



**Sydney Church of England  
Grammar School**

North Sydney

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**December, 1948**

# Sydney Church of England Grammar School

Speech Day — 9th December, 1948



## PROGRAMME.

Visitors are requested to take their seats in the marquee before 2.45 p.m.

At 3.00 p.m. a short service will be held in the marquee.

At 3.15 p.m. the Chair will be taken by His Grace the Archbishop of Sydney.

## ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS:

Summary of Headmaster's Report.

Presentation of Prizes.

Address by Lieutenant-General Sir Iven G. Mackay, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D.

Vote of Thanks (the Senior Prefect).

National Anthem.

Tea will be served in the School House Quadrangle and in the Dining Hall.



## ORDER OF SERVICE

### HYMN.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting, Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away,  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our-guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

THE SCHOOL LESSON.—1 Peter, ii, 11-25.

### PRAYERS.

**President of Council:** THE MOST REV. THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY.

**Council:**

Rev. R. J. HEWETT, Th.L.	Dr. N. F. BABBAGE
Dr. FRANK CASH	Mr. H. V. JACQUES, B.A., LL.B.
Rev. O. G. DENT, L.Th.	Brig. the Hon. T. A. J. PLAYFAIR,
Rev. W. F. PYKE, Th. Schol., B.D.	D.S.O., O.B.E., V.D., M.L.C.
Rev. Canon F. W. TUGWELL, B.A.	Dr. A. DISTIN MORGAN
Rev. R. P. GEE, Th.L.	His Honour Judge CURLEWIS
Professor E. R. HOLME, O.B.E., M.A.	Mr. I. E. M. DIXON
Mr. F. W. HIXSON, O.B.E., V.D.	Mr. R. B. HIPSLEY, B.E.

**Hon. Secretary:** Mr. E. C. S. WHITE.

**Hon. Treasurer:** Mr. A. D. W. FISHER, B.A., LL.B.

**Headmaster:** \*L. C. ROBSON, M.C., M.A. (Oxford), B.Sc. (Sydney) (5).

**Chaplain:** Rev. N. a'B. T. BACKHOUSE, B.A., Dip.Ed. (Melbourne).

**Master of Preparatory School:** K. D. ANDERSON, M.A. (New Zealand).

**House Masters:**

*E. M. BAGOT, M.A. (Adelaide) (4)	Hodges House
C. S. TILEY, B.E. (Sydney)	Robson House
*P. H. ELDERSHAW, B.A. (Sydney) (1)	Barry House
D. J. W. ANTHONY, B.Sc. (Sydney)	School House

**Masters:**

E. J. CLINCH, B.A. B.Sc. (Sydney).	N. M. GODDARD, B.E. (Sydney).
J. B. BURRELL, B.A. (Melbourne).	J. V. TERRY, B.A. (Sydney).
*I. F. JONES, M.A. (Queensland) (2).	H. C. W. PRINCE, M.A. (Oxford).
J. CARINGTON POPE, M.A. (New Zealand).	Rev. H. T. G. FORSTER, M.A. (Can- tab).
H. W. GRIGG, B.A. (Sydney).	G. W. ROWDEN, B.Sc., Dip.Ed. (Lon- don).
J. N. PASCOE, B.Ec. (Sydney).	A. E. MITCHELL, M.A. (New Zealand).
W. SAWKINS, B.A., Dip.Ed. (Sydney).	Rev. A. F. DRYDEN, Th.L. (Aust. Th. Coll.).
T. B. WHIGHT, B.A. (Queensland).	J. W. BURNS, B.A. (Sydney).
R. A. GILFILLAN, B.A. (Sydney).	*G. FAUNCE ALLMAN (6).
W. M. MCGREGOR.	Dr. T. H. VISSER, Ph.D. (Utrecht), Mus.D. (London).
A. R. RUPP, B.A. (Sydney).	H. G. SHAW, B.A. (Sydney).
T. MILFULL, B.A. (Queensland).	J. G. HASLAM, A.A.A.
D. P. FOMENKO, B.Ec., M.Litt.	H. B. SIMPKINS, B.A., Dip.Ed. (Ox- ford).
W. H. BRIERLEY.	
W. N. DOWLING, B.A. (Sydney).	
*W. V. BUTLER M.A. (Melbourne), Dip. (Berlin) Dip. (Paris) (3).	

\*Senior Masters in (1) English and History; (2) Classics; (3) Modern Languages;  
(4) Science; (5) Mathematics; (6) Music.

J. H. DIXON (late A.I.F.)	Sergeant-Major.
Miss M. G. KEYTE	Piano
Mrs. G. FAUNCE ALLMAN	Orchestra
J. LIPSCOMB	Art

**Bursar:** R. ANDERSON.

**School Medical Officer:** H. HUNTER JAMIESON, E.D., M.B., Ch.M. (Sydney),  
F.R.C.S. (Edinburgh), F.R.A.C.S.

### PREFECTS:

**Senior:** WEBSTER, J. D.

**Second:** CURLEWIS, I. A.

McAULEY, A. W.  
HUDSON, D. L.  
HUTE, J. Z.  
HAWKER, G. G.

