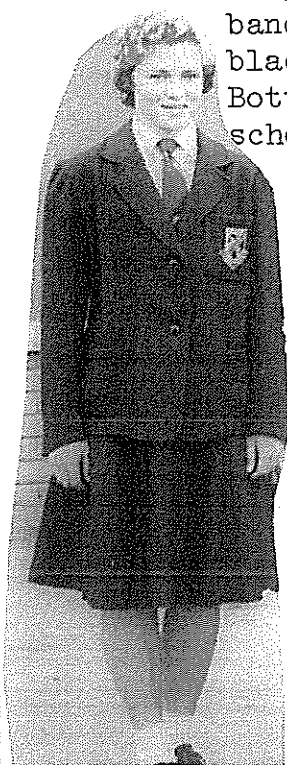
In 1960 Cabramatta High School decided they wanted a new uniform which distinguished them from other schools, also a uniform which they would be proud of. The school motto "Striving and Serving" was pinned onto the uniform of the boys and girls at the school. The uniform was worn at school and there was an inspection every morning.

### School Uniform for Girls - 1960

Summer: Pinafore style tunic; colour bottle green, rounded neckline, double breasted front, six gored skirt, inset side pocket, matching belt. Short sleeved blouse - silver gray, open neck. Short gray socks; black shoes. Straw hat showing school colours under brim. School badge.



Winter: Pinafore style tunic; bottle green serge, rounded neckline, double breasted front; six gored skirt; inset side pocket, matching belt. Long sleeved blouse - silver gray. School tie (maroon with one band of green and gray stripe). Gray stockings or Bermuda socks; black shoes. Green velour hat with band showing school colours. Bottle green gloves. School badge. Jumper - V neck, banded with school colours. Blazer of bottle green flannel with school pocket



## School Uniform for Boys - 1960

Blazer: Bottle green, doctor flannel with school pocket.  
 Shirt: Silver gray colour  
 Trousers: Mid gray; shorts, knickers or long.  
 Tie: Maroon with one band of school colours.  
 Badge: Metal badge obtainable from school.  
 Hat: Gray  
 Hat band: Maroon with other school colours.  
 Socks: All wool mid gray with school colours.  
 Shoes: Black  
 Suit: Optional. Mid gray with school pocket.  
 Pullover: All wool mid gray with bands of school colours.

School Colours: Bottle green, maroon and silver gray.

The first school uniform was designed by the very first headmaster of Cabramatta High School, Mr. McDonnell, in conjunction with the P. & C.

### The School Uniform Now.

All students are required to wear the school uniform. Footwear is very important and all pupils must wear covered shoes.

Students are not allowed to enter classes for

Home Science, Industrial Arts, Science unless they are wearing correct footwear.

THONGS and sandals are not permitted as they are dangerous.

### GIRLS' UNIFORM -

Summer: Green/white check shift, available from Manhattan, Cabramatta, or Grace Bros., Liverpool.  
 White socks - shoes  
 Green or white cardigan

Winter: EITHER  
 Bottle green skirt, white blouse  
 Green/grey jumper.

OR  
 Bottle green slacks, white blouse.  
 Green or grey jumper or maroon school jacket, available 4R Sports World, Hamilton Road, Fairfield.

### BOYS' UNIFORM

Grey trousers or shorts  
 Grey or white shirt  
 Grey school jumper or maroon school jacket (4R Sports World)

C. Morrison

8H1.

M. Green





## THE CABRAMATTA STUDENT SOCIETY

On interviewing Miss McLachlan, we received the following information on the first C.S.S.

The formation of the first C.S.S. was announced in April of 1982. Miss McLachlan was asked by Mr. Dudley to become the teachers' representative for the school council. When she appealed to the school for the establishment of the C.S.S. she

Ms. McLachlan (bottom right) and her C.S.S.

extolled to students the importance and benefits of having a C.S.S. The previous attempt to establish a C.S.S. was not getting enough students to the meetings. There was a rule which stated they needed a quorum, a certain number of students to attend the meetings before they could be legally run. But the response from the school was overwhelming this time and in July of 1982 the first meeting was held. About sixty people attended. At the meeting the name and purpose of C.S.S. were established.

The main aim or purpose of the C.S.S. was and is, to provide a place where students can voice their opinions in school affairs and to raise money for the school. By becoming involved in fund raising and the political affairs of the school, all social functions were to be run by the C.S.S. e.g. night and day disco's. The money raised is given to the school and has gone into equipment, financial assistance to athletes, trophies, Silver Jubilee magazine and School magazine. There have also been special donations to unfortunate people at C.H.S. Such a donation was made in response to the Robert Holmes Appeal.

The meetings so far have been very successful, each meeting having had up to thirty students from all forms attending without any restrictions.

The C.S.S. also participates in activities outside the school, such as in door knock appeals, and also in fund raising for Stewart House. This shows that not only do the people inside the school benefit from the C.S.S., but so do those outside. The school Captains are elected separately from the C.S.S., but they are involved deeply in the functions of the C.S.S.

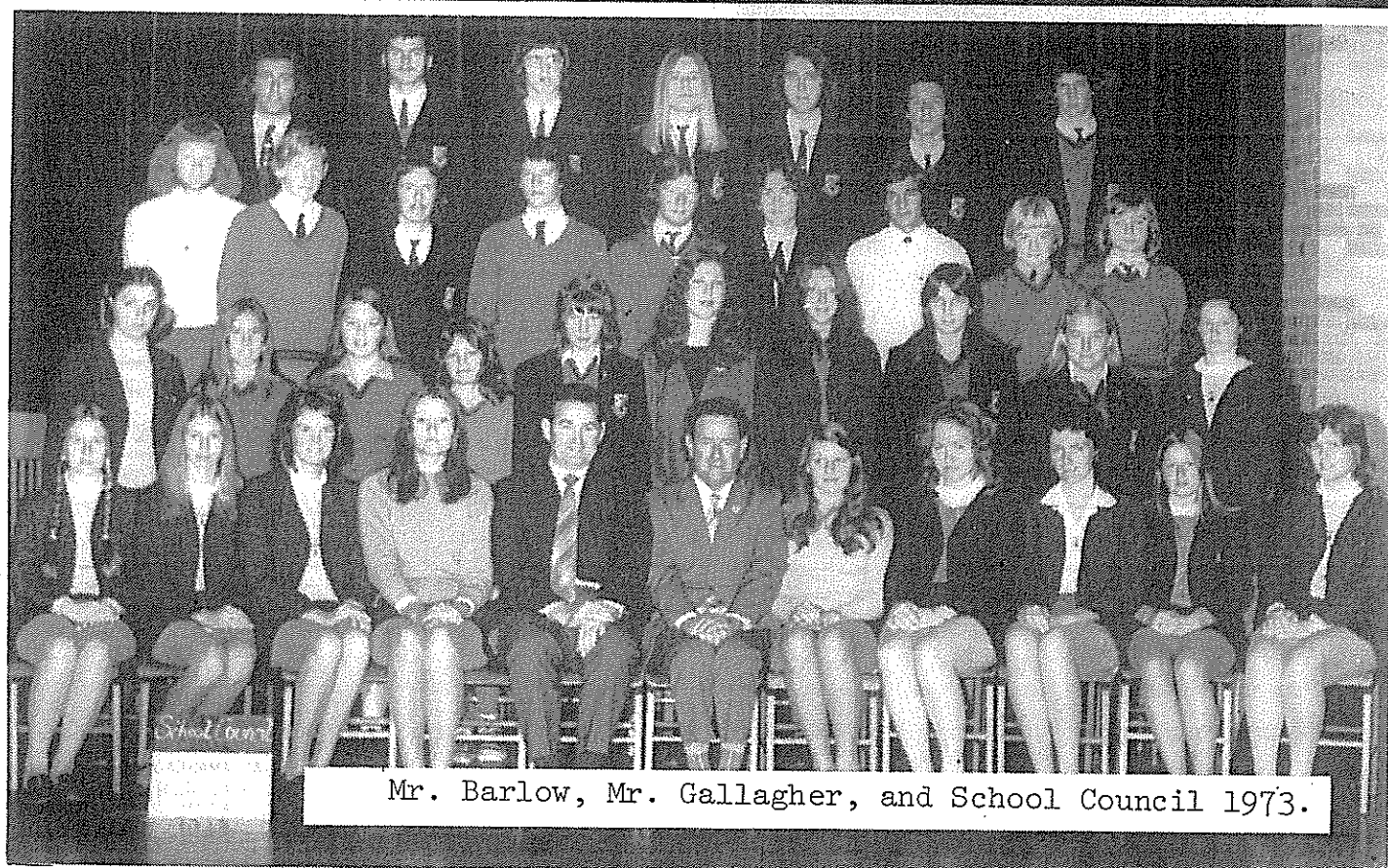
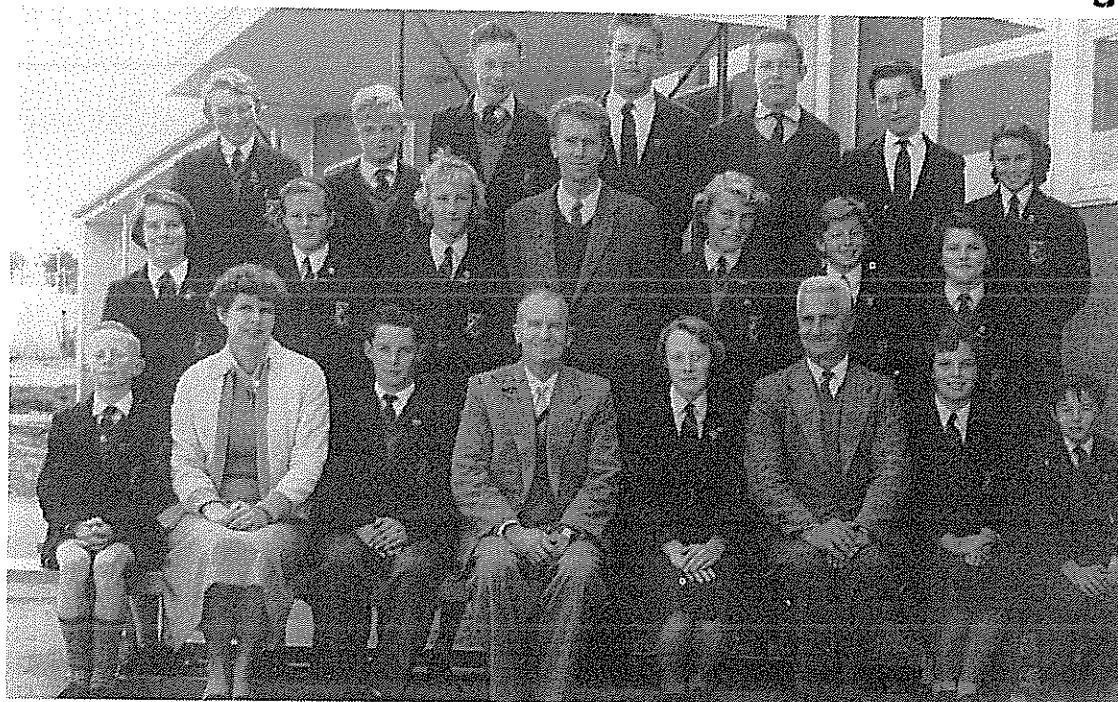
The C.S.S. also helps with school productions. They believe in building up Cabramatta student morale by participating in games and activities alongside the teachers of our school.

Maya Antic, Suzana Ivastanin.

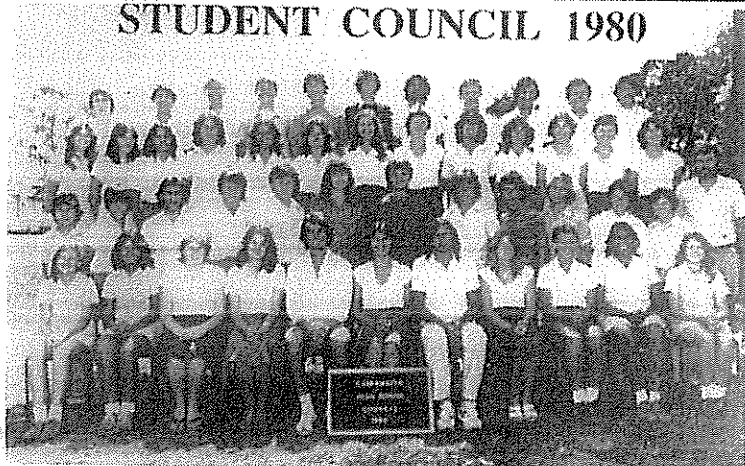


STUDENTPOWER

First prefects  
1959, Janette  
Clements be-  
tween Mr. Mc-  
Donnell (Prin-  
cipal) and Mr.  
Piper (Deputy)



Mr. Barlow, Mr. Gallagher, and School Council 1973.

**STUDENT COUNCIL 1980**





### THE HISTORY OF DRIVER TRAINING AT CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

The idea of Driver Training was first thought of towards the end of 1971; the Rotary Club of Cabramatta was eager to begin a worthwhile project within the school. The Principal at the time, Mr. Ray Gallagher, approved the idea of setting up a learn-to-drive course at the school and the task of organizing such a course was given to Mr. Graeme Horsnell. Letters were typed and

sent to the Department of Education and the Department of Motor Transport to authorize such a venture, to General Motors-Holden's and A.C. McGrath and Co. to arrange for a car, and to the N.R.M.A. for insurance purposes. The final result of Mr. Horsnell's efforts was the introduction, in 1972, of one of the most popular and longest running activities for senior students at the school.

The Driver Training cars, all provided by McGrath Holden at Liverpool, have given sterling service and no major problems have been encountered in 12 years. McGrath's have been enthusiastic for the school to use the car as much as possible and have always provided servicing and maintenance whenever required. The cars (each one a new car with dual controls) have been:-

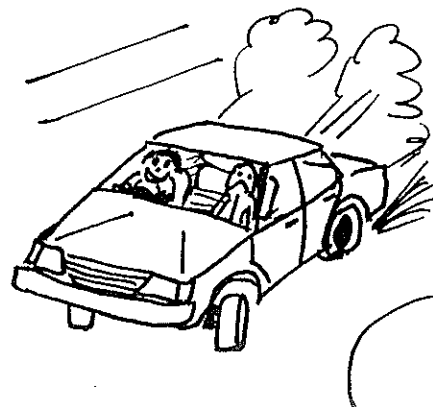
- 1972 - Pink 6 cyl. manual Torana
- 1973 - Orange 6 cyl. manual Torana
- 1975 - Yellow 6 cyl. manual Torana
- 1977 - Yellow 4 cyl. manual Gemini
- 1979 - White 4 cyl. manual Sunbird
- 1981 - Yellow 4 cyl. manual Gemini

The purpose of Driver Training has always been to teach students the techniques of defensive driving (i.e. driving in such a way as to recognize and avoid possible accident situations). Thousands of dollars are spent educating each child; Driver Training attempts to help them reach later life, teaching them the responsibility that is needed with the use of a car.

Although sometimes referring to it as the "D.T.'s", the teachers of Driver Training (all of whom give up part of their spare time for the purpose) try to emphasise this responsibility and show it in their own driving. The two longest serving Driver Training teachers have been Mr. Breckenridge (who has been part of the course since its inception) and Mr. Jackson (since 1973).

The students (about 300 have been through the programme so far) have always been eager to learn and in return have given their instructors their fair share of nervous experiences. Every teacher associated with the Driver Training group has stories to tell, whether it be golf balls along Orange Grove Road or mysteriously-appearing trees, telegraph poles and kerbs. One female student, after being asked to make a U-turn at an appropriate position on the Hume Highway,

floored the accelerator on one of the early model 6 cylinder Toranas and slid the back of the car around  $360^{\circ}$  to be facing oncoming traffic on the other side of the road. A male student, approaching a main intersection at 60 km/h, was instructed to turn right at the intersection. He did so, but without any indication, gear changing or braking and hardly any turning of the steering wheel. Another student was asked to use the handbrake to slow down (good practice if the foot brake fails). The result? The enthusiastic student pulled the hand brake on so hard that it locked the rear wheels and the car started sliding sideways towards a fence! No wonder some teachers refer to Driver Training as the "D.T.'s!"

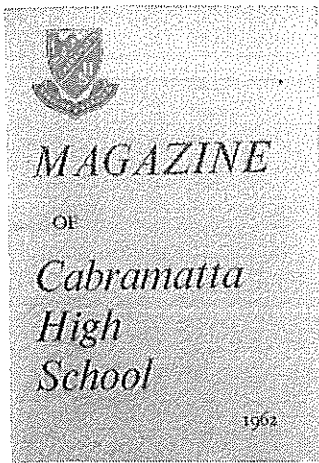


Mr. O. Sinden,  
I/C Driver Ed. Programme.



Driver Ed promoter Mr. Horsnell on right; 1975 students





First Magazine

## FIRST SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Cabramatta has had a school magazine since 1962. The first magazine was called "The Magazine of Cabramatta High." The same title was given in 1963. However, in 1964 the magazine editors started a competition to find a new name for the magazine, with a prize money of one guinea(\$2.10). This competition was won by Jean Percival of 4th Form who recommended the name "Thuruna", which is an Aboriginal name for "together". Today the name "Thuruna" is still being used.

We assume that the reason that the first magazine was published in 1962 and not in 1958 is due to the fact that in 1962 the school was more settled than in 1958. After five years of the school's continuous running, there were more articles to be placed in the first edition than there were in 1958.

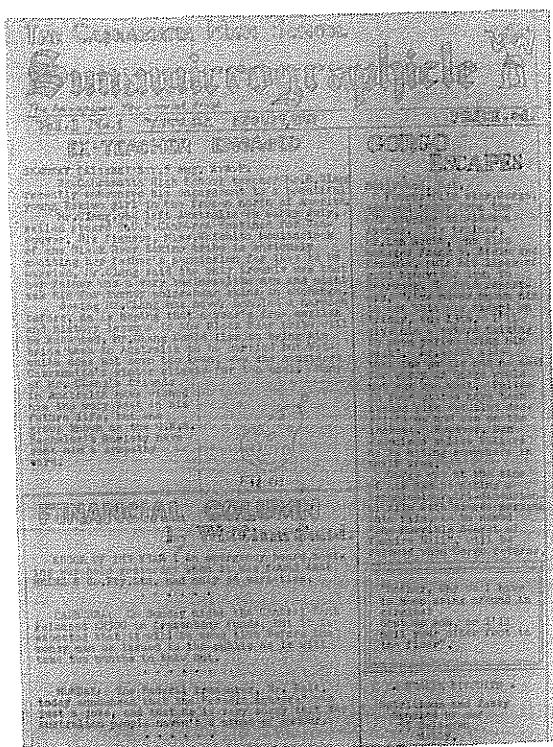
The first school magazine showed many things had happened since the opening in 1958. The magazine had a wide variety of articles in it. There was a wide range of topics from the principal's message to short stories and poems. The magazine also outlined many sports carnivals in which the school had participated. It had many team photo and sports results. The magazine also shows who received particular sporting and academic awards.

The principal congratulated the school on its wonderful effort that had gone into the production of the first school magazine.

In the magazine there were many reports on the different clubs running in the school, of which the Drama club and the Chess club were prominent.

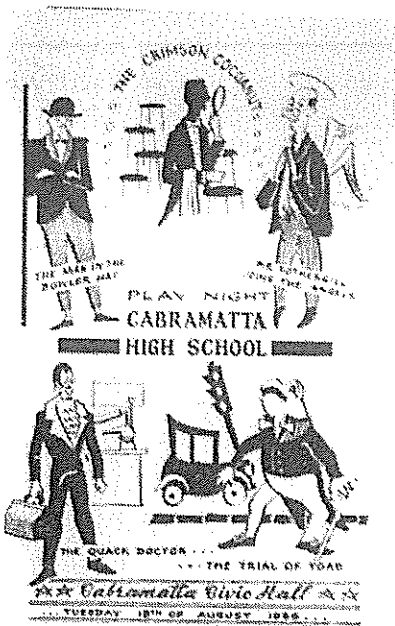
The magazine was first produced with the help of school Captains Eleanor Thomas and Kalev Wilding.

By Michael LoProto and Suzana Ivastanin,  
9H1.



"1950's Student Satirical paper"

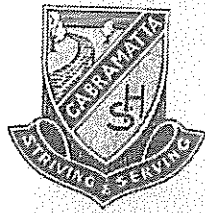




1959 Play Night

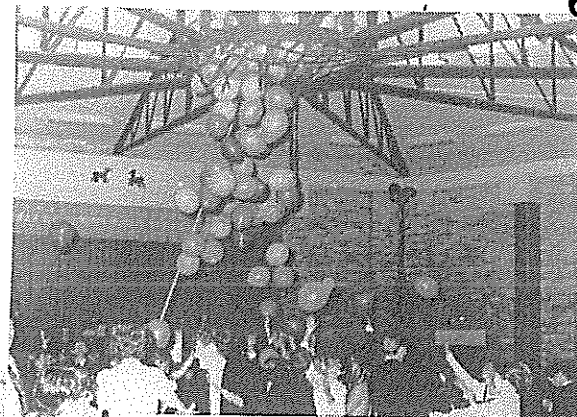


CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL  
FIRST PLAY NIGHT



Cabramatta Civic Hall  
WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1958

1<sup>ST</sup>'s

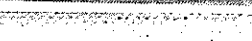
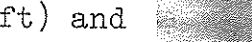
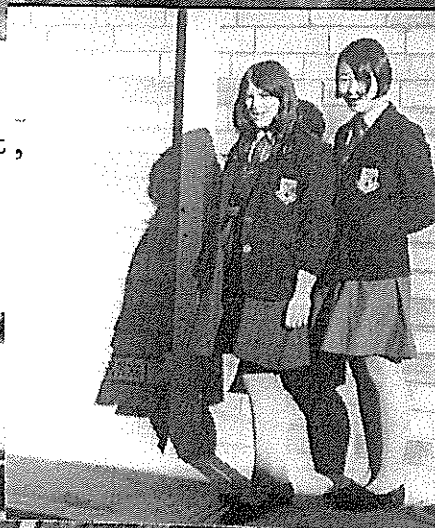


1st ball in Hall

First farewell



1st exchange student,  
Hiromi Sudo 1966.



Mr. Valler (centre), Ms. McLachlan (3rd left) and canoe club





# Cabramatta's Hall Of Fame



## MR. AGRICULTURE 1983 (MR. HARRIS)

1. How does it feel to be the first agricultural teacher?

It gives me a sense of pride being Cabramatta High's first agricultural teacher, especially since this is my very first teaching job.

2. What is the reaction to your classes?

Most kids seem to like the subject and especially enjoy the practical work involved. Most teachers are in favour of agricultural classes and feel that it is a good scheme for children. The staff have been very supportive and helpful.

3. What do you think of Cabramatta High?

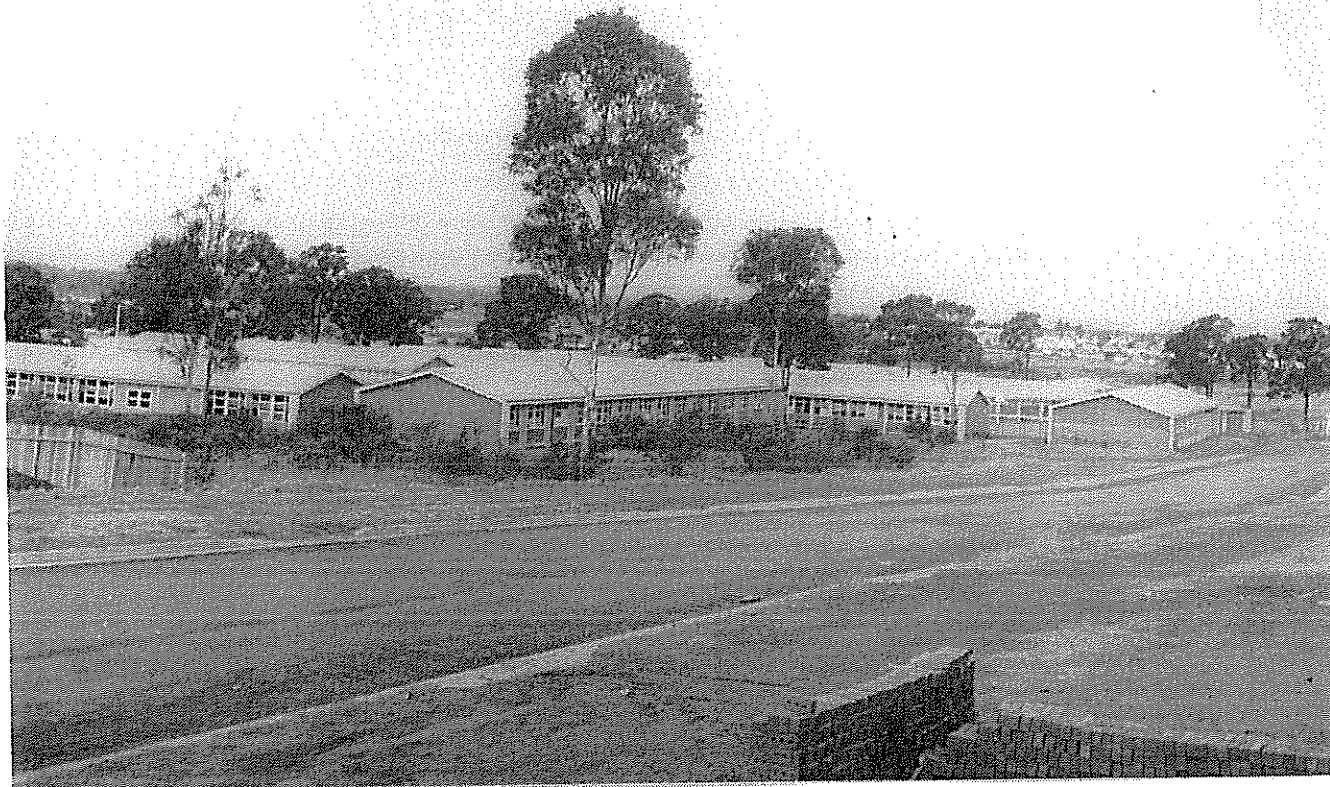
I like Cabramatta High - the staff are very supportive and the kids are great.

4. What Forms do you mainly teach?

I teach mainly Years 8 and 9, Year 8 being the smallest in number of the two and both classes are mixed with boys and girls.

Denise Bruno, 10H1

Grace Ave. view of school c 1960. No fences; homes just being built.





MR. MAL BARLOW - KING OF C BLOCK

What are you doing now?

At present I am the Principal at St. John's Park High School.

Why did you write the text books?

To make money and because there was a lack of Australian written text books. A fellow teacher, Mr. Newton, and I talked about it and because the only text books we had were a difficult American University text and an outdated English one, we felt we could convert out teaching notes into a book that the kids could handle.

What were you at C.H.S.?

I started off as a Geography teacher and then I became Social Science Master. But I think the proudest thing I had to bear was when I became year patron. I had them until 1972, right from Year 7 up to Year 12, and they were a very fine bunch of young people. I got a lot of satisfaction with them.

What do you recall from C.H.S.?

Happiest moment: I think the thing about C.H.S. back 20 to 25 years ago was that all the staff considered it a great adventure, there weren't many high schools in the Western area at all and Cabramatta was a very new school and for some reason or other it was just a happy combination of teachers. There was a great camaraderie amongst the teachers that were there and most of whom have since gone on to become Principals, subject masters, inspectors and so on. But equally the first batch of students who went through were outstanding people. The most outstanding kids I've ever taught in all my life I think would be in those first three or four years there.

Saddest moment: Well, I don't think I have any sad memories of Cabramatta High.

Funniest moment: The funniest moment wasn't funny at the time, but it taught me a lesson. I considered myself to be a very good shot putter and I asked the Sportsmaster, Mr. Reg. Lang, to give me the field events. I was making my way down to the field and I saw a couple of young fellows throwing the shot around. I went over and said, "Give me that son, I'll show you how to do it". I shot it about 37 feet and thought it was pretty good. Then the kid picked it up and shot it 'round 42 feet, left me for dead, and took the wind out of my sails and taught me not to be so boastful.

