



Sydney Church of England  
Grammar School

NORTH SYDNEY

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DECEMBER, 1939

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Headmaster's Report

## HEADMASTER'S REPORT, 1939.

I have the honour to present my report of the life of the School during the past year.

Although it is nearly twelve months since I returned from abroad, this is the first opportunity which I have had for acknowledging publicly both my gratitude to the Council for making the trip possible, and also my indebtedness to Mr. Pulling and the Staff who carried the School on so efficiently during my absence. I was enabled to see many schools in England and America and a few in Canada, Sweden and Finland. In all these countries I met many people who are engaged in educational work, and I was received with hospitality which I shall not readily forget. There is great activity everywhere in secondary education, and schoolmasters and educational authorities are busily engaged in searching for the solution of many problems. These problems are generally similar in all countries, but, as there are differences of history, geography, social and economic circumstances, so the manner of approach to the solution varies in a most interesting manner. I found the quality of enthusiasm nowhere lacking; indeed, almost everywhere, had I wished to do so, it would have been as difficult to avoid "talking shop" as it is in our own Common Room. I was confirmed in my belief that the best of the boys whom we turn out are at least equal to the best of other countries in practical ability and in sanity of outlook. Our best scholars are still behind the best products of the very good English schools in intellectual range, but not far behind, and they are certainly well ahead of the American boys of corresponding type and age. Our teaching would stand comparison, certainly in energy and enthusiasm, and, I believe, also in method and general efficiency. Of course, these statements are not to be understood as implying that we have little to learn, but rather as indicating that I believe that the basis of our work is sound and the result not unsatisfactory by modern standards. In one respect we, in N.S.W., are deficient, namely in material facilities for the normal work of the School. In almost all the countries which I visited, school buildings are far better than ours. We do not aspire to reach the luxurious standard of some American private schools, and a few English schools. However, it is certain that the effort which we have been making to improve our buildings and equipment has not been

made too soon and that it must be kept up as far as circumstances will permit.

In the report which he submitted last year, Mr. Pulling announced his own retirement. I should not willingly forego the opportunity of acknowledging how much the School owes to him. He had completed 50 years of teaching, 34 of these years in the service of this School. I have never heard from boy, old boy or master any reference to him which has not been genuinely affectionate, and I believe that many others would say the same. That this can be said of a man who has lived his life in a School is a mark of greatness; for no shallowness or lack of sincerity can escape the notice of boys. He did a great work in the classroom, as a housemaster, as the first commander, and later the inspiring influence of a fine cadet corps, and in many other ways. His wisdom and sound counsel were sought by us all, by myself perhaps far more frequently than by others. My own friendship with him dates from a day, more than 20 years ago, when he gave a hearty welcome in London to a soldier on leave from France. Only he and I know from how many mistakes he has saved me since then, and during my headmastership. We all hope that he will keep closely in touch with us and with the School for many years.

This year, on May 4th, the School celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its Foundation with appropriate festivity. A Garden Party was held at the School, and was attended by about 2,500 people. It was honoured by the presence of Their Excellencies the Governor General and Lady Gowrie. There was a parade of the Cadet Corps at full strength, and a display of Physical Training by the Preparatory School. A Flower Show, held in a marquee, was a novel feature which we might well repeat on appropriate occasions. The organisation for the day was arranged in great detail and was carried through extremely well, and in a manner which reflected very great credit upon the boys. We have had several Garden Parties in recent years, and I think that I may say that they have all been pleasant functions and have served a very useful purpose. They give boys an opportunity of acting as hosts, a part which they play very well; and they give parents, Old Boys, Staff and boys an occasion for meeting on a common footing and getting to know one another. The Council and the Old Boys' Union were associated as hosts at the Jubilee Dinner, which His Excellency the Governor of N.S.W. did us the honour of attending. The organisation was in the hands of the Old Boys' Union, and was extremely well done. On the Sunday following, though we held Open Services in the morning and the evening, we were quite unable to accommodate all our visitors. Among our most honoured guests were Mrs. C. H. Hodges, and her sister, Miss Hawtrey, who are on a visit

to Australia. Their presence gave great pleasure, particularly to the Old Boys of the time of Mr. Hodges.

I believe that the Jubilee celebrations have had a marked effect upon the life of the School. Some might have it that there is little more reason for celebrating the 50th Anniversary than the 49th or 51st. In a progressive institution, however, it is good to have certain definite times at which achievement may be evaluated, progress may be reviewed, and responsibility may be weighed and fully realised. There is, I have no doubt, an increased sense of dignity, a growth of sentiment, and a deeper understanding of the purpose of the School; these things contribute greatly to the confidence of the School in its future usefulness.