COOPER, I. A.  
McCREIDIE, R. M.  
MATTHEWS, M. R. H.  
OSBORNE, P. C.

BUDD, D. K.  
TILEY, R. C. F.  
ANSTEY, D. B.  
WILLIAMS, M. W.

### Sub-Prefects:

ARNOLD, V. F.  
VIVERS, W. L.  
HUTCHINSON, E. C.  
ROTHWELL, M. L.

FOSTER, B. J.  
BLANSHARD, W. M.  
MORGAN, J.  
KRIPPNER, J. Y.

HODGSON, G. R. P.  
PADMAN, J. M.  
URQUHART, R. G.

### THE GENERAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

**President:** THE HEADMASTER.

**Hon. Secretary:** THE SENIOR PREFECT.

**Members:** THE MASTERS AND PREFECTS.

### Form Representatives:

VIA.—MACCALLUM, H.  
VIB.—ASTBURY, I. B.  
VIC.—HARRISON, J. W.  
VID.—HALES, P. S.  
VA.—WEBSTER, D. A.  
VB.—HYLES, D. F.  
VC.—MORELL, W. R. R.  
VD.—MORGAN, B. L.  
IVA1.—ELDERSHAW, J. M.  
IVA2.—TUGWELL, W. D.  
IVB1.—BLACKMORE, C. G.  
IVB2.—GUMBLEY, T. B.  
IVC.—NORTHAM, W. B.

### Elected Members:

HUDSON, I. M.  
MASSEY, J. L.

### CAPTAINS OF SPORT:

**Athletics:** WEBSTER, J. D.

**Football:** ARNOLD, V. F.

**Boats:** CURLEWIS, I. A.

**Shooting:** McAULEY, A. W.

**Cricket:** HAWKER, G. G.

**Swimming:** MATTHEWS, M. R. H.

**Tennis:** MORGAN, B. L.

## PRIZE LIST, 1948

Brian Pockley Memorial Prize .....	Webster, J. D.
<b>Sixth Form.</b>	
Burke Prize and United Services Prize (1st in General Proficiency) .....	McAuley, A. W.
War Memorial Prize (2nd in General Proficiency) .....	Willis, D.
Percival Sharpe Memorial Prize (Form Prize).....	Budd, D. K.
Harold Dean and R. S. Reid Prizes (Mathematics) ....	McAuley, A. W.
A. H. Wade Memorial Prize (General Merit) .....	McAuley, A. W.
Russell Sinclair Memorial Prize (General Merit) .....	Blanshard, W. M.
Donald Muston Memorial Prize (General Merit) .....	Willis, D.
Charlton Prize (Divinity) .....	Maccallum, H.
J. S. Wilson Memorial Prize (English) .....	Brown, R. F. C.
David Cowlshaw Memorial Prize (Latin) .....	Maccallum, H.
Herbert Kendall Memorial Prize (French) .....	McCredie, R. M.
Ian Menzies Memorial Prize (History) .....	Palmer, A. J.
Monteith Cowper Wood Memorial Prize (Physics) .....	Flemming, J. P.
John Kingsmill Phillips Memorial Prize (Chemistry) aeq. }	Brown, R. F. C.
	Willis, D.
David Hum Memorial Prize (Geography) .....	Krippner, J. Y.
<b>Fifth Form.</b>	
Alan Ludowici Memorial Prize (VA Form) .....	Noble, R. A. S.
Hunter Stephenson Prize (Mathematics) .....	Noble, R. A. S.
Eric Mileham Litchfield Prize (General Merit) .....	Webster, D. A.
<b>Fourth Form.</b>	
Alan Ludowici Memorial Prize (IVA1 Form) .....	Kerr, J. F. R.
Roy Milton Prize (French) .....	Aberneithy, C. L.
L. R. Benjamin Memorial Prize (Science) .....	Kerr, J. F. R.
Geoffrey Cohen Memorial Prize (General Merit) .....	Macleane, W. H.
<b>Sub-Intermediate Form.</b>	
Alan Ludowici Memorial Prize (SA1 Form) .....	Amos, B. J.
Hunter Stephenson Prize (French) .....	aeq. } Amos, B. J.
	} Harpur, M. H.
The Selby Prize (Physics and Chemistry) .....	Amos, B. J.
<b>Third Form.</b>	
Alan Ludowici Memorial Prize (IIIA Form) .....	McGrath, P. J.
<b>Preparatory School.</b>	
John Scott Memorial Form Prize (IIA Form) .....	Walker-Smith, J. A.
John Scott Memorial Mathematics Prize (Division 6A)....	Clarke, W. B.
<b>Special Prizes.</b>	
Uther Catechism Prize .....	Henningham, J. G.
David Davies Memorial Choir Prize .....	Mason, B. C.
D. J. Richards Memorial Prize .....	Gibson, J. B.
John Jamieson Memorial Prize (General Knowledge in Upper School) .....	Brown, R. F. C.
"Torch-Bearer" Prize .....	Brown, R. F. C.
Old Boys' Union Prize .....	Foster, B. J.
"Lodge Torch-Bearer" Prize .....	Anstey, D. B.
General Knowledge Prizes (Dr. H. L. St. Vincent Welch) .....	Aberneithy, C. L.
	Amos, B. J.
	Finch, D. N.
Debating Prizes (The Head Master) .....	Brown, R. F. C.
	Willis, D.
	Valder, J. H.
Choir Prizes .....	McGrath, P. J.
	Johnston, B. B.

