

**SEYMOUR TECHNICAL
HIGH SCHOOL
"FLOURISHING AT 50"
REUNION**



FLOURISHING AT 50

Dear Past and Present Students and Staff,

Thank you for attending our school's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

To mark this milestone in the school's history an enterprising committee, headed by past student and long standing staff member June Gadd, has organised the following three day program.

Friday 16th October

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 7.00 pm | Start Registration |
| 7.45 pm | Art and Craft Exhibition Administration Area and Room 35 |
| | Wine and cheese tasting Dining Room |

Saturday 17th October

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| 11.00 am | Registration |
| | - tours of the School |
| | - displays |
| | - Devonshire teas |
| | - musical items by Band |
| | - memorabilia displays |
| 8.00 pm | Variety Night in JR Carroll Hall |
| | - talks |
| | - musical items |
| | - theatrical performances |
| | - BYO drinks |
| | - supper provided |
| | - quiz and prizes |

Sunday 18th October

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 10.00 am | Church Service in the Hall |
| 12.00 noon | Picnic in School grounds |
| | - activities for children |

This booklet has been prepared to mark the school's 50th Anniversary and to recognise its "Service" to the Seymour district over the last half century. To provide some historical structure the booklet has concentrated on the challenges and achievements of the school under its five Principals: John Mollison, Ray Carroll, Don Lugg, Graeme Watson and Bill Brearley. While this approach has discerned eras in the school's history, it has unfortunately not been able to adequately recognise the endeavours and achievements of the hundreds of teachers and thousands of students who have been the lifeblood of the school over the last 50 years.

Nevertheless, I trust that this booklet will provide a readable overview of the school's growth and development and serve to preserve some of the fleeting and frequently taken for granted present before it is relegated to the unrecorded and hazy past.

I would particularly like to thank Robyn Hockley and Sue Brearley who respectively typed and set out this publication.

Bill Brearley,
16th October, 1998.

JOHN MOLLISON
1948 - 1955
HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO HIGH SCHOOL



John Mollison served as the founding principal of the Seymour High School in the eight year period between 1948 and 1955.

The forerunner of the Seymour High School was the Seymour Higher Elementary School which in 1919 open its doors in Tallarook Street to an enrolment of 91 students.

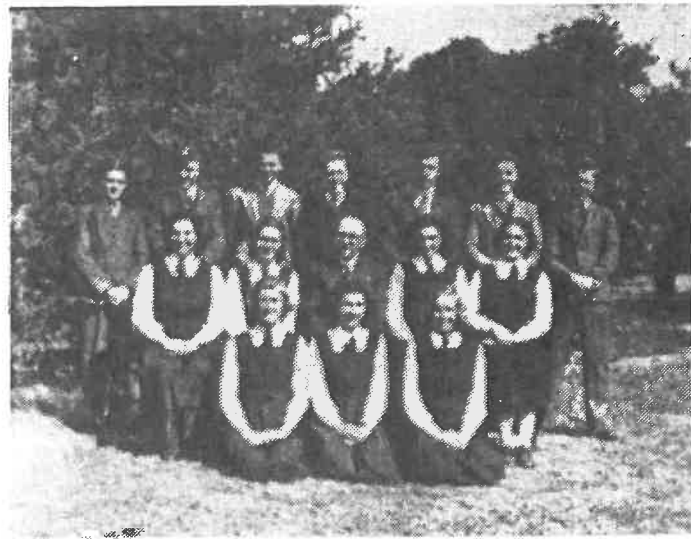
In the early 1900's Seymour was centred around the intersection of Emily and Tallarook Streets. However, the construction of the stately railway station in 1874 and the hardships inflicted by successive floods caused the civic and commercial centre of the town to retreat to higher ground in Station Street. In response to this demographic imperative, the Seymour Higher Elementary School moved to Loco Street in 1923. In that year 128 students were taught in rooms 1, 2, 3 and 4. Subsequently in 1926 to accommodate an increased enrolment of 142 students rooms 6 and 7 were constructed. Separated by folding doors these classrooms doubled as an assembly hall. In the year of the Great Depression, 1930, the original school magazine, "The Seymourian" was published. This predecessor of the "Spirit" featured largely student work and was printed until 1933. Staff member Mr. M.H.E.L. Jones M.A. wrote the school song in 1935. At the height of the second world war in 1943 when eagerly patriotic youth falsified their ages to join the war effort, the Seymour Higher Elementary School retained an enrolment of 122 students and built rooms 5 and 9. At the end of the war in 1945 enrolments increased to 160 students and three school bus services from Broadford, Nagambie and Tallarook were introduced. Prior to the advent of these bus routes students from these districts travelled to and from the school by train. The following year the Seymour Higher Elementary School introduced form 5 or the Leaving Certificate. At that time the "Leaving", as the name suggests, was considered the culmination of secondary education. Form 6, or matriculation, was effectively a University entrance qualification for those fortunate students with "prospects" of "entering the professions."

Fifty years ago this year the Seymour Higher Elementary School was elevated to the Seymour High School in 1948. The transition from Higher Elementary to High School entailed not only an elevation in status but commensurate challenges in the areas of buildings, facilities and curriculum. As founding principal, John Mollison, lead the school in meeting these challenges and in laying the firm foundations on which the Seymour Technical High School "Flourishes at 50."



1948 STAFF

Back Row, L. to R. - Mr. H.L. Sweatmen, Mr. J.R. Carroll, Mr. R.K. Senior, Mr. R.N. Simpfendorfer.
 Second Row - Mr. J.H. Stevens, Miss K. Halloran, Mr. J.A. Mollison, Miss L.J. Groom, Mr. G.O. Trese er.
 Front Row - Miss P.F.M. McInerney, Miss M.E.E. Hill, Miss E.C. Watson.

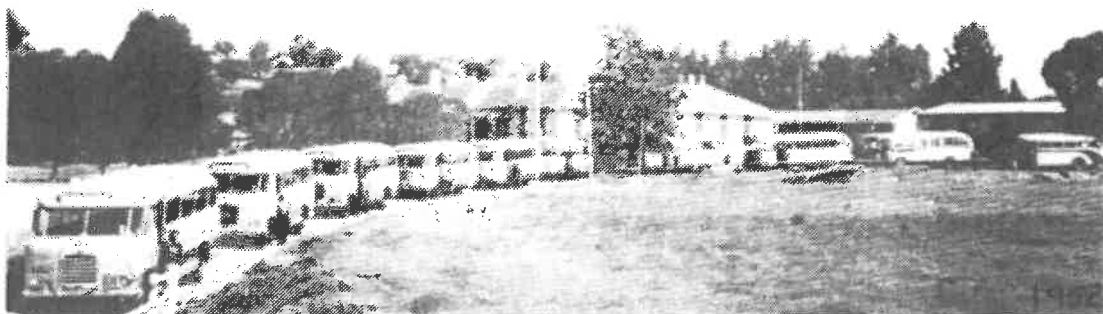


HEADMASTER, PREFECTS and HOUSE CAPTAINS
 Back Row, L. to R.—J. Carroll, K. Clarke, V. Trickey, N. Carter
 N. Clarke, I. Henderson, K. Whiteman.
 Second Row—J. Munro, E. Chapple, Mr Mollison, A. Place,
 J. Hughes.
 Front Row—C. Garratt, S. Pell, G. Martin. (1948)



The Staff of 1954

H.G. Martindale, R.A. McGill, A.B. Hunt
 J.H. Renwick, H.L. Sweatman, N.W.
 Schleiger, R.D. Beattie, J.E. Teasdale,
 J.M. Bland.
 Miss M. Brennan, Miss V.C. McKenzie,
 Miss S.M.J. Cook, Miss J.W. McKecnnie,
 Miss M.C. Larkins, Mrs D. M. Sheringra
 Mrs K.M. Muldowney, Mrs Wood,
 Miss W.A. Morrison.



John Mollison was born one hundred years ago this year in 1898 at Katamatite in the lower Goulburn Valley. After completing his secondary education at the Sale High School John trained at the Melbourne Teachers College to become a primary teacher. However his ambitions to become a teacher were literally suspended by the First World War. During the war John served with the First AIF as a Howitzer gunner in the First Field Artillery Brigade.

After the war John taught for a period of time in primary schools before completing a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma of Education at the University of Melbourne.

John Mollison's first appointment as secondary teacher was at the Nathalia Higher Elementary School not far from where he was born at Katamatite. After teaching at the Gardiner Central School, John was appointed to the Armadale High School where he was instrumental in introducing matriculation courses. During the height of the depression John taught in the then working class suburb of Williamstown. Subsequently he was transferred to the Mildura High School and then to the prestigious University High School. Prior to his appointment as Principal at the Seymour High School, John Mollison served as senior master at the Shepparton High School.

One of the great and enduring qualities of the Seymour Technical High School is its long and proud tradition. Unlike a number of its counterparts in the newer suburbs of Melbourne the Seymour Higher Elementary School, Seymour High School and Seymour Technical High School can proudly claim to have provided for the educational needs of the Seymour district for seventy nine years.

The great affection the school feels towards its past was evident in 1994 when a brief flirtation with changing its name to a Secondary College in a staff meeting met passionate and widespread opposition. The fact that the school annually commemorates ANZAC Day with a solemn ceremony incorporating the reading of an honour roll by the head prefects, the laying of wreaths at a cenotaph by the house captains, an address by a representative from Puckapunyal and the presence of a catafalque party exemplifies both our long standing relationship with the army and our proud heritage.

A wealth of the school's traditions were firmly laid between 1948 and 1955 while John Mollison was headmaster.

As the Seymour Higher Elementary School the school's motto was "LABOUR ONMIA VINCIT" which meant "WORK CONQUERS ALL." In 1948 when we became the Seymour High School our motto was simplified to "SERVICE." This far less grandiose but far more intelligible and commanding exhortation has remained our motto to this day.

Between 1930 and 1933 the Seymour Higher Elementary School students published a magazine entitled the Seymourian. The cover of Volume 1, No. 1, dated December 1930 proudly declares "From the School and for the School." In recognition of Seymour's close association with the railways and in particular recognition of the famous Spirit of Progress which ran between Melbourne and Albury, the Seymourian was rejuvenated in 1948 and renamed the "Spirit".



HOCKEY TEAM NOTES

The hockey team, consisting of J. Lefoe (captain), A. Sidebottom, B. Eales, J. Reid, Caplehorn, M. Watts, B. Siemering, R. Cullough, E. Tomlinson, J. McCarthy, B. H. Kins and reserves M. Iverach and C. Tomlinson.



BOYS MARCHING SQUAD 1952



Hockey Team

1952



1948 BOYS' CRICKET TEAM

Back Row—L. to R.—W. Holmes, V. Trickey, Mr Senior (Sportsmaster), A. James, N. Clarke.
Second Row—K. Clarke, I. Henderson, N. Carter, D. Baldwin
Front Row—K. Clark, K. Fothergill, J. Gadd.



D. Snell, P. Blake, A. Henderson, P. Spence, B. Simmons, P. Spiers, P. Boal, J. Garratt, J. Dixon.

Basketball Team 1951



Swimming Team

1951



Between 1919 and 1948 Seymour Higher Elementary School students competed in three houses: Bayford, Kearney and Ward. At the suggestion of Ray Carroll, who was Senior Master at that time, the three houses were replaced in 1948 by four: Flinders, Henty, Mitchell and LaTrobe. Again in recognition of Seymour's railway association these houses were named after the four "sleek blue S class locomotives" which powered the renowned Spirit of Progress.

Mr. Lloyd Sweatman who taught Woodwork in the school for 34 years and after whom the Technology Wing was named, designed the Seymour High School badge in 1948. Lloyd's design featured the symbols, colours and original derivations of the school's four new houses:

Flinders - Ship. Yellow. (Mathew Flinders - Navigator)

Henty - Plough. Green. (Edward Henty - First permanent settler in Victoria)

Mitchell - Wagon. Blue. (Major Mitchell - Overland explorer and NSW Surveyor General)

LaTrobe - Crown. Red. (LaTrobe Lt. Governor of Victoria)

The elevation of the Seymour Elementary School to High School status in 1948 meant that the school was eligible to conduct matriculation or Year 12 courses. Noel Carter and John Carroll, the son of Senior Master Ray Carroll, shared the distinction of being the school's first matriculation students. The advent of matriculation involved a commensurate reduction of centrally assessed correspondence courses.

1949 witnessed the continued expansion of the fledgling Seymour High School. Public Works Department earthmovers battled the elements in constructing the school oval which was named after John Mollison. The basketball courts which were later converted into tennis courts were built on the eastern side of rooms 6 and 7. A bus driveway incorporating bus stops was built circumnavigating the Mollison oval in an anti-clockwise direction. In July a Board of Inspectors visit elevated the Seymour High School to "A class." This status entitled the school to assess Intermediate or form four students. In recognition of the school's auspicious start the Mothers Club donated "a fine ornamental front gate."