The Jubilee Fund has reached approximately £11,000. I again offer our thanks to those who have interested themselves in the attempt to provide the buildings and equipment which, as I have said, we need really badly. This is, of course, no time to speak of the need for money. I shall, therefore, content myself with saying that the Fund is regarded as a permanent fund, and that it is hoped that at a more appropriate time it will be increased further. The Council has appointed trustees of the Fund and has laid down the manner in which it is to be handled by them.

Though I feel bound constantly to refer to the vast amount that remains to be done in building and in improving the School accommodation, it can certainly be said that we are not standing still. Each year we are able to point to some significant addition. Two years ago we were building the new classrooms during Speech Day. Last year, Barry House was added to the School properties. This year we purchased the "Observatory" property whose square tower spoils the view from the Chapel Lawn. We have not yet put it to any school use and we shall probably have to postpone to a more favourable time the fulfilment of plans which we have in mind for it. It is, however, a property which has great possibility for future use, and its possession enables us to control our outlook towards the Harbour. Also, there is now being erected a building for which we have been anxiously waiting for some time. I refer to the new Science laboratories, which are assuming form on the north-east corner of the main classroom block. I do not know how we have carried on for so long in the existing laboratories; the effort has called for the greatest ingenuity. The new block will consist of two Chemistry laboratories and two Physics laboratories. They are so placed and arranged that it will be possible later to add to them and to form the complete Science unit which we have in mind. A great deal of varied experience and observation has gone into the plan-

ning of the new building, and, I think that, in spite of certain limitations of space, the rooms will be as good as any other school laboratories in Australia. They should make a great difference to the interest in Science within the School. We are building them just in time, as we have already embarked, in anticipation, upon an increase in the volume of science teaching. I did hope that we should be in a position at the same time to replace the old block of class rooms which survive between the new block and the main block, but funds do not permit this to be done yet. The value of the new rooms has proved to be so great that I am naturally keen to increase their number as soon as possible. May I be permitted, in passing, to boast that in the course of my travels, I saw nothing in any school which was an improvement upon the rooms which we built two years ago, and I saw no furniture which was, in my opinion, as suitable as that which we planned and adopted.

There is the usual difficulty in reporting about the work of the School. Although it goes on from day to day and from week to week, the results of the Public Examinations are the only indications which can be reduced to precise terms. These concern less than one third of the School, and though they are not to be despised as an index of general efficiency, they can never be entirely reliable. There were the usual variations. Sixty seven boys gained the Leaving Certificate, representing 83% of candidates: the percentage is higher than usual, but the number of highly meritorious passes was fewer than usual. Ninety six boys gained the Intermediate Certificate, representing 71% of candidates; this percentage is lower than usual, but, on the other hand, the quality of many passes was good. It is to be said, however, that the percentage of Intermediate passes was lowered considerably by epidemics which raged in 1938 in examination time. In this year's work, I certainly see no sign of a lower standard, and I believe that there has been perhaps some advance in certain directions.

We have made several small changes and are making various minor experiments. Last year, Mr. Pulling altered wisely the daily arrangement of hours. This enabled me, at the beginning of the year, to insert two extra periods of work per week for the Lower School and one for the Upper. There may have been protests at the time, but if so they were inaudible to me. The change enabled us to include History, Chemistry and Physics in the normal curriculum of the Lower Fourths, and this will be carried into the Upper Fourths next year. It also enabled us to distribute the work of the Upper School in a more suitable manner, and to allow more time to subjects for which there had previously been inadequate provision.

A system of permanent record cards was introduced during the year. It entails some additional labour for the Staff, but it is agreed that it is already of much value. Estimates of each boy's work in all his subjects are entered at regular intervals, his various activities are noted, and notes are made upon the qualities he shows in study and otherwise. Comprehensive information is thus available to the Staff at any time; as the system grows, this information will cover the period of the boy's career at the School. It is bound to be a great help to teaching.