Silliest action: That would be the shot put incident.

Exciting event: I think it would be some of the Year 12 Farewells that they gave in the early 70's. They were very good. Some of the skits and mimes were of a high quality and I used to look forward to them. Also we used to have some exciting excursions away to the country and stay overnight, which to do back then was very unusual, but of course now it is very common.

Best lesson: The Level 1 lessons were enjoyable. They were held after school. Level 1 is now called 3 unit. Because they were held after school, I insisted that the class should feed me, and the girls would bring in cakes, biscuits and lollies, and when they left school, they gave me a biscuit jar as a goodbye present.

Best other event: C.H.S. had some very outstanding sporting teams during the 60's. I remember a cricket team that was undefeated for three years in a row and that team used to play the staff every year and always used to thrash us.

What did you like best about the school?

I liked the kids and the atmosphere between the kids and the staff.

Which people impressed you most?

There was a great teacher called Reg Lang. He was a good sportsman. Also a very old teacher called Bill Irvin who was nearly 80 and he was a very impressive man.

What was the most important change you witnessed at school?

I suppose the introduction of the Wyndham scheme, and students with long hair.



Kendall James, 12AH.



MRS. COOK - FIRST LADY MATHS TEACHER

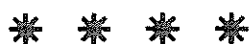
Mrs. Cook spent 16 years teaching at Cabramatta High, and during those years she actually taught one of her own brothers, currently in Year 10.

When Mrs. Cook arrived at Cabramatta High in 1966, she was the first female Maths teacher, and the Maths Master, Mr. Irvin, was nonplussed so Mrs. Cook had her own staff room in the Science block. Later Mr. Harris helped her move from her lonely staff room to the Maths staff room where she belonged. During her time she saw a lot of changes, mainly the Hall being built and concrete being put between the buildings.

The happiest moment at Cabramatta High for her was when her 10M1 class in 1980 received 20 grade ones. She recalls this class as one of the best she ever had. Also one of her happiest days was when she was allowed to join her colleagues in the Maths staff room.

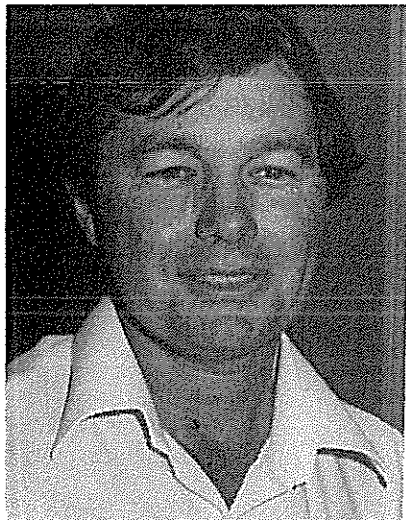
She recalls that the funniest thing that ever happened to her was being accidentally locked up in the girls toilet at the P.E. sheds. It was on a Friday. For the last three periods she shouted for help but there was no one around. It was 3.15 p.m. and just as everyone was going home a Maths teacher heard her and notified Mrs. King, the sportsmistress, to come and unlock it. If she had not been heard by Mr. Frith she would have had to spend the weekend there.

She is now a casual teacher at Casula and whatever happens, she will never forget C.H.S., and vice versa.



George Allebi, 11H2.





### MR. BRECKENRIDGE

Mr. Breckenridge came to the school in 1969. He was partly Maths and English teacher: English teacher to a special group of Years 7 and 8 and Maths to the other classes.

He has noticed many physical changes at the school. Portables were non-existent in those days. The Art block was just for Art and Music and Lab 3 and Lab 4 was called the Biology Block. There was no Library/Science block so the actual library was where the common room is now. The tennis courts were in excellent condition. The school playground was nearly all clay, there wasn't much grass anywhere. The pupils always had to wear full uniform to school. Ties were worn in winter and some girls wore gloves and a beret. The senior students wore ties all the time and also school blazers. The senior uniform was different to the junior uniform. Nobody wore jeans or sandals, only leather shoes.

In those days the majority of the pupils had a European background. There weren't many problems within the school because of the really strict discipline in the school.

There were actual hardships in the school for a period of time in the early 70's. Most of the blocks didn't have any lights, heaters or fans. The power was not connected to D block yet. The lights were especially the problem "because I had lessons in D block and it was very dark but we managed".

"I have always coached Rugby League in winter and cricket in summer" Mr. Breck told us. The best team I ever coached would have to be the 13 years Rugby League. I had them until they were 16. They won everything undefeated which was mainly because of Steve Ella who was outstanding. The whole team were outstanding and played as one. The worst team I've ever coached would have to be now which is the third grade junior Rugby League team who haven't scored a point yet and have 150 points against them so far.

The biggest person who has ever gone to this school would have to be Gunther Neszpor. He was a massively big front row forward and really built solidly. The toughest person would have been Billy Brown. He was the toughest boy in a group or gang because he was the first to break up fights. The funniest student prank was when all the students put the furniture in the entrance of the hall about five or six years ago. My best and funniest lesson would have to be an Algebra lesson where I used fruit to represent A and B to show that  $2A + 3B$  is not equal to  $5AB$ . I used apples for A and bananas for B. My most embarrassing situation was when I was refereeing a football match in 1973 on a wet field and I thought that it was going to be cancelled so I didn't bring any spare clothes, but the weather held out and I had to referee in plain clothes. I was running down the field when I slipped and fell in the mud, face first. Luckily for me that I had my own car to drive home in.

The best band performance I can remember was actually the best



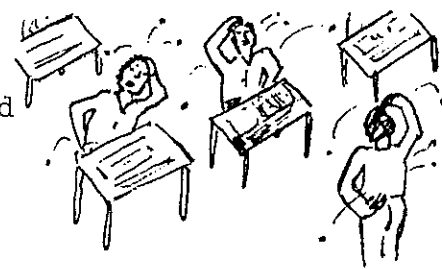


musical production in this school. It was called 'Vicious Circle' in 1976. The main four singers were Wayne Baddock, Stephen Broadhurst, Kerrie Roberts and Sue Hines.

Another rather different thing in the early '70's was the Assemblies and Roll Call. Every morning outside the woodwork block the assembly and roll call was held. You would all have to be in roll call lines and while the teachers are saying the announcements, your roll call teacher would go down the line and mark you on the roll.

Now famous people who used to come to Cabramatta High School would have to be Steve Ella (now plays first grade for Parramatta), Jenny Alcorn (State hockey player), Debbie Brown (first female jockey), Peter Casuscelli (State runner), Eric Merrick (walkathon - he used to win all the time because he would actually run all the way), Wendy Saunders (State cricket player), Marijan and Alex Kovacic (both played first grade soccer with Croatia while still coming to school. They used to drive their cars to school because of all the money they had by playing for first grade) and Eddie Flahey (plays for Penrith). Mr. Tom Krause (used to be a Maths teacher and also basketball coach) is now a journalist with the Sunday Telegraph. He taught here in 1973.

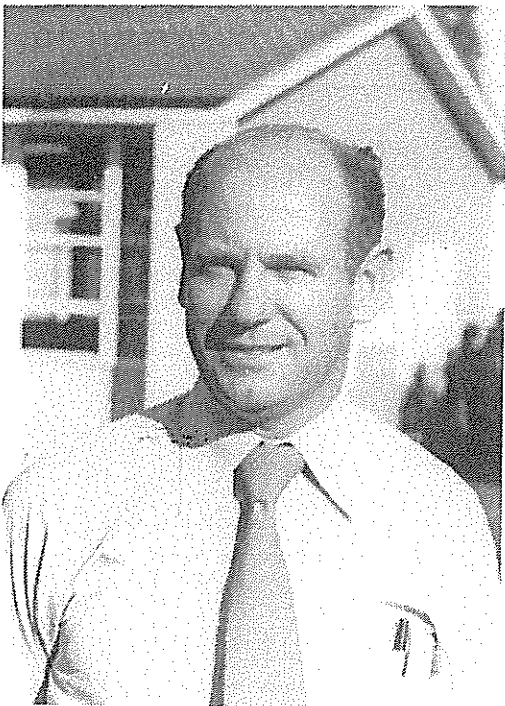
Perhaps the funniest incident I can remember was the flea plague in the mid 1970's. Stray cats brought the fleas under D block, and soon the whole block was jumping. Students were more affected than teachers because we could at least move around, while those sitting at a desk were easy targets. You could see whole rows scratching away. The pesticide people took two days to fumigate the building while we had classes in spare rooms and playground. The stink afterwards was another burden we had to put up with."



Gustavo Gonzales  
Peter Jackson, 10H2.



C.H.S. authors' books, left to right, Mr. Gallagher's, Messrs. Barlow & Newton's, Ms. Shade's, Mr. Lambert's, Messrs. Smythe & Okell's.



MR. D. COURTS - "THE DON"

\* \* \* \*

What are you doing now?

I'm the Administration Master at Dunheved High.  
(Mt. Druitt area)

What is your most noteworthy achievement since leaving Cabra?

None really, I'm waiting for a deputy's job.

What were you at C.H.S.?

I went through from Sportsmaster, Science Master and then Administration Master.

What do you recall from your days at C.H.S.?

Happiest moment - I suppose the happiest moment was when the kids supported me when I lost my appeal to be inspected. I was due for inspection and they said they wouldn't come out until the next year which meant I'd lose all my seniority. When the kids got to hear of it they got on the phone to Area office and annoyed them, which was a very happy moment for me.

Saddest moment - I suppose leaving C.H.S. was the saddest time.

Funniest - The time the assembly master got blown up. It was on a Year 12 muck up day and they put a smoke bomb under him. He ended up in hospital and was away for about a week because the smoke brought him out in a very bad rash.

Best lesson - That was during my inspection for List 3. I had, supposedly, the worst class in the school and I went prepared for the worst and they all behaved themselves and answered all the questions correctly. I had to convince the Inspector that I hadn't coached them up beforehand.

What did you like best about Cabramatta?

I liked the friendliness of the kids. They could be friends but they could also take punishment when justified.

Which people impressed you most?

There was a principal called Mr. Ray Gallagher and he was a very sincere and efficient person.

What is the most important change you witnessed at school?

I think the biggest change was when Cabramatta High branched out into plays and literary productions and wasn't just a sporting school any more.

Kendall James, Y12.

MRS. R. FENELEY

"My British Cottage"

She was History Mistress in 1974, English Mistress in 1975, but in her own estimation more importantly the person in charge of drama at the school 1971-5. Mrs. Feneley is now Head of English at Warren Comprehensive School, Essex, England - where she has also established drama at the school.

She recalls her initial interest in drama: "I did some acting myself with the Castle Hill Players - as the junior female lead in 'Arsenic and Old Lace', 'The Seven Year Itch'....At school I wanted to give pupils the same opportunities." There followed a succession of plays, marking perhaps Cabramatta High's climactic period in drama:

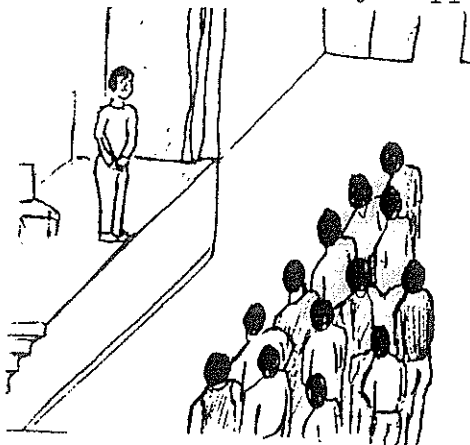
1971 Blithe Spirit: "I remember playing a part myself and my skirt progressively unravelled as the scenes developed. Front stalls probably saw more than they paid for".

1972 Look Back in Anger: "One of the leading characters was deaf in one ear and couldn't hear the prompt. We had to kick him in the shins for his cue".

1973 The Seven Year Itch: "This was a really fun group to work with, even though they bowled me over in my mini skirt when they passed a chair to me".

1974 Born Yesterday: "At a critical stage of rehearsal two leading characters arrived in plaster and bandages, apparently a result from a motor cycle accident. The air was blue with cursing when I thought production might have to be postponed - but it was only a trick. Alan Heckenberg and George Samiec had been up all night dressing their wounds to look realistic".

1975 Barefoot in the Park: "Sharon Baddock played the lead...this was the best play we put on...everything just worked out perfectly. Mark McAndrew, Anna Motusenko... they were a super bunch of kids. It was probably my happiest moment at Cabra High".





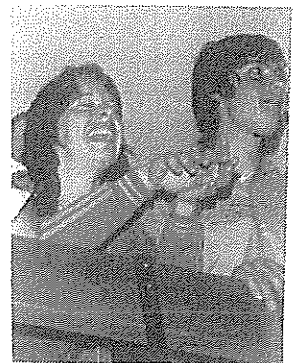
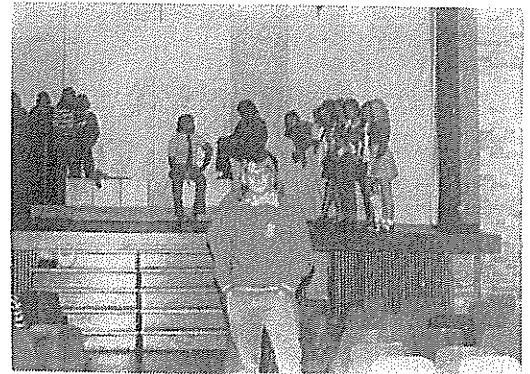
"Rule Britannia..."  
repercussions.

Mrs. Feneley told us many funny stories about the school, some of which are, unfortunately, not printable. There was the English teacher who was fed up with her stropmy class, brought in a stray dog and put it on the table in front of the pupils, and gave the poetry lesson to the dog while the students gawked in amazement...And the Art teacher who painted her class room bright red to liven up the place, and got into union trouble instead...And the time when she had her first faculty meeting in the English Staffroom while the Minutes-person recorded her words on a roll of toilet paper behind her back...And the teacher who accidentally dropped ash into the lap of her male colleague and insisted on brushing it away, saying "You'd do the same for me"...And the actor who kept mixing his words ("bumbling chums" became "chumbling bums")...And the time her sex education class polled teachers about their fantasy dreams, with irate

Her saddest moment was leaving this school, but not the country.



W. Smythe,  
Editor.



Anna Motusenka & Mark McAndrew  
'75 Revue.



SISTER HAMEL - FIRST SCHOOL NURSEWhen did you first come to C.H.S.?

I first came to C.H.S. in March, 1980. The clinic at first wasn't very well equipped. It had cane beds and no cupboards. I had to set it all up.

What was the worst injury you've ever treated?

The worst injury occurred in March 1982 when five Year 9 girls tried to restrict their breathing by holding each other around the waist really tight. I had no oxygen so I had to call an ambulance.

What were some of the excuses used for coming up to the clinic?

Kids generally just come up for aches and pains. There was the occasional pupil who came up to borrow lunch money or to have a private discussion about problems. Mostly the real reasons were because they forgot to do assignments or homework or they forgot their shoes for woodwork or metalwork.

What were some of the funniest notes from teachers who sent the kids up?

Mr. Newton's, "Please douse Peter for guppa guts".

A note to ask to "please clamp Colin's mouth".

One concerning Eddy feeling sick because he had just cut up a rat.

Mr. Martin's "Could you please operate on Max's hand and if time on his mouth as well".

Mr. Wright's "Remove a splinter from Pat's foot. I offered to do it with a saw but he declined".

Mr. Wright again sent another note but this time offered to remove a splinter with a chisel.

A boy came up with the excuse that mum had to go to the club to play bingo so he had to come to school sick.

Mr. Reddington sent up a note suggesting we remove a boy's splinter with a saw and chisel.

But most of them were a lot of headaches and pains during Maths and English. Notes were sent up on things from used lunch bags to old newspapers.

Another note said "Please fix Ray's finger without ruining his looks".

Who was the bravest student after a bad injury?

The bravest student was a girl named Vicki. She was my first accident. She fractured her ankle and was in terrible pain but took it all well. I had to call an ambulance and they gave her laughing gas.

What was the longest treatment?

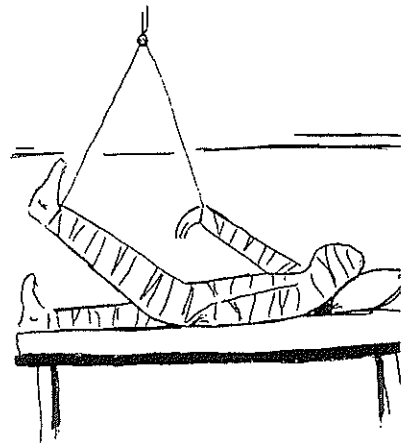
I treated a girl for 18 months with shocking ulcers on her feet. There were burns etc. that I treated for two weeks and short treatments such as taking stitches out.

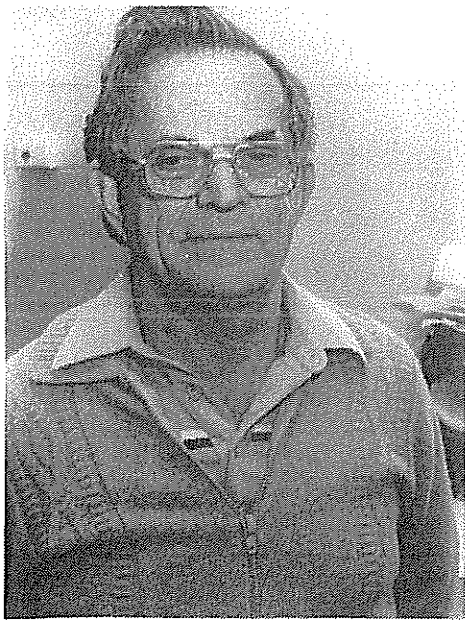
Where are you going and why?

I am going up to the north coast. but am originally a country girl.

I have been in the city nine years  
I am going back to the country.

Jenni McNamara and Elissa McDonald,





MR. N. HARRIS

1. What are you doing now?

Mr. Harris is now retired, he retired in late 1981. Ever since retiring he has had more time to spend with his family, has been able to play golf, go to the movies, theatre, leisure activities in general. These activities are no longer limited to week ends. Mr. Harris retired because he had a bad heart condition.

2. What were you at C.H.S.? 'Special position held/Special job'.

When Mr. Harris was first appointed to Cabramatta High he was a Special Master in charge of Physical Education, Languages, Music, Art and Migrant English which is known as E.S.L. now. Mr. Harris took over the position of Administration Master, arranging for casual teachers to replace members of staff who were away. Mr. Harris was also a member of the Mathematics staff.

3. What do you recall from school days at C.H.S.?

The most pleasant memories Mr. Harris has of C.H.S. are of friendly staff members and the pleasant relations between staff and students. Mr. Harris felt that C.H.S. was almost always a happy place.

Probably the most exciting event occurring to Mr. Harris was at the Capitol Theatre during 1981 when a group of students trained mainly by Mrs. Chapman won a contest organized by the radio station 2SM. The students provided their own musical backing for a mimed version of a Bob Dylan song 'Hurricane'. It was a popular win especially as they won a Sony portable video outfit for the school.

4. What did you like best/least about school?

The most unfortunate aspect from Mr. Harris point of view is that the school is so spread out over such a large area of land. This makes it one of the worst wet weather schools - particularly if you have to move to or from the Maths block (is also known as D block) when it is raining - a minor criticism particularly when Mr. Harris no longer has to do it.

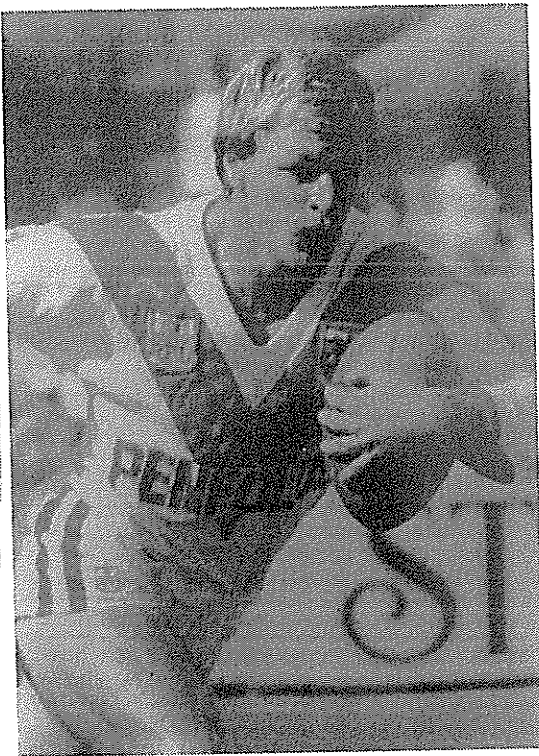
5. What changes at school are you aware of?

When Mr. Harris arrived at C.H.S. the playground was part bitumen (very useful) and mostly clay (nasty when raining). Over the years with lots of work the clay areas have been changed to pleasant grassy areas with numerous shady trees. The paddock at the rear has been developed to good standards of football fields.

6. What is the most important change you witnessed at school?

The most important change Mr. Harris had witnessed is when the school hall and the library as well as the science block were built.

Interview by Sear Tan, 10H1.



MR. B. JOHNSON - SPORTSMASTER  
AND LEAGUE STAR



Mr. Johnson showed a liking for League football at an early age: 6 years old he started playing for the Dapto "Under 9's". By the age of 20 he was in Dapto Firsts, who won their competition at that period (1976-77). Picked to represent Illawarra and then Country Firsts (1978), he was spotted by Saints who offered him a contract that year. He has played fullback with them ever since (about 112 first grade game at time of writing).

Question: What was your greatest thrill in the game?

Answer: "Being part of the 1979 premiership side in St. George. We've had a bit of bad luck lately (1983), but that year we really got our act together to come in first. I'm also proud to have won the 1980 Dally M award for 'Fullback of the Year'. It was a great honour".

Question: What has been your association with this high school?

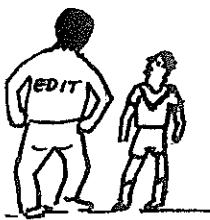
Answer: "In 1981 I was appointed P.E. teacher here. I became Sportsmaster in 1982. Although it is a long way to travel for me, I've never regretted coming here".

Question: What do you hope to achieve at this school?

Answer: "This school has so much potential for sport. We've been striving to improve attitudes towards sport, and I believe we have been successful in this over the past few years. A greater interest in sport and the competition it provides will only increase school spirit - not to mention the side benefits of a healthy and fit life style".

Question: What are your future plans in football?

Answer: "When I look at Mr. Smythe it appears that great physical fitness and strength can go on forever. However, you can only take each year as it comes".



Researched by  
J. Bruno, 12H3.

STOP PRESS:

Saints have made it into the finals from an impossible position by winning five games in a row. They thrashed Easts (suffer, Ms. McLachlan) in a play off for the final five. Mr. Johnson had a strong game, scoring himself, and setting up several tries

Miss Joan Kelly (now Mrs. Joan Derricks) arrived at Cabramatta High in 1959 as the Music teacher; she was also the girls' supervisor. Mrs. Derricks played a vital part in producing the school song and contributed much of her time to this school.

One of the problems she encountered as Girls' Supervisor whilst at Cabramatta was that since the school was new, the senior girls were in Year 8 (second form) and thus it was a very difficult situation with no senior girls to set an example.

There were fifteen first year classes and twelve second year classes, and another problem was that Bonnyrigg did not have a high school at the time. They had their own headmaster. They shared most of the few facilities and this contributed in worsening the crowded situation.

Mrs. Derricks had a great time at Cabramatta and had lots of fun. She found the staff friendly and they had many parties.

Her most exciting moment at Cabramatta High was when Cabramatta entered the "Trial by Jury" Competition.

She considered that the saddest moments at Cabramatta was when a girl got killed and Mr. Roy Caterson (one of the staff) and herself attended the funeral to represent Cabramatta High. The other sad moment was another funeral she attended. One of the girls died and all the girls at Cabramatta went to the church and stood as a guard of honour.

Mrs. Derrick stayed at Cabramatta for five years. At the moment she is in retirement. Previously she was the deputy principal at Sefton High.

Helen Stefanic, Year 11.





INTERVIEWING MR. R. NEWTON -  
C.H.S. TEACHER 1966-82.



What are you doing now?

I am the Geography Subject Master at Fairvale High.

What was your most notable achievement at C.H.S.?

The forming of the Film Society in 1970 with Mr. Crossingham.

What impressed you most about C.H.S.?

The students were friendly and held no grudges. The staff were friendly and co-operative.

What changes at school are you aware of?

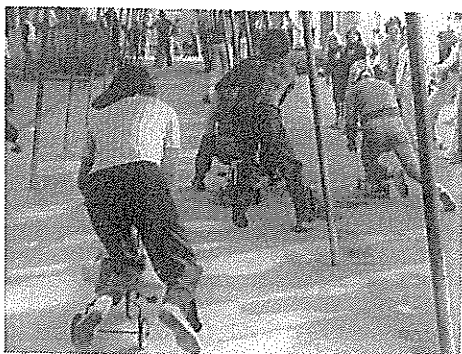
At first the school was ran very military like with strict rules on uniform and finger nails were checked in the assemblies. Then everybody marched off to class. Later things became less formal and these changes were for the better.

What kind of disasters do you remember?

Break and entries, fire in the English staffroom, the fire in the Administration block, the damage done to the Assembly hall and the death of Lana Schroeder.

Can you remember any funny activities that took place at C.H.S.?

The sixth muck up day was clever. We were at an assembly when all these people dressed in sheets etc. looking like angels rose behind us. This took place in the late '60's. Another funny event was the Dinkithon around the school with Year 11's and 12's participating. The winner was Mr. Twyford. This happened around 1976 and was to raise money.



When did you first come to the school and what was it like?

My first day was the 1st January, 1966. The buildings were very spread out and much of the time was spent walking to class. Most of the ground was clay or mud and there was no concrete.

What was the canteen like?

There were two canteens. One in the current lockers area for the boys and the current canteen for the girls. The foods got dearer and my favourite was the "maggot bag" (meat pie). The worst were the horrible specials.

What was the uniform like?

The girls' uniforms were bottle green and plain and in the mid 70's the juniors wore the checked uniforms. The boys wore blazers and ties, black shoes. The girls also had straw hats, ties, gloves and blazers with the school crest. The uniform has changed quite a lot.

What do you think C.H.S. will be like at the Golden Jubilee?

There will be no teachers but instead small electronic supervising teaching machines.



What was the saddest memory of C.H.S.?

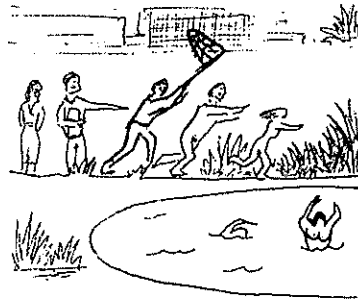
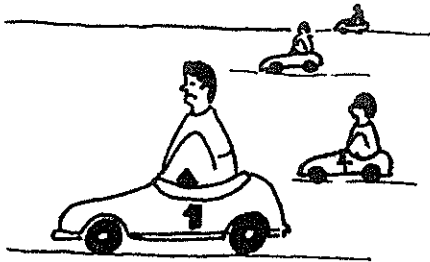
When Year 12 left in 1976 as I was their Form Master.

What pranks did you witness?

There was once a very thin boy threaded through the bike rack outside Geography block.

A teacher kept sending up to the staffroom for different things so eventually they sent him up his whole desk.

A group of students escaped to the creek and went skinny dipping. This 'prank' was classed as sexual misconduct. Once everybody and everything was recovered, the boys were caned and the girls were warned severely.



What was the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to you?

It happened at an assembly with the whole school that I was conducting. The whole school all of a sudden started clapping and stomping and yelling. The principal then arrived with the cane. It was a 3.15 assembly which was very difficult to control.

What was the most unexpected thing that happened to you?