## PRIZE LIST—(Continued)

<b>Play Day Awards:</b> Senior .....	Form V C
Junior .....	Forms SA2 and III A (aeq.)
Original Play .....	Form V B
<b>Arts:</b> Senior .....	Eldershaw, J. M.
Junior .....	Henderson, J. S.
<b>Music Prizes—</b>	
Practical, Senior .....	Cuffe, W.
"    Junior .....	Hasemer, T. C.
Theory .....	Benjamin, D. J.
<b>Orchestra Prizes</b> .....	Alldis, J. B. Rutter, D. W. Budd, H. E.

	DIVINITY		FORM		DIVISION
Form VI A	(Maccallum, H.)		(Budd, D. K.)		(McAuley, A. W.)
Form VI B	Smidlin, R. J.		Barnett, I. H.		Palmer, R. D.
Form VI C	Yeend, P. J.		Harrison, J. W.		Cooper, I. A.
Form V A	Webster, D. A.		(Noble, R. A. S.)		(Noble, R. A. S.)
Form V B	Burstal, J. R.		Green, V. J.		Sleeman, J. W.
Form V C	Cowdery, E. C. F.		Brien, B. H.		Hirst, F. O.
Form V D	Herbert, D. F.		Griffiths, A. W.		—
Form IV A1	Field, J. H.		(Kerr, J. F. R.)		Kerr, J. F. R.
Form IV A2	Stone, G. W.		Magill, W. H.		Poulos, H. J.
Form IV B1	Foote, A. G.		Griffin, P. H.		Griffin, P. H.
Form IV B2	Johnson, J. L.		—		—
Form IV C	Clarke, B. G. Y.		Clarke, B. G. Y.		Cooper, M. C.
Form S A1	Green, K. L. D.		(Amos, B. J.)		Harpur, M. H.
Form S A2	Gale, W. L.		Gale, W. L.		Gale, W. L.
Form S B1	Hackworthy, G. R.		Hackworthy, G. R.		Draper, G. R.
Form S B2	Mitchell, R. P.		—		—
Form S C	Hall, W. M.		Hall, W. M.		Shepherd, C. R.
Form III A	Goulston, K. J.		(McGrath, P. J.)		McGrath, P. J.
Form III B	Bramma, P. J.		Rothwell, T. L.		Rothwell, T. L.
Form III C	Tancred, G. D.		Jones, D. G. O.		Roberts, G. B.
Form III D	Hosking, R. W.		Hosking, R. W.		Austin, A. J.
Form II A	Henningham, J. G.		(Walker-Smith, J. A.)		(Clarke, W. B.)
Form IIB B	Swinburn, M. J.		Fitness, P. J.		Morrice, J. W.
Remove A	Jones, A. J.		Thomas, M. A. W.		Thomas, M. A. W.
Remove B	Hawke, D. O.		Wilson, B. G.		Doring, C.
Form I	Nock, D. G. T.		Cooper, A. F.		Cooper, A. F.

GENERAL MERIT: (McAuley, A. W., Blanshard, W. M., Willis, D.); (Webster, D.A.); Austin, D. G.; Keirle, G. G.; Baker, I. H.; (Maclean, W. H.); Newton, W. D. N.; Gerrard, J.; Taylor, B. T., and Taylor, R. R., aeq.; Perks, D. W.; Conolly, W. B., and Cavanaugh, T. J., aeq.; Currie, L. A.; Goulston, K. J., and Finch, D. N., aeq.; Langdon, R.; Butterworth, J. D.; Siddins, W. R.; Lack, G. N. T., and Setchell, G. H., Henningham, J. G., aeq.; Rickard, G. M.; Woodley, G. E., and Kerr, W. B., aeq.; Stott, W. S.; Holden, M. K.

## REPORT OF THE HEADMASTER FOR 1948.

We are glad to welcome back His Grace the Archbishop after his travels abroad, and grateful to him for sparing the time to take the Chair this afternoon.