We have also been experimenting with a view to determining the value which we may place upon intelligence tests. In America, intelligence and aptitude tests are widely used, and there is a tendency to ascribe to them almost magical virtue. In the large American High Schools, some of which contain many thousands of pupils, it is natural that emphasis should be placed upon such methods, since the teachers do not usually have sufficient opportunity to know their pupils well. I have encountered many cases in this country which suggest the tendency to put undue weight upon a method which is, so far, in its infancy. Nevertheless, some of the results which we have obtained have been useful. I should say that the tests are not likely to help us much with boys of known good quality, but that they are likely to reveal, at an early stage, unsuspected powers in boys who, through indolence or bad early preparation, are reckoned to be backward. This will be exceedingly useful; for in a School such as this it is not so hard to bring out the best that is in the able boys, as it is to reduce the number of those whose progress is slow.

There is still delay in bringing about the change in examinations which has been so long expected, and for which legislative action was taken three years ago. It was hoped that the first of the new Leaving Certificate Examinations, placed at the end of the fourth year of secondary work, would be held in 1941, and the first of the new Higher Leaving Certificate Examinations would be in 1942. There has, however, been further delay in the long process of preparing the ground. Only those who are at the centre of things know how involved are the steps to be taken. As a member of the Board, I can claim to be close to the centre, and, though I am impatient for the change, I have come to the conclusion that it cannot take place as soon as we anticipated. A new syllabus has had to be drawn up for each subject. On each syllabus committee there has been an opportunity, which is by no means to be regretted, for airing widely divergent views upon the matter to be taught and the method of teaching it. Agreement has been reached slowly in most subjects, but is likely to be more permanent for not being rushed. Some syllabus committees have recently

been impeded by inevitable circumstances connected with the war. Again, the University authorities and the several faculties have had to undertake the task of bringing the requirements for matriculation into line with the letter and the spirit of the new scheme. Here again there have been divergent views which have been reconciled slowly. I feel quite certain that the process of reconciliation of divergent views among subject teachers, schoolmasters generally, and University men will produce a favourable effect on education and that, if there must be delay, the time has not been wasted. I am not in a position to make an authoritative statement, but at least I can give an opinion about the probable course of events. It is my opinion that nothing will occur to prevent the first of the new Leaving Certificate Examinations from being held in 1942, and the first Higher Leaving Certificate in 1943. The effect upon boys in this School will be as follows:—Those entering the 3rd year, or Upper Fourth Form, in 1940, will take the Intermediate Certificate in 1940 and the Leaving Certificate in 1942, in accordance with the present system; those entering the Lower Fourth, or second year, in 1940 will move straight ahead to the new Leaving Certificate in 1942, at the end of their fourth year of secondary work; and will take the Higher Leaving Certificate in 1943. This is not the appropriate time to explain the differences between the old and the new examinations. It is enough to say that I feel sure that the new scheme will enable far better work to be done.

Though the health of the School has, on the whole, been good, we again had minor illnesses in second term. In the early part of the term there was some influenza, but most cases were slight and the epidemic was not of long duration. Odd cases of infectious disease occurred, but were limited to single cases until July 31st. Then, when we were hoping to reach the end of term without grave inconvenience, boys began to go down in rapid succession with measles. Though we suffered less severely, I believe, than most schools, there were about 50 cases in all. In three cases, scarlet fever attacked boys in the convalescent stage—apparently not an unusual combination. It has become increasingly clear that a fortnight is not a sufficiently long break at the end of the second term, and that there is more chance of reopening in third term with a clean bill of health if a longer period is allowed. Accordingly, the Headmasters have agreed to rearrange the School year, allowing two weeks vacation after first term, and three after second term.

The record in games in the Jubilee year has been exceptionally good—better, I think, than at any time in the School's history. The results in G.P.S. Competitions are worthy of being collected in a tabulated form, and are as follows:—

	1st Team	2nd Team	3rd Team
Athletics . . . . .	4th	3rd (Junior)	—
Cricket . . . . .	1st	1st	—
Football . . . . .	2nd	2nd	1st equal
Rowing . . . . .	1st	5th	4th
Shooting . . . . .	1st equal	1st	—

It is, I think, true to say that a School's efficiency is estimated less in these days than formerly by its success in sporting competitions: I hope that it is so, for a School can be very lively and efficient without being very successful in games; indeed, an exaggerated emphasis upon athletic prowess may even be harmful. Nevertheless, there is much to be said for a proposition stated in a different form, namely, that a School is not usually successful in games unless it is keen and energetic. An interesting point is that the 55 places in first teams were distributed among 45 different boys, only 10 boys obtaining two colours: this is, I believe, an unusually extensive distribution. It is a good thing that opportunities for achievement should come to as many boys as possible.