In 1950 the Seymour High School attracted an enrolment of 299 students. By 1956 enrolments had increased to approximately 550. During this period under the headmastership of John Mollison the school went from strength to strength. In the all important area of buildings a disused army hut was relocated from Puckapunyal in 1950 and converted into rooms 13, 14 and 15. The following year with an enrolment of 371 students rooms 16 and 18 were constructed. In 1950 students travelled to and from the school on two new bus services from Whiteheads Creek and Strath Creek and in 1954 the Nagambie school bus route was extended virtually half way to Shepparton to the Goulburn Weir.

On 5th March 1954 an event took place which captivated the school: The Queen visited Shepparton. The then Shepparton Mayor and Council invited the students of Seymour High School to greet Her Royal Majesty at Deakin Reserve. The following extract from John Mollison's headmaster's report in the 1954 Spirit represents the patriotic fervour aroused by the Monarch's visit:

"The enthusiastic greeting the Queen received, must surely have convinced her of the loyalty and love of her subjects and her presence brought to us not an "abstract Royalty" but a very real person whose influence over her wide flung empire is immeasurable."

Having served as the foundation headmaster of the Seymour High School for eight years, John Mollison was appointed as the Principal of Box Hill High School in 1956.

In the year of his appointment to the newly founded Seymour High School John Mollison had written in the Headmaster's column in the Spirit:

"We believe that real education takes place when children take an active part in the life of the class room and do not sit passively while they are lectured from the teacher's desk, and that through games, through the cooperative activities of the school, as well as through history and literature and personal example of their teachers, these boys and girls of ours are learning to live together as good citizens in the making. If we can lead them to use their leisure hour in the best possible way, if we have helped them to be citizens of whom we may be justly proud, then the school will have achieved its purpose."

We firmly believe that the students generally are being improved by their association with the school."



THE WATTLES IN OUR SCHOOL GROUND.

The wattles in our school ground
Are a glorious sight to see,
Especially when they are in bloom,
Alive with humming bee.

In autumn they do not,
Like many other trees,
Turn red and gold, or rust and brown,
And after lose their leaves.

Winter finds them dull and cold
With leaves but ne'er a flower;
In early morn with frost they're stiff;
They oft receive a shower.

Next season finds our wattle trees
Decked out in brilliant gold.
Among the blossoms we may see
Small new green leaves unfold.

Soon the blooms begin to fall;
Long pods appear instead.
And as they ripen we can hear
Them popping overhead.

—FAY BJORKSTEN (Form IIIA.).
(1948)



A SCHOOL BUS

We rattle to school,
And we bang home again
The wind comes in
And so does the rain.
The windows are broken,
The seats are all lumpy,
And the engine won't go,
While the roads are all bumpy
The lights won't work,
There is no door.
The dust is so thick
We can't see the floor.
Our clothes in a mess
We reach the school gate,
Wishing so hard
That we weren't so late.

ELIZABETH GREENSHIELD
(1949) Form II

A DAY IN THE WEEK

I hail from down south at Broadford,
A bright little country town,
The folks all have smiles on their faces
No one down there wears a frown.

Get up at seven in the morning,
In the bus, eight I hop into the bus,
Afraid we're not very obedient,
The driver keeps raving at us.

We work hard "sometimes" at our lessons,
In the exams, no one ever gets naught,
One the happiest day of the week,
Is Wednesday when we have sport.

—BARRY MARSHALL.
(1951) "Shakespeare II"



ZURIKA



THE OVAL

A 'dozer is working round and round;
They're changing the shape of the old school
ground.

The trees and bushes are all torn away
The 'dozer does it in its daily aflay.
We had a clot fight the very first day
But later we found that it did not pay.

Out came the teachers one after another
When we saw them all we ran for cover
But very soon the job will be done
Then we will have unending fun
But it has been tiring every day
To go to Lords when we want to play.

—M. SMEDLEY.
(1944) Form IIIA.

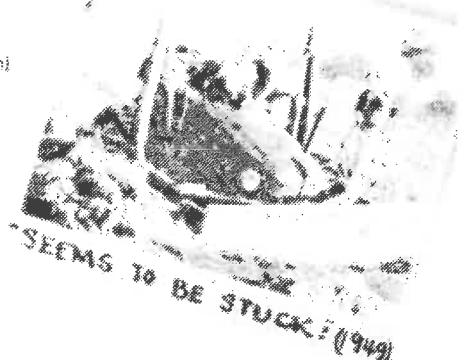
DEDICATED TO ROOM 1.

The blackboard is always dirty,
The stools all out of place,
It is as cold, as cold, as cold,
Oh heavens! What a place!
And in the little room they keep
Small saucers full of mould.
There are cancers there of every kind,
But heavens! It's so cold!
There are never any flowers
And there is never any duster.
All you find are waking taps,
And stools hunched in a cluster.
It is really not a bad old room—
I suppose it is getting old.
We've always had good times in it,
But heavens! It's so cold!

—NOEL CARROLL (Form IV.).
(1948)



O-S AM (1949)



"SEEMS TO BE STUCK" (1949)

OUR PREFECTS (GIRLS)

Slowly, majestically, they glide along,
Occasionally deluging to smile upon some aw-
diminutive junior but usually conversing wi-
bered and languid air about some learn-
subject (probably politics or Archimedes' Prin-
ciple). In a small circle of equally dignified
seniors with whom they sit in exalted state
(when, of course, they are not enforcing law
and order). Such are our prefects, these great
and honoured persons, of whom we see so
much and know so little.

HELEN EALES.
(1954)

RAY CARROLL
1956 - 1968
FROM "COMFORTABLE LITTLE SCHOOL IN THE FORTIES"
TO "GROWTH EXPLOSION IN THE FIFTIES"

John Raymond Carroll or Ray Carroll as he was more widely known was Headmaster of the Seymour High School between 1956 and 1968.

The following extract from the 1968 "Spirit" presumably written by Acting Headmaster Gavin Crowl, encapsulates the challenges the school confronted during this period and the dedication and purpose with which Ray Carroll negotiated them.

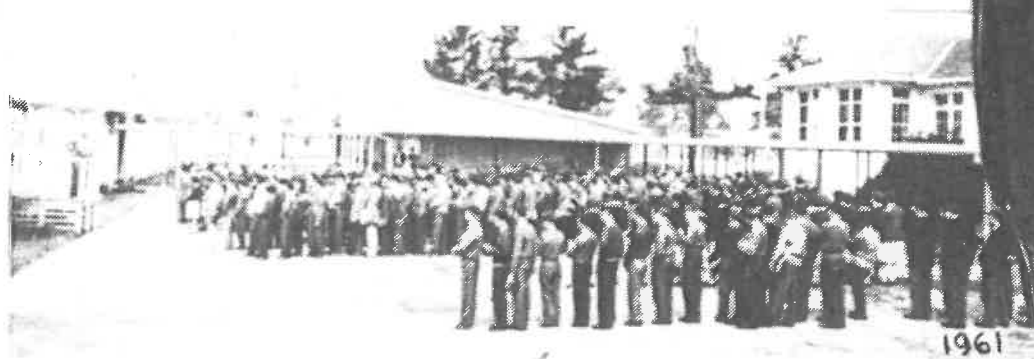
"Mr. Carroll had the task of carrying Seymour High School through years of great stress. What had been a comfortable little school in the forties suddenly exploded into growth in the fifties. Classes were scattered throughout a series of buildings; corridors and shelter sheds had to be pressed into use as classrooms; there were not enough teachers and class sizes sometimes exceeded fifty. The proportion of inexperienced teachers on staff suddenly escalated, thrusting a far greater burden on the Headmaster; old ideas about the academic purpose of High Schools had to be replaced by the idea of providing education for all.

The courage and resolution with which Mr. Carroll faced the difficulties and his willingness to incorporate the new into his established ideas on education stand witness to the valuable service he gave to Seymour High School."

Ray Carroll was born in Bendigo in 1905 the same year in which the first High School in Victoria came into existence.

Throughout his life Ray remained profoundly appreciative of the wonderful "start" his parents gave him despite their limited means. Ray often recounted that even though his parents survived on the basic wage, they ensured that he was able to complete his secondary education at the Bendigo High School to gain University entrance. In his later years Ray took corresponding satisfaction and pride in the fact that all of his five children were University graduates.

Ray Carroll completed a Bachelor of Science and subsequently a Diploma of Education at Melbourne University and the Melbourne Teachers College respectively. Even as an undergraduate, Ray's intellectual vigour and leadership were evident. He was elected President of the Melbourne University Student Representative Council and represented the University in interstate debating.

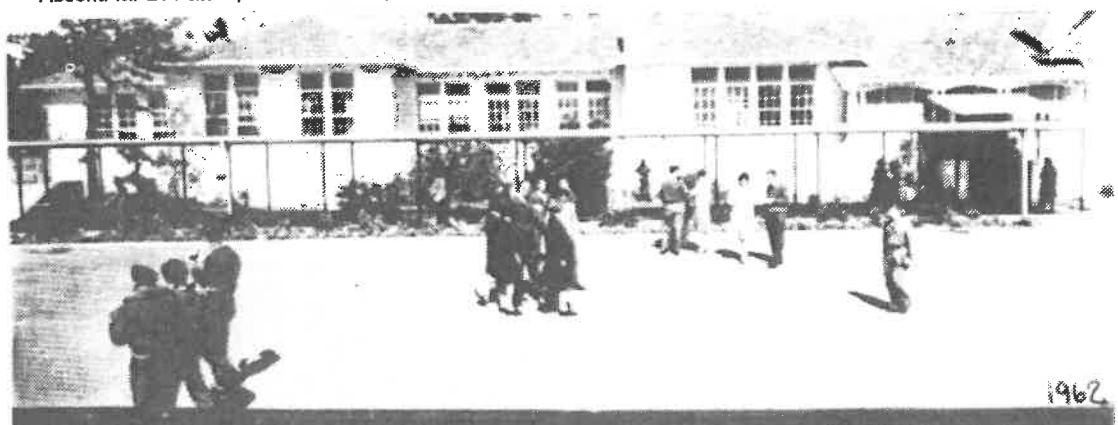




Standing (left to right): Messrs. C. Lewis A. B. Hunt. D. LeR. Matters, N. W. Schleiger, Mrs. W. Parker, Mr. H. Martindale, Miss H. McGrath, Messrs. C. R. Cornall, H. L. Sweatman, N. L. Johnson, W. Courtis.
Seated: Mrs. K. M. Muldowney, Mrs. J. Martin, Miss E. M. Canning, Miss B. J. Coward, Miss M. V. Jones, Mr. J. R. Carroll, Mrs. C. Lewis, Miss J. M. Aisbett, Mrs. M. D. Calcraft, Miss J. W. McKechnie. Absent: Mrs. C. R. Cornall, Mr. J. Bland.



Back Row (L. to R.): Mr B. Williams, Mr J. Howe, Mr P. Ellis, Mr R. Thompson.
Second Row (L. to R.): Mrs B. Hunt, Mrs L. Auhl, Miss J. Hall, Miss E. Boyd, Mr G. Lang, Mr I. Ward, Miss L. Heywood, Mr A. B. Hunt.
Third Row (L. to R.): Miss L. Bull, Mrs H. Ward, Miss L. Hill, Mr L. Sweetman, Mr L. Crowl, Mr G. Brooksbank, Mr R. Watson, Mr R. Lane, Mr N. Saffin.
Front Row (L. to R.): Mrs N. Rowson, Miss S. Burford, Mrs K. Siecenieks, Mrs N. Saffin, Mr J. R. Carroll, Mr G. Crowl, Mrs J. Lane, Miss M. Wadley, Miss R. Hylton.
Absent: Mr D. Patullo, Mrs H. Mitchell, Mrs M. Budd, Mrs S. Ekbera.



The "quadrangle" and "covered way" — the projected site of a new science wing.
The old building is in the background.

Ray began his teaching career at the Sale High School in Gippsland. From there he gained a transfer to Eltham which at that time was still very much a rural community. Initially Ray was appointed as Senior Master at the Seymour High School. In this capacity he developed a great fondness for the school and the community it serves. Subsequently Ray was promoted to Senior Master or Deputy Principal in outer suburban Dandenong.

In the year of the Melbourne Olympics, 1956, Ray returned as Headmaster, Principal at Seymour High School where he served until his retirement in 1968.

When Ray was appointed as Headmaster in 1956 Seymour High School had an enrolment of approximately 550 students. These pupils studied in inadequate, cramped and often makeshift classrooms. In 1950 a disused army hut from Puckapunyal had been relocated and converted into rooms 13, 14 and 15. When adjoining rooms 6 and 7 became too small, school assemblies were moved to the Regent Theatre in Anzac Avenue in 1955. Critically, classes of up to 50 students were not uncommon in 1956. Even though contemporary teaching philosophies and methods provide for increased student participation and individualised learning, it is difficult to imagine how classes operated under such overcrowding.