It was a sandwich that Mrs. Mirfin made for me down the canteen. It had cigarette butts, lettuce scraps, onion scraps and other left overs, and she tied it with string and sticky tape because I said I wanted something different.



What was the funniest thing that happened to another teacher?

There was an English teacher who loved to swear. One day was called up to the principal. Was spoken to strictly; promised he would never swear to his class again. Then he went back to class and said "Which one of you 'B Bs' dobbed me in?"




Could you tell us about the C Block undercover activities in the early 1970's?

We wondered why the floor would spring up and down, so we decided to go down and investigate. We discovered to our surprise that the middle pillar had been moved and there were a mattress, money box, shirts, shoes, blankets, rug etc. and rude pictures.

In the innocence of my youth I couldn't quite figure out what all this amounted to, but I know the principal was very irate.

Personal Development courses started soon afterwards. Historians in A Block said they always knew that C Block was a b....., but they copped their share of embarrassment when it was discovered that boys used their attic space to play hide and seek.

E. McDonald, J. McNamara, 10H2.

MS. V. PORTEUS - C.H.S. TEACHER 1966-83What was your first impression of the school?


I transferred from Grafton to Cabramatta High in October 1966 to replace Miss Bell who was going to England for a year as an exchange teacher. That year was all that I anticipated staying at Cabramatta!

The hall and Lib/Lab block weren't in existence in 1966 and my first impression of the lay-out of the school was one of buildings scattered far and wide over a vast area. There were two canteens, the present canteen was for the girls and the locker room and gym was a boys' canteen. Instead of all the Science labs. being together, there was one block at each end of the school, the same applied to Music and Art rooms. All was explained when I was told that the school was originally planned as separate schools for boys and girls, but when the decision was made to make it a co-ed school, the plans were not changed to suit.

One of the most outstanding things in my mind was the wonderful atmosphere in the school, the good relationship between staff and students and the fellowship among the staff as a whole.

What about school uniforms?

School uniform was much more strictly adhered to in my first few years at Cabra. than is now the case. I remember the girls kneeling down to have the length of their skirts measured! Of course on excursions hats and blazers were worn, boys wore ties to school as well.

Tell us about the pranks students played at the creek

Ex-students who were at Cabra. in the early years will remember as I do the morning assemblies in the quadrangle outside the Industrial Arts Block, and the after lunch time assembly to check the rolls again before marching off to class with the teacher for that period. That afternoon roll check was the downfall for one group who were missing - where were they? Skinny-dipping in Cabramatta Creek of course! Naturally, the creek was much less polluted in those days and was quite popular with students who liked catching water dragons which were taken to class in the hope of scaring girls or teachers. This was not very effective in my case on the one occasion it was tried - having been used to handling reptiles and animals all my life, I simply took charge of the poor water dragon and went on with the lesson.

The famous rooftop performance?

In 1967 there was no hall, so the Sixth Form boys gave a farewell performance on their last day at school, using the roof of the Industrial Arts block as a stage. All I can remember of that event was what seemed to be a horde of boys in swimming trunks and other costumes scampering across the roof like monkeys, led of course by Jon English! I certainly remember the sighs of relief from staff members at the conclusion of the show when the performers descended safely. Luckily the school hall was built the next year and that became the venue for future farewell concerts.

Other less welcome animal visitors were the rats which appeared in the area between the canteen and the Home Economics block to be hotly pursued by boys wielding brooms or sticks. Rat chasing was a short lived exercise, in the interests of health.

The first musical?

The hall has seen some memorable performances - the first musical "Bye, Bye Birdie" in 1969 - ex students and staff will remember bouncy Frank Barnes enthusiastically putting the cast through their paces to produce an outstanding success.

The first migrant English classes?

In 1966 the school population was very different from that of today. The migrant hostel was occupied by British families, and as successive groups arrived and others moved out, so our class membership changed which was somewhat confusing for lessons.

1968 saw the setting up of our first class for non-English speaking students under the care of Mr. W. (Bill) Irwin. Mr. Irwin was like the "Pied Piper" as he walked around the school trailed by a group of boys and girls pointing to this and that object and giving the names in English for them to learn. His was an unforgettable personality, gentle, courteous and caring, with a nice sense of humour and a twinkle in his eye - many ex students and staff will remember our first E.S.L. teacher with affection. In 1969 Mr. Irwin died of cancer in his 80th year. (See Thuruna 1970 for In Memoriam notice).

Since 1968 we have had so many students from other countries that there is now a special English as a Special Language (E.S.L.) faculty with eight staff, and also a Special Intensive Language Unit - a vast change from the days of the one little group of about 20 girls and boys following Mr. Irwin.

The first International buffets?

As a result of the multicultural nature of our school population, in the 1970's I introduced International dishes into the Home Science cookery lessons and now the Year 10 International Buffet has become a tradition in the school.

Students who impressed you?

Cabramatta High School has been host school to exchange students from other countries, but in 1977 Cabramatta High student, Susan Hines, was chosen to spend a year as a Rotary exchange student in Japan. Sue was an excellent ambassador for her school and country, and her letters reporting her experiences in Japan were very enjoyable and entertaining. At Cabramatta High Sue will be remembered as an excellent student but also for her singing talent.

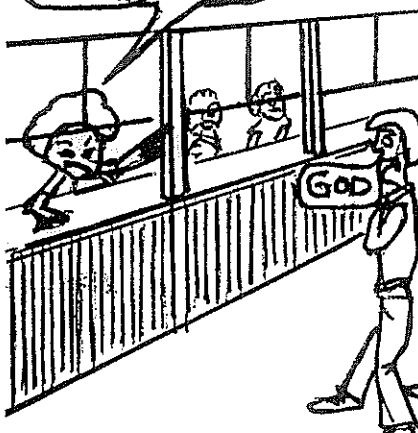
In 1977 and 1978 I was Form Mistress for Years 11 and 12, a group of students whom I shall always remember as being rather special for their good humour and friendliness.

There have been many changes in Cabramatta High School since I arrived in 1966, but it has always been and still is an interesting and challenging place to teach and nobody can say that life at Cabra. is dull ever!!  
V.M. Porteus



GET BACK BEHIND  
THE LINE  
EVERYONE

## MRS. SKEGGS - OUR FIRST CANTEEN LADY



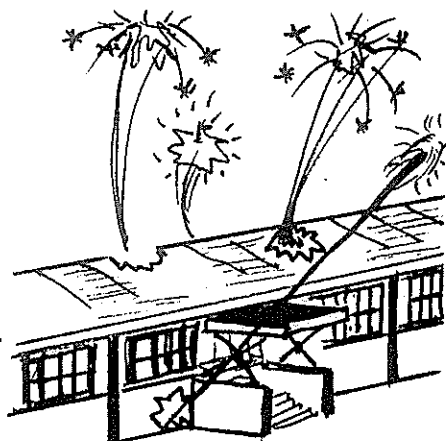
Mrs. Skeggs our first canteen lady possessed the patriotism and proudness which every school needs to run effectively. The canteen in the first week of our school opening had no stock - however Mrs. Skeggs allowed no one to go hungry. She had organised it so that lunches were delivered from Canley Vale Public School

She got to know most of the pupils on a first name basis, and recalls only one person in eight years had ever been rude to her. "Is there so much difference in our youth today and the youth 25 years ago?", I asked Mrs. Skeggs. She said (to words of this effect) that children will always be the same - it is only their adaption to surrounding values and ideals that will change them - if these ideals are on the right track, these children will have everything going for them.

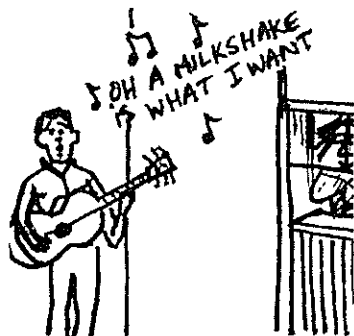
Mrs. Skeggs recalled some of her funnier incidents at school. She had very close relationships with the students and teachers, in fact she attended sport regularly with the students. On one particular sport day on their way to Moorbank they got lost and found themselves in the prison section at Holsworthy.

Another incident involves a prank, where on "Empire Night" some of the students placed candles attached to 'bungers' under the school. The candles were lit and left to set off the crackers, which they did with precise timing. Everyone had thought that there had been some explosion and that the school had caught fire.

She also recalls how she refused to accept dirty coins from boys who had been playing 'two up'.



Well for those who didn't know - our canteen was divided into two sections - one for guys and the other for girls. Only the girls' canteen had milkshakes. However the boys could buy milkshakes only if they would stand outside the canteen door and sing Mrs. Skeggs a song - which many did.



Mrs. Skeggs also played an active part in our P. & C. She took part in organising fetes and had in 1958 organised an apron competition where she tells me that some males even entered. Through such affairs our P. & C. raised enough money for such things as our tennis courts.

Mrs. Skeggs had mentioned how she continuously hears of our present fame in sport. She claims that this seems to be a very traditional value of Cabramatta High. A sport that is no longer provided at our school is the trampoline. She recalls that a few girls

were sent to America to participate in a world competition. The trampoline had been positioned in front of the canteen where Mrs. Skeggs recalls teeth being knocked out.

The canteen used to sell things like coca-cola, something we haven't had in our canteen for nearly four years. Mrs. Skeggs informs me that she had also turned her canteen to 'Health' but it didn't last. Who remembers paying 9 pence (9 cents) for a sandwich, 10 pence for a pie or 4 pence for a sausage roll and a finger bun - seems so much less than the 50-60¢ that are charged now.

Mrs. Skeggs recalls some misfortunes, like in 1960 a 3rd Form girl had been in church one morning, then felt violently ill and died that night. Doctors had claimed it was natural causes. Another is when a boy had drowned at Wallacia and in 1960 a student had caught the 'staph germ' and died.

However Mrs. Skeggs recalls that her happier times in the school over rule the bad. She asks the pupils whether they think of our motto:

'Striving and Serving'

Gina Calic, 12H3.



School uniforms 1960 style

JANETTE CLEMENTS (NOW MRS. SAINTY) -

OUR FIRST SCHOOL CAPTAIN



1. What are you doing now?  
"Housewife".
2. What is your notable achievement since leaving Cabra High School?  
"Doing a secretarial course for one year and receiving an Honours Certificate and then working as a private secretary."
3. What were you at Cabra High School?  
"First girl captain".
4. What do you recall from school days at C.H.S.? \* \* \* \* \*
  - a) Happiest moment - "All my years at school were just great because firstly it was a brand new school and everyone got on great together, and secondly it was the first co-ed school in the area".
  - b) Saddest - "Leaving the school as it was just so fantastic".
  - c) Funniest - "Dancing. Doing or practising for the prefects' waltz for the ball at the end of the year".
  - d) Most exciting event - "Play nights at the Civic Centre in Cabramatta, Speech Day in which the principal addressed everyone and receiving our first piano which was just great as we hardly had any facilities, let alone instruments at the school".
  - e) Best other event - "Tennis and other general sport. Also there were hardly any excursions at first except for Art. There were only rare trips to the picture show in Cabramatta".
5. What did you like best/least at school?  
"There's nothing I didn't like at school. I simply loved it. I liked the friendship most of all. Since it was the first co-ed school in the area everyone got on perfectly. Consequently it was only co-ed for a trial period".
6. What do you regret not having done at school?  
"I regret not going on to 6th Form. I left in 3rd Form and did a secretarial course. I sometimes wonder what I would have done if I went on".
7. What people impressed you at school?  
"All the teachers were really good. My Headmaster would have probably been my favourite. He treated me really well and advised me all the time. Another one of my favourite teachers would have been Mr. Adamson, the Science Master, but apart from them I loved all my teachers.  
Mr. J. Tilburn - first Geography teacher. He worked on gardens, planted trees, made those cement square flower boxes, etc., all in his own time after school. He really worked hard for the school."

Anne Luc, 11MH2.



Mr. Dunlop was elected school captain in the year 1959. He was 13 years of age; going on 14; a Year 2 student. His companion female Girls' Captain was Jan Clements (see article elsewhere).

Whilst at the school he participated in Rugby League and cricket as well as many other school activities.

Some memorable events he recalls are:

Ms. Kelly & Robert 1959 School drama festival where they were asked to perform at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (Joan of Arc production).

School plays and dances were the biggest social occasions.

Boxing carnivals were also organised in the early years. They were held at the Town Hall. With the boxing each student was matched up against another of equal build and a three round bout per fight was held.

Sport days were also classed as special days to look forward to, as most sporting teams had to travel considerable distances to play other schools. Rugby League in particular had to travel as far as Meadowbank and Ashfield to play other schools as most established schools in the area were Rugby Union based.

In interschool athletics carnivals that took place when he was at the school, they competed against Richmond High School.

#### People who impressed him

As far as outstanding sportsmen were concerned, he made a special note of Robert Attley who lived in Canley Vale who was no doubt the best athlete in the school at that time.

Great sport organisation he attributed to the then Sportsmaster and English teacher, Mr. Lang.

Mr. Lang in fact made life at Cabramatta High quite a great deal easier for Robert to cope with financially. Being the son of a widow who had to support three children, the cost of supporting a youth at school was quite a task. Mr. Lang was always ready to supply Robert with such sports accessories as cricket socks etc., which he could not afford. The affection of the students and staff and their willingness to aid a fellow pupil with apparent hardships was a quality of the school Robert will never forget. It included small favours like lending a jacket for school photos.

#### His saddest moment?

His leaving the school was the saddest event he encountered in his school days.

His reluctance to leave was also shared by all of the pupils and staff who regarded him as a student of high integrity.

There was a farewell party organised for him and Robert Dunlop speaks of how elated he was.

#### What is he doing now?

From Cabramatta he moved to Port Hacking High near Cronulla. He now runs and owns a Newsagency in Bonnet Bay in a quiet and secluded area in the Sutherland area.





What are you doing now?

I am currently a District Manager with the Commonwealth Employment Service; am still single and living in Cabramatta; and also writing a book about children and sport.

Notable achievements since leaving school?

Reaching my present position at work;  
6 years involved in coaching kids in sport;  
being the owner of a race horse that actually won a race.

What were you at Cabramatta High School?

Always in trouble; School Captain; captain of the school cricket and Rugby League teams.

What do you recall from school days at Cabramatta High School?

Many things I recall cannot be printed - there were many pranks and awkward moments I can't repeat to protect the guilty, but.....

Happiest moment - the one and only time a term report was sent to my parents without a nasty letter from Mr. Barlow (Form Master).

Saddest moment - the Farewell Dinner for our Year 12 - it's not easy saying goodbye to a way of life and many friends you may never see again.

Funniest moment - this is one of those areas that I cannot tell too much. However, our Year 12 did put on an end of year concert where just about all the staff were imitated and slightly embarrassed.

Silliest moments - when I dressed up at the concert as a Year 9 schoolgirl who had a crush on the Sports Master (I couldn't get the makeup off for a week).

Getting lost in the school on my first day.

Most exciting events - Mr. Newton's model of an Artesian Bore not working. The first boys versus girls rugby league match (it ended up a 5-5 draw).

What did you like best/least about school?

Best - your friends at school (maybe you appreciate that friendship even more after you leave school). Girls.

Least - homework and term reports.

What do you regret not having done at school?

Enough study (I know that sounds boring but you learn it's the truth).

Which people impressed you most at school?

Mr. Gallagher (School Principal) - he was tough but I respected him.

Mr. Newton (Geography teacher) - he was the best teacher I ever had.

Mr. Courts (Science teacher) - everybody liked him.

Mr. Barlow (Form Master) - he scared the living daylights out of me and made me pick up in time to pass the H.S.C. I appreciate and respect him for that.

I hope that the spirit and pride that existed in the early 1970's still prevails. Everybody really was proud to be at C.H.S. (some moreso than others).

Ian Saunders, 11AH2.

MARGARET HARDING - SCHOOL CAPTAIN 1972

At Cabramatta High School, Margaret Harding (nee Craig) was the girl school captain of 1972. Margaret is now an English teacher at Leichhardt High School.

Two memorable and exciting events that Margaret recalls from her school days were the musical 'Bye, Bye Birdie' (when she was in third form - 1969) and Noel Coward's play 'Blithe Spirit' (when she was in fifth form - 1971). The teacher behind 'Bye, Bye, Birdie' was the music teacher, Mr. Friar. Margaret was in the chorus for 'Bye, Bye Birdie' and was the female lead in 'Blithe Spirit' which she found a valuable experience and an introduction to theatre enjoyment, which she has continued. Ruth Barker (Mrs. Feneley) was the producer of 'Blithe Spirit' and was the medium in the play.

Another exciting event that Margaret recalls was when the car was bought for the school - she was also involved in organising this.

Margaret recalls that the science excursions were the most memorable, as they involved long bus trips away and nights spent in cabins and hotels. Margaret went to Jenolan Caves (4th form - 1970), Geroa (5th form - 1971) and the Warrumbungle Mountains (5th form - 1971). The teachers she can most remember being involved in these excursions were Mr. Phillip Reed and Mr. Don Courts. Margaret marvels at the organisation and patience of these two teachers.

July 21st, 1969 was a notable day that Margaret can remember. That was the day when the Americans first set foot on the moon. Several teachers, including the principal, Mr. Gallagher, had brought in television sets (she does not know if the school had one then) and they were set around the hall and the whole school was able to watch the live broadcast. Margaret believes Cabramatta High teachers were helpful, friendly and reasonable and were always prepared to vary the routine if they thought the students would gain from it. Thus they were able to have play days, musicals and dramas and excursions which all helped to make Margaret's time at Cabramatta High enjoyable.

Margaret also appreciated the opportunities in public speaking and interschool debating she was given. A most memorable competition was when she was in 5th form, when she and Debbie Jack entered the Lions Club of Cabramatta speaking competition and both won. Margaret came first and went to New Zealand and Debbie came second and went to Adelaide for two weeks in the Christmas holidays of that year. They stayed with a family and both had a marvellous time.

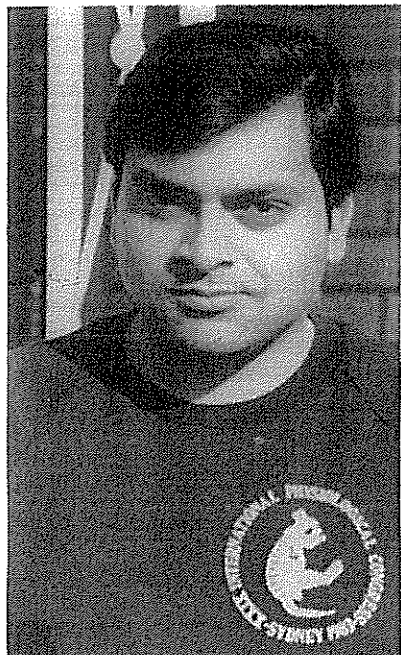
Mrs. Vimlati was a teacher Margaret was fond of at school. She also helped Margaret as a first year out teacher at Beverley Hills Girls High School in 1977, and they went on to develop quite a friendship. Mrs. Vimlati is still Administrative Mistress at Beverley Hills while Margaret has been transferred to Leichhardt High, but they still keep in touch.

Margaret enjoyed Cabramatta High and has many fond memories and still sees a few of the friends she made while she was here.

Arola Karatenislis, 11AH.

# ACHIEVEMENT

# ACADEMIC



## ANIL AGGARWALA - ACADEMIC SUCCESS

### What are you doing now?

After leaving Cabramatta High I enrolled at N.S.W. Uni. to study Optometry (1977). After one year at N.S.W.U., I applied to study Medicine at Newcastle Uni. I now have B. Med. Science with 1st Class Honors.

At the moment I am still studying and practising around Newcastle.

### How were you involved in school life?

While at school I participated in the 1975 school musical. I received a "school service badge" for my services to the Student Council where I was the acting treasurer. I received many academic awards in 4th, 5th and 6th Forms in Mathematics. I enjoyed my time at C.H.S. and I had great respect for teachers like Mr. Bullot, Mr. Newton and Mr. Moss. The weirdest experience was being taught by Miss Miller.

### An exciting event at school?

In my first few weeks at the school I still had not learnt my "place". My friends watched in horror as I attempted to tackle "the bully" in a game of Rugby. My tackle was a success and later this "bully" and I became good friends.

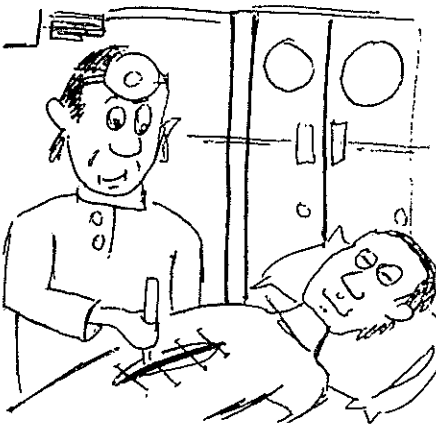
### Any regrets?

While at school I feel I was not extended enough in studying Science. I also believe that the H.S.C. does not accurately gauge a student's performance. I scored in the 300's but am now a doctor.

My overall memories are good, but I was upset by an incident on my very first day at C.H.S. I landed in trouble with a teacher who had misunderstood my pronunciation and had thought I called him a "bastard".

Ms. N. Kurovsky.





FRANK REED, FORMER CAPTAIN,  
NOW DOCTOR.



Frank Reed is now a General Practitioner (doctor) at Tumut, near the Snowy Mountains. His most notable achievement since leaving school was getting through Medical School and becoming a General Practitioner. Frank was the School Captain in 1969 and was also a member of the Debating team and in the Tasman Cup team. The funniest moment Frank can recall was at the end of Sixth Form. Instead of having a muck-up day a concert was staged.

The concert was a satirical 'dig' at the teachers and the education system. The concert was in good spirits and appropriate to release anxiety created through the year. Frank Reed's most exciting event was being accepted as an exchange student to America, from June 1967 to June 1968.

Frank's best lesson was Geography with his most impressive teacher Mr. Mal Barlow. Other teachers who impressed Frank were Mr. Colin Baker the librarian and Mr. John Lambert the History/English master.

Looking back at his school days Frank says the best thing about his period at Cabramatta High School was the diversity of racial background of the kids and the range of economic status amongst families. These aspects of life gave him a better insight into his later life. He least liked about school the hangovers of the "Victorian Days", the strict discipline restrained a freedom of mind: one could not always say what one wanted to say.

Bruce Ingersole, 11AHL.



Teacher & student -  
brothers Reed



MR. PHILIP REED - STUDENT AND TEACHER AT C.H.S.What are you doing now?

I am a Science Master at Airds High School.

What is your most notable achievement since leaving school?

Finishing the H.S.C., and slogging out another four years at Uni where I graduated as a teacher of Science.

What were you at C.H.S.?

At one stage I was a student, but then graduated as a Science teacher to find out that I was appointed at Cabramatta High School.

What do you recall from your school days at C.H.S.?Happiest moment - too many to single out instances.Saddest - we had probably one of the nicest teachers in school in Mr. Robinson. He passed on and when we found out the whole class nearly cried their eyes out.Funniest and silliest action - one day the school was in the hall for an assembly and I was on stage with the microphone blowing up the whole school only to find out that the assembly was in my honour, to bid me farewell as I was leaving to take up another position at Airds High as Science Master.Best other events - there were many as there was always a lot of activity at the school. I was involved in some of these - three school musicals, and many excursions e.g. Warrumbungles, Jenolan Caves.What did you best or least like about the school?

The thing which I best liked was the spirit which was evident in the school. The least thing I liked was when some people would not try to achieve their fullest potential.

Which people impressed you at the school?

The people who impressed me most at the school were teachers such as Mr. Jaffe and Mr. Barlow who were involved in just about anything that went on in the school. But most of all it was the students who impressed me the most with their high spirit.

What is the most important change you witnessed at the school?

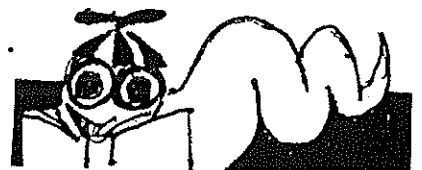
The addition of the Library.

What will C.H.S. be like at the Golden Jubilee?

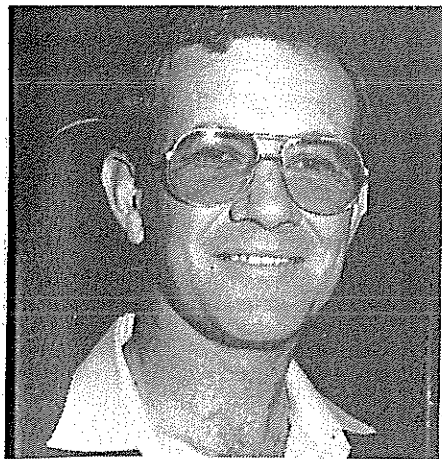
It will be what the teachers and students make it to be.



D. Dragicevic, 12H3.



P. Reed 1962



1. General comments on the school

There was some pride in the place, you know it didn't have the best of names due to the area. But all the students felt proud to go there. There were a lot of academic and sporting achievements from pupils at the school that made us proud to be part of the school.

Always enjoyed school - it was a friendly place. The staff were good and I had a lot of friends.

I was school captain in 1964. My brother was school captain two years later and held the position for two years.

2. Happiest moment at school?

We won the soccer final in my final year. We were the underdogs, real battlers. We were by no means expected to win. The team was overjoyed with the win.

3. Saddest moment at school?

Sports Master died in his thirties. He was a nice bloke. All of us liked him and were sorry when he died. They put a plaque up for him somewhere in the school.

4. Funniest moment?

On muck up day a mate of mine wrote a quote based on Macbeth on one of the toilet walls. It went something like this: "This castle had a pleasant seat, the air nimbly and sweetly recommends itself on to our gentler senses".

Also, a group of us let off a smoke bomb under the rostrum at the assembly. It was very funny, it amused all of us. But it didn't amuse one of the teachers, Mr. Caterson the special master, who spoke on the assembly at this time. He had an allergy to some of the ingredients in the bomb and came out with great big red spots all over him.



5. What did you do after school?

Acquired a couple of university degrees as a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and a Bachelor in Engineering.

I earned a cadetship in engineering with the Sydney County Council. I still work with the Council as an Electrical Engineer. The only difference is I have had a few promotions.

I was secretary of Lansvale Sporting Club for a couple of years. I am also a member at Cabramatta Golf Course.

Am happily married now with a couple of children. No regrets on going to Cabra High - enjoyed going to school there. I only have good memories of it.

Mark Hyslop, 11AHL.



# TALENTED



GORDON HALDANE - BUSINESS MAN



1. When were you at our school?

I attended Cabra High in 1962 to 1967 - the first of the 6th Form system.

2. What did you do after school?

Leaving school in November 1967 with H.S.C., I applied for a job with Southern Cross Mach. P/L which is a national private company, principally involved in irrigation and water supply throughout rural Australia. The opportunity to get the job came through a friend who worked with them at that stage. Although I started with the aim of doing draughting and design drawing, I guess they steered my course and I found myself with a basic knowledge of the internal running of the business and an interest in irrigation and water supply sales. Sales people in this business must have the knowledge to measure up, design, quote and sell the equipment and this company offered the best training of its type available in Australia. In May 1969 I was sent to Toowoomba for three months to their training school, and on returning to Sydney in August 1969 I was sent to Bathurst as a raw sales trainee to work with the local representative.

Things happened quickly and in December 1969 I moved to Mudgee to work my own territory. In January 1971 I was transferred to Griffith and in January 1972 transferred to Forbes. Forbes was a small branch which I was promoted to as Manager in late 1973. In November 1976 I was transferred to Dubbo to manage the largest branch in the State.

In December, 1979 I decided enough was enough and resigned after 12 years and started my own irrigation and water supply business in Dubbo. I have a business partner and good friend who together we have built a business from virtually nothing to what it is today. We have our own premises in Dubbo with a branch in Orange and representation which covers a major part of N.S.W. We employ nine staff and would be one of the largest irrigation and water supply outlets in N.S.W.

I am now Managing Director of my own business which is growing all the time.