Our visitor this year is one whom we are glad to welcome in the first instance as a distinguished Australian. Sir Iven Mackay has a high military reputation won by long and conspicuous service in the two great wars of our time. In the first he rose from junior rank to the command of a Brigade. In the second he became famous as the commander of the 6th Division, particularly through the capture of Bardia and Tobruk, the earliest land victory of the Allied Forces; he then achieved further distinction in the Pacific campaign. More recently he has officially represented the Commonwealth in India. In this environment, however, he will not mind if we greet him more intimately as an Old Boy of one of our brother Schools, the former headmaster of another, a notable University man, and, not least, as an ex-master of Shore. He was a member of our staff from 1905 to 1910, and his influence in several directions left its mark. The Old Boys of that time always recall him when rowing and football are discussed; the Fifteens that he coached in 1908 and 1909 both won the G.P.S. Competition, and are still remembered as teams of unusual skill. Sir Iven has a great number of admirers and friends among ex-soldiers and also in School and University circles.

During the period under review in this report, the life and work of the School have proceeded in the usual way with the customary variety and energy, and the general standards have been well maintained. As the years pass a certain level of performance in various departments becomes recognised as the average by which current achievements are judged. For some time now a fairly high level has been recognised and maintained. From time to time there are fluctuations relative to the mean in one respect or another. This year the standard over the general range of School affairs has been about the same as that for which we look, but the variations from the mean have perhaps been wider. For example, in School work the results on the language side have been below average, but there have been conspicuous successes in mathematics and science; in athletics our senior team, though reasonably good, was placed lower on the list than ever before, but the juniors were stronger than ever before; and though there has certainly been a weakening of interest in a few of the other activities, there has been a further striking advance in the standard of musical and dramatic performance. These ups and downs are to be expected. A fair judgment is that it has been a normally satisfactory year, in which efficiency has been kept up very well.

It has not, however, been plain sailing. During the war we faced with patience difficulties that were then inevitable, and we were inclined to hope that they would be less great after the lapse of a reasonable time. Our troubles are still very acute in several respects, and there is so far very little sign of the disappearance of some of the worst of them. They are for the most part the troubles with which all householders and business men are familiar, and it is to be realised that the School is both a very big household and a fairly

big business also. In the matter of domestic service we have been a little better off than in the recent past, but it is a constant source of anxiety. It will be easily understood that catering is a constant problem. The laundry is another instance of difficulty. We have been well served, but of course our launders are often themselves the victims of circumstances beyond their control. This item, by the way, has much more than doubled in cost in the last eighteen months. I have often been asked lately why we do not instal our own laundry. We have considered it carefully, but, apart from the questions of capital cost and ground space, we do not think it wise to undertake a further employment problem, or to introduce another distraction into School management. We have been unable for some time to get laboratory attendants, and the difficulty of teaching practical science is therefore increased. It is extremely hard to get workmen for the ordinary tasks of maintenance and repair. We have for the most part had one groundsman only at Northbridge, and for a long time we have had no man at all on the ground at North Sydney. Many other instances could, of course, be given. There was a time before the war when the total number of persons receiving salaries or wages from the School (a few certainly for part time employment) was just over one hundred; at present the number varies so much from time to time that it cannot be stated definitely, but it bears no reasonable relation to the former figure. In general, the internal administration of the School nowadays presents a very difficult task to those who are concerned with it; it would be much worse if there were not a very good mutual understanding and a spirit of wholehearted co-operation.

In the wider sphere of School government with which the Council is concerned, there are also difficulties and frustrations. Broadly speaking, their problems are of two kinds, though there is no sharp division between them. They are concerned to maintain the School properties and to progress towards more and better buildings and facilities; and also to establish a stable financial position so as to meet current expenses and to provide for the future. For the present they are reconciled to some delay in carrying out their building plans. Though the need is in many respects urgent, it is no doubt unwise to shoulder heavy liabilities at present, even if it were found possible to obtain materials and labour and to secure a permit. Attempts have been made to carry out minor works, but these have been only partially successful. The immediate financial problem is giving them great anxiety. They are very anxious to keep the cost of education within the reach of parents of moderate income, and they have so far therefore increased fees with some hesitation. However, the fact is that costs have risen so sharply that the recent increases in fees have been already absorbed. They have deemed it proper recently to revise the salary scale, and they have no doubt whatever that in doing so they will have the complete support of all who are interested in the School. The revision involves a considerable additional liability which will commence at the beginning of next year. There is therefore no doubt that a further, possibly substantial, increase in fees will have to be made during 1949. As this year's accounts are not yet fully determined, the Council have not so far fixed the amount of the increase, or the time when it will operate, though it will not take effect before Term II. I have been empowered by the Council to make this general announcement concerning their intentions. To it I add my own statement on the matter.



I believe that we are fortunate in our present governing body; they are sound in deliberation, and they have foresight and initiative in School affairs. They consider that the time has come for them to be bold in tackling the financial problem, in so far as it is possible to do so in these unstable times. They hold that a proper provision for reasonable remuneration and also for the future stability of the School ought to outweigh any reluctance to raise fees. I feel sure that parents will agree wholeheartedly that they are right.