Determined to improve the physical environment of the school, Ray Carroll initiated a major capital works program. Having gained the support of the Mothers Club, Advisory Council and most importantly the Schools Inspector Ray convinced the Department of Education that the school's accommodation needs were desperate. In 1958 tenders were let for the construction of the front wing and the Arts wing. Having operated under increasingly inadequate circumstances for ten years the school moved into two spacious new wings in 1960 which incorporated Domestic Arts, Manual Arts, Music, Commercial Studies, Art and an Administration area and boasted modern central heating. It is interesting to note that the new administration block served the school admirably until continued growth and increased administrative autonomy necessitated the construction of larger facility at the front of the school in 1998.

Having addressed the School's urgent classroom requirements, Ray Carroll turned his attention to the need for an assembly hall. Up until that time school assemblies had been progressively held in rooms 6 and 7, in the open in quadrangles and in the nearby Regent Theatre. Conscious that full school assemblies engender school cohesion and pride, Ray set about providing an assembly hall with typical purpose and determination.

In his "Headmaster's page" in the 1965 Spirit Ray Carroll shared his "vision" for a school hall:

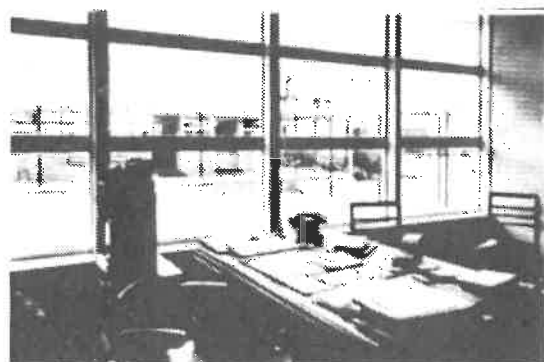
"This year, we have had another vision - of a fine assembly hall, gymnasium and cafeteria with full stage and service facilities - the present estimated cost about £45,000, of which we are to provide one quarter.

Although it will be three years before we can begin building, all sections of the school have commenced a plan of fund raising to bring our vision into reality.

At present, the Mothers Club weekly tuck shop is producing most of our income, but next year many other activities will work toward our target and we have no doubt that we can raise the large sum needed and have a lot of fun and enjoyment during the coming years in doing so."

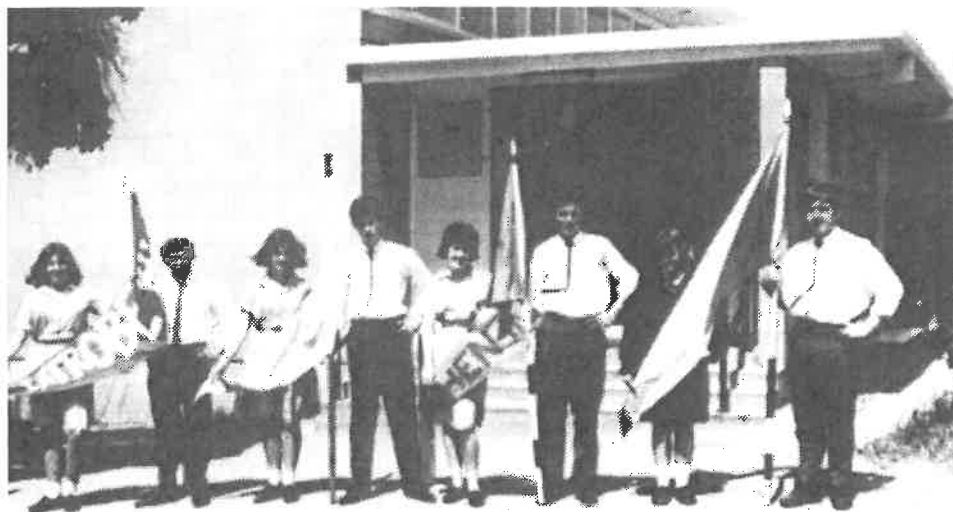
Ray's vision became a reality in April 1972 when The Minister For Education The Honourable Lindsay Thompson officially opened the J.R. Carroll Assembly Hall.

Ray Carroll's foresight and enterprise not only provided a school assembly hall but also a defacto town hall when the Seymour Rural City Council voted to demolish the Town Hall in the mid 70's to build a fashionable mall. It is ironic to observe that the current school council is purposefully pursuing a Community Support Fund grant to supplement its fund raising efforts to construct a Performing Arts, Culture and Civic Centre on the corner of Loco and Anglesey Streets.

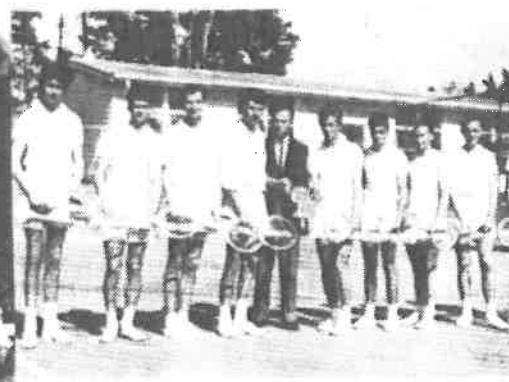


Room with a view.

1961



1964 HOUSE CAPTAINS (L. to R.)
 Latrobe - Sue Norton, Ron Wise
 Mitchell - Morag Cameron, Kevin Jarris
 Henty - Patsy Richards, John Parry
 Flinders - Diane McDonald, Graeme Knox



PREMIERS 1962

(Left to Right): G. Larkin, D. Milenkovic, M. kowski, R. Baldwin, Mr. B. Gange, A. L. Dellit, V. Towt, P. Henry, U. Arro.



They're a Weird Mob.



1965 GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM
 Seated: Cynthia Muller, Pam Berry, Carol Bennett, Bernice Maloney, Dawn Prien.
 Standing: Michele Maloney, Rosemary Butt, Roslyn Ewing, Ruth Brodie, Sue McKenzie, Mr. B. Williams.



Rear: M. Ewing, S. O'Neill.
 Front: R. Harlan, N. Henderson (captain), D. Vardanega, J. Shelton, M. Wickman.



1966 BOYS' BASKETBALL
 Back Row: L. Gilmore, G. Cottam, R. Brown, R. Chapman, D. Schivo.
 Front Row: M. Lewzuck, I. Strong, A. Richardson, D. Evans, Mr. Tuckwell



The school, seen from the oval New Science block in centre of photograph

Ray Carroll's determination to provide facilities and equipment for students extended into recreational and sporting spheres. In 1958 he built pavilions on the embankments of Smiths fields which doubled as classrooms till 1960. In 1961 Ray and the Grounds Improvement Committee laid turf wickets on Mollison Oval. In response to students' sporting preferences in 1962 Ray converted the old basketball courts into tennis courts. Today's ubiquitous American basketball regalia suggest that teenage sporting allegiances have turned full circle!

It is important that Ray Carroll's building achievements are not allowed to overshadow his curricular initiatives. It is also important to place these not insignificant innovations in an educational context. Unlike the halcyon 1970's and early 1980's when state educational budgets and staffing levels gave rise to exciting and ambitious innovation, the 1950's and early 1960's were infinitely more structured and conservative. While principals and their schools need to be predisposed toward innovation and to some extent adventuresome, these attributes amount to nowt without sufficient enterprising staff to actually implement initiatives.

Even though Ray Carroll operated with continuing staff shortages between 1956 and 1968, he brought about considerable curricular development in the school. Conscious that the common, albeit stratified through streaming, forms three and four curriculum failed to provide for the diversity of students, Ray introduced an elective program in the middle school. Some thirty years before the Commonwealth Government accepted that Australia was at least economically a part of Asia and the Victorian Directorate of School Education promoted the study of Indonesian, Ray Carroll introduced the language of our nearest northern neighbour. Indonesian has remained

very much one of the strengths of the school. In the 1990's under the coordination of Jane Macdonald and Caroline Lodwick the language had grown to the point where it was taught from year 7 to VCE, visiting Indonesian teachers Kusmana and Rusmanto taught in the school in 1996 and 1997 and Seymour Technical High School conducted an extremely successful district wide Indonesian Festival in 1996. In the crucial area of student assessment and reporting Ray brought about the introduction of "topic testing". Under this arrangement students were assessed at the conclusion of each topic while the knowledge and skills were still fresh in their minds rather than removedly at the end of the year. The advent of Television in 1956 which coincided with the Melbourne Olympics obviously provided extensive opportunities for classroom teaching. Ray took advantage of these opportunities and involved the Seymour High School in statewide trials of the new medium in the Science and Maths faculties.

Ray Carroll's commitment and contribution to Victorian education extended well beyond the schools in which he served. He lectured in astronomy with the Melbourne University Extension Board. Having edited the monthly journal of the Astronomical Society of Victoria for a number of years, Ray was elected as the society's president. Throughout his career Ray was actively involved in teaching associations. In addition to serving as secretary for a number of Victorian Teachers Union branches, Ray co-founded the Eltham and Dandenong branches. During the early 1950's Ray served as honorary secretary of the Victorian Secondary Teachers Association. In this capacity he played a vital role in the acceptance of the Association by teachers, the Education Department and Teachers Tribunal.

Having served the Seymour High School for 12 years, Ray Carroll retired in September 1968. Senior Master Gavin Crowl, after whom the Science wing was named, acted as Principal until the end of the 1968 school year. Rather than moving to some fashionable seaside retirement township where he would have no roots, Ray remained in Seymour and continued to serve the community. In his retirement Ray was actively involved in the Seymour Hospital Committee, the Seymour and District Historical Society, the National Trust and the Victorian Astronomical Society.

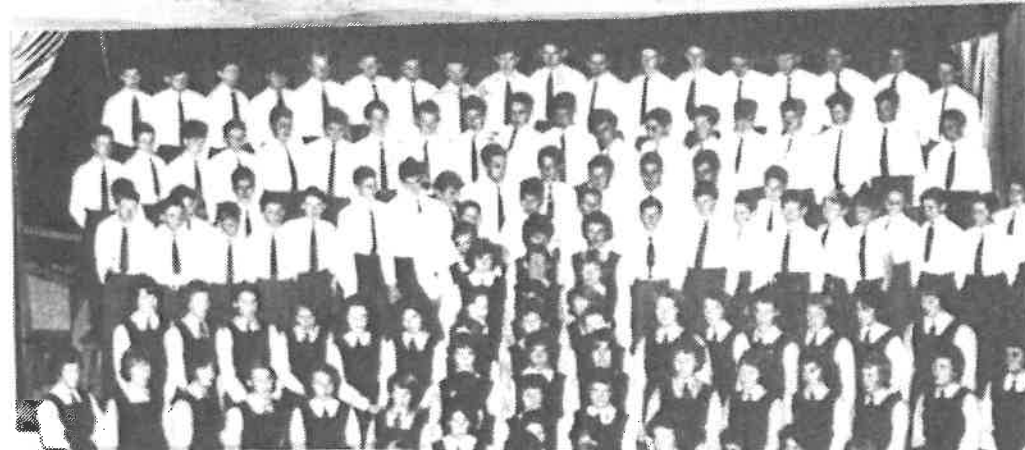
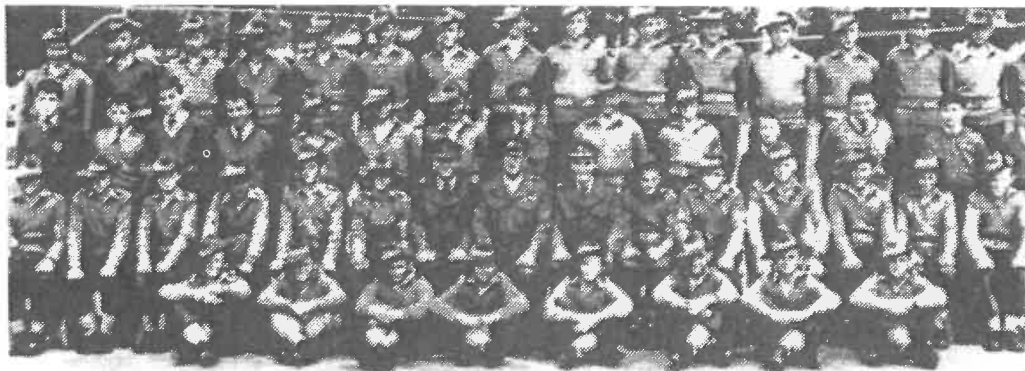
In the 1968 edition of the Spirit Ray Carroll wrote:

"As I look back over the years as teacher and head of a school, I find the greatest satisfaction came from working with people - students and teachers and parents - who were putting their best into the task. The size of the task, and how well we succeeded were important, but more important were the common aim, the sincerity and liveliness of the effort and the mutual respect that resulted.