4. What were you at school?

At school I was a Prefect in 1966 and 1967 and House Captain the same years. I captained the Senior Water Polo 1965-66-67 and was active in water sports and swimming.

5. What do you recall from school days?

Saddest moment? Probably leaving school - at that time without knowing what was around the corner.

Funniest? - Seeing Mr. Roy Caterson engulfed in a cloud of sulphur smoke from a bomb placed under the main rostrum at assembly.

Silliest Action?- Telling the Music teacher her class was stupid and I didn't want to be a part of it.

Most exciting event? - Visiting the Dep. Principal, Mr. Byrne, after telling the Music teacher what I thought.

6. Any regrets from school days?

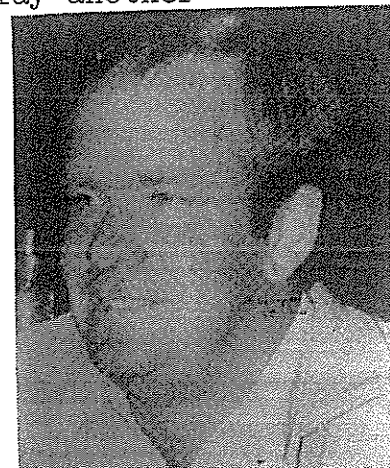
I really don't have any regrets about not having done anything at school because at that time I thought what I was doing was constructive. Since then I have tended to use the skills I gained to use in my line of business.

7. Can you tell us something about water polo in those days?

In the water polo team we had an interschool competition which we did very well in. We managed to win, from memory, three straight years. If that is not right, we were runners up in one year. (This could not match the editor's team record - see report elsewhere). In Sixth Form a group of us decided to play outside comp. and joined up with Parramatta City Water Polo and played 3rd grade. That was an experience - those guys were older, fitter and a bloody sight rougher than we were used to and it gave us a real good basic knowledge of the sport. I continued to play another year after that.

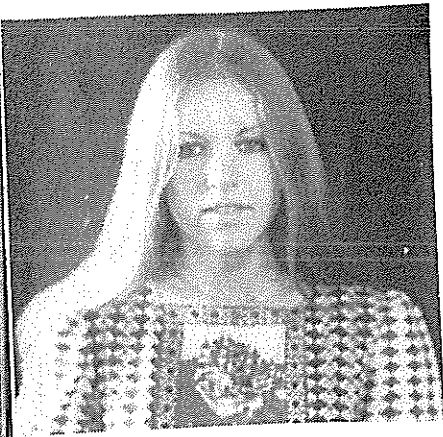
Thank you and thanks to Cabra. High.

Richard James, Yll.





## 92 MAIJA VANAGS - FASHION INDUSTRY



Maija Vanags left Cabramatta High in 1967 and went to the N.S.W. University in the hope of pursuing a career in the fashion industry. This decision was probably influenced by her sister who was already established in that industry. She left the University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and joined her sister where she has been extremely successful.

Maija is in charge of production and is the coordinator. She is responsible for the number of garments made and sold to the various retailers.

Maija and her sister own the Daily Planet stores which deal in the wholesale manufacture in women's fashions, however they are now concentrating on children's wear and three years ago opened a store named "Supermouse" which specializes in this.

Last year Maija and her sister received the Fashion Industry Award which was publicised on television and in the "Women's Weekly". They have now started to work on a new range of teenage wear for those between twelve and fourteen years of age.

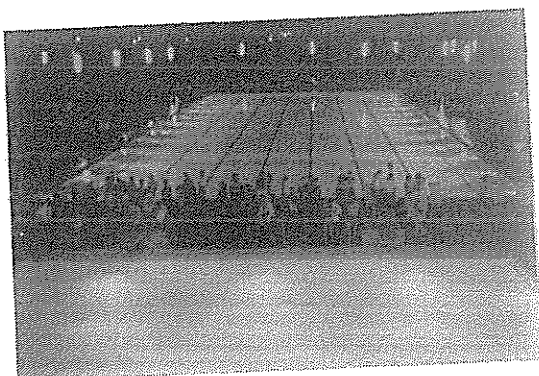
Maija Vanags has since married and is now Mrs. Sielder and has a three year old son named Daniel. She is quite happy and sees herself remaining in the fashion industry for many years to come.

Maija said that she was influenced to pursue a career in the fashion industry by the years spent at Cabramatta High. The right attitude to work was instilled in her and the majority of teachers at the time were young and thus were in touch with the students and listened to them. There was no generation gap.

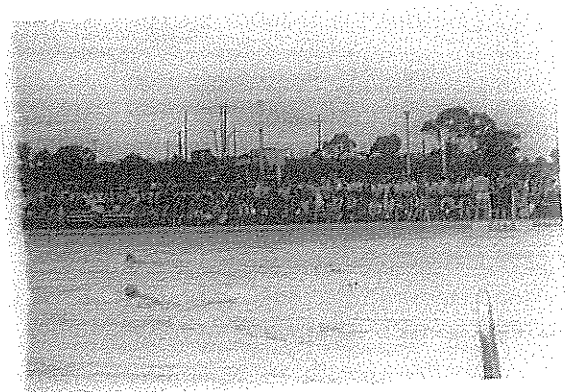
Maija enjoyed her time spent at Cabramatta High and amongst her best memories are the projects and excursions which she played an active part in. She was also very happy that the school was co-ed as at that time not many schools were, and in this way many things were learnt in the social aspect as well as the educational, which continued to help even after she left school.

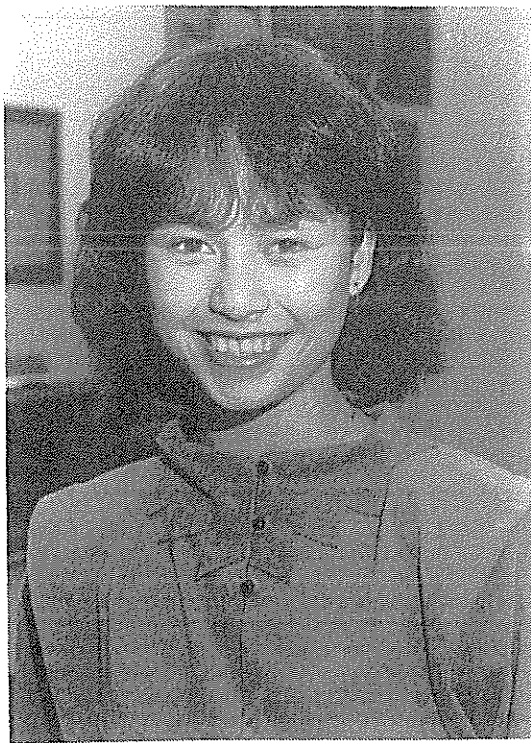
Helen Stefanic, Year 11.

Night Swimming Carnival  
1961



Early Swimming Carnival -  
no stands at pool!



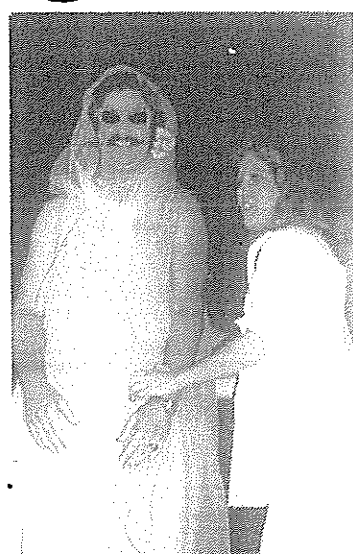
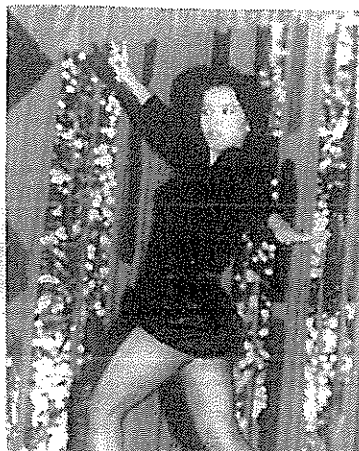
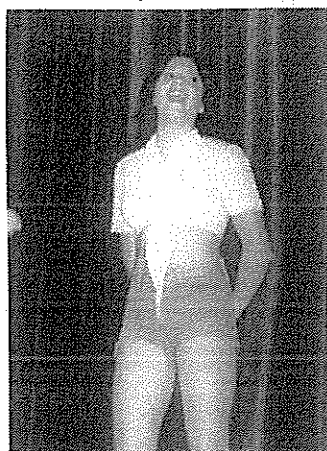
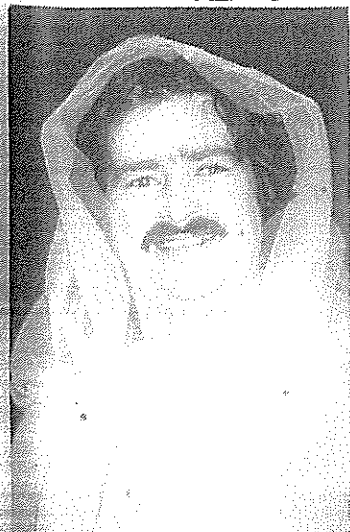


Mylinh has won the various heats leading up to the Liverpool final in the Westfield sponsored "Ms Model Girl 1983". She then took out the final in a costume designed by her older sister. She is looking forward to the Grand Final at the Regent Hotel, Circular Quay on December 7th. Money raised is for the Leukemia Fund.

How do you like C.H.S.?

I've been here since Year 7 and every year the school has gotten friendlier. I like the sport and other activities offered here. My language classes are my favourite - am studying French and German. Participating in musicals and talent quests are a lot of fun.

## GLAMOUR IN 1975 - MOST BEAUTIFUL



Debbie Alcorn, Ivica Papich, Mr. Okell.

# MUSICAL TALENT



Gay blades

## MUSICAL MAYHEM - 1975-1979

From 1975 to 1979 the seeds of a musical tradition were sown at Cabra; seeds which may have resulted in less than a significant harvest in the following years, but which spread a web of tangled roots, as seeds too often do, amidst the soft and fecund earth of juvenile minds. Perhaps one of the more remarkable of these thespian and terpsichorean masterpieces was an up-marketing of the immortal Bard's ("Shakespeare's" for the locals) not-so-immortal "Macbeth". If you (or at least the literati amongst you) thought Macbeth himself was corrupt, you should have the script and score a la Cabramatte. No apologies were made to the Bard (dead you know) for the wanton adulteration of his blank verse (adapted to a sea of blank faces); no royalties were paid to the songsters from whom the music was stol.. pinch.. plagiari.. accepted.

1978 was the zenith of Cabramatta's history. The following ramble along nostalgic and poetic lanes celebrates this wondrous production. For the uninitiated a series of informative, but entirely useless footnotes are appended. This will help to remind you of your own schoolday encounters with Willy.

## THE BARDS FROM CABRA (OR "MACBETH WITH MUSIC")

The Bard is dead, the Bard is gone,  
They say that Shakespeare's Bacon's done,  
His goose is cooked, his plays are fakes  
There's room once more in Playwright's Stakes

Tragedy, comedy, history and all,  
Have succumbed to a more than symbolic Fall;  
'Tis claimed that Willy wrote not his plays,  
But Bacon and brother on their flexi-days.

So who did Anne on the second-best bed,  
After our so-much-acclaimed poet had fled?  
There's no more truth to Stratford on Avon,  
Except when the Bell helps put new After-Shave on.

But ye lovers of lit and hist'ry alike,  
Don't let truth turn your ravings into dislike.  
Not from the Globe came writings that matter,  
But from the pens of the Bards of Cabramatta.

Yes into the breech, but not covered in gore,  
Came present day songsters oblivious to yore.  
What Shakespeare and Bacon could not do together  
These local heroes manage, under the weather.



The Bard did O.K. when he wrote  
 But sadly his version wath muthicleth.  
 A dash of young Simon, and Garfunkel too,  
 Adds very nice relish to Shakespearean stew.

Into this ever-so-musical pot  
 Add willing young lads who, like it or not,  
 Would be tempted by witches in weird undress,  
 To delusions of grandeur to rival Queen Bess.

Prodded by ladies McBeth and McDuff  
 Our protagonists battle yet ne'er cry "enough"  
 Till justice is done and that ultimate felon  
 Is slain to the "squish" of a well ripened melon.

When Oates are well scattered in fields of Moss,  
 And Byrning ambition makes Simon the boss,  
 With music and costume by Bates of both sexes  
 No wonder the spirits had fun with their hexes!

The brilliant young players, the rythmical dances,  
 The music, the singing, Macbeth in his trances,  
 Hecate perched on her altar of evil,  
 Duncan and sons in cossie upheaval.

Witches who scream and some who sing "Silence",  
 "Voices in the Dark" push our lady to violence,  
 Some climb the "Stairway", some deny "Love",  
 "Greensleeves" decides to give "Sailing" a shove.

"We are the champions" the voices ring out.  
 "Rock You" reply. soldiers - they're subtle, no doubt.  
 And the real bard, be it Francis or Willy  
 Must think the whole thing is incredibly silly.

Lady Macbeth

Byrne and Moss,  
 August '83.

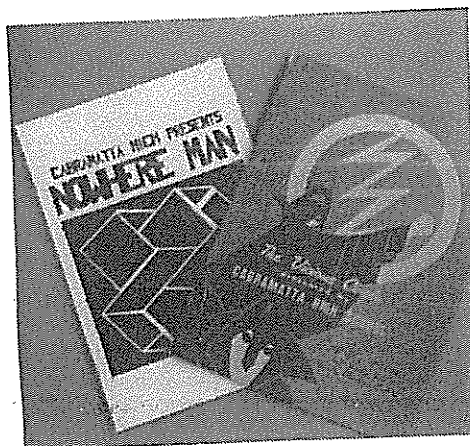


Vicious Circle 1976



"MACBETH'S VICIOUS CIRCLE OF DESIRE LEADS  
NOWHERE, MAN!"

- quote from Cabaret-matta Herald.



Undoubtedly the instigator of the dramatic, artistic and chaotic period of Cabra musicals, 1975 to 1979, was Jack Freeman. It was his avowed objective, along with the abolition of blue jeans, to nurture the arts at C.H.S. To this end, in 1975, Ruth Feneley and Bruce Spryer from the English-American Society, and two musical "innocents", Marika Sourry and Chris Byrne, were "commissioned" to produce an extravaganza.

The resultant Cabaret marked the birth of a monster that would, in years to come, strike terror into the hearts of once calm teachers and transform modest, retiring students into extraverted superstars. It also launched Steve Okell as Cabra's "Auntie Jack", thus creating the line falsely attributed to that kind and gentle man: "All my students are 'armless .....eventually!'"

1976 saw the coupling of Moss and Byrne, a production team capable of corrupting even the most classical drama. Brecht could never have imagined his circle so vicious. The rule of the Montags stamped (skipped?) out any lingering opposition. Freeman Enterprises might still have encountered and pointed the way towards a better future. This dictum of optimism came to be known as "The Statute of David".

So it was that, in 1977, with the irresistible John "Honey-tongue" Oates and the acclaimed (self?) musical genius, Dudley "Its-all-true" Simons, the ambitious production of Nowhere Man began. In many ways this musical was the highlight of the period, for, while "Macbeth" which followed in '78 was perhaps technically superior, "Nowhere Man" had its own peaks of success. Staff involvement was incredible, twenty four teachers being mentioned in the programme and many more lending encouragement and assistance wherever possible. Student morale and dedication was high. The overall spirit of fun and achievement was a delight to share in. "Nowhere Man" was judged to be the "Most Spectacular and Professional Presentation of 1977" by the Arts Council of N.S.W.

What could possibly rival such success and compete with the glitter and dazzle of Nowhere Mania? Well it was inevitable really - Shakespeare set to music! "Macbeth", revamped and melodic took us through 1978. This production saw levels of professionalism that really showed how beneficial the previous years had been. It is immortalised in verse elsewhere.

Finally, with new and enthusiastic directors, demure Chris Bates and serene Russell Granger, "Streetcar Named Desire" ended this five year run of Cabramatta High Musicals. It, like all the others, from the hesitant beginnings of "Cabaret" to the lavish productions of the last years, was a positive and constructive statement of creativity, involvement and enjoyment.

C. Byrne,  
English teacher.



The following are answers to questions from students of Cabramatta High, received by Telex in Queensland.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT SINCE LEAVING SCHOOL?

Staying out of the Army.

WHAT POSITION DID YOU HOLD AT C.H.S.?

Pupil, Prefect, House Captain.

WHAT DO YOU RECALL FROM SCHOOLDAYS AT CABRAMATTA?

Happiest: Finally passing and discovering all the horror stories you always hear, wind up believing, about the "coming exams", are just so much BULL...

Funniest: In retrospect, there was this Manual Arts teacher (of all things) whose idea of scaring the bejesus out of wrongdoers (i.e. me!!) was saying "You're obviously not cut out for the discipline of an Academic career Son!" (His idea of nirvana). "You should leave school now and be a garbo or a plumber!!" The last plumber I met drove a Merc., owned two houses, worked a three-day week, had a staff of 12 and spent his last holidays skiing in France. He was 36 and making approx. 10 times as much as a Manual Arts teacher... Oh yes, he left school at 15.

Saddest: It all comes under the heading of puberty.

Most exciting event:

Two answers:- a) Any sporting final, but only if we won.  
b) Also comes under the heading of Puberty.

Best subject: Had to be English didn't it?

Best anything else - sports, music, etc.

Only two sports: a) we had a really hot basketball team from '63 - '67. I was proud to be part of it.

b) Footy! - not quite the same league as the Basketball but a very good team in '66 and '67. We won the Zone, placed 4th in the Uni Shield, and got to the finals of the Parra Knock-out comp.

My first band was at Cabra. We were all pretty bad but we got better. Every member of that band is an ex-student and all are still in the music game.

WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST AND LEAST ABOUT SCHOOL?

Best: Because we had almost nothing going for us, everyone tried that little bit extra.

Least: We had nothing going for us. In my time we had almost no facilities at all, it was disgraceful really.



## WHAT DO YOU REGRET NOT HAVING DONE AT SCHOOL?

Mostly I regret the fact that music was treated as a "joke" subject by some teachers, students and the Board of Education. If I could have taken it seriously then, and if the curriculum wasn't designed by 90 year old violinists who somehow made the works of Grieg and Beethoven seem boring, it would have saved a lot of time later.

## WHICH PEOPLE IMPRESSED YOU THE MOST AT SCHOOL?

Carmen Sora: I have to say that, she's my wife.

Len Stacker: He tried hard always.

Mal Barlow: Could have been anything but chose teaching. A very clever man. (I never did that well in his classes, but he persevered. I think he knew!!)

I could go on about some of the teachers, Gallagher, Woods, Viv Cansik, Hearn, Vimlati and others. They wouldn't mean much to you but they did to me. I haven't forgotten anyone, I just don't have the room to write them all down.

## WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR INTEREST IN MUSIC?

The Beatles and my Dad.



## WHAT ESCAPADES DID YOU GET UP TO AT SCHOOL, ESPECIALLY 6TH FORM FAREWELL?

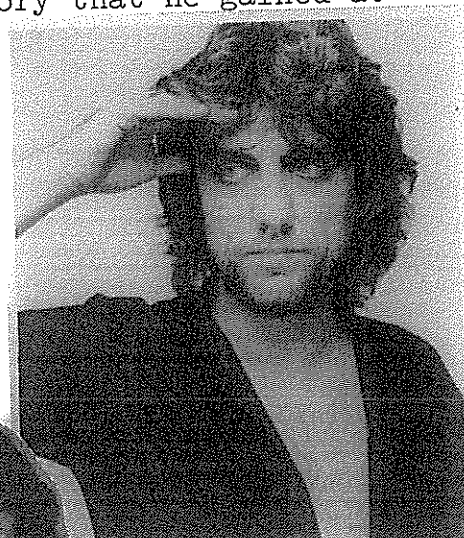
I stripped on top of the Manual Arts Block in front of the Assembly.

One of Cabramatta's most successful and talented students, Jon has shown versatility, energy and fervour and has created his own legend as a rock'n roll singer. Among his many albums, including many of his own compositions are Wine Dark Sea, It's all a Game, Hollywood Seven, Minutes to Midnight, Words are not Enough, Against the Wind, English History, Calm before the Storm, Inroads, Jokers and Queens, and his most recent album "Some People", featuring Waterloo and Oh Paris which he has expanded into a Rock opera based on Homer's Iliad. It was inspired by his interest in History that he gained at Cabra High so long ago.

Best wishes for your future ventures, Jon.

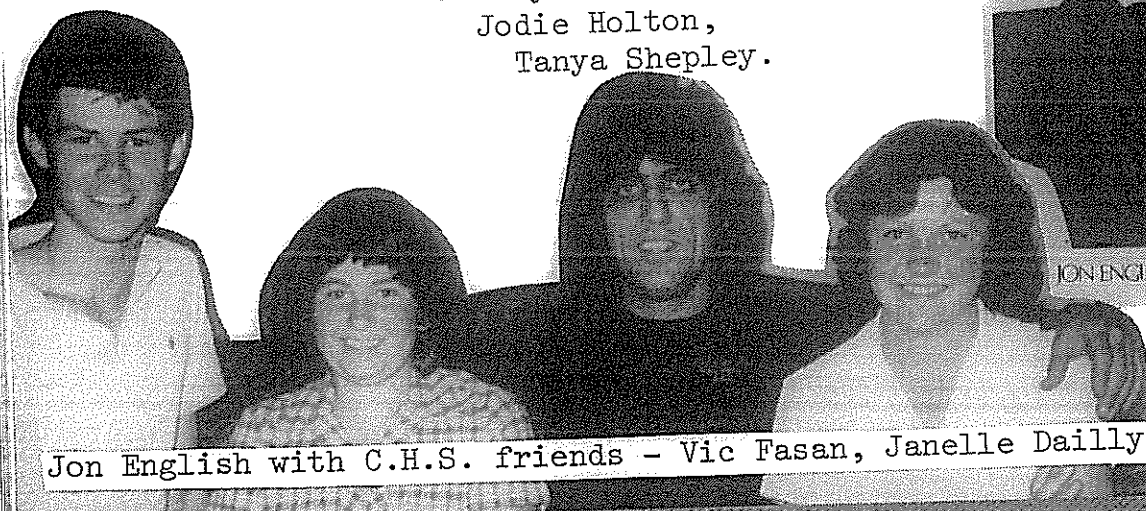
Cabra salutes you - you're a STAR!

Ms. L. Corradi, English teacher.  
Audrey Alekna,  
Jodie Holton,  
Tanya Shepley.



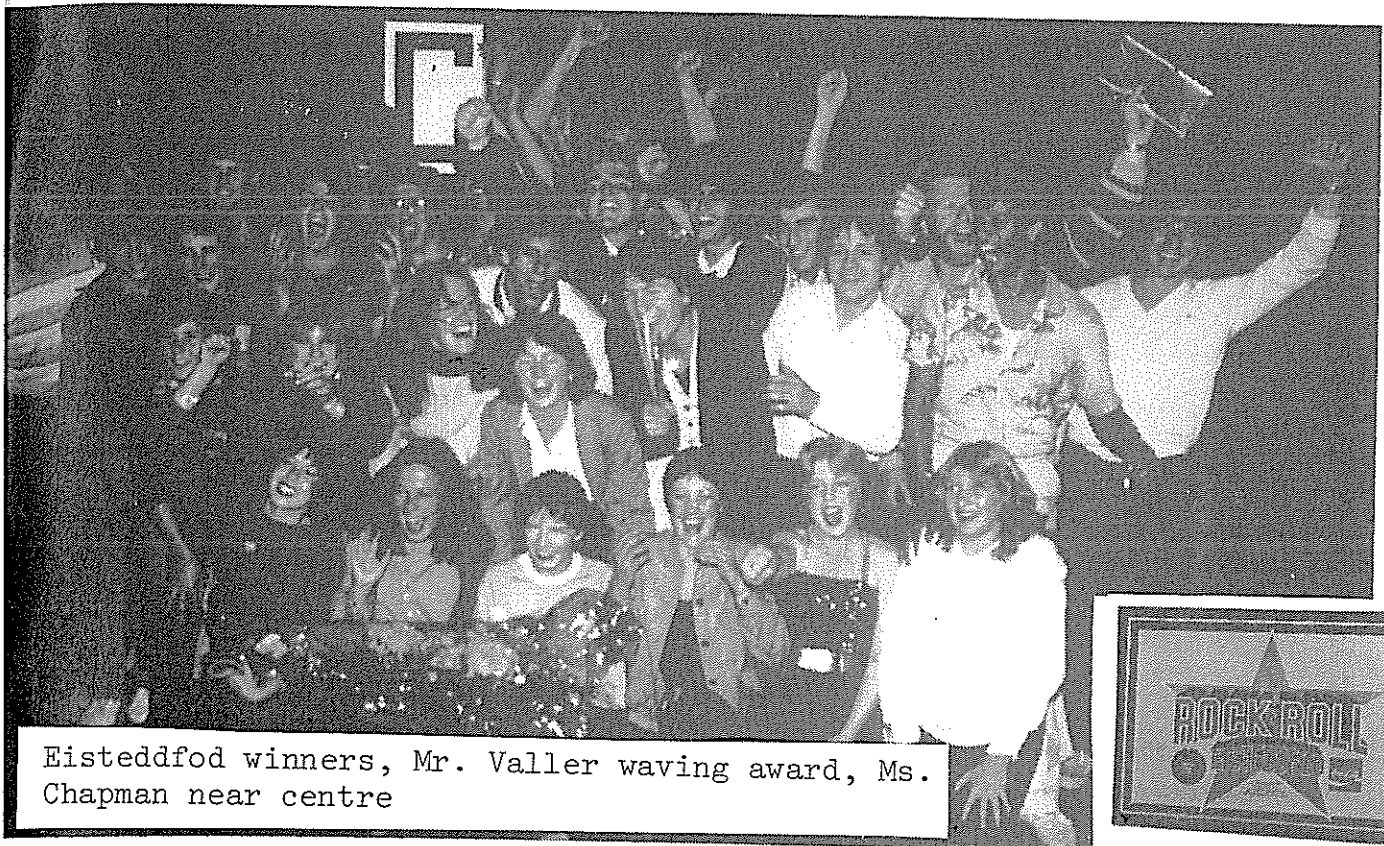
JON ENGLISH

EDM



Jon English with C.H.S. friends - Vic Fasan, Janelle Dailly, Stephanie Radnidge.





Eisteddfod winners, Mr. Valler waving award, Ms. Chapman near centre

"....First place is....the school that performed.....Hurricane". The words of Australian Broadcasting Commission's Director and Chief Eisteddfod judge, Rick Birch. They accompanied the most exciting moment of our time at Cabramatta High. We had combined the diverse talents of thirty students and three teachers, ranging from fast moving stage hands to superb dancers, to win the first ever Rock'n' Roll Eisteddfod. A capacity house at the Capitol Theatre cheered the excellent acts of twelve schools on the night of the finals. By far the loudest response came from our own enormous cheer squad. They smothered the nerves, giving our performers the spirit to give it their best.

The Bob Dylan song tells the story of Ruben Carter, an American boxer unjustly imprisoned for murder. The band presented the song, the dancers performed the story and the actors added the realism of gunfire, the boxing and the trial. The months of hard preparation gave us the satisfaction of learning to work together with loads of fun despite the sometimes anxious moments. As the photograph reveals, being number one made the excitement reach peak level.

Thoughts back to the Rock 'n' Roll Eisteddfod create fond memories. It was an example of the fortune that Cabramatta High has presented to its students over the past twenty five years. Participation and success in such events has made it a pleasure to leave part of our lives with the school.

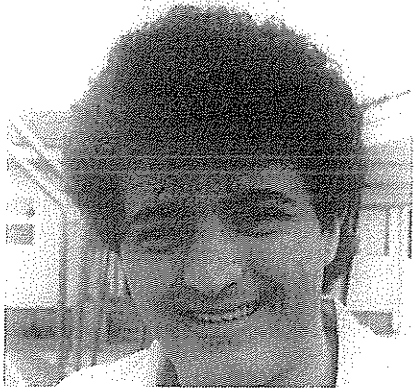
The Rock 'n' Roll Eisteddfod Gang congratulates Cabramatta High School, feeling proud to have played a part in its Silver Jubilee.