October 18th was the fiftieth anniversary of the first election of Professor Holme to the Council. There could be no better evidence of the service rendered to the School by some members of its governing body. His membership of it is only one of many services to education. It has been anything but a passive membership; he has served long in executive office and has regularly undertaken onerous tasks. He has meant much to the School: and it is a compliment to us that he tells us it has meant much to him in interest and friendship, given and returned. During the year Mr. A. L. Blythe resigned the membership which he had held for about 25 years—another instance. He was for many years Honorary Treasurer, and the School owes much to him both for his guidance in various financial undertakings and also for the energy which he put into the organisation of several fêtes.

The staff suffered a great loss by the death on December 28th, 1947, of Mr. B. G. Davey. He had then served the School for a quarter of a century. His work was chiefly in the Middle School with less clever boys; it was the more valuable for that reason, and it was sometimes the more arduous. He was highly respected by generations of his pupils and by his colleagues.

At the beginning of the year, on Mr. Burgess's retirement, Mr. H. G. Shaw rejoined the staff. In the second term, Mr. Jenkins departed temporarily to take up a position at Shrewsbury School, and in exchange the Rev. H. T. G. Forster joined us this term. Both declare that they have enjoyed the experiences of the exchange so far.

The enrolment in Term I was 757, of whom 218 were boarders, and this number has been diminished less than usual during the year by departures. I have at every recent opportunity spoken of the large demand for enrolment in future years. There is no sign of its decreasing. We have been unable to accept several hundred applications for 1949. The demand is chiefly for day boys of Preparatory School age or for those due to enter the first year of secondary education. I am often asked to give some indication of the probability of acceptance of an enrolment for which application has been made for some future year. It is usually impossible to give a dependable reply, as so many uncertain factors govern the situation. I can only repeat that much careful work is being done constantly with a view to giving information to parents as early as possible. I ought also to repeat the warning that, if a boy fails to secure admission in one year, the entry is not carried on to the following year unless arrangements have previously been made.

The services in the School Chapel have been for the greater part in accordance with the usual custom. The musical part of the services has been greatly improved during the last few years. The Third Forms have regular instruction in singing for a few periods a week. Mr. and Mrs. Allman also take the Preparatory School and a large group

of boys of the Fifth and Sixth Forms regularly, though less frequently. There has been genuine interest on the part of the boys, and the response has been so good that the daily services are often most spirited. A much larger choir is now available from selected boys. We were asked to provide in September a programme of singing to be broadcast. At the recording of this music the singing was excellent. Unfortunately, there was a mechanical error in the apparatus, and the result over the air did not do the boys justice; nor did it afford to interested listeners an opportunity of hearing the best that the boys can do. It seems reasonable to hope that, as Third Form boys move upward, renewing their interest when they reach the Fifth, the present scheme will produce results even more satisfying.

The Public Examination results of 1947 were in some respects moderate, in other respects very satisfactory. In the Leaving Certificate Examination 85 boys passed. There were 19 first-class honours and 17 second-class, which is almost, but not quite, up to the best level of the past; but the distribution of honours over subjects was not as wide as usual. The more clever boys were on the side of Mathematics and Science. I remarked last year upon the drift away from the higher study of languages; it is still proving very difficult to check it. In English and Chemistry the achievements were excellent. There were five first-class honours in the former, and five first-class and four second-class honours in the latter. Boys from the School were first in the State in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, and third in English. In these days, when there are several thousand candidates and the competition is keen, it is a most creditable achievement to top the list in a major subject. P. J. Benjamin won the Barker Scholarship for Mathematics, and B. T. Shearman won the Liversidge Scholarship for Chemistry. Benjamin and Feakes obtained the maximum pass, and Shearman and Hamilton were extremely unlucky not to do so. The general level of the passes was not quite as high as it has been. In the Intermediate Certificate Examination 109 boys passed. This is about the usual number. Our top classes this year are not particularly good, but the boys in the middle school show promise of future success.

The newspapers have recently published references to possible changes in the arrangement of the Secondary Course and in the Public Examinations. These statements have given rise to some speculation. Possible changes have been discussed by the Board of Secondary School Studies and by the Cabinet, but so far I know of no reason for believing that a major alteration is likely in the near future.