I want to say to each of those students and parents and teachers, especially those who helped under the sustained difficulties of the post-war years, "Thank you, and may your reward continue to grow".

1962 CADETS (L. to R.)

Back Row: Cdt. R. Wise, Cpl. J. Milton, Cdt. J. Ross, Cdt. N. Dean, Cdt. R. Young, Cdt. J. Ransom, Cpl. R. McGrath, Sgt. N. Messenger, Cpl. N. Ashton, Cdt. D. Lee, Cdt. L. Kelly, Cdt. B. McCullough, Cdt. R. Brown, Cdt. J. Sullivan, Cdt. T. Donnelly, Cdt. M. Jelercic.
 Centre Row: Cdt. B. Hancock, Cdt. G. Richardson, Cdt. J. Smith, Cdt. B. Stewart, Cdt. V. Raymer, Cdt. I. Beale, Sgt. P. Wood, Sgt. Major B. Bryndzia, Sgt. E. Zolnierczyk, Cdt. F. Hanigan, Cdt. R. McDonough, Cdt. G. Boord, Cdt. A. Coulson, Cdt. G. Clarke.
 Seated: Cdt. R. Lewczuk, Cdt. K. Parker, Cdt. P. Matters, Cdt. H. Gilmour, Cdt. D. Petersen, Cdt. L. Clarke, CUO R. Brown, Lieut. A.B. Hunt, CUO J. Arbuthnot, Cdt. J. Welsh, Cdt. G. Stephens, Cdt. S. Grose, Cdt. L. Edwards, Cdt. J. Langtree, Cdt. F. Brown, Cdt. R. Green.
 Front Row: Cdt. R. Jones, Cdt. J. Sidebottom, Cdt. B. Hunt, Cdt. K. Lee, Cdt. G. Andrea, Cdt. T. Risk, Cpl. M. Calvert, Cdt. K. Petersen.



INTER-HOUSE CHORAL CONTEST



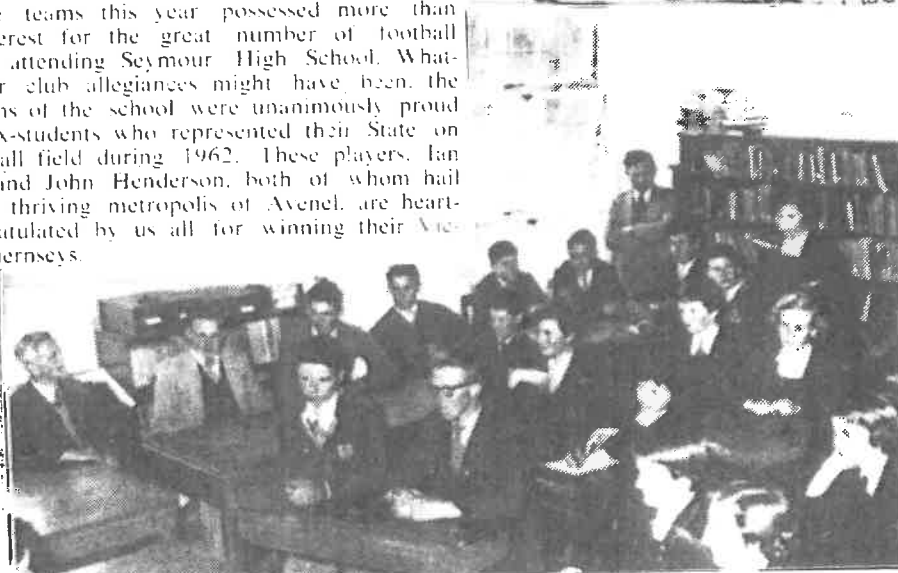
MISS B. BASSETT, School Secretary.

HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Selection of the Victorian Football League inter-State teams this year possessed more than usual interest for the great number of football followers attending Seymour High School. Whatever their club allegiances might have been, the sports fans of the school were unanimously proud of two ex-students who represented their State on the football field during 1962. These players, Ian Shelton and John Henderson, both of whom hail from the thriving metropolis of Avenel, are heartily congratulated by us all for winning their Victorian guernseys.



JOHN HENDERSON (left) and IAN SHELTON photographed at their home ground, Avenel



DON LUGG
1969 - 1982

**HIGH SCHOOL TO
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Don Lugg was principal of the Seymour Technical High School for fourteen years between 1969 and 1982.

During these years Don Lugg's educational depth, leadership strength and profound commitment to the school brought about significant progress.

Don was born and grew up in East Coburg, some two kilometres from where he is now enjoying his well-earned retirement. Don's father was a draper and his family lived in a residence behind the drapery. While his peers dreamed of becoming league footballers or pilots, Don "always wanted to be a teacher." In the shed in the back yard behind the drapery Don would hold classes mimicking his teachers and practising the skills which came instinctively to him.

Unlike many of his peers, Don revelled in school and the joys of learning. Having completed years 1 to 8 at Moreland Central, Don transferred to the stately red brick Coburg High School where he undertook years 9, 10 and 11 and gained a scholarship. Don's academic promise gained him entry into the prestigious Melbourne High School where he matriculated.

Following the award of a tertiary scholarship Don undertook a Science degree at Melbourne University between 1944 and 1946 and subsequently a Diploma of Education in 1947.

Like countless of his predecessors and successors, Don began his teaching career in the country. Between 1948 and 1950 he taught Science at the St. Arnaud High School. While Don taught, the district's youth about photosynthesis and magnetism during the week, he learnt about the delights of country life on the football field, tennis court and cricket ground on the weekends.

In 1951 Don was accepted into an International Teacher Exchange Program. His acceptance was particularly noteworthy as he had only taught for three years and the program stipulated five years teaching experience. The exchange provided Don with the invaluable experience of teaching at Ulverston Grammar School. During this period Don read and was influenced by Morton's "In Search of England". He also gathered data for use in preparation of a thesis for a Bachelor of Education which he completed in 1953.

In 1952 and 1953 Don returned to the classrooms where he had matriculated, teaching chemistry at Melbourne High School.

In the three year period between 1954 and 1956 Don returned on promotion to rural Victoria to teach Maths and Science at the Yallourn High School in Gippsland.

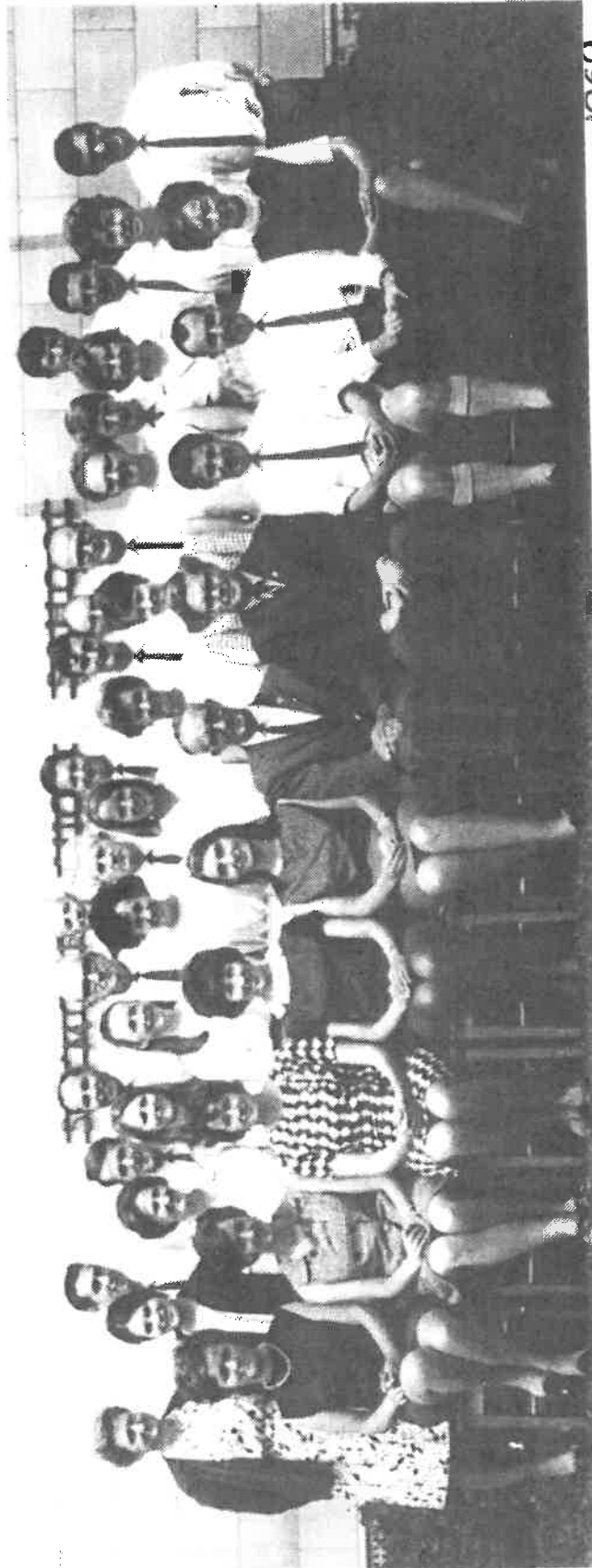
In late 1956 Don was invited to take up the position of lecturer in Methods of Science in the Faculty of Education at Melbourne University. This involved giving lectures to Science graduates in the Diploma of Education course, supervising their teaching practice in various



DOGGEREL MASQUE

Again my mask went on today
As I stepped out my door.
While I strode my way to school
I knew my mask was poor
Of other masks: some greeted me
Some covered up their eyes
Some looked behind, I didn't blush
It's me, I can't disguise.
Of the kids: my stare avoids
All but the horizon
Of concrete grey walls. As I walked
It was me they had their eyes on
When I arrived outside the class
Bold in my new persona
I fixed a gaze on everyone
And there I saw the Loner.
You've seen him sitting in your
class
Bundled in confusion
Anything he says or does
Is seen as weak intrusion.
Once inside when he sat down
My heart sat down beside him
"Here I am !" He screamed aloud
I had no heart to chide him.
My mask had slipped, all voices
rose
I fumbled for my script
"Quiet Class!" I screamed ad lib
By now my mask was ripped.
You're not cruel, they said
We know that you can't make us
Do anything we don't want to do
You know that you can't break us.
I knew I shouldn't break them
There is a better way
If they could only understand
The words I want to say.
I grasped my mask and peeled it
off
And showed I could be strong
"Put it back, you can't be seen
Without your mask. It's wrong."
But the mask came down
Loner saw me understand
I'll never put it on again
And all ways bare-faced stand.
As I looked at my broken mask
Faces passed before me
Of teachers I have known
Who shaped my masking for me
Their faces now I know aren't mine
A mask cannot assure me
No more can I the scripted line
Speak, without it bore me.

G. Harvey (Staff). 1979



schools around Melbourne and taking a couple of classes at University High School which were used for demonstration lessons presented to the graduate students. He recalls this as a "brilliant" arrangement as his daily classroom teaching ensured that his teacher instruction was relevant and more importantly current.

In 1966 and 1967 Don worked with UNESCO in Africa. He was charged with the responsibility of introducing Science education in all 25 secondary schools in Lesotho which was previously known as Basuto Land. This entailed developing a Science curriculum, instituting teacher training and designing and overseeing the construction of Science laboratories. As this was extremely mountainous country with elevations over twelve thousand feet above sea level, Don frequently travelled between schools by plane.

Even though he had been appointed as Principal of the Broadford High School in 1966 he did not assume the position until 1968.

In late January 1969 Don Lugg and his family moved into the Principal's residence at 18 Progress Street and so began a period of great development for our school community.

To this day Don has two indelible memories of his arrival at the school. The first was of the typically polite and courteous June Gadd "up in arms" about the sick bay. Apparently at that time sick kids were relegated to a curtained off area at the rear of the kitchen in room 34. (Appreciating the dramatic improvement in student health when the recent refurbishment forced the relocation of the sick bays to the open corridor adjacent to the staffroom, perhaps there was some wisdom in the very public and supervised kitchen arrangements.)

The second recollection relates to a profusion of blackened chewing gum marks on the corridor floors. Undaunted by the informal school hierarchy, Don summoned the head cleaner and ordered that the gum be removed before the start of school and in doing so established his authority in the school.