The group was trained by Ms. K. Chapman, Mr. R. Valler was the stage manager, and Mr. G. Carter was business manager.

R. Valler,  
I.A. Teacher.







The Guido family has been prominent in the school musical projects, with Joe, younger brother Giovanni and sister Frances all performing on the school stage at various times. In fact, Joe's happiest moments at school relate to the talent quests and revue of 1977 ("Nowhere Man"). In the former he and Mario Stanic won the quest of 1977 with an improvisation of Ferry's "Let's Stick Together". He remembers: "This was the first time we ever won anything". Later in that year he won "The Most Promising Performance Award" from the Arts Council for his part in "Nowhere Man". The school also won an award for this production.

#### WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

"I've signed up with Warner Bros. as publisher. This could lead to singing or writing songs. I've written some pieces for the surfing movie 'Tubular Swells' yet to be released; and some commercial jingles. I'm taking a working holiday to Canada and Italy soon to try out the recording industries there".

#### WHAT WERE SOME OF YOUR OTHER HIGHLIGHTS AT SCHOOL?

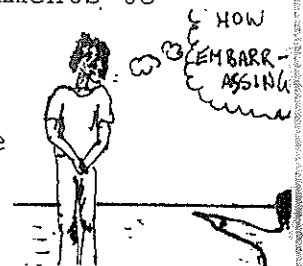


"Attending History lessons, both Modern and Ancient. They were always fun and full of interest. Sportwise, I enjoyed reaching the Area Cross Country in 1977".



#### YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT?

"In Year 12, 1978, I was late for class one day and Mr. Beringer, our English teacher, told me that the student teacher was not here today. I had a real crush on her, so as I walked in I made a few comments to the class generally on how attractive she was, nice face, nice legs etc. The class and Mr. Beringer burst out laughing because there she was, sitting at the side, observing the lesson. After that I had trouble looking her in the eye."



#### WHAT TRICKS DID YOU GET UP TO?

In 1978 we went on the Warrumbungles excursion. We were sleeping around the camp fire and someone put a big log on which broke apart during the night, rolled away and nearly set someone on fire. Well, the next night we picked up the person responsible while he was sleeping and deposited him near the creek, still asleep! By next morning his face was nearly frozen, with icicles forming on his nose. I hope he doesn't read this and try to even the score."

#### WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT SCHOOL?



"The later years of my school life showed a remarkable change in school atmosphere. Racial groups got along much better, and everyone seemed to be pulling together. Even students and teachers got on very well. My impression of the school now is that this is not so much in evidence now. There are more divisive groups, possibly because musicals, revues and the like don't unify the school as they used to in the late 1970's".

W. Smythe,  
Editor.



Cabramatta High School still remembers the heady days of musical triumphs in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Giovanni Guido was part of that scene.



1. What are you doing now?

My brother and I have a publishing contract with Warner Bros. We're currently reforming a group. Some of our songs have been aired on Triple J radio (e.g. "Mr. 00jjouppss").

2. What are some of your highlights from C.H.S.?

a) Artistically? I was in charge of some musical productions, the most famous being the 1981 award winning Rock Eisteddfod. Took part in most musicals and won an Arts Council award for "Lead Singer and Chorus Award" in the play "Streetcar Named Desire" in 1979. Talent

quests, school concerts and discos were a lot of fun. In Year 8 we won 1st prize in a comedy routine performed on stage at a talent quest. It was called "The Westerners". It was my first success.

b) Happiest moment? Being part of the school team that won the Rock Eisteddfod. This got us in touch with 2SM for interviews and taping.

3. What did you like best/least about school?

I appreciated the liberty given to students in dress, and experience provided in extra curricular activities: musicals, talent quests, festivals. Didn't really dislike any aspect of school.

4. Any regrets?

Not studying harder for the H.S.C. I had to try a lot harder later as a consequence.

5. Which people impressed you?

Our music teacher Mr. Simons had an outlook on life similar to mine. Of course the name Jon English inspired me, as he was another Cabra product.

6. Any funny stories about the school?

We had a lot of fun on excursions. During Warrumbungles 1980 the boys tried to get into the girls' camp because they had heaters and we didn't. We slogged 8 klms to get there only to have someone turn the lights on us. Some of us fell into the creek, others into nettles, in the confusion that followed. We came back half

drenched and itchy all over. By the way, our original band's name was supposed to be ORIGIN. However, Bruno didn't know how to spell this when he registered - his version was ORIGAN. We tried to make the best of it by inferring we were named after exotic herbs.

7. What will C.H.S. be like at the Golden Jubilee?

Music will be back. I'm training to be an Art teacher and I want to teach here. By that time they might decide to let me loose on our nation's young.



W. Smythe,  
Editor.

SECRETARY OF FIRST SCHOOL COUNCIL

After completing six years study at Cabramatta High, Sue went on to Sydney University (Science Faculty) where she intended to major in Geology. However, after six months, and upon being informed that the Geology field was overmanned, she transferred her interests to the computer industry, where she spent the next six months. Then her true interest as to her future career came to the fore and she once again took up her scholarship and enrolled at the Newcastle College of Advanced Education and was duly installed as a Maths teacher in our State school system.

During this time her love of singing and acting - promoted largely by the interest and enthusiasm engendered during the Cabramatta High School production of "Bye, Bye Birdie", in which she played the role of Rosie - didn't wane. Her first appointment was as Maths teacher at Cootamundra High School and whilst teaching there she also joined the local Musical Society and played the role of Meg in that Society's very successful production "Brigadoon".

Sue then travelled to England where she spent a year on a working holiday. Just let it be said that teaching positions were at a minimum and she had many and varied jobs - perhaps showing that "where there is a will, there is a way!"

On her return to Australia, she was posted to Moree where she reputedly did much good work as a non-official liaison officer with the Aboriginal community to the extent that the Aborigines would have liked her to have been seconded to their department. However, at this time, she married the man she had first met at the Newcastle College and, as he had then returned to the family business as a professional fisherman at Lake Macquarie, it was a "remote control" marriage until the Department took pity and Sue was transferred to Gateshead High School.

After the birth of her first son, Ben, she was further favoured by a transfer to the newly created North Lakes High School at Charmhaven where she now holds the position of Maths teacher and Girls' Supervisor.

Music still being high on Sue's entertainment priority, between the birth of Ben and second son, Jarrod, she then interested herself in the Gosford Musical Society and played the role of Celeste in their production of "Can Can". What's more, with great zeal and zest, she made a very good job of "hoofing" the Can Can dance!



1970 Latin class outing to Music Hall, North Sydney. Sue Thomas, M. Jones, C. Czev-wainav and teacher Kathy O'Sullivan.



C.H.S. folksingers 1969 Glen Scott, Sue Thomas, Robert Draper.

# SPORTING TALENT 103

## BEST AND WORST IN SPORT

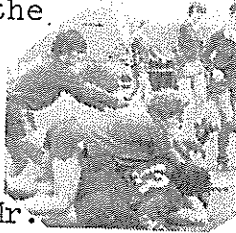
### AUSTRALIAN RULES

Aussie Rules in 1976 was very successful. Under the leadership of Shayne Chester, John Inglis and Russell Zahn, the team continually turned in fine performances for their coach, Mr. Okell. One such performance was brought about by their defeat of Westfields High School with a score of 208-0. According to the records this has been the greatest win by an Aussie Rules team of Cabra High.

### RUGBY LEAGUE



In June, 1981 our junior 1st grade Rugby League side which was coached by Mr. R. Austin played Busby High. A pathetic performance was handed in by our boys. The full time score was 96-0 in favour of Busby High. According to the records this has been the worst defeat ever to happen to a Rugby League side in the history of Cabramatta High.



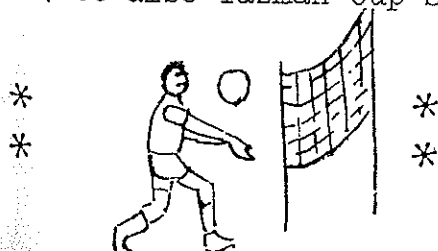
### WATER POLO

The Open Water Polo side was undefeated in the zone for four years in a row - 1979 to 1982 inclusive. This would be our best achievement by a grade side on record. Some of our record breaking scores were 25-0 (against St. Johns Park 1982) and 25-1 (against Granville Boys in the State Knockout 1982). In 1981 and 1982 the side was only beaten in the State Knockout Competition by the eventual finalists (Homebush and Punchbowl respectively). Cabramatta has held the Mick Rowan Water Polo Memorial Shield since 1979.

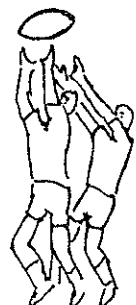
Players who inspired the team were Alex Lujan (Captain 1981, player 1979-81), the best goalie the Zone produced; Francis Van Ooran (Captain 1982, player 80-82), a fearsome attacking centre; Richard Rowland (player 1980-81) the fastest player in the game; John Golijan (player 1979-82) our strongest shooter ever. Other players included Gary Butt (our first captain), Todd Martin (our first super fish), Steve Hansen (an inspiring leader), Danny Flannery (a trustworthy defender), Radovan Ilic (good utility player), Sam Castiglione (who inspired our "second string team" to a win in 1982) and more recently Keith Sullivan, Geoff Short and Craig Burgess.

The coaches, Mr. Smythe and Mr. Preston, agree that the win over Hurlstone High in 1982 (14 to 12 in extra time) was their most exciting game.

(See also Tasman Cup Soccer elsewhere - Ed.)



Max Ferretti,  
Bassam Safetli, 10H2.



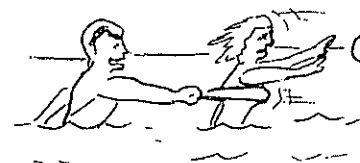
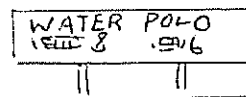




1st Girls' Waterpolo side - S.White, S.Fricker, J.Lind, C.Morrison, B.Penc, S.Carney, P.Kidd, coach at back-Mr. Smythe

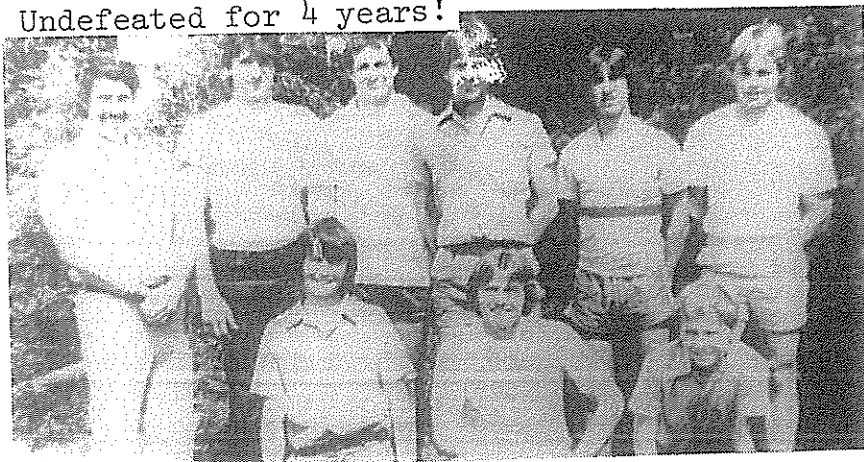
scored the winning goal - 6 to 5 - avoiding extra time playoff. That was probably our toughest game. An easy match against Sefton followed in Round 2 (we won 12 to 1), but South Strathfield knocked us out of the competition. Not bad for a first effort.

All of the members were keen and trained extra hard under the Smythe and Preston "sink or swim" philosophy. Our roll call reads like the Cabramatta girls' "who's who" of swimming - defenders Paula Kidd and Justine Lind; aggressive centres Charlene Morrison and Sharon Carney; forwards Barbara Penc and Sandra White; goalie Sharryn Fricker; utility players Verna Schroeder, Tracy Williams and Marie and Stephanie Becki. In fact, Sharon Carney, Sharryn Fricker, Charlene Morrison, Justine Lind and I made it with the regional side, and we also play club water polo now (along with Sandra White) through Mr. Preston's contacts in the sport. If the team remains intact next year, we could really surprise the established girls' water polo schools.

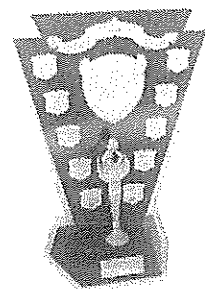


Barbara Penc, Year 11.

Undefeated for 4 years!



Undefeated 4 years. John Golijan & Francis Van Ooran (next to coach Mr. Smythe) played for most of that time.



Rowan Waterpolo Tro





AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. MOLYNEUX ABOUT  
THE 1982 TASMAN CUP SQUAD

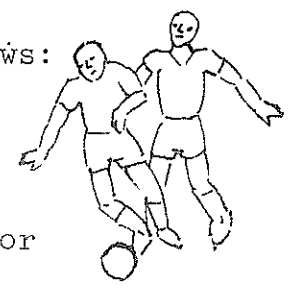
I really didn't have any doubts about the 1982 Tasman Cup squad, because we had 10 players from the previous year, and 2 players who actually selected themselves because they were the most outstanding players from junior grades in previous years.

The players generally co-operated, sometimes they would get annoyed with one another on the field, but that's because it's a knock out competition and pressure tends to build. But there was a really good atmosphere between the players and myself.

The entire team was solid and they always played as one, but the outstanding players would have to be Renato Licata, Sandro D'Amore and Drago Adzic. Our team would always go out there with confidence, and we would normally win the game in the first 20 minutes of the match.

The statistics for the 1982 Tasman Cup side were as follows:

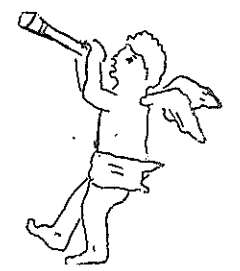
| GOALS FOR | GAOLS AGAINST | PLAYED | WON | DRAWN | LOST |
|-----------|---------------|--------|-----|-------|------|
| 92        | 12            | 19     | 17  | 1     | 1    |



The leading goal scorer was Renato Licata who scored one or two goals in each match and had a total of more than 20 goals.

The teams happiest moment was actually when we beat Goulburn in the quarter final because we didn't know what to expect of them. We thought it was going to be a fairly hard match, but the lads were very confident and the victory came fairly easy.

The team's saddest moment naturally was when we lost the semi-final against Marsden. It was really disappointing because we really thought that we could have won the game.



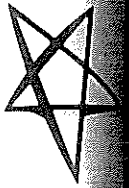
Tasman Cup soccer stars

The Tasman Cup squad of 1981 really started the name and reputation for Cabramatta High School in this particular competition. We made it to the top eight and then in 1982 we had most of those players of the previous year, we established an even better result by reaching the final four schools in the state.

INTERVIEW BY: MAX FERRETTI AND  
GUSTAVO GONZALEZ, 10H2.

SENIOR GIRLS CRICKET - UNDEFEATED

I interviewed ex C.H.S. teacher Mr. Fogarty about his years as coach of one of Cabramatta Highs most illustrious and successful sporting teams: Senior Girls' Cricket 1974-76.

Why did you coach Senior Girls' Cricket?

I have an active interest in cricket, and as the girls' team was minus a coach, I snatched at the opportunity to indulge an interest and help the girls out.

What was the team's "secret of success"?

The team in 1974 consisted of a general set of good players: all keen, interested and good sportswomen. But by having a couple of senior girls in the team provided the backbone for the team as a whole. Wendy Saunders was a guiding force for the team's overall success. Wendy eventually made the State Representative Team for cricket in 1974. To quote an article printed in the Sun Herald on the 8th December, 1974

"Cabramatta High schoolgirl, Wendy Saunders, has made the N.S.W. junior cricket team after only three games with Graduates (N.S.W. representative side). Rated a top all-rounder, who bats and bowls well and is smart in the field, Wendy is also a top tennis player. 'Wendy has great potential as a cricketer - she could develop into an international if she becomes more dedicated,' said Patsy May (international cricketer herself)".

Wendy was only sixteen when she represented N.S.W. at Perth in the under 21 team.

Another important factor towards the success of the team was consistent training, which meant a twice-weekly training session, plus my being "dragged down to the oval during lunch hours". (1976 Thuruna report).

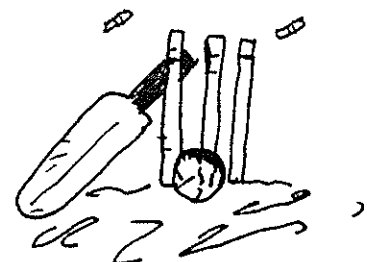
Who were other noteworthy members?

Cathy Dubois, who was Captain of the team in 1976, should be noted as having been the most energetic, enthusiastic team member. She loved cricket, and was the teams rallying force. Cathy would always have the equipment set up for each training session, as well as having the team itself lined up at lunch hours, waiting for me to arrive. The 1976 "Senior" Girls Cricket team was made up solely of Year 9 girls - juniors, due to the fact that no senior girls chose to play.



GIRLS SENIOR CRICKET  
Back row, left to right: Danize Gergich, Olga Kirpichnikov, Lynn Mierau, Colleen Lindwall, Rosa Ekhouri, Rosa Kornadina, Sharon Hindle, Jennifer Marsh, Kathy Schmid  
Front row, left to right: Elzabeth Dellow, Catherine Dubois, Lisa Behan, Wendy Saunders, Mr. G. Fogarty, Donna Ferguson, Henryka Bruski

H. Huszar,  
History teacher.





Jenny Alcorn was one of our super athletes of the 1970's.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I did a secretarial course at Liverpool Tech and consequently obtained a job at Cable Construction Company. I still play hockey for a combined men/women side (Uni. of N.S.W.). We do a lot of training - 4 nights a week, with circuit routines (sprints, shuttle runs, situps, pushups...) This training has made me so fit that most of the men have trouble keeping pace with me. Since 1980 I have made the State side, and was in the Australian squad for a short time. This year I was lucky to be picked for the N.S.W. indoor hockey side as well.

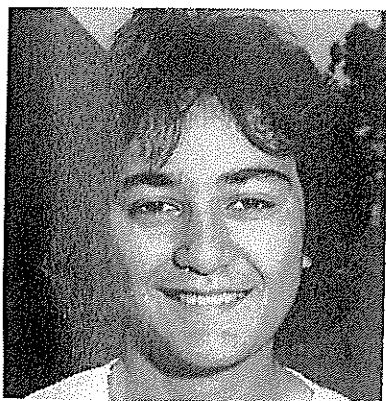
WHAT DO YOU RECALL FROM SCHOOL LIFE?

All my years at Cabramatta High I enjoyed very much. I still talk about it to people now - they say they hated school, but I say school days were the best days of my life.

The part of school which I probably enjoyed the most was my sport. When I look back at it now I realise I had so many good times and learning experiences through sport.

Senior years were really great as the gap between teachers and students narrowed. We especially enjoyed the lunchtime volleyball games with the Maths department. The musicals were a wonderful experience.

In conclusion, I'd like to say very sincerely that I was and still am very proud to have been a student at Cabramatta High.



G. Robertson,  
former School Captain.

\* \* \* \*

DANA ANDREWS - STATE SOCCER

Cabramatta High has reason to be proud of Dana Andrews. Presently in Year 11, Dana has proved an excellent sportswoman. She has excelled in several sports including athletics, softball, netball and soccer.

Although Dana plays several sports, her main interest is soccer. Her soccer career began in Year 8 at Cabramatta High, and she has played in the school grade team each year since. She has played for several clubs and represented the Liverpool region. In 1981, 1982, 1983 Dana played in the State Competition and in the National Championships in 1981, when N.S.W. defeated A.C.T. (7-0).

Dana has many good memories of school but thinks her most exciting moment was when she kicked the 'do or die' goal to win the 1983 semi-finals.

Even champions make mistakes, however, as Dana recalls her funniest memory of school sport in the 1982 knockout match. Dana scored a goal for the other team by deflecting the ball into our own nets.

Ms. A. Gardner - English teacher.





LORRAINE BOOBYER - JAVELIN CHAMPION

Since Cabramatta High school began, we have been known for our great sportsmanship. Lorraine Boobyer is one of the great achievers who has helped Cabramatta gain its sporting reputation. Lorraine was an all round sportswoman who performed exceptionally well in javelin.

Lorraine had outshone her competitors at school sports. At a sports carnival in 1960, Lorraine had taken out 6 first places and 2 second places and for a 14 year old girl, this was a great accomplishment.

All during her school life, Lorraine was found to be a very competitive person who competed not only in javelin but discus, hurdles and high jumps as well. Being so good at sport prompted the teachers to argue over her, trying to decide which sport she should represent. She represented the school at the Cumberland Combined High Schools Athletics Carnival. At one of these competitions Lorraine had won a place in the hurdles and had also taken first place in the senior javelin event.

Her outstanding ability took her to join the Fairfield Women's Amateur Athletics Club where in one competition in 1961, Lorraine had won the open javelin and open high jumps events. In 1963 Lorraine represented N.S.W. for the first time, after a tremendous season the previous year when she had won the state schoolgirls senior javelin event. Her career was highlighted that year when she was selected for the Commonwealth Games in Perth.

Lorraine's sporting career ceased the day she entered Teacher's College after winning a scholarship. But this had not stopped her from training a few other young hopefuls to gain medals such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Her school life was a happy one in which History was her favourite subject. Lorraine said she loved school and to quote her mother "she was born to be a teacher".

Vera Kulish,  
Marija Dobrijevic, Year 11.

## SISTERS WIN IN JAVELIN EVENTS

Sisters, Lorraine and Margaret Boobyer, both won javelin events at the recent All Schoolgirls Athletic Championships.

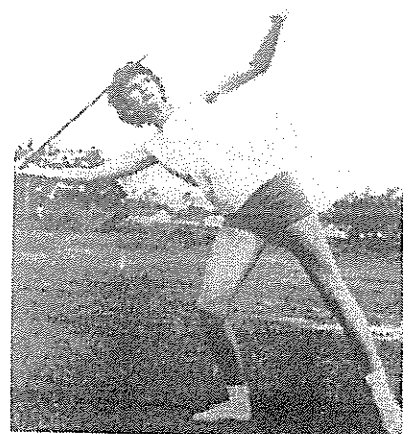
Margaret, competing for Cabramatta High School, won the Junior Javelin with a throw of 95 feet, 11 inches. Lorraine, also competing for Cabramatta, won the senior event with a throw of 111 feet, and with her was in the C.A.S. earlier this year, has taken the two main schoolgirls titles. In the same event Elaine Whistler from Fairfield

Wynon Whistler, competing for Merrylands High, gained a third in the Junior Discus with a throw of 72' 11", her best to date. Debie Ford from Fairfield Heights Primary was placed third in the 11 yrs High Jump, clearing 4' 2". On Sunday at the Newtown Centenary Athletic Carnival further encouraging results were recorded. In the open All girls High Jump, Elaine Whistler was first in the

Lorraine Boobyer was second in the open Javelin 117' 11", first in the Junior High Jump, 6' 8", and first in the Junior Long Jump, 25' 51".

### Successful

Dale Masters won the Junior 100 yds. in 12.4 and the Junior shot putt with 29' 72". In the sub-junior Long Jump, Carol Hearn was successful with a 40' 00".



PETER CASUSCELLI - STATE RUNNER

When were you at Cabramatta High School? ★

Started First form in 1974; continued through to Sixth Form and left in October 1979.

What were your sporting achievements?

I was Age champion from 1974 to 1979. The sports that I represented the school in were grade soccer, Tasman Cup Soccer (1977-79), Open cricket (1979), Open Rugby League (1979), Athletics (1974-79) and Cross Country (1974-78).

Did you enjoy school?

My six years stay at Cabramatta High (1974-79) is unforgettable. The memories will always be a part of me. I thank all the staff that I was associated with and all my friends for making those six years unforgettable. It was great to be part of the school and I am glad that I am still associated with it.

Cabramatta High, congratulations for 25 years.

Have you noticed any changes in school attitude to sport?

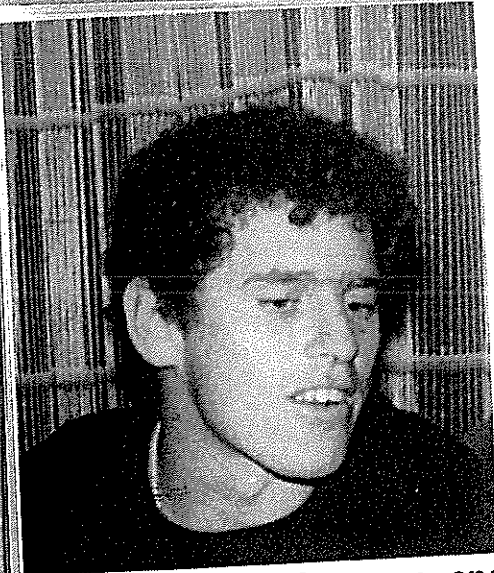
When I first arrived at school back in 1974, many people took sport as a joke and school spirit was very low. A lot of students (many of them very talented at sports) used to do bowling, skating, swimming or other craft activities for sport. There were already a few outstanding sportsmen/women at school, but their efforts were not enough to put Cabra High on top.

That year in sporting events, everything began changing, there was more participation, mainly from the juniors and from first formers especially. That year the school achieved better results in all sporting events than ever before. For example the school came third in the overall points score at the Zone Athletics Carnival, behind Westfields and Canley Vale. To put it in the words of a "famous" Sportsmaster - "What a pleasant surprise....the future in athletics looks bright with talented juniors appearing on the scene while the apathetic seniors are fading away".

The attitude in sport and the school spirit increased 200% from that year onwards, and it was great to see Cabra High doing so well in all sports in zone competitions (and didn't Westfields High get a shock). You really had to fight to earn your place in a grade team, because there were many students who wanted to represent the school. What a change: because of this Cabra High reached the top and stayed there in Zone Competitions. I think it was in 1976 that we had 24 grade teams in grand finals (winter sports) and 18 of these teams won.

It was good to see Cabramatta High reach the top in sport, I was also proud to be part of the grade teams. Cabramatta High really advanced from its low position in 1974 to reach the top by 1977, hopefully to stay there.

Lee McMillan,  
School captain.



Norm Ella attended this school in the early 1970's, and is considered by many as the toughest we've ever had at this school. Why? Sample the following incidents and judge for yourself.

"One day after school a guy was picking on Steven. This guy was bigger than Steven, so Steven called me. I went to the guy, took my glasses off and belted him. I could never stand bigger kids picking on smaller ones.

We had a gang fight against another school gang once because one of them was picking on a mate so we all jumped and beat them. It was one of the biggest school rumbles ever.

Before I started bouncing at the Stardust, I went down there with a mate, we had an argument with some blokes. The guy offered ten dollars for a fight. I won the fight, busted his nose, split his eyes and lips and put him in hospital, but never got my money. I left my shirt full of blood outside the door where I was living with Anne (my sister-in-law) and Steven (my brother). Anne found it and freaked, thinking I had got hurt.

There was one time, when I was bouncing at the Stardust, that I asked a guy to tuck his shirt in and told him if the boss came out I'd be in trouble. The bloke asked for a better reason, so I picked him up and head-butted him a few times. I split my head, but he was far worse for wear.

Another time Dudley (another bouncer) was chasing a guy out for fighting. I started chasing him. When I caught him he hit me so I got stuck into him. The other bouncer came and threw him out. The guy wanted to fight us one at a time. He pointed his finger at me first, so we fought and I gave him a hiding."

1. What are you doing now?

Storeman at B.G.J. Steels.

2. What is your most notable achievement since leaving school?

Passing bricklayer's trade.

3. a) Happiest moment? - getting School Certificate

b) Your silliest action? - Breaking school hall window with my fist because I hadn't paid and they wouldn't let me in. I got caned and had to pay for the window.