The record in G.P.S. Competitions for the year is not very remarkable, though our various teams have competed keenly, and have been of very fair standard. The Eight was third in the boat-race. The two crews that beat them were as good as any that I recall in my memory of the race. Our Eight at their best were also very good, but they were not quite a natural combination, and therefore their rhythm was not fully sustained towards the end of the race. The First and Second Fours were not very successful, but the Third and Fourth came second and first respectively. The football team had a few disappointments to which illness and injury contributed. They won three matches and drew two out of seven, and were fourth equal in the competition. They started the season with few experienced

players, and therefore perhaps did reasonably well. The Seconds and Thirds were very successful, the former winning their competition and the latter being first, equal. In athletics our seniors had a lean year, in spite of much enthusiasm and persistence in training. They were sixth in the G.P.S. Sports. On the other hand, the juniors were outstandingly successful, and won by an unusually wide margin. Our athletic coaches think that we ought to have a greater number of boys who have acquired proficiency by long practice in those events which need skill as much as natural ability. However, it is difficult to see how boys can get sufficient time for practice without partial neglect of team games, and this is not to be encouraged. The number of boys who are interested in athletic skill is increasing. The cricket team was young; they have had several creditable successes and a few reverses. The general result is good, for they won five out of seven matches and came second. The Second Eleven did not do so well, and won only three matches, though the others were closely contested. The rifle team had another win this year, the fifth in succession. The contests were much closer than ever before. Their win was secured only by a very good performance by the captain of the team in the last few shots of the final match. The second team was fourth; this is the first time that they have not won since 1936. Our tennis has not been very good; the lack of suitable accommodation is severely felt. We have some very good swimmers. The interest in swimming has been increased, and there is more organised encouragement of it.

I mentioned last year the difficulties that we are facing in providing for all the games that we would like to have. These troubles have not disappeared, but indeed, have come to a head in rowing. The Berry's Bay boatshed has been in a bad state for a long time, and war conditions made repairs to the supporting piles and to the pontoon impossible. The usefulness of the shed has long been in doubt because the water is always so greatly disturbed by weather and by passing traffic. We have been considering the acquiring of another site in a more sheltered position, but the possible sites are few, and all have serious disadvantages. A recent inspection revealed so great deterioration in the building that we have now resolved to sell the shed and to concentrate all our rowing at Gladesville. The decision has important implications. The greater, though not the more pressing, is the need to enlarge the accommodation at Gladesville. This is not so urgent because we have no hope of greatly replenishing our stock of boats for some time, as the boat-builders are short of labour and rushed with orders. The more immediate need is for improved transport, and this we have met by the purchase of a new bus. While waiting for its delivery this term, we have worked according to a roster and have made good progress, but at the cost of a little disappointment to some keen boys. We hope to make up for this later. The tennis problem remains unsolved. Its solution requires a reliable resurfacing of the courts, a permanent arrangement for upkeep, and a supply of wire-netting, all matters of the greatest difficulty. The wickets for cricket cannot be properly prepared while labour is so short, and the juniors are feeling the effect of the conditions. No doubt we shall be able to overcome circumstances in time. Some boys have been co-operating splendidly with masters in various ways, for example, in watering and rolling wickets. There is not so great difficulty in football. I record as an instance that at the very end of the football season we put into the field 26 teams in one day.

The demise of the old bus calls for a special paragraph, briefly recording in the archives the story of rowing transport. Twenty-five years ago crews could row at Gladesville only at the cost of several teaching periods in each week. They used to take tram and ferry to the Quay and then the ferry to Gladesville: they had a hurried row, returned by the same route and reached home for a very late dinner. In the middle 'twenties we for a time hired ancient cars; the coxswain of the crew once made a valuable contribution by bringing from home a vehicle, aptly named "Boanerges," and supported in equal proportions by copper wire and noble intentions. Then, in a burst of extravagance we purchased from Boat Club funds a small bus for which the former owner had no further use; Old Boys will remember it variously as the "Red Robin" or the "Blue Bird," according to the coat of paint that it had in their time. The recently departed bus was bought in 1929 from funds raised, without call upon the Council, for a little more than £600. As it has served us for nearly twenty years we have little cause to complain of it, and we can fairly forget its recent occasional fits of obstinacy. Amid our present difficulties there is consolation in comparing the conditions of to-day with those of twenty-five years ago.

Last year's performance of "H.M.S. Pinafore" was followed this year in July by a performance, at least equally good, of "The Pirates of Penzance." It was produced at the Independent Theatre on four evenings, and yet the tickets had to be rationed. In the details of stage organisation Miss Fitton and others associated with the theatre showed the greatest kindness. I have used up in the recent past the phrases that I might employ in describing the performance and the enormous work that goes into its preparation over many weeks beforehand. I could say much again about the patience and skill of the conductress, Mrs. Allman, and the producer, Mr. Grigg, but I should still fail to do them full justice. It is to be remembered that, though a few have had experience in former years, the majority of the performers have had very little musical training, and scarcely any experience on the stage. Yet the result, which we are almost beginning to accept as usual, is a finished and skilful performance which can bear reasonable comparison with that of practised companies. There are, of course, limitations; for example, boys' voices cannot be expected to fill a theatre as well as the more mature voices of adults. The freshness and enthusiasm are adequate compensations. I think that the large group of boys involved as principals, chorus, orchestra and, scarcely less important, as helpers behind the scenes, have derived a pleasure that they will not readily forget, and have received a most valuable contribution to their education. I record once more our thanks to all who made the performance possible; and among them I include gratefully certain parents who are fully recognised as members of the team.