The Cricket Team was unchanged throughout the Competition. It contained no outstanding batsman, but the eleven boys were all capable of scoring well. The bowling was unusually strong: 154 runs was the highest total scored in an innings against us. Mr. Eldershaw's friends are delighted at the result; undoubtedly a large share of the credit is his. The second team, under Mr. Pascoe, won all its matches outright this term, and pulled up from third to first place.

The Football Team was defeated only by St. Joseph's College, and then only after a game contested keenly to the last moment, but played in the best spirit. Mr. Fisher has turned out many fine teams while he has been with us; this year's team was as sound as any. The difference between them and St. Joseph's was not so much a difference of skill or resolution, as a difference in the confidence which comes from a long record of success. There was a very large crowd at this match, including a great number who were interested merely in the spectacle, and who had no direct interest in the Schools. It may be held, on the one hand, that it is a good thing that as many as possible should come to see an exhibition of the best spirit of football; and this game certainly was such an exhibition. I have my doubts. My reason is not the reason usually given, that so-called "publicity" may be a bad influence on the boys; it is not my experience that boys are adversely affected. The dangers, to my mind, are two: first, that it might be difficult to prevent the atmosphere surrounding such a game from developing a character unsuited to school sport; second, that, since some sections of the public see nothing of our schools except

in these big games, they may easily get a false conception of the wide education for which we stand. For these reasons I personally would like to see all our games played in a more domestic atmosphere.

The two Athletic Teams were of very sound standard, but encountered strong opposition. There were several good performances, which reflected good coaching and training; as usual Mr. Backhouse had his distance runners well to the fore.

The eight won the Boat Race in April with unexpected ease. If the fours did not do quite as well as usual, it was because Mr. Burrell, during my absence, had devoted so much careful attention to the preparation of the eight; the victory was largely due to the foundation which he laid in the last term of 1938. It is perhaps worth recording that the three winning eights of 1937-8-9 contained 24 different boys.

The Shooting Team's performance was the more meritorious in that it tied for first place after having been in a position which, though not hopeless, was decidedly unpromising. In the matches of the first day they scored 10 points to 16 by the Scot's College. However, in the final match they showed very good form and made up the leeway.

There has been the usual activity, more limited than in other games, in tennis, boxing and swimming. Our tennis has not been quite as good as in former years. We have done well in the few swimming races in which we took part.

There has been as much activity as usual in junior games, and perhaps even more attention than usual has been given to them. Nevertheless, we do not yet feel satisfied that we are spreading the benefit and pleasure of games quite as widely as we could throughout the body of the School. The organisation of junior football works well; there are 18 teams in the Senior School and several in the Preparatory School, and we could not well handle more with our staff and grounds. In cricket, the junior school teams present no great difficulty, but the house teams have not been quite satisfactory. This is, no doubt, due to the fact that the division into houses is a merely artificial distinction between day boys. This term, for some weeks, house matches were replaced by form matches; we shall probably experiment more extensively with form matches next year. In rowing, also, we should like to be able to make greater provision. The difficulties here are partly mechanical and partly financial; a four-oared boat obviously cannot give exercise to more than four boys at a time, and boats are not cheap. In these matters, I am expressing the ideas of the staff generally. It says much for their keenness that, though many are voluntarily occupied in most of their spare time, they are always seeking ways of extending the benefits of games.

We have, however, experimented this term with a scheme which, so far, has been a great success. We have called it "Physical Efficiency" in order that the emphasis may be upon the general performance of a large number rather than upon the special performance of a few. It is really an extension of work which has been developed in the Preparatory School during the past two years. The Third and Lower Fourth Forms turn out in running clothes once a week en masse, and are put through various performances requiring agility and skill; there are long jumping, high jumping, hurdling, short-distance running, and longer distances requiring stamina. Standard distances, heights and times have been worked out for the various ages, and points are allotted to every boy in proportion to his efforts to exceed the normal. There are competitions between the various forms in the Lower Fourth and Thirds, based on co-operative effort. There has been great keenness, and, I believe, general enjoyment. I have admired the courage and persistence of some unathletic boys just as much as the good achievements of the more gifted. Many boys have been stimulated to practise outside the regular hours, and I hope that there will be even more next year. The chief burden of the organisation has been carried by Mr. Backhouse; we have to thank him chiefly for the successful inauguration of a scheme which shows much promise.