While always keeping academic excellence at the forefront of the school's objectives - Don Lugg rightly believes that sport plays a very important role in the functioning and well-being of a school. During his years at the Seymour Technical High School he did a great deal to promote sport. In discussions with students travelling by train to Shepparton for a school sports meeting in 1969, Don became acutely aware that these students expected defeat and had no aspirations to excel and win their events. He recognised a need to change this negative attitude in the school. Conscious that the school was numerically outclassed by the larger Shepparton schools against whom it played, Don negotiated for Seymour Technical High School to enter an association comprising Broadford, Euroa, Yea, Alexandra and Mansfield.

Motivated by the firm belief that what a school does "publicly, it does well", Don encouraged, and when need be insisted, that all students representing the school in sports and other events should wear a school uniform. The two portable classrooms located on Grant Street currently known as 29A and B were originally army huts which Don relocated as table tennis rooms for students.

The Seymour Technical High School would be one of very few state secondary schools to boast squash courts. These facilities stand as a tribute to Don Lugg's commitment to sport and students. Having successfully applied for an Education Department "two for one" sporting facilities grant, Don sought the students' opinion. It was the resounding response of the students that squash courts should be built. The then Minister of Education, Lindsay



Back Row L to R

I. Beilharz, A. Spkye, G. Osborne, S. Sexton, P. Wolfe, J. Leigh, L. Robertson, L. Duncan, P. Westh, M. Wallis, M. Clarey, L. Bryne, M. Bas, M. Tuckwell, C. Brough, J. Indian, J. White, J. Gadd, H. Inningworth, H. Burns, B. S. C. Millard, V. Mullins, J. Mountford, P. Richardson, V. Stephens, D. Lugg, C. Earl, C. Smith, K. W. Paterson.



Back Row L to R

G. Showell, K. Fletcher, A. Kent, C. Beer, J. Powney, P. Smith, R. Bassett, B. Millard, F. Taylor, R. Fullerton, G. Harvey, S. Westh, W. Youl, J. Bold, J. Slenfer, R. Foyle, G. Liddell, P. Houston, L. Vague, J. Tuckwell, T. Johnston, R. Alexander, B. Grinton, T. Dunn, N. Moreland, R. Cornthwaite, S.R. McLean, P. Phillips, D. Lugg, C. Skidmore, A. I. P. Langton, S.F. McLean.

Thompson, took a "dim view" of the squash courts proposal advocating the more popular swimming pool concept. But Don held firm and the squash courts materialised in Grant Street. Not only have these squash courts been regularly used by students over the years, but their widespread community use has contributed to the central role the school plays in the Seymour district.

It is perhaps in the area of buildings and facilities that Don Lugg made his greatest contribution to the Seymour Technical High School. During his fourteen years as principal Don's commitment to the school and endeavour brought about enormous capital works.

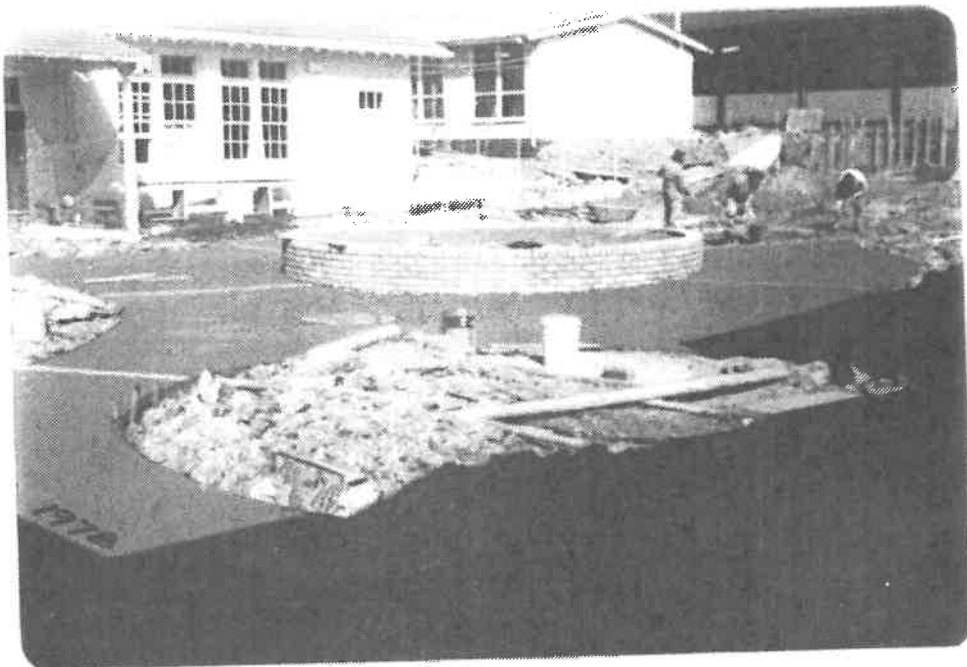
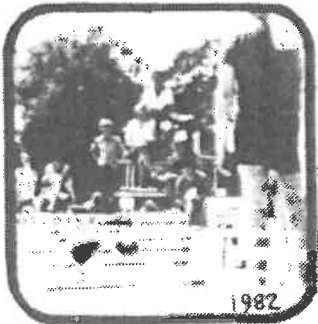
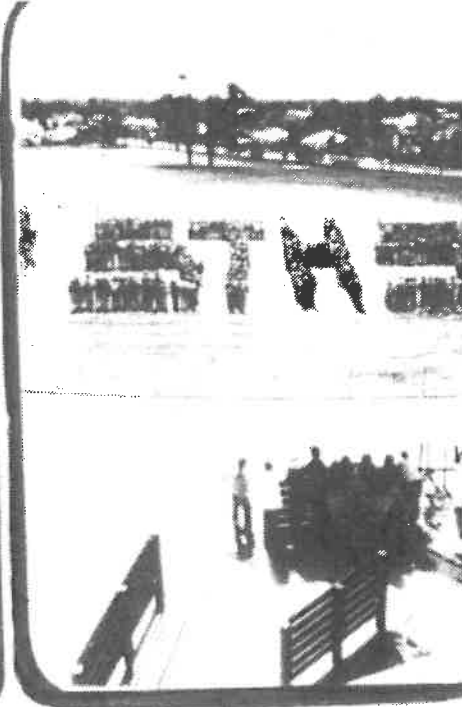
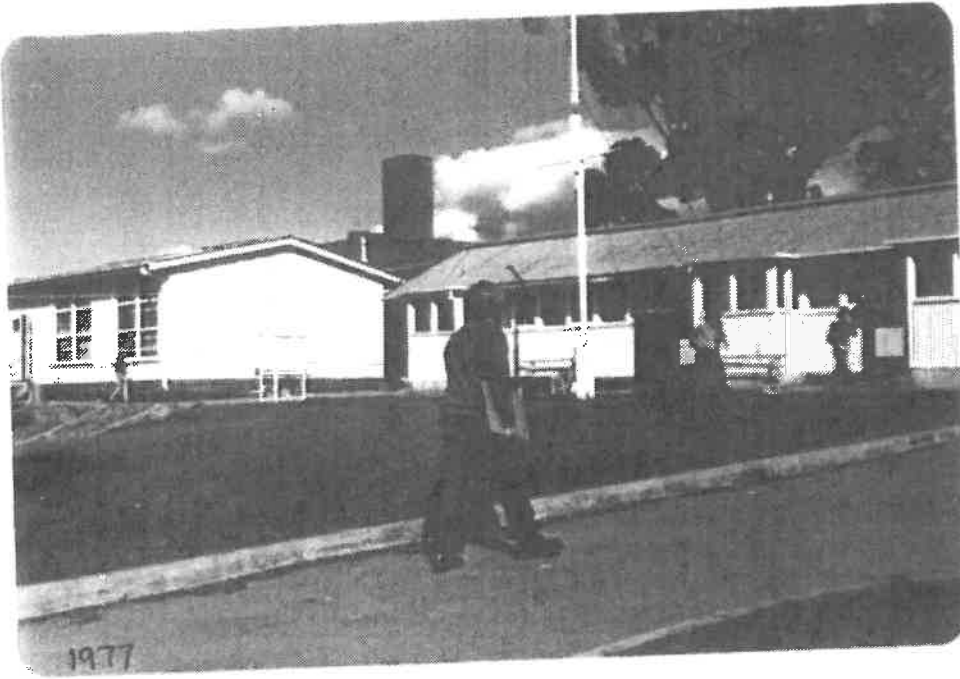
In 1972 the J. R. Carroll school hall which has effectively become Seymour's Town Hall was officially opened by The Minister of Education, The Honourable Lindsay Thompson. Those who have been involved with the school for some time would probably recall that it was originally planned to construct the hall on the then south-eastern corner of the grounds. However a timely "land trade" enabled a larger hall to be constructed adjacent to Grant Street.

In 1980 two large Science rooms and an adjoining storeroom, preparation room were added to the western end of the existing Science wing and named after a former Vice Principal and ex student Gavin Crowl.

Similarly, to accommodate expanding enrolments two extra classrooms were built onto the eastern end of the front wing and became the new Commerce and Business Studies faculty. In 1979 the Commonwealth library, English rooms 18 and 19 and the expansive two storied Humanities wing (which was named after Don Lugg) were constructed. The Technical wing was named after Lloyd Sweatman who served the school as a Woodwork teacher for 34 years and became much admired and loved by the school community. It is ironically pleasing to note that Lloyd's daughter Elizabeth (Mazurek) who was head prefect in 1971 now teaches Art in the rooms in which her father taught Woodwork before the construction of the "Tech wing".

Of all of Don Lugg's achievements, his orchestration of the siting and construction of the "Tech wing" and the emergence of the Seymour Technical High School exemplify his administrative expertise. In the early '70's Don visited and admired the Technical facility at the Kyneton Technical High School. Greatly impressed, he resolved to provide a similar facility for Seymour. Having successfully applied for a grant, a serious difference of opinion emerged in the town. The then Seymour Shire Council asserted that a separate Technical School should be constructed on Delatite Road. In stark contrast, the school council argued that a Technical facility should be constructed on the High School grounds. A public meeting was called at which Don Lugg and the then Director of Technical Education, Ted Jackson, would put the conflicting views. Don Lugg spoke first and articulately, in fact so persuasively that Ted Jackson declared that he had been convinced by Don's case and declined to argue against it. The recent wholesale amalgamation of High and Technical schools in Melbourne suburbs and country towns perhaps vindicates Don Lugg's pragmatism of twenty years ago.





Historically, it is interesting to record that once it was agreed to build the "Tech wing" at the school, suggestions were made that the Grant Street Primary School should be relocated to Priestley Crescent. These suggestions were predictably not warmly received by the Grant Street school council of the time.

When moved to reminisce about the "Tech wing", Don makes a point of discerning between High/Tech and Tech/High. His clear preference for the latter and the subtleties it embodies underscores Don's educational philosophies and his profound commitment to his school at the time.

It is interesting to note that in 1994 a movement emerged within the staff to abandon the Technical High School name in favour of the then popular Secondary College identity. This heresy produced a passionate response reminiscent of Don Lugg's address to the Town meeting! Seymour Technical High School stands proudly today as one of a select few, if not the only, true Technical High School in the state. As such, it is ideally situated for the rapid expansion of VET - Vocational Education Training.

When asked about his greatest achievements at the Seymour Technical High School, Don Lugg proffers the J. R. Carrol Assembly Hall, the "Tech wing", the pursuit of excellence and "improving the school spirit" and bringing about a "more civilised school environment". It is in this last area that Don's educational beliefs are most relevant and evident. He has a great regard for teachers and proudly declares that he "admires most teachers" and laments that the community at large tends to "undervalue" the commitment and achievements of schools and their staff.

Don freely admits that he "has a healthy contempt for authority", especially when that authority is in conflict with the interests of his school. In addition to their academic pursuits, Don believes students gain enormously from extra-curricular involvement. He took great pride from the very successful productions the school presented while he was principal, productions such as Genesis 39, FTP, A Simple Goes On. He is full of praise of McLean, Peter Rich, Sandy Skidmore for their tireless productions.