I have this year asked several masters to give their own accounts at first hand of matters which are their particular interest. Concerning the Play Days, Mr. Sawkins reports:—

"It has become the custom now to hold two Play Days each year, Senior Play Day for Sixth, Fifth and Fourth Forms and the Houses at the end of second term; and Junior Play Day for 'S' and Third Forms and the Preparatory School at the end of third term. The general opinion is that the standard reached at Senior Play Day was very good indeed. Over 100 boys took part in the nine plays presented in two sessions, beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 4.30 p.m.,

and ranging from W. W. Jacob's 'The Ghost of Jerry Bundler' to Bernard Shaw's 'Saint Joan.' The programme included three original plays written by Shore boys. The best of these, 'Burlesque on the Ballet,' was especially commended by the adjudicator, and very well received by the audience. It has always been regretted that, because of the small seating capacity of the Independent Theatre, invitations to attend Play Days can be extended only to the parents of the actors and stage hands. The programme of seven plays presented at Junior Play Day was an interesting one. At each Play Day the educational value of the work is greatly increased by the understanding and constructive criticism of the adjudicators appointed by the Honorary Director of the British Drama League. We gratefully acknowledge the help given by the League by the Director of the Independent Theatre, and by the group of parents who apply the grease-paint and false hair, and in other ways give enthusiastic co-operation."

Major Mitchell, the officer commanding the Cadet Corps, reports as follows:—

"The Cadet Unit has done its work very creditably throughout the year. Discipline, turn-out and training have been of a high standard. Recruitment has been satisfactory, and the strength has remained above 300. Fourteen of last year's N.C.O.'s qualified for commissions in the January courses, and nine of them have been appointed to complete the establishment of seventeen officers. Forty-seven cadets qualified as N.C.O.'s during the year, and of them thirty-six have been appointed. The Corps is thus carrying out the important function of providing opportunities for leadership. Basic training for first and second year cadets has been continued, and specialist training for third year cadets has been extended to include 'Tank Attack,' 'Vickers' and 'Intelligence' in addition to '3-inch Mortar' and 'Signalling.' Interest has been added by demonstrations of the 'Bofors' and '25-pounder' guns, by training films, by lectures, and, perhaps, most of all, by the firing of the specialist weapons. Other features have been a drill competition with N.S.H.S., a course for N.C.O.'s on the latest methods of instruction, shooting matches with N.S.T.H.S., and a splendid tactical exercise for officers and N.C.O.'s at Fuller's Bridge.

"The Band has developed and has given spirit to the combined drill. We are indebted to those who donated old-style Shore uniforms so that the Band can be distinctively dressed; and to the S.C.E.G.S. Association for the gift of a handsome mace, and for encouragement that has stimulated the keenness of the whole unit. This keenness was reflected in the high standard attained in ceremonial parades. The Unit was inspected at different times by Lieut.-Col. E. M. Bagot, by Brigadier T. A. J. Playfair, D.S.O., O.B.E., V.D., and by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales. On each occasion the Unit received high praise from the reviewing officer for steadiness, bearing and timing.

"The Annual Camp is being held at Ingleburn at the end of the term. Twenty-six cadets will be attending courses at Ingleburn in January. Their enthusiasm and that of the Unit as a whole promises well for 1949. We look forward to further co-operation and encouragement from parents."

Flight-Lieutenant Tiley, as officer commanding the School Flight of the Air Training Corps, reports:—

"The strength of the Flight rose at the beginning of the year from 60 to 83. Despite that much of the work is of necessity of an academic nature, the Flight has the best training record in the squadron for the year, a fact that reflects much credit upon N.C.O.'s and the great majority of cadets for their energy and interest. At present the Flight holds one 2nd Proficiency and twenty-two 1st Proficiency Certificates, while twenty-five others have to complete only one subject for their 1st Proficiency. This is sufficient evidence that the work is taken very seriously, and that it is achieving a definite educational purpose. The Flight attended an attachment at Richmond Air Force Station in December, 1947, and came second by a narrow margin in the drill competition. 'A' team won the Squadron shooting competition in October. They have just completed a further attachment at Richmond, which is equivalent to the Cadet Camp."

Concerning Scouting, the Group Scoutmaster, the Reverend Nigel Backhouse, reports:—

"Thanks to the enterprise of the Parents' Committee, the Scouts now have well-built quarters and adequate equipment for their various activities. Under the leadership of the Scoutmaster, the Reverend A. F. Dryden, they have had regular training and instruction, and have taken a lively interest in larger affairs such as the Area Swimming Carnival and the Annual Rally and Camp of the North Sydney district. They have won recognition for efficiency and for sound discipline. This is noteworthy, for Scout discipline is the expression of the spirit of courtesy and consideration for others embodied in the Scout Law and Promise. Great assistance has been given by two former members of the Troop, J. R. C. Tanner and R. G. Backhouse, who are now assistant scoutmasters. Camps have been held at the beginning of each School vacation; these give to boys a splendid opportunity of developing initiative and self-reliance. A most happy feature of the camps is that parents visit them and display the greatest interest. Thirty-five members of the Troop will attend the Pan-Pacific Jamboree at Wonga Park, Victoria, at the end of this year."