It would be difficult to do justice to the many other activities for which a place has been found. There is, nowadays, a much more lively interest in art and music. This growth in appreciation is due to many influences, working through voluntary clubs. It has been so rapid that I am not yet inclined to yield to the modern suggestion that Art and Music should be School subjects for all boys; I should like to see them gain their place by peaceful penetration rather than by compulsory inclusion in the regular curriculum. The Entertainments Club has always had packed houses for its midday concerts and talks, and there is an increasing number of performers among the boys. The Art Club has not many members, but it does not lack enthusiasm; an exhibition held during the year contained several interesting pieces of work, some contributed by quite young boys. We could, of course, do far more if we had a hall for concerts and exhibitions. Groups of boys have interested themselves in Chess and Photography. The Debating Club has been active. Though the team did not win the competition, it performed well. Time is unfortunately against the extension of debating to as many as we would wish, for naturally only one boy can speak at a time. Our representative this year in the Lawrence Campbell Trophy competition was placed second equal, and received commendation from the judges. The Torch Club has been carrying on its work in conjunction with a city parish. The "Torchbearer" has

flourished; there has been an increase in original contributions, and the Jubilee number in May was a very suitable and well constructed issue. Another School publication, the "Shore Weekly Record" has come into being and seems likely to endure. I think that it is generally considered that the current record of events justifies the levy of a shilling per term in advance.

The enrolment of the Cadet Corps has increased during the year to 275. Since the nineteen hundreds, when Major Lee Pulling was in command, the School has always been proud of its Corps, and I believe that it has never had more cause to be so than at the present time. Only those who have done such work can fully realise the amount of hard work involved by administration, records, accounting for arms and stores, organisation and training. Some of this is shared by boys and they obtain valuable experience from it; but the bulk of it falls on Major Bagot and the officers who, by the way, are also carrying out a full teaching programme in the School. It is a pleasure to go on to the parade on Tuesdays and to see how each day's work is carried out. The Corps falls in under boy officers and N.C.O.'s and in a short time is at work, usually in small parties receiving instruction of one type or another. Most of the instruction is carried out by boys, with a confidence and efficiency which, in my capacity as a mere onlooker, I admire greatly from time to time. The work of the Corps is among the best things which we do. In times more happy than the present, we have been accustomed to draw attention to its educational value. This is undoubted, for it gives to so many boys a respect for discipline, self-confidence, manly bearing, and other qualities which make for leadership. In these times, of course, the Corps is a contribution of no small importance to the nation. It is a matter for pride that we have been providing efficiently, for years past, the type of training for which, unfortunately, there is now immediate need.

The work of organisation has been heavier since the war began, because permanent instructors have been engaged elsewhere. It became apparent, several weeks ago, that it would not be possible to hold the camp with which the year's training is usually concluded. A camp site was not to be found, and necessary equipment and skilled assistance were not available. However, the officers of the various School Corps decided not to slacken their effort on that account. Accordingly, during last week, the period usually devoted to camp was spent in daily training at various places.

It would be interesting if a tally could be taken of the contribution now being made by former members of the Corps to the nation's military effort. One hears constantly of large groups of Old Boys who are members of Militia units. No less

than thirteen Old Boys have been among the thirty-odd officers of the University Regiment during the year. Two of our recent senior prefects, both former Cadet-Lieutenants, as well as other Old Boys, are officers in the 2nd A.I.F. I have no doubt whatever that, if a reckoning could be made, it would emphasise even further the soundness of the foundation given in the Corps.

At the morning service on May 7th, the Sunday following the Jubilee, His Grace the Archbishop delivered a sermon which will be gratefully remembered by the large congregation which attended. The evening service was broadcast and, therefore, reached many Old Boys, scattered far and wide: the preacher was the Ven. Archdeacon North-Ash, himself an Old Boy. The Chaplain preached at the Open Service in the Second Term, and the Rev. Canon Barder at that which was held last Sunday evening. The Right Reverend Dr. Pilcher gave confirmation to seventy boys on August 11th. Among other visitors who have spoken in Chapel was Mr. F. B. Malim, formerly Headmaster of Haileybury and Wellington, who was visiting Australia as a representative of the Headmasters' Conference. An amount well over £100, the result of regular weekly offertories, has been distributed to various purposes in accordance with our annual custom. Though we do not usually ask for offerings outside the weekly collections, we made an exception this year in favour of the Church's National Emergency Fund; as a result, nearly £70 has been sent in, to be used for the building of the Church Huts in Military Camps.

A font has been presented to the Chapel, during the year, by Mrs. F. L. Merewether, in memory of her husband, an Old Boy of the School.