Twist Of Fate and The Beat
such people as Stewart
Sexton and Colin
work in these



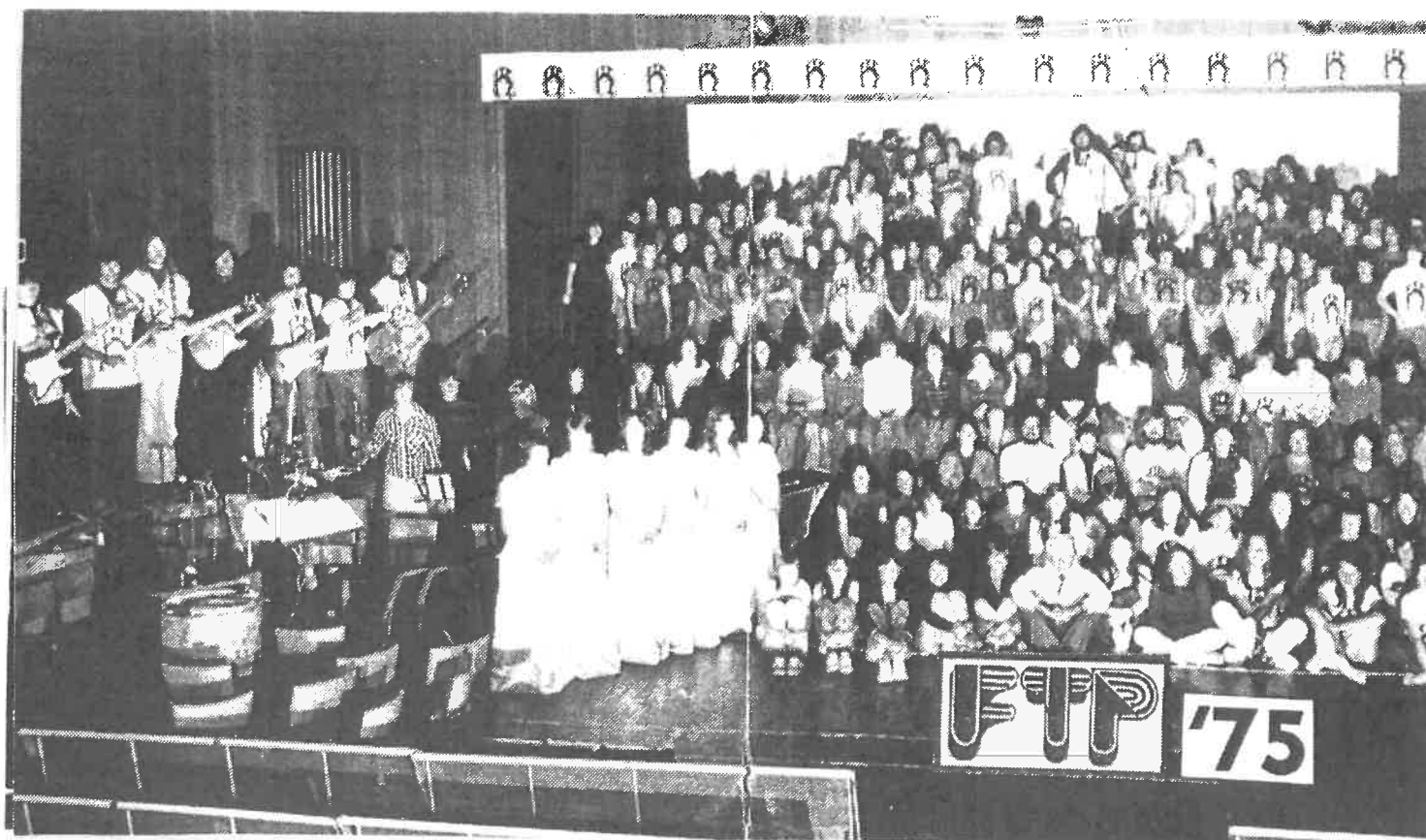
On a personal note, Don and his wife Shirley take pride in the fact that each of their four children was educated at the Seymour Technical High School. Sons, Andrew and Brian and daughter Helen have respectively become a forrester, surveyor and National Australia Bank employee. Born and raised with chalk in her veins daughter Alison has followed her father's footsteps and lectures in Outdoor Education in the Education Faculty at LaTrobe University. Above all, Don Lugg derived satisfaction from challenging underachieving students to excel themselves by enhancing their self esteem. Perhaps, Don's entire approach to education and students is best summed up in one of his often quoted statements, "It does a school well to have a few wins!"

Even though Don Lugg was a tireless worker for the Seymour Technical High School, his endeavours and accomplishments extended well beyond the school. Within the Seymour community Don was a regular attendee at the Uniting Church, an active member of the Rotary Club, coordinator of the junior tennis competition, a district football umpire, foundation secretary of the Seymour Junior Football Club and a Freemason.

Professionally, Don Lugg was respected throughout the State. In 1980 he was elected as President of the High School Principals Association.

The young lad who had taught invisible classes in the backyard shed some thirty years later produced text books which would be used across the state including "Getting Science Across" and "Pursuit of Science"; the second he co-authored with his colleague George Rowney.

Having served the Seymour Technical High School for fourteen years and repeatedly proven his adage, "that it does a school well to have a few wins", Don Lugg was appointed as Principal of the Correspondence School in Melbourne in 1983 where he continued his extremely distinguished career until he retired in 1986.



GRAEME WATSON

1983 - 1993

AN ERA OF SUSTAINED GROWTH AND STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

Graeme Watson was Principal of the Seymour Technical High School for ten years between 1983 and 1993. During this period the school experienced enormous growth and development. Enrolments alone increased from 830 to 1160.

Like his predecessor, Graeme Watson undertook a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University, between 1958 and 1960.

Graeme's first teaching appointment was at the Castlemaine High School where he taught Maths and Science between 1961 and 1963. It was in Castlemaine that Graeme married his wife Elsa.

Between 1964 and 1969 Graeme taught at the Cohuna High School in the Murray Valley. At Cohuna he was promoted to head of the Science faculty. Country cricket and football clubs take a keen interest in annual teaching appointments and the Cohuna Union Football Club wasted no time in recruiting Graeme into their senior side.

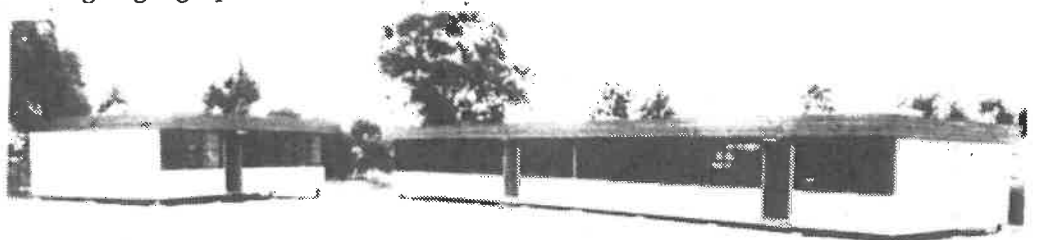
In 1970 Graeme returned to the city to teach at the Nunawading High School. Even though demographics have since lead to the closure and residential subdivision of Nunawading, at that time it attracted an enrolment of some 1200 students. Graeme recalls that the presence of numerous Monash University lecturers' children at the school helped to create a very progressive and exciting environment.

Having taught predominantly in rural and outer suburban areas, Graeme transferred to the Flemington High School in 1971 where he taught until 1973.

In 1974 Graeme was appointed as senior school coordinator at the Shepparton High School. Thus began Graeme Watson's twenty year educational commitment and service to the Goulburn Valley.

Five years later in 1979 Graeme was appointed as Deputy Principal at the Mooropna High School on the other side of the Goulburn River. Having barely accustomed himself to his Deputy Principal role, Graeme Watson was elevated to Acting Principal when the substantive Principal was appointed as General Manager of the Goulburn North Eastern Region. Graeme served as Acting Principal at the Mooropna High School until he was appointed as Principal at the Nathalia High School in 1982.

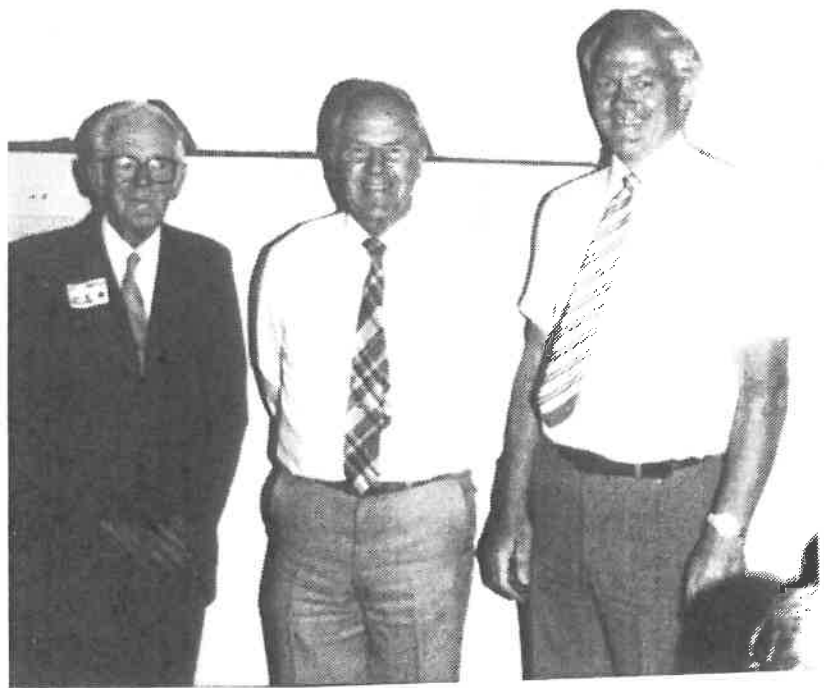
In 1983 Graeme Watson was appointed to the Seymour Technical High School. Graeme's appointment as Principal ushered in a decade of profound growth and development. The status the Seymour Technical High School attained under Graeme Watson's principalship attracted increased student enrolments from an enlarged geographical area.



1989



Graeme Watson recalls three distinct impressions on his arrival at the Seymour Technical High School. First, the rich diversity of the teaching staff. Having taught exclusively in High Schools, Graeme was really impressed by the rich amalgam of academic and practical staff offered by the school which at that time was one of only sixteen Technical High Schools in the state. Secondly, he was taken by the history and tradition of the school as reflected in the number of long-standing staff such as June Gadd, Joyce White, Lynne Byrne, Marg Tuckwell, Miram Wallis and Noel Moreland. Moreover, there were a number of students who had returned to teach in the school such as June Gadd, Joyce White, Rob Brown, Liz Mazurek (Sweatman) and Jane Alwis (Darbyshire). And thirdly, Graeme was conscious of, but not entirely at ease with, the academic stringency of the school. He recalls feeling for those students who were repeating a year level for a second time.



Conscious that there was a huge drop off in kids after year 10 to the point that there were only 25 students in year 12 in 1983, Graeme resolved to broaden the curriculum to better cater for senior students and their diverse interests and requirements. To this end Graeme organised the extension of technical or practical subjects through to year 12 in the mid 1980's.

Conscious that academic courses are not suited to all students, Graeme orchestrated the introduction of a T12 program in 1985. Under the coordination of Barry Franklin and Noel Moreland, participants in the practical course undertook a wealth of projects which were very beneficial to the community. Memorable among these initiatives were the construction of a recreational area at the Seymour Hospital incorporating a bird aviary, a pavilion at the Northwood Tennis Club, garden watering systems at the school and at the hospital, shelters at the Seymour Bowling Club, the beautification of Rotary Park and a conservation project at the Seymour Bushland Park.

As a Technical High School, Seymour offered apprenticeship courses in Carpentry, Farming and Motor Mechanics. These courses were conducted in the expansive and very well equipped Technical Wing and were administered from portable classrooms cum offices first located actually on the acquired section of Grant Street and subsequently relocated to the corner of Loco and Anglesey Streets.

The alcove or recess at the front of the school has long invited building proposals. Totally committed to apprenticeship courses and strongly opposed to their removal from the school, Graeme Watson wanted to construct a TAFE administration centre in this wasted space. (It is pleasingly ironic to note that tradesmen who served their apprenticeships in the school returned to convert four relocated classrooms into a long awaited school entrance and administration area in that self same alcove in the year of the school's 50th Anniversary.)

Graeme Watson's commitment to broadening and enriching the school's curriculum motivated him to forward the Seymour Technical High School as pilot school in the introduction of the Victorian Certificate of Education. The school's earlier adoption of a semester system in years 11 and 12 was structurally advantageous in piloting the VCE. Graeme believes that the commitment, expertise and hard work of staff such as Ron Bassett, Bruce Nixon and John Manley were instrumental in the school gaining statewide recognition as a VCE pilot school.

When Graeme Watson arrived in the school in 1983 the then 830 students were accommodated in permanent classrooms. There were no portables. However the school's steady growth required the importation of numerous portables. Bill Richardson and his low loaders progressively installed something like 15 relocatable classrooms. The top basketball court, the oval embankment, the asphalt area at the western end of the Tech Wing, the quadrangle behind room 1, and the closed off section of Grant Street became sites for portables. Graeme Watson took advantage of the influx of portables by placing a number on the far side of the Mollison Oval to establish the year 12 block. Graeme recalls the installation of the Year 12 portable toilet block with wry amusement. It seems that Brenton Ross, the Principal of the Benalla Technical School where the block was located but not often used, flatly refused to relinquish it to Seymour. Apparently, Graeme drove Brenton to a two day Principal's Conference in Ballarat. When they returned to Seymour Graeme aligned his car lights on the hurriedly relocated and plumbed toilet block to which Brenton retorted, "you b.....".