Since my last report we have received payment of several legacies of which we then had information, namely: £1,000 from the late Miss Knox and £500 from the late Mrs. Clegg Taylor, both for the general purposes of the School, £230 from the late F. H. Hart for the Jubilee Fund, and £2,971 from the late Mrs. S. I. Graham for the foundation of the "John Netherby Graham Scholarship." We have also received certain securities, the income from which will provide next year for the first time the "Bruce and Eldon Beale Memorial Prize." The will of the late Sir Thomas Buckland, from which £1,000 is to be expected, has not yet received probate.

Early this year we received a gift of £5,000 from Mrs. E. T. Thring for the building of a swimming pool as a memorial to her late husband. Mr. Thring's career and reputation were such that it is an honour to the School to have his name associated with it. He is acknowledged to have been one of the great surgeons of his generation, and one of the most brilliant imparters of surgical knowledge. It is freely said that it is largely due to his tuition and example that this country now has so many first-class surgeons. Outside his professional work he lived a most active life, and was keenly interested in literature, the arts, public affairs and sport. To us it is of added interest that he was the nephew of Edward Thring, the famous Headmaster of Uppingham, and founder of the Headmasters' Conference

of England, who influenced English education more than any other man of his generation. We are anxious to proceed with the building of the pool which will be a great possession, and hope that we shall soon be assured of the necessary cement and other materials. I need scarcely say that Mrs. Thring's interest and generosity are greatly valued.

The prize list this year includes two more prizes, memorials to gallant Old Boys John Jamieson and Eric Mileham Litchfield.

The War Memorial Fund now stands at £25,869, with interest amounting to £426 after defraying all expenses. The total of £26,331 is therefore moving towards the objective of £30,000. Among the gifts to it is an amount of £1,000 from Mr. H. V. Jaques in addition to his former contributions. This is a most conspicuous act of generosity. There are very many other ways in which he has expressed his interest in the School. There is not a more devoted Old Boy. The Fund has also received gifts of more than £600 in each case from the Old Boys' Union and from the ladies of the S.C.E.G.S. Association. The Old Boys' gift was the result of the Annual Dance, a function that again did credit to the Union both in its splendid organisation and in the friendly spirit that prevailed. The ladies' gift came from the American Tea in October. I again assure the ladies that their work in organising these annual functions is of the utmost value to the School. It is an admirable thing for parents and friends and staff to have the opportunity of meeting one another; by working together they perhaps come to know one another the better.

During the year Mrs. O. R. Cormack and Mrs. Donald Esplin retired from the executive offices that they have held in the Association for many years. The former has been largely responsible for the large membership and for the success of the various functions of the Association, and, indeed, has contributed to the welfare of the School in many ways by her active interest. The latter has been tireless in her devotion for thirty years. She was one of the most active in the organisation of the Fêtes which, after the first war, produced more than £10,000 for the development of the Northbridge Playing Fields and later for the Jubilee Fund. Her enthusiasm has never flagged, and to-day is as keen as ever.

The Book of Remembrance which is to record the names of Old Boys who served in the recent war has not been completed as rapidly as I hoped. The names have been inscribed by Mr. Roberts, and his work is most beautiful. The binding of the leaves will be done abroad. For safety and for more efficient supervision we are asking Mr. John Lipscomb to take these with him. I believe that we are assured of a good result which will make up for the slight delay.

The work of the boys in sending food parcels to Britain ought to be recorded. It belongs not to this year alone, but was begun two years ago at the instance of David Playfair when he was Senior Prefect. The movement arose entirely from the initiative of boys themselves without prompting, and it has been carried on without stimulation from anyone in authority. I understand that about £1,000 worth has been sent up to the present. The boys have been so independent, to their credit, that they have not often consulted or informed me of their activities, but perhaps I may at least venture to congratulate them upon a fine piece of work. Floods of acknowledgements have been sent, chiefly addressed to me, to my embarrassment. The letters leave no doubt of the gratitude with which the gifts are received.

In conclusion, I must attempt an acknowledgement of work done for the School during the year, though I well know that it is bound to be inadequate. I thank our benefactors, both those who have made gifts and those who have given their services to promote the School's welfare and to invigorate its life and work. I acknowledge gratefully the loyalty and devotion of the masters. It is a privilege to work with men who have a high sense of their responsibility, a spirit of co-operation and a rare initiative in finding ways in which the School's work can be made effective. I thank also other members of the staff who are concerned with the various aspects of management and administration. Finally, I thank the members of the Council for the time and thought that they have given to the School's affairs, for a deep interest revealed in many ways, and for the wisdom of their advice and guidance.