It will be readily understood that this report cannot give more than a suggestion of the activities of Old Boys. On this occasion, I shall attempt only to indicate the variety of ways in which we have had news of a few. The Lord Mayor, Sir Norman Nock, was knighted in June. Vernon Treatt became Minister for Justice in September. Dr. Keith Bradfield, also a Rhodes Scholar, returned to Sydney in July after engineering work in the construction of airports in the Channel Islands. A third Rhodes Scholar, Ian Esplin, after graduating at Oxford, has become Secretary of the Oxford University Boat Club, and more recently has joined the R.A.F. K. G. Brooks has just been elected to the Upper House. The September "Torchbearer" contained a photograph of the Torchbearer Ski Club, all Old Boys, at Kosciusko, and also a photograph of the Australian Surf Boat Crew, containing four Old Boys, which went to Honolulu, Maurice Kelly, Brian Swire, Brian Smith and several others attained much distinction at the University examinations. Four Old Boys rowed at Henley with the Sydney crew. Five were awarded Football blues at Sydney University, and

three of the University Eight were Old Boys. D. H. Balmain was on the "Athenia," when she was torpedoed, and fortunately was rescued. I am sorry to report, however, that Denis Kane has been reported missing during a flight with the R.A.F. over Germany. These selections from a mass of notes will serve to show once more the variety of experience which is represented in a big School.

In May last Mr. McWilliam went to England for further study at Cambridge, and in order to extend his teaching experience. Mr. Campbell also left in August with a similar purpose in view: he is now doing part time work at Harrow, and is arranging to study at London University, if circumstances permit.

At the end of this year Mr. Clark will retire after having devoted most of his life to teaching, twenty-one years of it as a member of this Staff. The School will miss his skill and wide knowledge of modern languages. His colleagues will be sorry to part with a good friend. We wish him many years of well-earned rest and hope that he will find occasion to visit us often.

Mr. Fisher is to leave us to take over the Headmastership of Armidale. During the past ten years he has thrown all his forcefulness and initiative into the life of this School, and we shall not easily fill his place. He has kept all branches of the work of the Preparatory School at a high level of efficiency; as coach and organiser he has made "Shore" into a first-class football school; and many other departments of our life have felt his vigorous influence. Mrs. Fisher and he will take with them our best wishes; they are bound to be successful in their new sphere.

The new Master of the Preparatory School will be Mr. Keith Anderson, M.A., a New Zealander whom I met at the beginning of this year, and whose ability and personality impressed me greatly. He holds an honours degree of the University of New Zealand, and has had teaching experience which should fit him eminently for his new position. He was for some years at Takapuna Grammar School, and more recently has been a senior master at Wanganui Technical College. Incidentally, he is a first-class footballer. I feel confident that he will be a valuable addition to the Staff. I have also secured the services of Mr. W. V. Butler, M.A. Mr. Butler is a graduate of Melbourne University in modern languages and has also studied in Switzerland at the Sorbonne, and in Berlin; though a young man he has had considerable teaching experience at Charterhouse and at Geelong. The remaining vacancies will be filled by Mr. W. N. Dowling, B.A., who is well-known to many as the right-hand man of Mr. Yarnold at Mosman, and Mr. H. G. Shaw, who was recently a Prefect of

the School, and has been studying with distinction for his Arts Degree at Sydney University.

We miss the presence to-day of Judge Backhouse, whose death occurred during the year. He was for many years a member of the Council, and his interest in the School never flagged as he advanced in years. So long as his health permitted, he regularly attended our Open Services and all our important gatherings. The School has had no more constant friend.

In many respects this has been a most strenuous year. Indeed, as year follows year, the breadth of activity in the School steadily increases and there is more and more to be done. We are lucky in having a staff who work together as a team, with a genuinely keen interest in their work and in the School's welfare. This interest constantly shows itself in thought and action, in suggestions, and in the initiation of improvements. I offer my thanks to my colleagues for their lively support and loyalty.

I tender my thanks to His Grace the Archbishop and to the Council for their keen sympathy and wise guidance. The members of the Council would, I believe, themselves wish me to thank specially Mr. Blythe. Few can know how much time and skilful attention he devotes to our affairs. The sound position of the School to-day is largely due to him and we recognise it gratefully.

Finally, I thank the vast army of parents and well-wishers, whose active support and friendly sympathy are of value beyond estimation; and last, but not least, the boys, who, as usual, have responded splendidly during the year.

L. C. ROBSON,  
Headmaster.