Around S.T.H.S.
1988



The steady and marked increase in the school's size also presented organisational and management challenges. Committed to consultative decision making processes and the delegation of responsibility, Graeme approached these challenges as opportunities. He established school structures and processes which entrusted unprecedented levels of responsibility to year level coordinators and faculty leaders. Similarly, concerned that the school's committee structure did not exclude young teachers, Graeme insured that through his nomination prerogatives young teachers were included in the membership of key committees such as the Consultative Committee. Mindful of the future of state education and particularly his school, Graeme took great heart at the quality of young teachers entering the profession such as Jo Whiteman (Spencer), Jo Treanor and Caroline Fletcher (Lodwick).

Graeme Watson believes that one of the great strengths of the Seymour Technical High School has been its commitment to providing a wealth of extra curricular activities for students. He proudly recalls the efforts of such people as Chris Beer with canoeing; Ron Bassett in cadets and rowing; Mike Busby with student and staff bushwalking; David Mills with the RACV Energy Breakthrough; Loretta Duncan, Colin Smith, Trevor Campbell and Liz Mazurek with Rock Eisteddfods; Colin Smith, Sandy Sexton and Colin Skidmore with School Productions and June Fletcher and the Student Breakfast program.

Graeme Watson's extensive experience and expertise as a principal rendered him invaluable at regional and state levels of educational policy development and administration. In 1984 he was appointed and served as a Senior Education Officer with the Goulburn North Eastern Region. In 1985 and 1986 he was selected with the then Assistant General Manager, Ray Hocking, to attend the Institute of Education Administration in Geelong. Between 1990 and 1992 Graeme was appointed to the State Forum which was basically charged with the responsibility of formulating State Education Department policies. In 1993, Graeme was coopted onto the Directorate of School Education Committee which devised the Schools of the Future initiative which has dramatically increased the autonomy and responsibility of schools. It is pertinent to note that one of the central thrusts of the Schools of the Future initiative was sound financial management of schools. Graeme Watson was exemplary in this area. In fact, Graeme's prudent financial management enabled the school to accumulate substantial reserves which became the spring board for a concerted capital works program in the 1990's. The Graeme Watson Physical Education Centre opened in 1994 stands as a testament to Graeme's financial expertise and his enormous contribution to the Seymour Technical High School over ten years.

While Graeme Watson became recognised state wide as an exemplary educational administrator, he always retained his affection for students and the "classroom." In fact he managed to squeeze Maths Problem Solving classes into his busy schedule. However, according to the current Maths Coordinator who shall remain nameless, Beth Busby, Judith Parnaby, Marie Rossiter and Robyn Hockley were frequently hurriedly conscripted into "solving the problems" before the classes.

On reflection Graeme Watson perceives his challenges as principal of the Seymour Technical High School between 1983 and 1993 as sixfold:

- to broaden and enrich the curriculum, especially for senior students
- to procure staff and buildings for an increasing enrolment
- to cater for the particular needs of army kids, some of whom could have attended as many as six schools. To enable the school to better respond to the needs of these students, Graeme commissioned Prue Smith to research their situation and produce a thorough going report
- to assist the school community to adjust to a period of profound change
- to provide students with educational and employment opportunities in a period of economic downturn
- to focus the school's energies on people as well as resources.

In October 1993 Graeme Watson retired from the Victorian Education Department to pursue new challenges in private enterprise.

Some five years after his retirement Graeme reflects that what he misses most about schools is working with a number of different people in the interest of kids.





Recognition should be given to our
 future star basketball players who
 performed very well at GSSSA and
 GSSAA. They
 Most notably, Jeffery James, who
 received first place in the
 2000 lb. weight
 lifting competition
 at the GSSAA
 Sports Center.



Janine Pitman
Colin Holt SPORTSMAN/SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR



**Winners
 1991**



BILL BREARLEY

1994 - PRESENT

"FLOURISHING AT 50"

Bill Brearley was invited to act as Principal of the Seymour Technical High School in January 1994. He vividly recalls visiting the school in early January to be briefed by Assistant Principal Jim Tuckwell. Having taken Bill on a guided tour of the school and detailed the all-important staffing situation, Jim, almost as an after-thought, mentioned that the council was about to commence constructing a combined Physical Education and Performing Arts Centre of which the regional office of the Department of Education was not really aware.

Having acted as caretaker Principal for six months Bill was permanently appointed to the position in June 1994.

Bill was born in Bowral, the birthplace of Sir Donald Bradman, in 1948 the year the Seymour Higher Elementary School became the Seymour High School.

Unlike his successive predecessors Graeme Watson, Don Lugg, and Ray Carroll who were all Science graduates, but like the school's founding principal, John Mollison, Bill was a Bachelor of Arts graduate.

Having completed a Diploma of Education at the Hawthorn Teachers College, which was the old Technical Teachers College, Bill began his teaching career at the Hamilton Technical School in the Western District in 1975.

In Hamilton Bill developed a great appreciation of and allegiance to the technical school system and country technical schools in particular. He came to believe that the wealth of facilities, breadth of courses and diversity of staff offered by such country technical schools enabled them to cater for the full and rich gambit of students in their communities. The recent emergence and dramatic growth of Vocational Educational Training (VET) courses suggests that secondary schools do themselves and more importantly their students a serious dis-service when they fail to respect and cater for the rich diversity of students' interests, abilities and ambitions.





Having taught at Hamilton till 1984, Bill was promoted to Senior Teacher at the Castlemaine Technical College and subsequently became Assistant Principal at the Shepparton South Technical School in 1988. While Bill envies colleagues who have taught exclusively in one school for the better part of their careers and the roots they have been able to sink in these communities, he also appreciates the opportunity his career has afforded him to experience living in very different country towns and developing acquaintances and friendships in each. The rural conservatism of Hamilton, the historical depth and architectural beauty of Castlemaine, the economic vibrancy of Shepparton and the military and railway heritage of Seymour have debunked Bill's belief that all country towns are the same and provided him with a wealth of valued lifetime experiences.

Bill Brearley came to the Seymour Technical High School at a very interesting and challenging juncture in the school's history. A unique and paradoxical set of external and internal circumstances ushered, and in some cases, necessitated far-reaching and not always welcome change.

On the one hand the "economic rationalism" of the Liberal Government visited unprecedented levels of financial and curricular accountability through the Schools of the Future initiative. Similarly, the "rationalisation" of the railways, the withdrawal of the First Armoured Regiment from Puckapunyal and a decline in the rural economy combined to reduce enrolments

which in turn had an impact on the school's staffing and finances. On the other hand, the school's substantial financial reserves accumulated by the economic stewardship of Graeme Watson and previous councils and a corresponding wealth of extremely committed, enterprising and capable staff and council members enabled the Seymour Technical High School to take great strides in the areas of buildings and grounds, student welfare and curriculum and very much deserve its status as an Intake One - School of the Future.

Under the experienced and dedicated coordination of John Manley the Curriculum Committee introduced a series of initiatives which rendered the school's total curriculum more responsive to the breadth of student needs. As a Technical High School, Seymour is able to offer a broader curriculum than the typical secondary college. To ensure that junior students gained sufficient experience in the wealth of subjects offered across the eight key learning areas to assist them in making informed subject selections later, the curriculum committee introduced a two year program in years 7 and 8. Increasingly conscious that the typical horizontally structured year 9 and 10 curriculum was failing to take account of the emerging differences in student interest, ability and ambition Bruce Nixon and the Curriculum Committee introduced the Middle School Program in 1996. Being the only secondary college in the Seymour district, the Seymour Technical High School can deservedly claim to meet the diverse post primary educational needs of the entire community. In 1996 the school introduced the Joint Transition Program in conjunction with the

Seymour Special School. Under the coordination of Rhonda Menhennet and subsequently Megan Aumann and the supervision of Gail McCarthy, Heather Robinson and Cath Burke, Special School students would attend classes from a



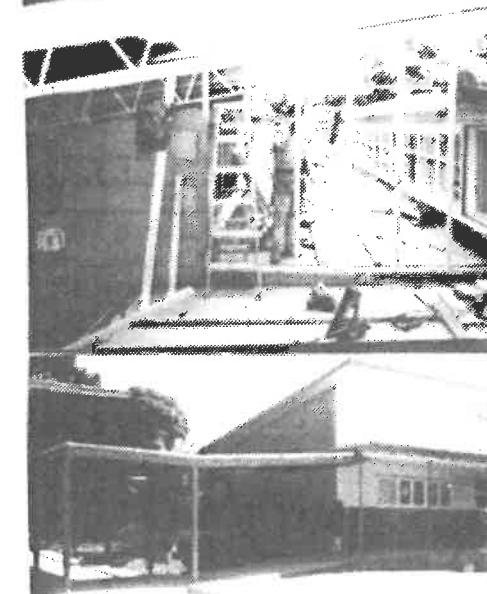
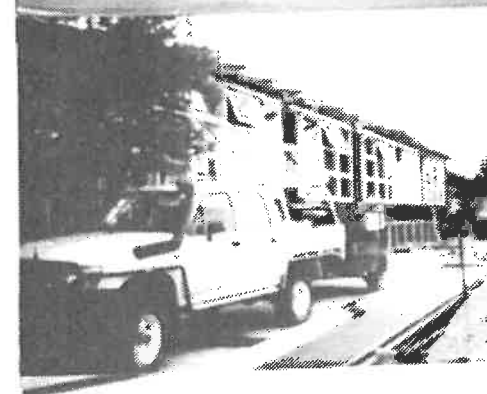


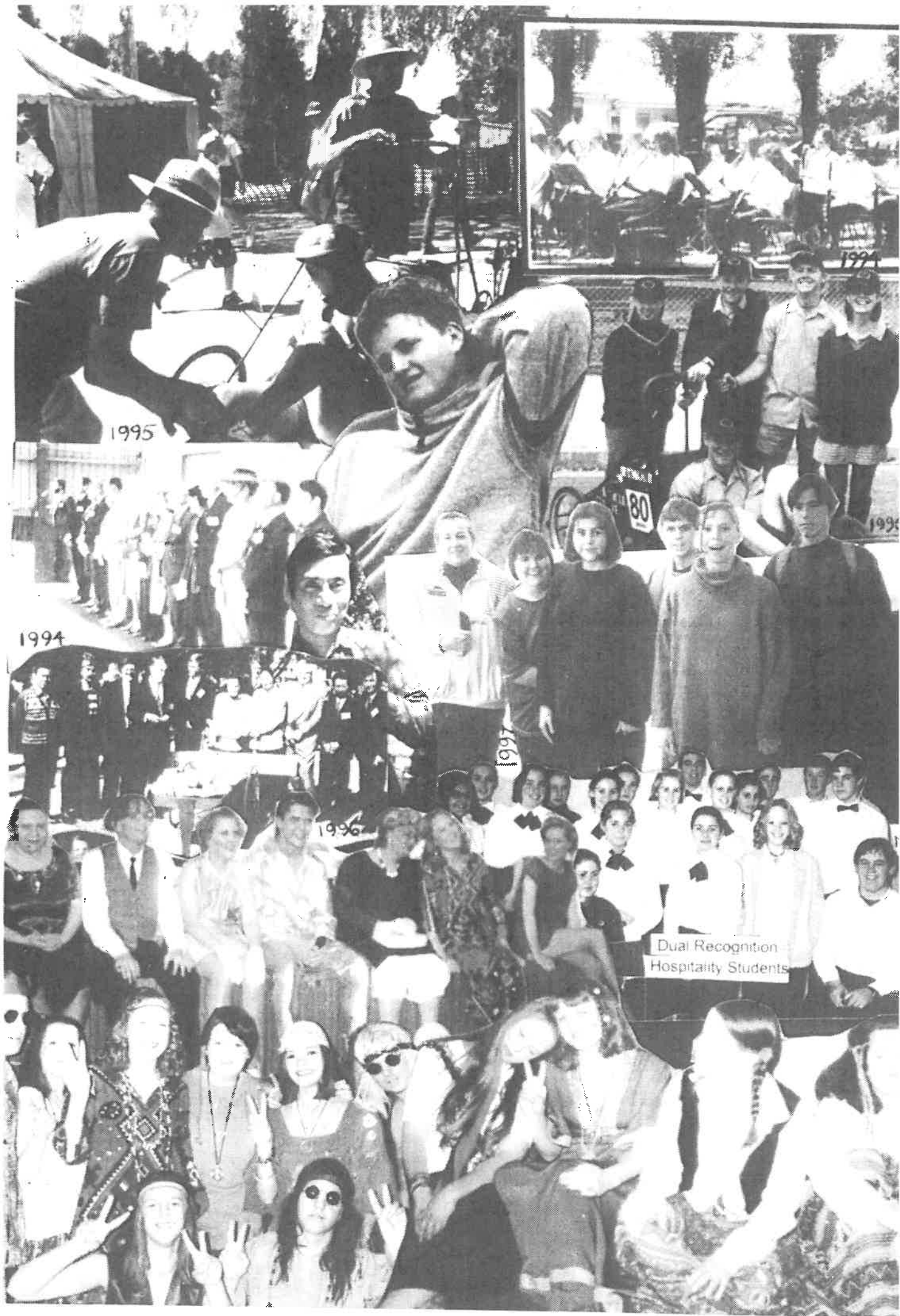
base room located in the offices on the second floor of the Don Lugg Humanities Wing.