4. Which people impressed you most at school?

Mr. Breckenridge and Mr. Birkett. They were easy to talk to.



5. What is the most important change you witnessed at school?

I was the one who helped put up all the football, hockey, soccer and basketball posts. Anything to get out of the classroom.

Like his brothers, Norm is also a very good footballer. A "tough" Prop, Norm has played "A" Grade for Mount Pritchard, second grade at Newcastle and First grade at Darwin.

We challenge the Centenary Committee of Year 2058 to match this macho. By the way, big Norm has kindly volunteered to handle any complaints about this jubilee book. For his address inquire at editor's.



John Bruno  
Rod Bulmer, 12H3.

\* \* \*

GREG ELLA



Another past Cabramatta High student who has accomplished a great deal of success in his respective field is Greg Ella. At school Greg excelled in school football. He was in the Grade Football side from 1973-76, participated in the University Shield match in 1974, he was elected for the Metropolitan League side in 1975 and again in 1976, played in the University Shield match and Parramatta Knockout in the same year and won the Parramatta Rugby League Scholarship and played in the 1st Grade League sides in 1977-78. Greg played for Mount Pritchard from

the under 7's to under 14's, he then played for Cabramatta Leagues Club in the 15's and 16's and then played for Ashcroft in the 17's. He moved back to Cabramatta League where he played C Grade for two years. Greg then played grade for Parramatta in 1981 where he played third and reserve grade. In 1982 he made grade with Easts, again playing third and reserve grade.

1. What are you doing now?

I am working for James Hardie Building Products.

2. What is your most notable achievement since leaving school?

My most notable achievement was when I made third grade for Parramatta where there was an enormous amount of talent.

3. What were you at Cabramatta High?

I was a senior councillor.

4. What do you recall from school days at Cabra High?

a) Happiest moment - My happiest moment was winning the School Service Award in 1976. (Greg won this award for his great ability to organise and help in the various activities of the school).

b) Funniest - My funniest moment was during an excursion to Gerroa. A girl and I went missing for a couple of hours one night. When we were walking over the bridge at 3.00 a.m. we were spotted by some teachers who were fishing. I asked them "How's ya fishin'". The teachers replied "Not as good as yours".



c) Your silliest action - I was dared to carry Mr. Courts, the Science Master, from the back of the hall to the front, during a school assembly, so I did.

d) Best lesson - the best lesson was woodwork where we used to cause riots. Our teacher used to watch us all the time, however, one day I began stuffing an apron down my pants as a padding so I wouldn't get hurt when we were hit with the stick.

e) Best other event - that was when I made and won the school blue in 1975. Also it was our Form who started the lunch time discos, so we could raise money for the 6th Form Farewell.

5. What did you like best/least about school?

The best thing about school was the good times we had, like going to the lunchtime and night discos, the excursions and just socialising. The worst thing was getting caned a few times, and the confrontations with Mr. Freeman, like the time he barred me from playing school sport after a fight during a school match.

6. What do you regret not having done at school?

I regret not having done Modern History instead of Geography.

7. Which people impressed you most at school?

The teachers impressed me the most, but especially Mr. Okell and Mr. Breckenridge. Mr. Okell was a very good teacher who would always get the best out of his students and Mr. Breck was always very easy to get along with.

8. What is the most important change you witnessed at school?

I can remember when Mr. Gallagher was principal, he was always very strict on uniform, then came Mr. Freeman and uniforms slackened off.

### GENERAL

What was the best/worst sporting team at school?

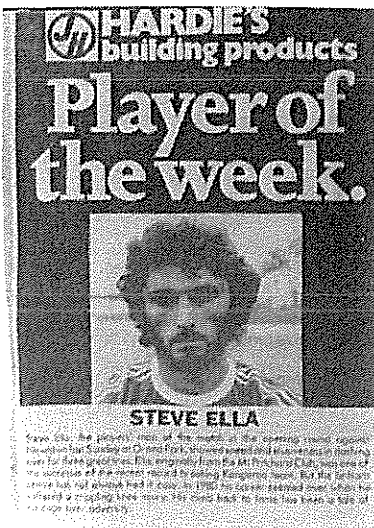
The 1975 Open League side was the best. We had myself at half back, Steve (my brother) and Will Hutchinson in the centres and Eddy Flahey at five eight. We came 9th in the State in the University Shield and were undefeated in the school zone comp, winning the Grand Final 30-0 against Canley Vale, which was our hardest game. The worst side was the Open side the following year where we lost every game.



John Bruno, Andrew Groza, Rod Bolmer  
12 H3

Greg Ella in action





## STEVE ELLA - FOOTBALL STAR

"Steve is unquestionably a gifted footballer". This is what his coach Mr. G. Fogarty in 1976 wrote in a school magazine. From an early age Steve showed the potential of a great player. In 1973 he was in the under 14's side which won the competition undefeated. In that year Steve scored 15 tries and 21 goals and was judged the best and fairest player. In 1975 he was again in an undefeated side and in that year he scored an incredible 31 tries and kicked 16 goals. In 1976 he was in the University Shield side which came 9th in the State, which is the best the school has done. He also

played in the Parramatta Knockout and Amco Shield side. However, in that year Steven's side lost the Final by 10-6. In club football Steve played for East Mount Pritchard from 1974-76. He was then graded in 1977 in Parramatta's under 23 side. He made first grade in 1979 and first played for Australia in 1982 when he toured England with the Kangaroos. And he represented Australia again in 1983. He is currently playing for Parramatta First Grade.

### 1. What are you doing now?

I'm a carriage builder for the S.R.A. and I'm playing football for Parramatta.

### 2. What is your most notable achievement since leaving school?

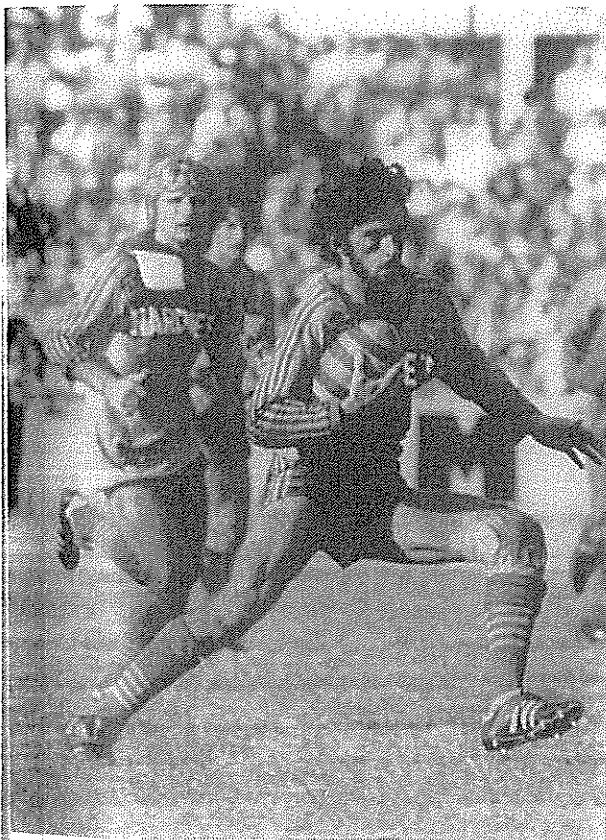
Ever since I was 15 I always wanted to play for Australia, so that would have to be my most notable achievement, playing for Australia against England.

### 3. What do you recall from your school days?

- Happiest moment - happiest moment was when we won the 1st grade grand final 30-0.
- Saddest - seeing Richard Strangeway, one of my best friends, expelled from school.
- Funniest - was when I coached a girls football side to play against the boys, and the funny thing was the girls won.
- Your silliest action - my silliest action was when I was sitting in class one day and I threw a rotten apple towards a teacher. The apple hit the blackboard beside her and splattered everywhere. The teacher wasn't im-

pressed and I was sent out of class.

- Best lesson - My best lesson was woodwork. It was the only lesson I



really liked going to.

f) Best other event - I really enjoyed sport, especially playing League.

4. What do you regret not having done at school?

I regret not going to class more, because I used to jig a lot.

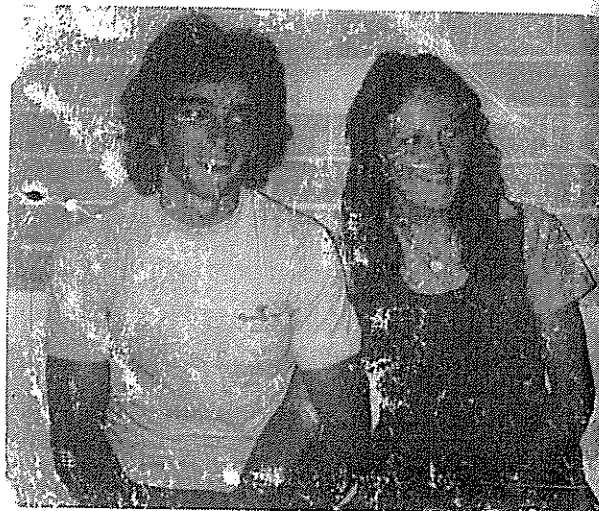
5. What is the most important change you noticed at school?

I haven't really noticed many changes, I haven't been back for quite a few years to observe the changes, but looking at the younger kids going to school makes me feel old.

John Bruno,  
Andrew Groza, 12H3.



Steve, Anne and children



Steve with future wife Anne,  
school days



#### BOYS 15 A RUGBY LEAGUE

Back row, left to right - Tod Bundy, Gary McKeown, Richard Strangeway, Geoff Todd,  
Roger Munday, Greg Schinkel, Garry Ryan, Eddie Farcie  
Front row, left to right - Toly Koslak, Steven Paul, Stephen Ella (Captain), Alan Watson,  
Mark Jackson, Bronko Tomic, Mr. R. Breckenridge



EDDIE FLAHEY

Another of Cabramatta High's Rugby League success stories, Eddie Flahey attended Cabramatta in 1976-77. Currently playing for Penrith First Grade, Eddie began his football in the Sacred Heart under 7 side and played with them till the under 10. He then went to Fairfield Pats where he stayed for two years. After a four year spell with Guildford, he went to Cabramatta C grade. After two years he made grade at Parramatta where he stayed for three years, playing Under 23, Reserve grade and a number of First grade games. He then moved to Penrith League where he has been playing First Grade for the past two years. At school level Eddie was captain of the famous 1st grade league side of 1976, which went through the competition undefeated. In the same year he represented the school in the Amco Shield, Parramatta Knockout and University Shield, where the side came ninth in the State. Eddie also represented the Area Rugby League in 1976. In his last year at this school (1977) he was selected in the Metropolitan side and was again in the first grade side which won the competition. Eddie scored three tries in the Semi Final that year and two in the Final.

1. What are you doing now?

I'm a Sales Rep. for Linde Gas.

2. What is your most notable achievement since leaving school?

Getting married and having two kids. Football wise, First Grade for Parramatta and Penrith.

3. What do you recall from your school days?

- a) Happiest moment - My happiest moment was Warrumbungles because it was great fun, we were away from school and all the students and teachers got along so well.
- b) Saddest - Leaving was the saddest moment, I still miss school.
- c) Funniest - I kept locking Mr. Ibby in his dark room, he would come out angry and blame someone else.

d) Silliest action - During my first week of school I accidentally walked into the girls' P.E. sheds.

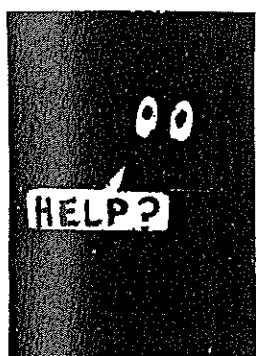
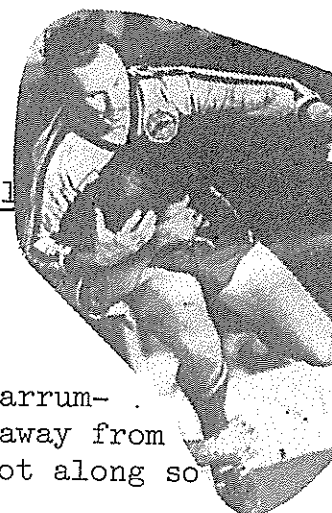
e) Most exciting event - Was probably winning the Grand Final against Canley Vale 30-0. Or perhaps what I said in my previous answer.

f) Best lesson - My best lesson was Mr. Ibby's class because it was so much fun.

g) Best other event - Sport. I liked the carnivals, especially the cross country.

4. Which people impressed you most at school?

Mr. Breck impressed me because he was good to get along with, and Jenny Alcorn also impressed. John Bruno, Andrew Groza, Rod Bulmer 12H3.



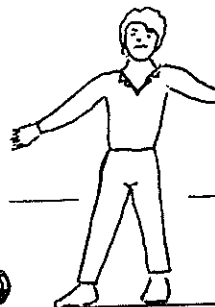




Marijan was at C.H.S. from 1972 to 1977.

1. What are you doing now?

I am a Graphic Designer (commercial artist) - advertising work. I play first grade for Croatia, Sydney, who were six time champions, e.g. the 1982 Premiership championship. In 1983 we are currently second.



2. What is your most notable achievement since leaving school?

- a) Graphic designer
- b) Marriage - I have been married for 6 months
- c) Getting to see the world
- d) First grade soccer

3. What were you at Cabra High?

A good student and heavily involved in sports. Also played basketball.

4. What do you recall from school days at C.H.S.?

- a) Happiest moments: They were all happy moments
- b) Saddest: Don't remember any sad occasions and don't regret any moments. It was a great school.
- c) Funniest: Loved English classes. They were all fun with Mrs. Cipollone.
- d) Your silliest action:



When I jiggled school. Went to the beach with friends. As we were just about to leave the school grounds we bumped into Mr. Smythe (our Form Master) and he said in his slow voice, "Where are you going?" They replied, "To the beach sir". Mr. Smythe would not believe us.

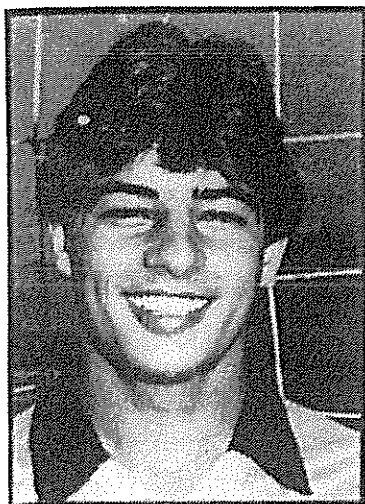
- e) Most exciting event: Winning Grade Final in basketball (every year).
- f) Best lesson: All the lessons were good. I liked History and English, Mr. Harris in Maths because of his straight forward approach.

- g) Best other event: I never entered Athletic Carnivals, but one year a teacher forced me to enter the 400m run since there wasn't anyone entering from his House. I came first and then went to the District and came first in that too and reached the Area, which surprised me.

Once out of school an ex-teacher whom I met at Graphic school, came into the classroom acting a big shot, bow tie and all - he never wanted to admit he went to Cabra High School which I thought was infantile as I loved everything about the school.

Rod Bulmer, 12H3.





1. What are you doing now?

Accountancy at Liverpool Tech, a full time course taking two years.

2. What is your most notable achievement since leaving school?

Being a member of the Young Socceroos.  
(This is the Socceroo story) -

In October 1982 he played in the Youth Team B side against Indonesia.

Then played in New Guinea in the National Youth Team in Round 1 of the Youth World Cup. The Australian team qualified for Round 2 after playing New Zealand, Fiji and New Guinea.

Round 2 was in Costa Rica and the Young Socceroos had to play and win against Costa Rica and Israel to qualify for the semi-finals. The Socceroos were now Inter-Continental Champions.

To qualify for the World Cup Final the Socceroos had to play:

Scotland - European Champions  
South Korea and Mexico



The venue was Mexico City.

Prior to these games the Young Socceroos were invited to Costa Rica for warm up games.

At Mexico the results were:

Mexico 1-1  
Scotland 2-1 (up until this game Scotland had not been defeated for two years)  
Korea 2-1 (a draw was needed to qualify)

He still plays for Marconi First Grade and has one of the biggest transfer fees (\$30,000).

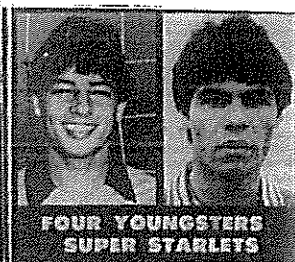
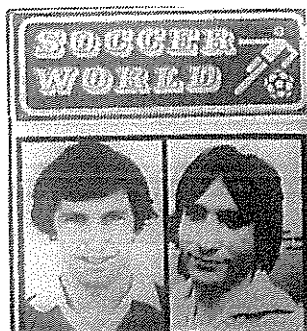
Renee also has a contract with Puma.

3. Happiest moments?

- a) When the H.S.C. was over.
- b) Making the Combined High School Team in 1980-81 for soccer.
- c) Making Semi-Finals of Tasman Cup in 1982 - the furthest the school had ever made.

4. Saddest?

When school lost semi-finals of Tasman Cup 1982.



Rene Licata (Marconi) shields the ball from Canberra's John Motsepoulos.

### 5. Funniest/Silliest?

a) On Warrumbungles Excursion in 1981. The boys kept Josie Scala in the woolsheds. However, when she started crying they let her go, but by now it was midnight. They then went down to the girls' cabins and when leaving they thought they were being chased by a Ranger. They all took off and in their eagerness to get away they ran into the tents of another school camping there. One tent fell down and girls started screaming. The boys ran faster, still thinking the Ranger was after them. It started to rain and before long they were soaked. They then decided to hide down the bank of the track but because of the rain they were covered in mud and wet from head to foot. They were going to wait for the Ranger to pass and then duck back to the wool sheds. However, the "Ranger" turned out to be Rodney Radov with a torch yelling out "Hey fellas where are you going?"



b) In Year 7 the class went out to do an experiment. Rene and mate stayed behind. They got all the books and switched them into different bags. They then went outside and pretended to do the experiment. When the class got back everything was a shambles as pupils tried to find all their own gear. Rene had to apologize on behalf of the class to Student Councillor. He never admitted it was his prank in changing books.

### 6. Best Lesson?

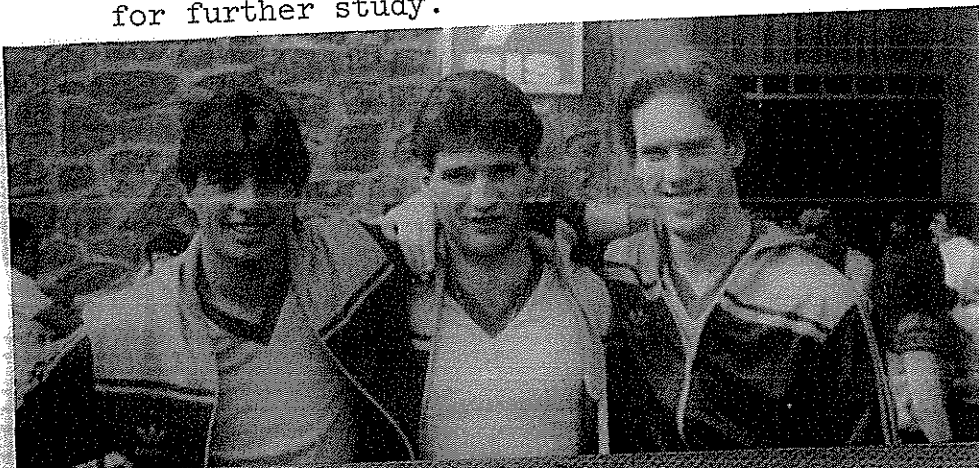
When Channel O came to interview Rene at school in Mrs. Taylor's Ancient History Class (with only five minutes warning). Embarrassing all male teachers who came into Mrs. Taylor's Ancient History class, was another trick we used to play.

### 7. What did you like best at school?

Lunchtimes - gave a break from class.  
Towards end of school days - seeing friends and the socializing between pupils and teachers.  
Enjoyed all sports - took part in everything.

### 8. What do you regret not having done at school?

Realizing the H.S.C. is not the final word. It is only a build up for further study.



Ms Taylor,  
Sportsmistress.

'R. Licata & Socceroo

friends in Mexico



Gunther Neszpor attended this school from 1969 to 1975. He was a prefect and involved in various sports. Unlike some of our other "big boys" (Norm Ella, Francis van Ooran - see elsewhere), Gunther was never a bouncer - although his older brother was (in a Haymarket restaurant).

What are you doing now?

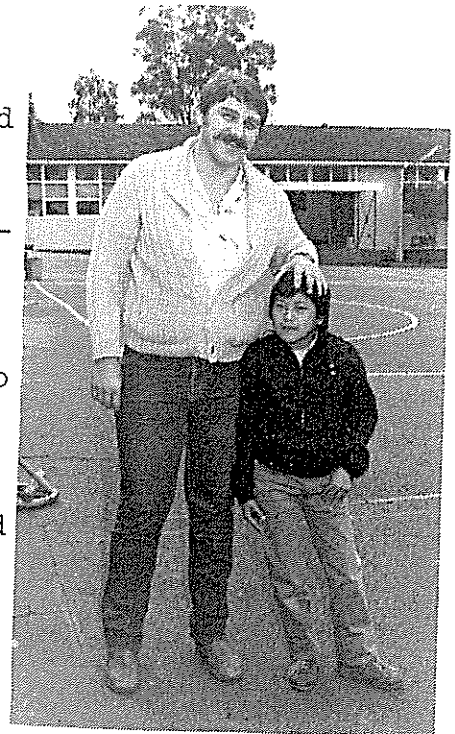
I am a staging manager with Channel 7 - in charge of putting up sets. I used to work for Channel 10 and the A.B.C. before that.

What sports did you play at school?

League football, athletics - especially discus and shot put, tug-of-war.

Tell us a little of your school football career

I was picked for the school's 2nd Grade team when I was in 1st Year (Year 7) because of my size and weight. Later I joined 1st Grade. In a Uni Shield match against Bankstown (1971) we had our teacher Mr. Barlow refereeing. We knew he didn't like swearing so we kept quiet. The other side didn't - and several of their players got their marching orders. In the game I knocked someone out accidentally as he came in to tackle me - he had to go off for a spell to recover. We won that game comfortably. In another rugged match against Sefton, I was tackled by about five players and someone punched me on the nose, breaking it. I was so wild I tossed them all off and was about to take on the whole team before I calmed down.



After school days I played a few matches in the Western Suburbs Business House League competition, but after I broke my thumb I never got back into it.

What were your statistics?

The Long and short of CHS

By 5th Year (Year 11) I reached my adult proportions - 6 feet 4 inches and 17 stones in weight.

Joseph Bozicko, 10H<sub>2</sub>

1970's SUPERSTARS.



1976 Sportsmaster Mr. Adamson, Matthew Horsnell, Debbie & Jennifer Alcorn, Ivica Papich, Lisa Crossingham, Marijan Kovacic. (Seated) Domenic Piromalli, Greg Ella, Ed Flahey, Will Hutchinson.





Barbara is currently in Year 11, and her sporting achievements are truly amazing.

In Year 7 (1979) she was involved in regional softball, diving, cross country and athletics. She was also sportswoman of the year.

In Year 8 (1980) she again made regional diving, zone swimming and athletics, and the Southern Metropolitan Regional Softball side.

In Year 9 (1981) regional diving and the Under 16's State Rep. side in Softball.

In Year 10 (1982) she was in state diving, zone cross country and athletics, Under 17's regional softball and senior State softball, and reserve in N.S.W. Under 19's softball squad. She played in the International Presidential side against the Chinese visiting team.

Currently (Year 11, 1983) she is in regional softball, cross country and girls' waterpolo; zone athletics and netball; N.S.W. diving championship competition, club and regional basketball and softball sides; participant in State softball championships.

She attributes her success to the keen sporting nature of C.H.S.

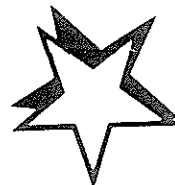
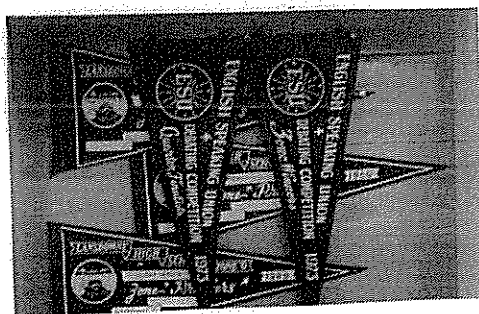


RAY MOORE - CHAMPION WRESTLER

Currently in Year 12, Ray has been involved in the C.S.S., the Farewell Committee, Canteen duty, Grade Volleyball, Aussie Rules, Zone Cross Country and Swimming, school and zone running.

He was the winner of the Police Boys' Wrestling at Mitchell High and runner up at the Brisbane Championships.

His favourite lesson is History with Ms. Atherton, and he hopes to be a policeman.





Bill Popiwenko is one of Cabramatta High's "Quiet Achievers". He succeeded in a field which is not as popular as Rugby League, Cricket, Tennis and Soccer. An Australian of Russian descent, Bill began 'bouncing' in his first year of high school at the age of twelve. Spotted by a teacher at the school's swimming carnival, whilst diving off the boards, Bill began to train three to four hours a day. At the age of sixteen Bill competed in the world championships at Lafayette in the Blackham Colosseum. Funds were raised by door knocking and exhibitions in the local area. Bill was placed

sixth in the competition. Beginning his schooling at Cabramatta High, Bill was the only Gymnast to receive a full scholarship at the University of Hawaii. Bill was the Australian Junior champion for three years ('64, '65 and '66) before he won the senior championship in 1968. Hailed as one of the best in the world in a sport of relative obscurity, Bill Popiwenko is one of Cabramatta High's most illustrious achievers.

1. What are you doing now?

I am working for the Gas company whilst studying Remedial Therapy at Burwood.

2. What is your most notable achievement since leaving school?

My most notable achievement since leaving school was going to the University of Hawaii on a full scholarship doing a Bachelor of Economics. Another notable achievement was winning the American Amateur Athletics championship, winning a gold medal for Hawaii in 1971.

3. What were you at Cabramatta High?

I was a Prefect.

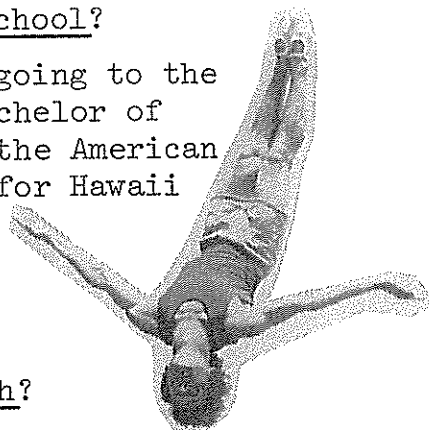
4. What do you recall from school days at Cabramatta High?

- a. Happiest moment - Sixth form was the happiest time, because there was a lot of freedom and socialising with the teachers.
- b. Saddest - My saddest moment was when I fell off the trampoline at school, getting a black eye and smashing up my face.
- c. Funniest - Muck up day was the funniest moment, because everyone dressed up as a teacher, and I dressed as the principal.
- d. Most exciting event - The most exciting thing was jumping around and training on the trampoline.
- e. Best lesson - Geography was my best lesson because I was good at it.

5. What did you like best about school?

School was also a social thing, like when a couple of mates and I used to jig sport at Jon English's place and listen to Sebastian Hardy play; socialising would be the best thing about school.

John Bruno, 12H3.



KERRY STACKER (nee CASEY) -  
CHAMPION TRAMPOLINIST

Having begun her trampolining career in her first year of high school in 1961, Kerry was three times winner of the N.S.W. Championship between 1961-63. She also won two Victorian Championships in 1962 and 1963, and two Australian Championships in 1964-65. In 1966 she was selected to compete in the World Championships in Lafayette, U.S.A., where she was placed eighth. Kerry also represented the State in diving in 1963.



1. What are you doing now?

I'm a housewife and a mother of three children.

2. What is your most notable achievement since leaving school?

My most notable achievement was representing Australia in trampolining in 1966.

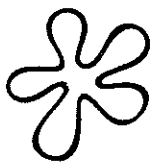
3. What were you at C.H.S.?

House captain of Kurella and sport representative.

4. What do you recall from school days?

a) Happiest moment - My happiest moment was winning the Athletics and Swimming Carnivals in the same year, whilst I was captain.

b) Funniest - When we had to do trampolining in the canteen when it was raining, and one day a kid put his head through the roof.



c) Most exciting event - When I represented the school in the N.S.W. Championship and won in 1962.

d) Best lesson - My best lesson was P.E. I loved any form of sport and P.E.

5. What do you regret not having done at school?

I regret not studying more, although it didn't matter for me because in those days jobs were easy to find, and I found one in computers.

6. Which people impressed you most at school?

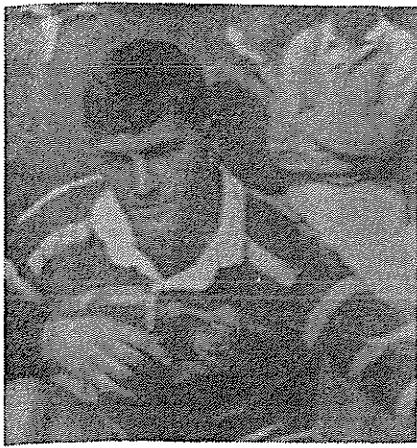
Mr. Irvin because he was my

coach, Mr. Millyard and Don Courts.

7. What is the most important change you witnessed at school?

When all the Bonnyrigg kids left, after their own school was built.

John Bruno, Andrew Groza, 12H3.



## LEN STACKER - FOOTBALL STAR

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Currently the coach of Western Suburbs League first grade side, Len Stacker began his football with Cabramatta in the under 13's and 14's. He then played for Guildford for two years before being graded for Parramatta where he stayed for three years. He then moved to Brisbane where he played first grade for Northern Suburbs. His first taste as coach was with Glouster where he Captain-coached the side. After Glouster he came back to the local area and again Captain-coached Fairfield City. After three years he coached Parramatta's Presidents Cup, Under 23's and then Second grade. His first grade coaching job came with Penrith where he stayed for three years. He is now Western Suburbs coach. Whilst at school Len was picked to represent N.S.W. in the Under 15's side, and toured New Zealand in 1963. He also received the sporting blue for League. Len was also instrumental in signing Steve Ella (another Cabramatta student) with Parramatta.

1) What are you doing now?

I'm a full time coach for Western Suburbs and a part time journalist for a local paper.

2) What is your most notable achievement since leaving school?

Coaching a first grade side after coming up through Presidents Cup, Under 23's and Reserve Grade.

3) What were you at C.H.S.?

I was captain of the football sides - the nine stones and then the open weights. I made the N.S.W. under 15's side which went to New Zealand in 1963 and received a sporting blue for League.

4) a) Happiest moment? Making the N.S.W. side, especially after my Maths teacher said that I would never make it in sport.

b) Saddest? Throwing a punch in a University Shield match, and one teacher said I shouldn't get the sporting blue because I fouled on the field, but I did get it.

c) Funniest? When I used to bowl my cricket coach out all the time, that was funny because Mr. Turnbull thought he was a good batsman.

d) Silliest action? Requesting to go from an A class to a D class because D classes had no languages taught.

e) Best other event? I liked cricket, I was captain of the side.

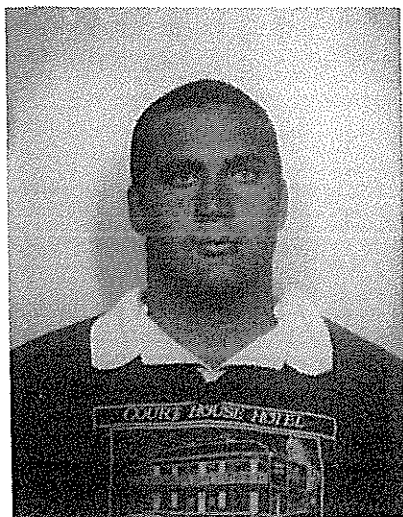
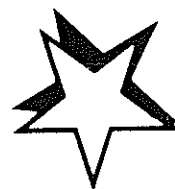
5) What did you like best/least about school?

I liked all sports and all sporting teachers. The least I liked were people who criticised me for being too much involved in sport.



John Bruno,  
Andrew Groza 12H3.





### FRANCIS VAN OORAN - WATERPOLO CAPTAIN

This 6 ft. 2 inches, 15 stone giant was captain of the undefeated waterpolo side for most of the time.

1. What type of work are you doing, Francis?

I am doing a full time chartered accountant certificate course. I have a part-time job at Cabramatta League's Club as a bouncer.

2. What are the most goals you've scored in one match?

Eight against Manly.

3. Do you enjoy waterpolo?

Yes, I just love it.

4. Have you ever played for N.S.W.?

I made the N.S.W. training squad in 1981.

5. Do you play Club waterpolo?

No, but I expect to play with Parramatta next year.

6. What were your greatest moments playing school waterpolo?

My greatest moments were last year winning the Grand Final senior waterpolo. It was also great going through undefeated and being picked captain for senior water polo side. Being selected for Liverpool region waterpolo side and State training side was a great honour.

7. What did it feel like being captain of the senior waterpolo side?

I felt prestige being captain of senior waterpolo side which went through a record breaking season.

8. What was the position you played for the school waterpolo?

I played centre. It was a great position to score goals from.

9. What was your most embarrassing moment?

Most embarrassing moment was receiving an eight match suspension in Club waterpolo for fighting. I nearly broke the other fellow's jawbone.

10. Who got you started playing waterpolo?

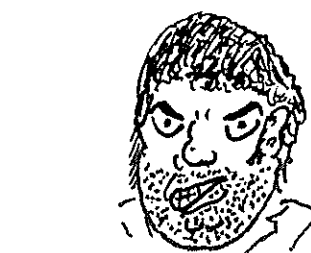
Mr. Smythe and Mr. Preston got me started. Mr. Smythe spotted me lurking in golf and bullied me into coming down to the pool.

11. Places you have been to playing waterpolo?

I've been to Newcastle, Ballina and Bowral.

Sam Donatiello, 10H3.

\* \* \* \* \*





Mr. Irvin & divers

What are you doing now?

I have been a professional musician, nearly since the day I left school. I have my own rock group called "Spiral" and we are the resident band at "Seagulls Rugby League Club" on the Gold Coast.

My most notable achievement since leaving school, would be appearing at some of the top hotels and clubs when we toured South East Asia. More recently we were doing the support show with the "Village People" on their Q'land tour.

What were you at C.H.S.?

I can remember being a Prefect.

School Memories

The happiest moment I think was when I won my first diving competition, which was the N.S.W. Combined High Schools swimming and diving carnival at North Sydney Olympic Pool. Before the competition I don't think I was even given a chance of a place, but I remember my coach Mr. Ian Irvin and Mr. Robinson (the Sportsmaster) grinning as they knew I'd won, even before the competition finished, although they didn't tell me until the official announcement.

My most disappointing moment would have happened in about my third year of diving, when, whilst competing at a N.S.W. State Highboard competition, myself, Mr. Irvin and most of the diving fraternity were taking it for granted I would win, I misjudged one of my final dives and lost! Although I still came second, it was still a bitter blow not to win something I thought was well and truly mine.

Funniest? Some of the funniest and silliest things happened when I, along with some of Mr. Irvin's other divers were giving exhibitions with clown routines. We would tend to get caught up with the excitement of the moment, doing crazy things, chasing each other and throwing each other off the highest tower and landing in the water anyway but the "right" way, forgetting that it "sure can hurt". Still we always had a lot of laughs afterwards discussing what we'd done to get a laugh from the crowds.

Most exciting? The most exciting moment for me was when I was chosen to represent the State of N.S.W., at the National Titles in Perth in 1962. There I came second in the Junior Men's Highboard and third in the Senior Men's Highboard out of all of the best divers from all over Australia.

Best lesson? I guess the best lesson I learnt was that nothing really comes easy, and if you want to get somewhere you have to be prepared to work for it. My coach Mr. Irvin would make me train come rain, hail or shine. I can remember many a time thinking I was going to freeze to death. And anytime I'd "crash" a dive, particularly when being taught a new one, Mr. Irvin would send me straight back up until I finally got it right. I remember at the time, wishing I was big enough

so I could tell him "where to go...." - but I also remember looking at my medals after I'd won a competition and thinking how glad I was he had pushed me, and how really, part of those many medals were his.

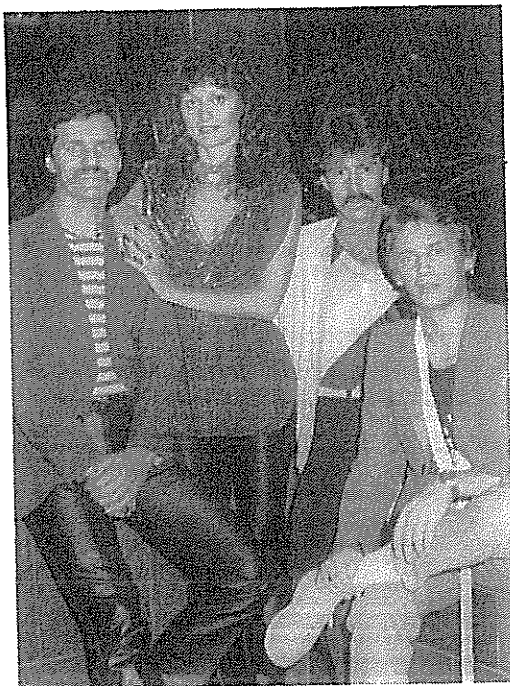
Best other event? I took one of the lead parts in a musical "Trial by Jury" which was the very first concert that C.H.S. had presented. Looking back now, I guess that was the start to my musical career, although I never realised it at the time.

What did you like best/least about school? I think the best thing I liked about school, was being able to do so much sport. The thing I didn't like was that it took us a long time to get the right facilities. And that then, sport was not taken very seriously except for that handful of teachers. I remember even then thinking, I wish I were in the U.S.A. where "Sports Scholarships" were given.

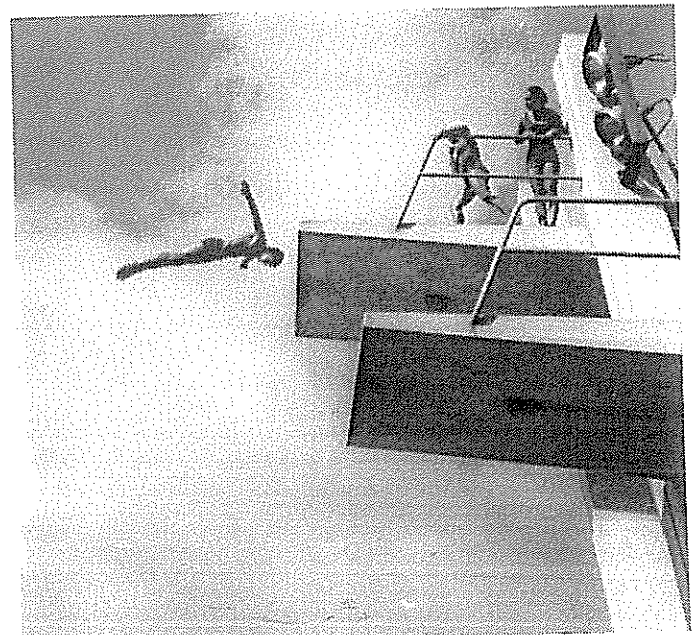
Which people impressed? As far as people who impressed me most at C.H.S., Ian Irvin for all the time, in particular, his own private time he spent on me. Also the late Mr. Eric Robinson, the Sportsmaster, for the support he gave Mr. Irvin in getting recognition for sport in C.H.S.'s early years. And finally Mr. Reg. Lang who helped me prove to the other staff that even though you may be good at sport, you can also have a head on your shoulders and be a good academic.

Any mishaps? One moment I remember that caused some excitement was when practising a double back somersault on the trampoline one afternoon, I broke three ribs and spent the next few weeks strapped in plaster. It was the last time I made that mistake.

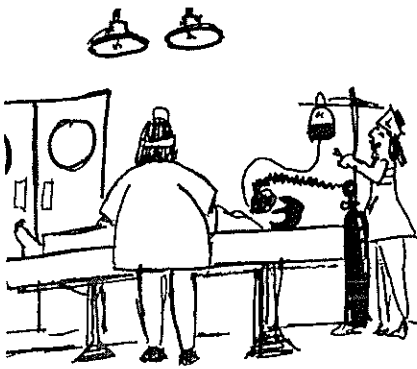
Huseyin Ortac, Year 11.



Rod, wife & group "Spiral"



Rod in mid air



# DISASTERS



## ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES

Our school history would not be complete without the unfortunate and sometimes humorous accidents that have befallen our staff and students during years gone by.

A very minor accident we encountered involved a young girl who fractured her leg when the trampoline apparatus failed.

Another accident occurred when John Fard failed to heed safety instruction at the 1982 Athletics Carnival. John got in the way of a shot-put in flight, resulting in a heavy blow to the side of the head. This accident could have been tragic, however, thanks to quick action he is well and alive today.

Yet, another of our past students was not as fortunate. Lana Schroeder was struck by a car while crossing Cabramatta Road on the 11th May, 1981. The result was fatal, but she will always be remembered by her family and friends.

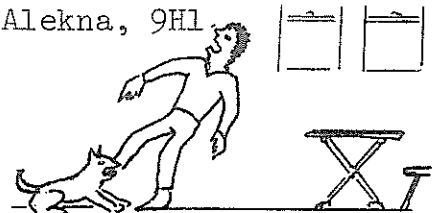
Other accidents can be looked upon as humorous. One incident involved our very own Deputy Principal who related to us that earlier this year he had become involved in a quite humorous event. Whilst carrying an overweight student to the clinic, Mr. Loader suffered from minor respiratory failure. To top it all off the student was later found sprawled face down on the clinic bed gorging himself with junk food.

Another incident involves the rescue of a boy outside school hours. If it wasn't for the courageous help of Enzo Pinoschi, the result could have been fatal. A fellow student, not knowing what was to befall him, went swinging on a tree rope. He slipped and fell into the muddy creek below which was polluted. Tragically he fell onto a slither of glass and was paralysed momentarily. Enzo assisted him to the bank and went to seek help from nearby neighbours. This accident could have been fatal but luckily the quick thinking of a friend saved his life.

Another serious accident occurred this year to a Year 9 student, Robert Holmes. During the long weekend (cracker night), Robert and a friend were fooling around with a dangerous mixture of petrol and matches. Unexpectedly one of the petrol drums exploded onto Robert. He was rushed to hospital suffering from third degree burns, all his body was burnt except for his face. This accident was critical and we all grieve and take heed to what has happened.



Sharon Harrison and Audrey Alekna, 9H1

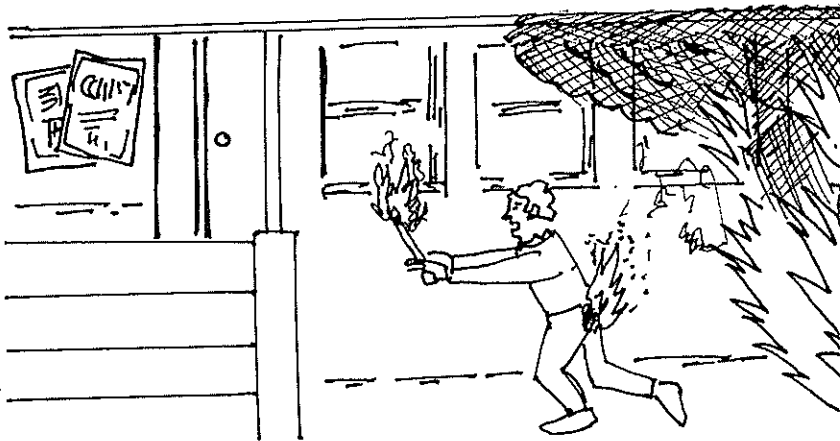




ARSON AROUND 'B' BLOCK

The hordes of Cabramatta put to shame the ancient Vandals and Goths. Some local residents could teach old Genghis a thing or two.

"Carn!" you might say. But I speak with tongue in full view.



One of the highlights of the last two and a half decades will be written in letters of flame ten metres tall in the annals (I had to check the spelling on that one, might I add) of C.H.S. Of course those blazing words will be taller than the flames our local Goths managed to coax out of a Guy-Fawkes-high pile of pedagogical papers. A low simmer was about all this Genghis-manqué could achieve. You might say he/she/they (let's be neither sexist or over-specific in our allocation of praise) were clearly innocent in the ways of conflagration (although their desecration of one of the halls of the holy will ensure adequate experience in a fiery eternity). Innocent also in the ways of "burglary" (to use the vernacular) our would-be-pyromaniacs were also couldn't-be-breakers-and-enterers. Having spent some time on the tiles (of the roof, that is), their entry through the ceiling was effected with panache, with flair, with... well you could think of better words, no doubt. What, you may well ask was the manifestation of this panache, this flair? A rope ladder attached to a skyhook? A hastily rigged fireman's pole, "extempored" from a basketball post? Pulleys? Blocks and tackle? No...you attribute to our prospective Attila more imagination than he/she could muster in a life-time of transcendental meditation. How, then, you may get to know, was entry effected? A great bloody hole stamped through yielding plaster with a size 10 steel cap! Yes, style, creativity...and...here our destructive duo (let's assume duality for the sake of alliteration)...showed a sophisticated sense of irony, for their hole (holes in fact - anyone can make a mistake!) was punched a mere metre from the manhole (person hole I hear you scream, as we have not established the gender of our offenders, even unto this day). Yes, so incisive was the combined intelligence of these assinine arsonists, that they chose to hurt us more by explosive entry through lathe and plaster dust rather than the conventional trap-door.

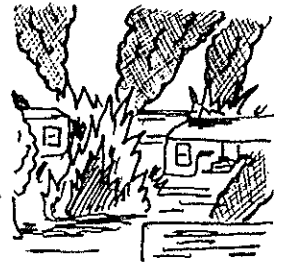
Perhaps, I hear you suggest, their mode of entry was error, mistake, miscalculation. I cannot concede. I must again defend the brainpower of these poor victims of sociological and deterministic forces beyond their control...Well if you insist! "Morons" you say! "Fools" you say! "Jerks", you say! "Vandals" you say. Stop, stop, I yield. Morons, Fools, Jerks and Vandals they were. Let's fall back on the facts:



Opportunity: \*six weeks of vacant buildings;  
 \*unsecure security:

Motivation: well, we can only speculate;

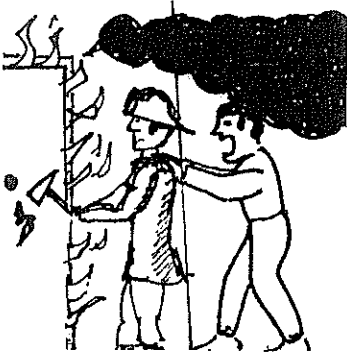
Means: \*3 tonnes of highly combustible paper  
 \*enough duplicator fluid to set up a  
 stall in Central's Belmore Park;  
 \*a box of matches.



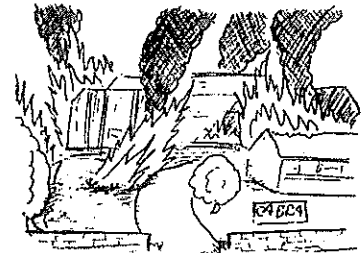
And yet despite all this, a slow crock-pot simmer was all they could manage. They will go down in the unrecorded annals (whoops!) of history as the arsonists who did less damage than the firemen, whose ritualised and institutionalised violence overshadows the spontaneous efforts of mere amateurs anyway.

Yes, yet again - I concede. Morons, fools, jerks and vandals, attempting to express their feelings about a system in which they failed - and failing yet again. Failed for want of a draught - yet life wasn't meant to be breezy!

Such were the events surrounding the great  
 English Staffroom conflagration - January 1980.



D. Moss,  
 English Master.



### THE FIRE IN THE OFFICE

At 6.00 a.m. on the 22nd October, 1981 a fire was discovered by a cleaner in the school and she immediately called the police. The fire had started in the back office of the administration block, and the thieves had entered through the roof.

Fortunately no one was hurt in the fire, but they lost three typewriters, furniture, lights, cabinets and everything was completely burnt in the back office. Also some important files were taken. It took the office seven months to be repaired and it cost a considerable amount of money.

The person who caused the fire was finally caught. The motive for the fire was to get revenge back at the school for something that had happened to him while he was at school.

An interview with some of the ladies at the office by

Tony Raco and Gustavo Gonzalez, 10H2.

OUR WORST YEAR - ACCORDING TO POLICE FILES1981

BREAK ENTER WITH INTENT - 5.2.81 to 6.2.81 at 4.30 p.m. and 1.30 a.m.  
By forcing window in Admin block, the office was ransacked but nothing had been stolen.

BREAK, ENTER AND STEAL AND MAL INJURY - 15.5.81 and 17.5.81. Entry through trap door in floor of Science block.  
PROPERTY DAMAGED - WATER TAPS IN SCIENCE ROOM WINDOW, ONE DOOR AND VARIOUS PROPERTY STOLEN.

BREAK, ENTER AND STEAL - 3.7.81 to 6.7.81 at 5.30 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.  
Prising open window and breaking lock on door in second block.  
PROPERTY STOLEN.

BREAK ENTER WITH INTENT - 29.8.81 to 30.8.81 at 1.30 p.m. and 6.00 p.m.  
Office window smashed and entry gained - NIL PROPERTY STOLEN.

BREAK ENTER AND STEAL - 18.9.81 to 21.9.81 at 2.00 p.m. and 9.30 a.m.  
No sign of forced entry to building block but removing glass louvres from room - ELECTRICAL GOODS STOLEN.

ARSON - 23.10.81 to 23.10.81 at 12.00 a.m. and 5.00 a.m. Broke into the office section by removing roof tiles.  
OFFENDERS ARRESTED.

BREAK ENTER AND STEAL - 8.12.81 to 9.12.81 at 3.30 p.m. and 11.00 a.m.  
Entry was gained to a sports gear storeroom of the school by cutting padlock on steel gate then padlock on storeroom door.  
SPORTING EQUIPMENT STOLEN.



1970 Year 10 test in Hall without heating. Short skirts, long blankets.

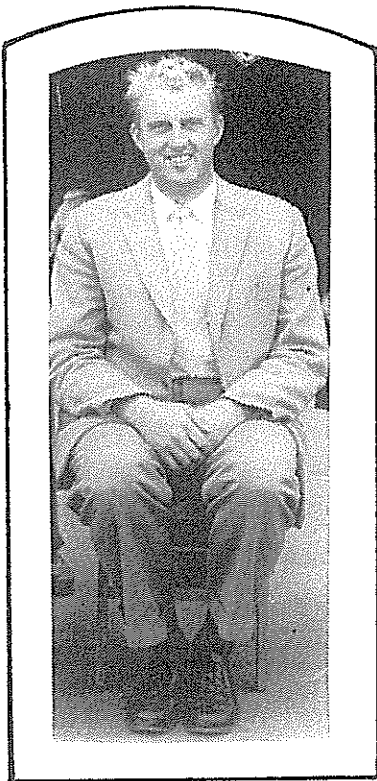
IN MEMORIAM - MR. ERIC ROBINSON

On 18th October, 1965, Eric Robinson, a former P.E. Master and Industrial Arts teacher at Cabramatta High died, leaving behind him many friends and a happy memory for all who had known him. He originally came from the north coast and was one of the members of the foundation staff at Cabramatta High.

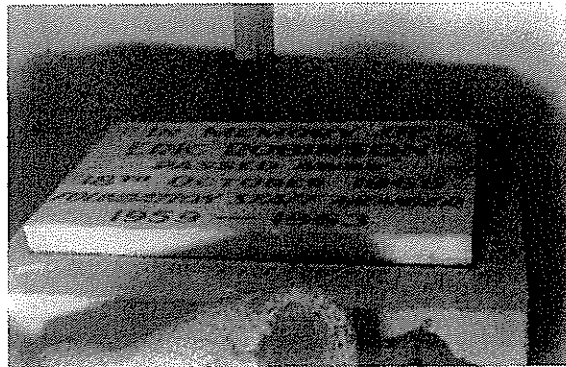
He was immensely popular and many found him physically attractive. Many pupils grew to love him as he went out of his way to participate and help in school activities and functions. Teachers came to respect his total dedication and involvement in his work and many were sorry when he got a transfer to Newcastle to become an Industrial Arts Master.

It was at this time that it was discovered that he had cancer and within two years he passed away. A special service which was attended by every person at Cabramatta High showed his immense popularity. The school erected a memorial stone and planted trees in his honour.

Eric Robinson may have died early in life, but perhaps his life was more successful and fulfilling than many who live the average lifetime. He left behind him not only a string of friends and a family, but also a memory.



D. Bruno,  
L. Jokinen 10H1.



In Memory of  
E. ROBINSON, SPORTSMASTER 1961-1963.

Mr. Eric Robinson 1962





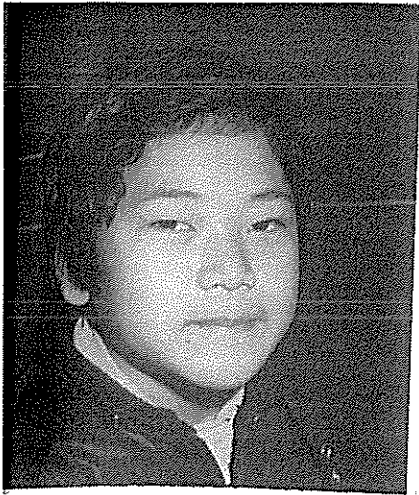
LANA SCHROEDER

It is now just over two years since Lana Schroeder was killed by a passing car as she was trying to cross Cabramatta Road. It seems all so distant now. However those who knew her still have vivid thoughts of her presence.

We often talk about the failures of school but rarely look at its successes. Lana was one of its successes who provided such a positive influence to anyone acquainted with her. She exuded a vitality, a love of life, good humour and a certain warmth which set her apart from others around her. Lana contributed much to the school and showed everyone by her example how to really "Strive and Serve".

Those students who are now in Year 12 will remember 1981 clearly because of Lana's death. However, those of us who knew Lana, or knew of her, hope that the kind of person she was will not be forgotten. It is fitting, therefore, that the school has kept the Lana Schroeder Memorial Award in honour of her memory. This was purchased from contributions by students and staff and is given every year to the Year 10 student who exhibits the fine qualities which Lana possessed. I hope that through this yearly presentation people will not forget who Lana Schroeder was and what she gave to Cabramatta High.

P. Quigley



## D.H. LONG - OUR ESCAPE FROM VIETNAM

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My name is D.H. Long. I am 15 years old. There were twelve people in my family. However, because of the crisis in Vietnam, my family had to separate and escape from Vietnam. Right now my sister and two brothers are still there, my eldest sister and brother live in Holland as they were accepted as refugees to live there. Six members of my family and I live in Australia.

I remember when we started from a river in the southern part of Vietnam, there were twenty or more people on a tiny boat. We had to hide as the boat passed the checking station. One mistake, we'd be killed or jailed for life.

It all began when the communists took control of the South Vietnam people. The Hanoi government hated the Chinese and blamed them, saying that they were the main "wall" that caused the division between north and south Vietnam. It also made out that they had helped the U.S. government in the war. After the war they treated the Chinese people as prisoners, and forced them to work for the government with no pay. At night people still had to go to school for more education, but this was really "brainwashing". People didn't have enough food to eat and feed their families. So time went on, they had to spend all their money that they had saved, so many years of thrift were destroyed by the decisions of the government. The government also forced people to leave the country but asked for money for boat transport.

This problem happened to my family too, because we were Chinese, we couldn't live like other families. We could only pay for a small ship and it was dangerous to sail on the sea.