One of the basic aims of the VCE was to establish a degree of academic comparability between subjects. Which the VCE was fundamentally successful in this respect, this success tendered to be at the expense of practical or technical subjects and the students they had traditionally attracted. Determined to redress this imbalance the Seymour Technical High School under the purposeful coordination of Judy Snodgrass introduced a number of Vocational Educational Training (VET) courses in the late 1990's including Catering and Hospitality, Office Administration, Information Technology and Automotive Studies.

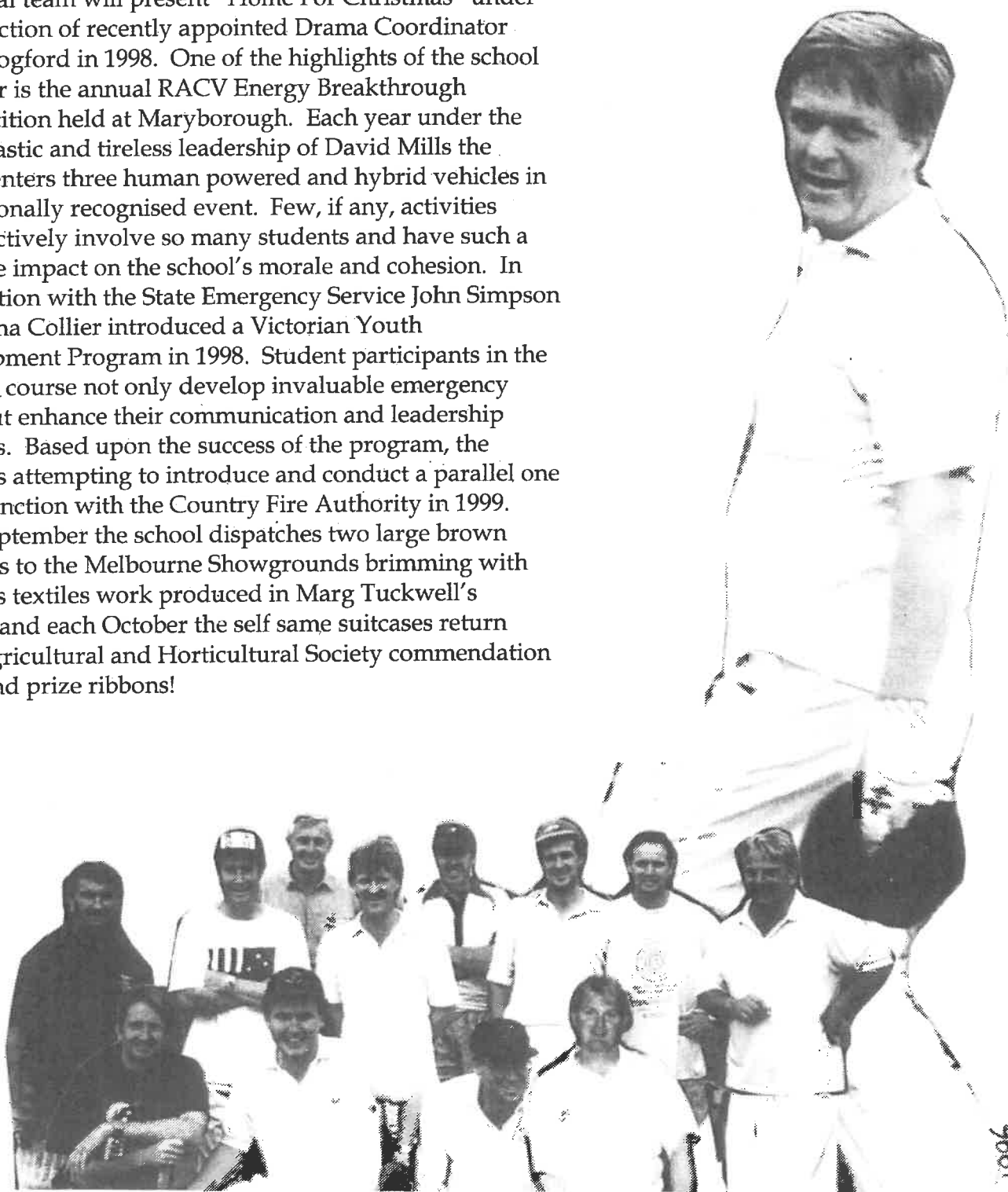
Conscious that a student's scholastic performance is underpinned by her or his welfare and well-being the Student Welfare Coordinator, Mrs Trudi Lavoipierre, in liaison with the Student Welfare and Management Committee introduced a number of initiatives during the 1990's. In 1995 the Student Forum was established to ensure that students could have an input in the school's decision making processes and daily operation. In 1996 Mrs Lavoipierre and the Student Forum re-introduced the Student Breakfast Program. Each morning during the long, cold winter months "Mrs Lav", as she has become affectionately known, Maree Ginn, Canteen Manager, and Student Forum members serve orange juice, hot milo and toast to as many as a hundred students. The physical realities and constraints of the classroom: the 7m x 9m configuration, the one teacher to up to 30 students ratio and 48 minute classes are unfortunately totally inappropriate for some students. For various reasons a minority of students are unable to operate productively under these circumstances and worse still obstruct the learning of others. To particularly cater for the special needs of such students the Student Welfare and Management Committee and Trudi Lavoipierre established the Extension Program in portable 51 in 1997. Under the supervision of Edwina Austin and then Prue Smith particularly invited students combined literacy, numeracy and social skills classes in room 51 with selected classes from the normal timetable. Senior Constable, Jeff Ranger, better known as "Senior Jeff" to the kids conducted special outdoor programs, such as abseiling, for the students on Wednesdays.

The increasing uncertainty and disquiet of the 1990's have rendered John Mollison's exhortation to the school in the 1948 Spirit to be mindful of scholastic and social development of students even more salutary.





While most students gain a great deal from classroom lessons, it is often the extra curricular activities which they remember and which bond them to their school and their colleagues. It is an unfortunate reality that the schools of the 1990's are less able to provide such enriching activities and experiences. In the face of this reality the Seymour Technical High School has thankfully been able to continue to offer a wealth of extra-curricular activities to students and in some cases parents. Mr. Fuhrmeister, whose genuine concern for kids allows him to develop a natural rapport with them, has organised the school's End of Year Program and annual interstate trips. As coordinator of The Arts, Trevor Campbell conducted an Arts and Technology Exhibition aptly named "Works In Progress" in 1997. Under the direction of Julie King and with the support of Colin Skidmore, Kathy Elston, Megan Aumann, Jane Alwis, Marg Tuckwell, Sue Brearley and Helen Newton the school performed "Times Of Change" in 1994. With the welcome return of Ian Fraser basically the same theatrical team will present "Home For Christmas" under the direction of recently appointed Drama Coordinator Sally Mogford in 1998. One of the highlights of the school calendar is the annual RACV Energy Breakthrough Competition held at Maryborough. Each year under the enthusiastic and tireless leadership of David Mills the school enters three human powered and hybrid vehicles in the nationally recognised event. Few, if any, activities constructively involve so many students and have such a valuable impact on the school's morale and cohesion. In conjunction with the State Emergency Service John Simpson and Alma Collier introduced a Victorian Youth Development Program in 1998. Student participants in the V.Y.D.P. course not only develop invaluable emergency skills but enhance their communication and leadership qualities. Based upon the success of the program, the school is attempting to introduce and conduct a parallel one in conjunction with the Country Fire Authority in 1999. Each September the school dispatches two large brown suitcases to the Melbourne Showgrounds brimming with students textiles work produced in Marg Tuckwell's classes; and each October the self same suitcases return with Agricultural and Horticultural Society commendation cards and prize ribbons!



In 1994 The Member for Seymour, the Honourable Marie Tehan visited the Seymour Technical High School and announced at a special meeting of the Student Forum that the school would receive an eight hundred thousand dollar refurbishment grant. This announcement and a subsequent six hundred thousand dollar grant set in train an extensive building project for the school which has not only totally refurbished the buildings and grounds but provided a number of magnificent new facilities.

In October 1994 a spacious sports stadium incorporating a basketball court, netball court, four badminton courts, weight training area, table tennis mezzanine, shower and toilet facilities and an ample storage area was officially opened and named after the preceding Principal Graeme Watson. A very interesting incident took place during the construction of the Graeme Watson stadium which says a great deal about the Seymour Technical High School. When finances became strained, it was reluctantly decided to build a concrete floor in the complex. Conscious that such a surface would be injurious to students and at the suggestion of Greg Liddell a number of staff lent twenty thousand dollars to the school to install a Tasmanian Oak, semi-sprung, tongue and grooved floor.

With the conviction that Seymour Technical High School students should not be impeded in their learning by lack of access to information technology, the school council adopted a three year initiative in 1995 whereby a computer centre was centrally established in rooms 1, 2 and 8. To ensure that the learning technologies facilities in this centre are up-to-date, the council adopted a policy whereby the computers are continually replaced on a rotating two year cycle by manager Mark Boland.

A series of school amalgamations in Melbourne during the 1990's relinquished a number of schools to residential developments. While it was sad to see these proud schools close and it is questionable whether future demographics would have again filled their classrooms, their demolition provided an invaluable opportunity for enterprising schools such as ourselves. With projected enrolment increases, financial reserves and above all ingenuity, the school council under the Presidency of ex student Sandy Cresswell, relocated and transformed a progression of disused buildings. The photographic centre which was designed by Colin Smith and his Art colleagues and added on to the eastern end of the Art Wing in 1997 was removed from the Ferntree Gully Technical School. The student locker compound reconstructed between the squash courts and the tennis courts was previously a breezeway at the Wellington Primary School and the covered walkway servicing it was dismantled and removed from the Murrumbeena High School. Under the organisation of Assistant Principal David Slingo, Trudi Lavoipierre and Christy Rilen, and to the relief of locker manager David Nicholson, students sold thousand upon thousands of chocolates in 1998 to raise funds to purchase new, larger and most importantly more secure lockers. The spacious, attractive and functional new school entrance and administration area which was completed in 1998 was converted from four classrooms which were trucked in from the Wellington Primary School in outer suburban Melbourne. Similarly, the spacious new kitchen which replaced room 34 and the attractive new dining room with an expansive bay window were largely built from reclaimed building materials from closed Melbourne schools.

While the Seymour Technical High School gained enormously from the timely deployment of materials from closed schools, these gains were not entirely without personal expense; Principal Bill Brearley and Assistant Principals David Slingo and Jim Tuckwell became known as "Steptoe and Co."

In 1949 the State Public Works Department constructed a school bus driveway around the Mollison Oval. Buses would enter from behind the present year 12 block and collect and deposit students at stops around the oval and leave via the main entrance. However, enrolment increases and more and larger buses relegated "the buses" to Loco Street in front of the school. Unfortunately the narrowness of Loco Street and the profusion of pedestrians, bikes, cars and buses made before and after school extremely dangerous periods. Acutely conscious of the safety of students from both Grant Street Primary School and Seymour Technical High School representatives of the Mitchell Shire Council, Seymour Coaches, the Department of Public Infrastructure and both schools agreed to construct new and safer bus bays in Stewart Street. In the week preceding the schools 50th Anniversary celebrations to the great relief of bus coordinator Ian Chadwick primary and secondary students began using the new bus bays and shelters.

Having achieved considerable success in relocating buildings from closed schools and being applauded by The Premier, The Honourable Jeff Kennett as "the most enterprising school he had visited in twenty two years of politics", the school embarked on its most ambitious undertaking in April 1998. Determined to provide a Performing Arts Centre for school and ideally a Performing Arts, Culture and Civic Centre for the community, the school set about dismantling, transporting, storing and eventually reconfiguring a 40m x 20m stadium from the closed Kingsbury Secondary College. Local builders, plumbers, electricians, crane operators, security personnel, transport companies, principals, teachers, parents and students joined in the massive undertaking.

Whether the dismantled building will emerge as a school Performing Arts Centre on the triangular grassed area beside the cyprus lined drive or rise phoenix like as a fully fledged Performing Arts, Culture and Civic Centre remains to be seen.

However, one certainty remains; the school's determination to provide excellent facilities and a quality education for the Seymour community.