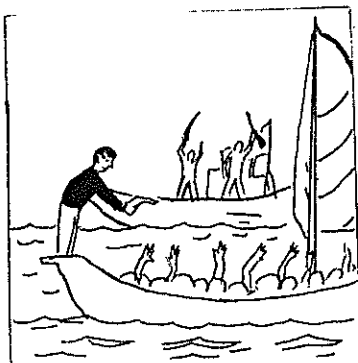
We left in September 1978, although we couldn't pay for everyone in the family. We thought that there could be other ways to get them out later.

When the boat passed the checking station, we changed to another boat and dressed as fishermen and then separated into three fishing boats. One by one we went out through the mouth of the river towards the open sea. About two hours later we were picked up by a bigger and safer ship to sail on the sea. There was hardly any room for us, the boat was already crowded. However we managed to squeeze in. After all that was what we were paying for! On the boat, there was enough food and water, but it was only supplies for a week or two. It was so crowded that many people had to go up on the roof of the boat. At night, people were so cramped that they had to sleep on top of each other or stand up. The waves of the sea kept the boat rolling from side to side as it went on, night and day, without stopping. I was lying on my mother's chest for my sleep. I was hardly moving at all because there was no room to move.

We travelled about two weeks without stopping. The ship was small and slow. The weather didn't affect us much, because it was not a stormy wet season. But we ran out of food and water. Everyone on the boat was wishing they'd be picked up by a foreign ship e.g. U.S.

One afternoon, a ship sailed towards us. It was coming fast. When we looked at the flag, it told us that it was a Malaysian Navy control boat. In minutes their boat was tied along to our boat. Seven big wild men jumped onto our boat. They were dressed in officers' uniforms. However, they were pirates. They immediately forced us by knives and swords to separate into two groups. They forced one group up to their boat and robbed us. We had also been told that if someone tried to hide something from them, they'd throw him into the sea. After they finished, they moved the second group onto their boat and did the same thing. It wasn't possible to take off our ear rings, they simply chopped off the person's ears. They took everything from my parents. They took everything from my parents and I saw tears come from their eyes, but there was nothing they could do.

One or two pirates went down to our boat and made a hole in the sides. Then we were told to jump onto it. We had no choice - either be killed by them or drown in the sea. A few people had jumped, but very slowly. Suddenly there were about five young men who jumped from behind me and took me off the pirate and took his sword. With this they killed right away. As a result of these five men, everyone began to fight back. We got together and killed all the pirates and took control of the pirates' ship. I sat on the side of the boat with my parents. I saw one of our men killed by the pirates during the fight. He was cut through the stomach to the back, the blood rushed out into the air and flew down like rain - it was horrible.



We carried the little food and water we had in the boat to the pirates' boat. We were lucky to get some off before our boat sank into the sea.

We began to clean up the deck. We threw all the bodies out into the sea. The pirates' boat was a lot bigger than the boat we had before and a lot faster, but we didn't know where we were heading. There was plenty of water in the boat.

My father's condition was worsening. He was sick before we escaped from Vietnam and was really weak and old. I didn't know from what sickness he was suffering, but he coughed all night, and said his chest hurt a lot. I was worried and sad, crying in my heart. Two days later he died, and was gone from me. This was the first time in my life that I'd really felt that I had lost something that was really important. In the evening we threw his body into the sea.

For four days our boat continued on without stopping. We had trouble with the fuel. We ran out of food. We drifted still on the sea, going nowhere. We sat against each other, and looked at each other's face. Our faces showed our helplessness, each day we drank a little water to keep us alive. This went on for about two or three days, my lips were dry and rough. I kept a little water on it and each time it hurt a lot. Later we were spotted by a fishing boat - Singaporese. We were very happy to see them coming towards us, but

we were well prepared if it turned out to be another pirate's ship again.

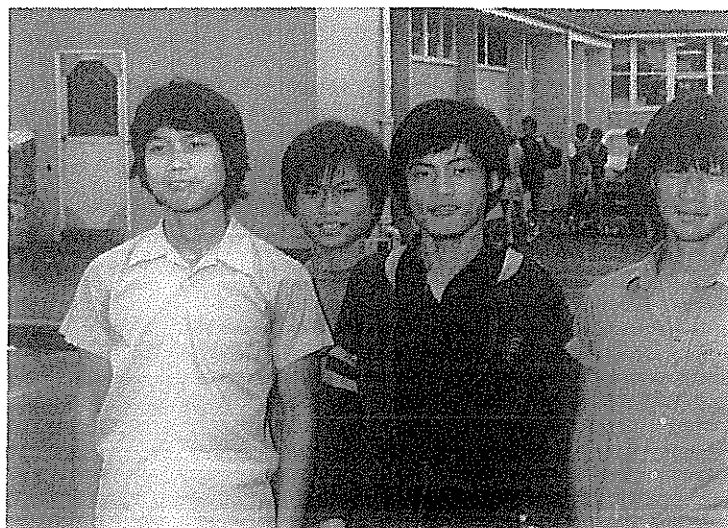
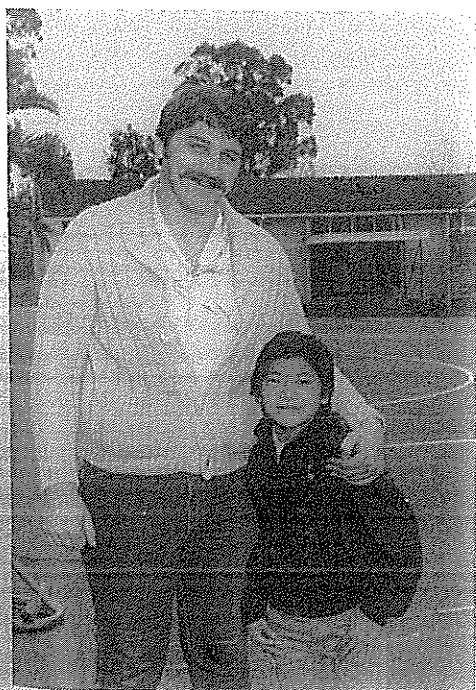
God saved us, they weren't pirates. They gave us fish and water, and we asked if they could pull us to the mainland or to a refugee camp. They said they couldn't do it because it was against the law; but they would help us to pull our boat to where there were ships that came in or out from Singapore. We were towed about one hour and they let go of our boat and told us that we would be spotted by the foreign ships.

Through out eleven days, we'd been eating fish and drinking water. We waited and waited and on the morning of the twelfth day, a big ship came towards us. Because it was early in the morning, they might have missed us easily, so we lit a fire to make a signal on the deck. The ship gave a signal back. Everyone yelled out and held each other. They cried but they were happy, just as if somebody had presented a brand new life to them. I was holding my mother's hand and wiping the tears that came from her eyes. Her face was white and weak but she still showed her smile as the ship slowly came towards us.

We were picked up by an English ship. Some of us were too weak to walk by themselves, they were carried by the crew of the ship. They gave us warm clothes and hot meals, the crew were very good and helpful. They told us they were going to Australia. In a few days we'd be in another world, the world where we could find something suitable for us so that we could live happily in freedom.

Five days later, the ship arrived at Darwin, and was stopped by the Australian Customs Officers. We were kept in the ship for two months before the Australian government accepted us as refugees to stay freely in the country. We were very happy. It seemed as though we had just been pulled from hell. Everything's better here. I've learned a new culture and language and know that everything starts very slowly, but my family and I are now so happy with our newly found freedom.

Interviewed by S. Souksavong, 10H1.



D.H. Long with  
Gunther Neszpar



THE SPIRIT OF CABRAMATTA

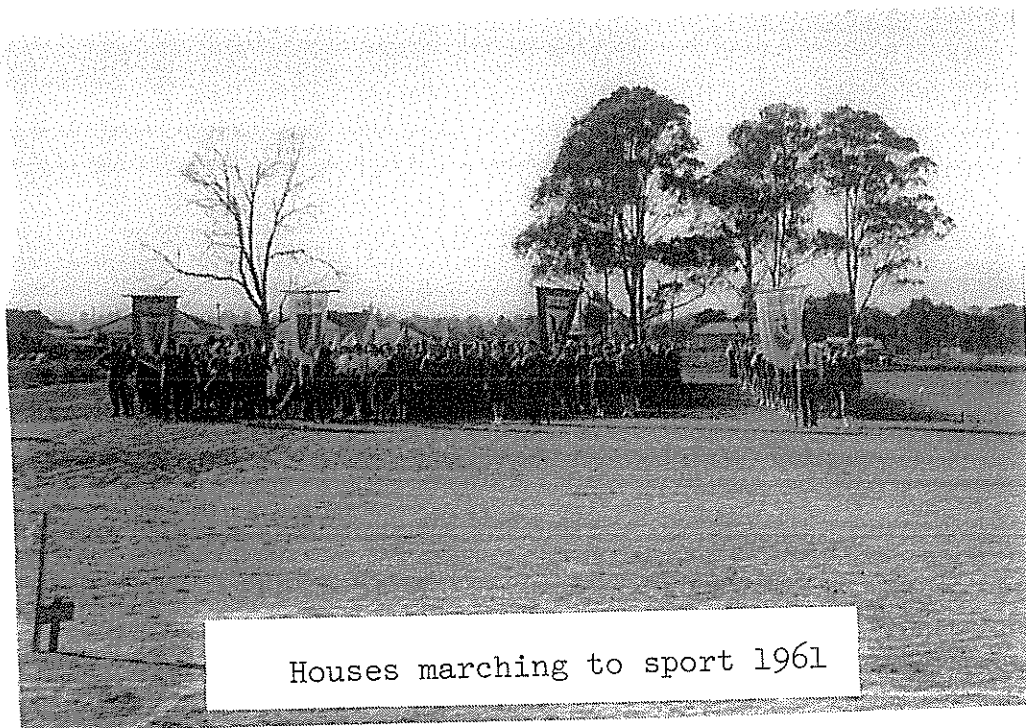
The students of Year 9, 1983, have had the opportunity to show that the grand Australian belief in mateship thrives in Cabramatta.

On Tuesday, 14th June, 1983 a Year 9 student, Robert Holmes, was seriously burned in an accident after school. Robert, having spent some months in hospital, is still there at the time of writing and will remain so for some time. In the accident Robert suffered second and third degree burns to most of his body. For some weeks he was unable to receive any visitors, except for his family: the nurses at Camperdown Hospital were amazed to see the dozens of "brothers and sisters" who daily visited Robert.

These newly acquired brothers and sisters have since set about forming a fund for the benefit of Robert. By organizing a lunch-time disco, a cake sale (where the cakes were made by Year 9 girls and boys), an out-of-uniform day and by taking a collection, money was raised to this end. A local Polynesian Dance Group gave a performance to the junior school where the proceeds were donated to this fund. In total the students have raised \$900.00. Of this total, \$100.00 was donated by the C.S.S. (Cabramatta Student Society) after Katrina Alexander (Year 9) raised the issue at their meeting.

I am proud to see the maturity and compassion displayed by the mass of Year 9 students in working for the benefit of someone who has suffered an unfortunate accident.

\* Mr. S. Okell, \*  
Year 9 Master.



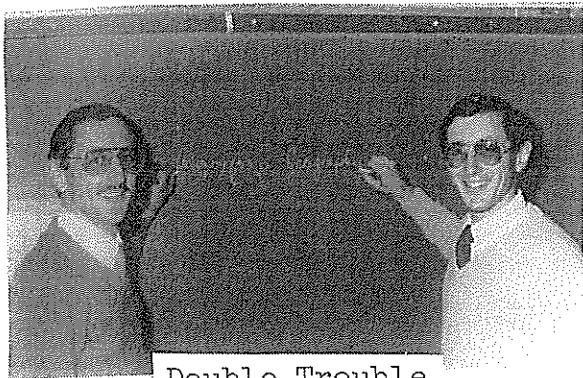
Houses marching to sport 1961

# LIGHTER SIDE



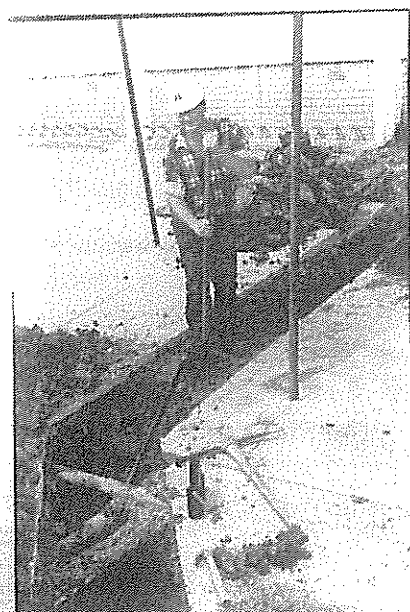
## MR. SINDEN and MR. SINDEN

Picture this scene: Mr. Sinden (our teacher) in class, tells pupil to go to staffroom to collect a book from the table. Pupil goes, only to find Mr. Sinden (the twin brother) seated at table telling pupil to get back to class. Pupil goes, somewhat bewildered, only to find Mr. Sinden (our teacher) asking him where the book is, and to go back and fetch it. Pupil goes, only to find....It can only happen (and did!) at Cabramatta.



Double Trouble

On another occasion the Sindens acted as linesmen (one on each side of field) during a Tasman Cup soccer match. There was considerable amazement as players gradually noticed, not without some confusion - "Am I facing the right direction? Have I been knocked silly by the ball and am I running against my own side??".



Completing sewer trench 1983 for 1958 B Block toilet.



Ivar Sorå in basketball courts mid 60's. Note proximity of hostel cabins.

MOST HUMOROUS EXCURSION

We have been looking through the past Thuruna magazines. We have found that the most humorous excursion was the excursion for 5th Form in 1975. The excursion was later named "the great Yass rip-off." Seven students set out in a mini bus in the morning, leaving Cabramatta High at 8.00 a.m. They travelled and arrived at Yass later in the day. There they had their meal and then put the younger ones to sleep. A few boys left later in the night to look for the entertainment in town. They walked along town and came to a Senior Citizens meeting. They started arguing with the older people and to their surprise the older people won.

Next day they had to attend a Geology study and a lecture on the Murrumbidgee series of dams. This they thought was rather boring and when they got to the Burrinjuk dam they started playing basketball with a ball they had brought. The ball bounced and bounced and finally landed in the dam. They thought they could not live without this ball so they sent their teacher Mr. Hockley to retrieve it. As the teacher did not have swimming costumes, he had to strip down to his underwear and get it. The boys thought this was extremely funny so they put the rest of his clothes at the top of a hundred foot cliff!!!

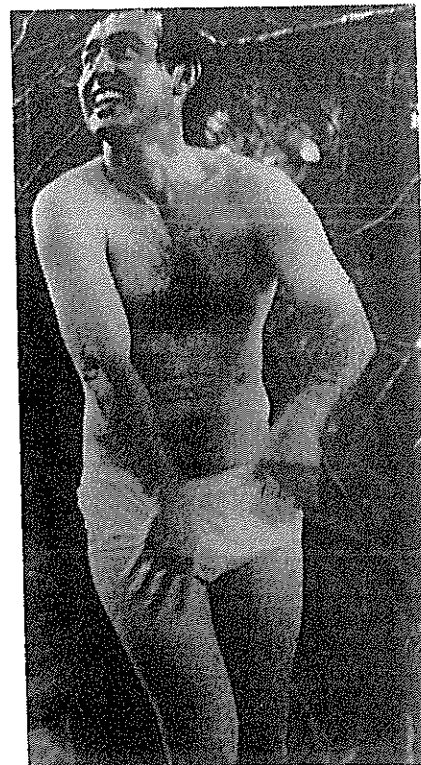
After all this they went back to the camp site where they were fed baked beans. This did not agree with some people, so they did not feel too well. During the night enormous moans and groans were heard from all over the camp. Some of these were so good they even received applause.

The next morning they set off again to go looking at fossils. Half of them had been up since early morning making breakfast. The fossils they studied contained every letter of the alphabet and sounded like an Italian dinner. They retired to a lunch of baked beans sandwiches (yes, again).

After lunch they went to a large cattle property. Here they rode frightened cows and were thrown off at very fast speeds. They then walked around until their teachers came to pick them up. They went back to Yass and had a good night's sleep.

Next morning's breakfast - baked beans (AGAIN!!!) So to play a trick on everyone they mixed ice cream with baked beans. They then set off for home. They arrived in Cabramatta at 5.30 p.m. Monday afternoon empty pocketed. They thought this excursion was one of the best and would have liked to go on another one just like it.

Irena Maras and  
Rosa Blagojevic, 9H1.



Mr. Hockley showing off

## A BLOCK HEAD'S HISTORY OF C.H.S.

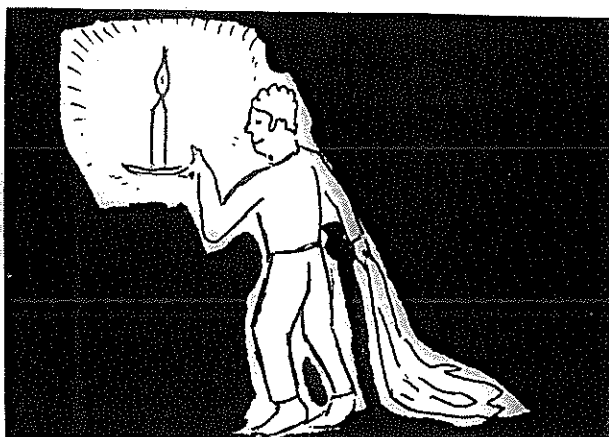
Do you remember these humorous incidents relating to various school blocks? In some cases we have to be deliberately vague to protect the innocence of our readers.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS BLOCKS. Imagine a serene assembly in the mid 1960's (assemblies were still held in the Industrial Arts quadrangle). Unbeknown to the school below, a group of senior students was hiding on the roof out of sight. At an appropriate moment they emerged into view, performing a spectacular strip/dance routine for the dumbfounded audience below. It was one of our most imaginative 6th Form (Year 12) pranks.

ADMIN. BLOCK Once upon a time in the 1970's, a group of dignitaries was waiting in the foyer to see the principal. However, the office door was locked and for some reason the phone was inoperable. When the office lady knocked on the door to inform the headmaster that he had visitors, a voice replied "I'm giving my French lessons!" The door was opened (reluctantly?) and out trooped the all girl senior French class. Of course the principal locked the door at times to guarantee lessons without interruptions, but we wonder whose faces were red on that occasion.

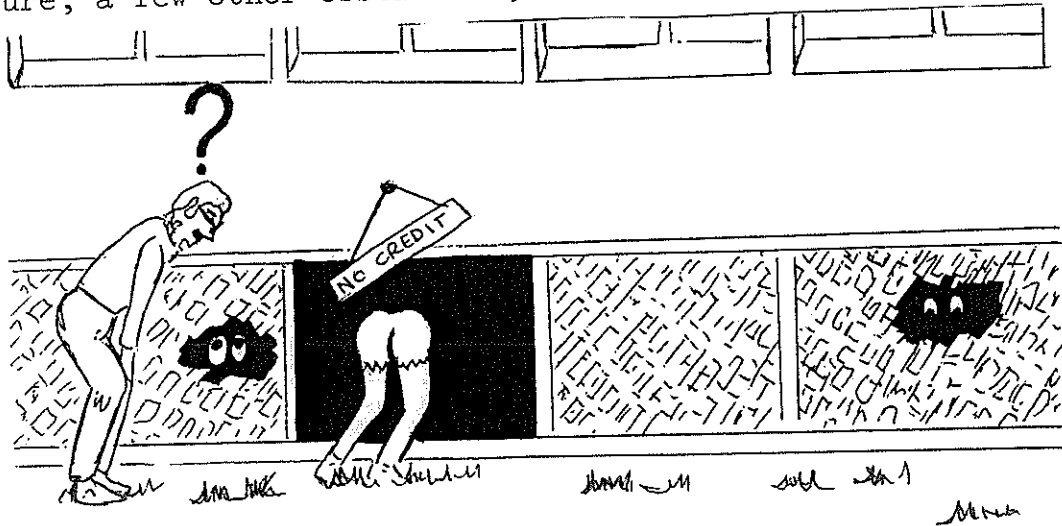
A BLOCK "Rats in the ceiling, Sir!" It did sound like something was up there, scurrying from room to room, interrupting the lessons in Rooms 6, 5 and 4. The fearless history staff of the late 70's decided to investigate. It turned out that these "rats" had enormous size, comparable to strapping Year 9 students. Imagine the shock and horror as Mr. White stared into the baleful eyes of his favourite larrikin student whilst standing on the bookshelf to get his head into the ceiling trap door.

B BLOCK The time - very early 1970's. English student does not fancy the forthcoming lesson, so he scales the wall to reach the ceiling door. Once aloft, he has all the comforts of home - a blanket to rest on, a candle, a few magazines, even a cup of water. Perhaps a trip down the block to spy on one's girl friend sitting in Room 10 below. This haven too was terminated as teachers investigated the pitter patter of tiny feet.





C BLOCK It is only fitting that a thriving private enterprise system was set up underneath the Economics Block during the 1960's. This venture came to a sudden end when the occupants grabbed a prefect by mistake and attempted to drag him through the access hole. An archeological dig might uncover such artefacts as coins, money box, literature, a few other essentials, but the mattress has long gone.

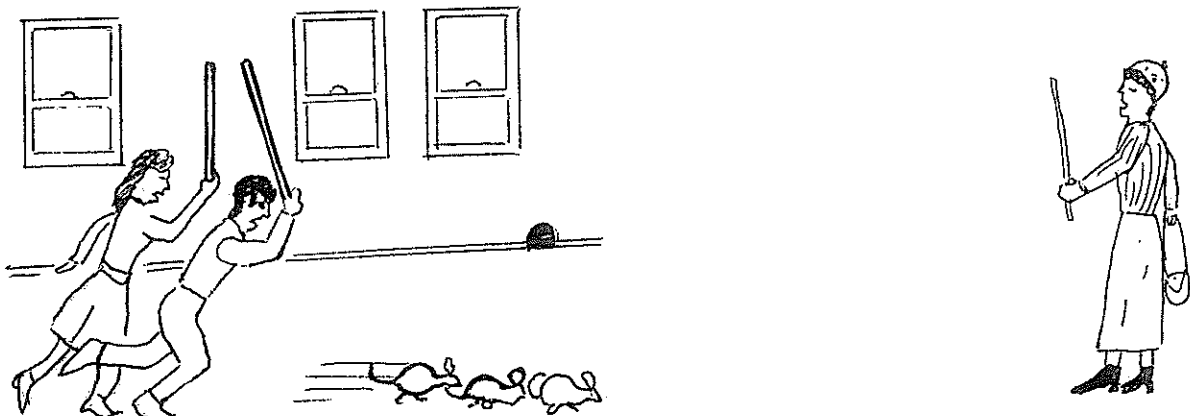


LIBRARY/SCIENCE BLOCK Imagine the surprise one day in the mid 1970's when pupils entered the library to find it had become a spaceship, complete with control panels, silver lining and elementary superstructure. It was an imaginative way to get people to use the library more, but some commented there was enough gas in the Science labs below to guarantee a lift off.

HOME SCIENCE BLOCK We had a plague of rats in the 1960's, and these vermin stayed for months. To combat this menace, the genteel Home Science staff (and others) would chase the rats into the playground with sticks and broom handles. Cooking lesson of that period - "First, you will need a stout broom handle. Corner the rat and hit it behind the ear. Then...."

D BLOCK In the early 1960's, an eagle-eyed teacher spotted some unusual activity. People were furtively scurrying about underneath the building. Closer inspection revealed the area had been converted into a hide-a-way for the more gregarious pupils. We can only conjecture they were a hardy race in those days, as reading in the dark is especially taxing on eyesight.

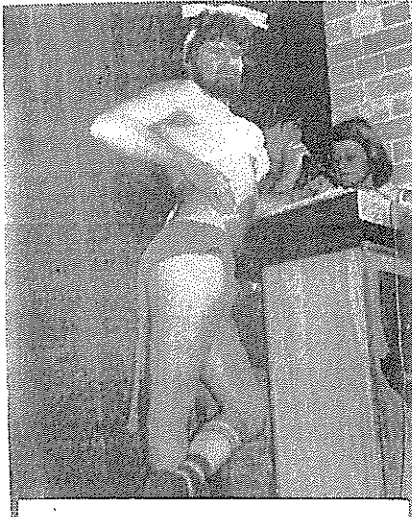
The Editor.





School's first 5th  
Form "muck-up" day

1962



"Suzy Scrags 1975"

or

Mark Bryce Advertising



1975 Year 12 donation



1975 Farewell Revue; Glenn Parnaby front; captain Mark Bryce centre.



1962 FIFTH YEAR REUNION - 1982:

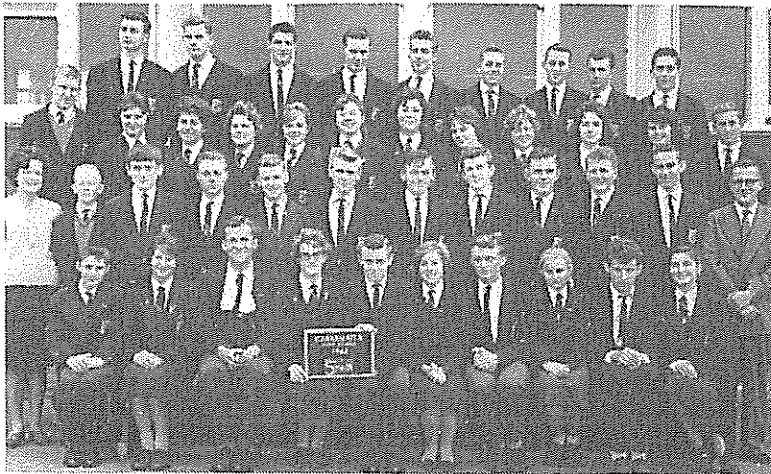
In 1962 the first Fifth Year Farewell was held. By today's standards it was a very quiet perhaps dull occasion but to the students in that Fifth Year group it was something special.

Last year, some 20 years later, it was decided to have a reunion for that group of people. After searching through old school records, phone books and the like, most of the group were contacted and the "Big Reunion" was to take place on Saturday, 30th October at Sid's Restaurant at Lansdowne.

The Big Day arrived and what a Great Reunion. Seventy one people attended including husbands, wives of the students and a number of "old" teachers. Eleanor Thomas flew up from Melbourne and Ian Lawson came down from Brisbane. Obviously we have all changed but it was tremendous how people just walked into the room and carried on as though twenty years had not passed.

It was flattering to have the first Principal, Mr. McDonnell, tell us what a fine group we were and he conveniently forgot all those things we were in trouble for back in 1962. A bit different now when you can call him Jack - I would not have dared to call him that in the 'old days'.

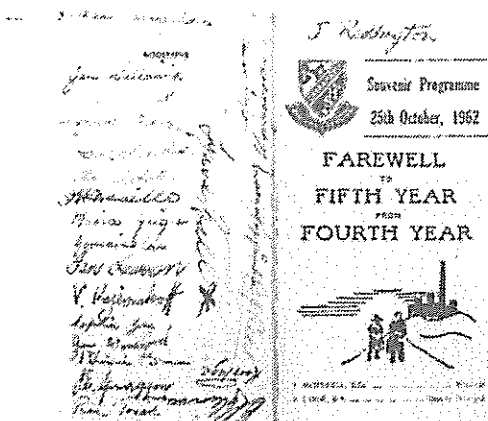
A great night was had by all who attended and it is planned to have another reunion in 1987. I am certain that all who attended will be there and those who could not make it should try to be there as you missed a really enjoyable evening.



J. Reddington,  
Industrial Arts Master.



Mr. Reed 4th left, back row; Mr. Reddington 1st right near teacher, N. Heckenberg same row 3rd right



Class of '62 reunion 1982. Mr. Reed and Mr. Reddington 2nd & 5th from left, back row

# Autographs

Good luck  
Jon English

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**COVER PHOTO**  
"WAR OF THE WORLDS"  
1983 CHS MUSICAL  
Directed by K. Chapman & J. Preston





