

**BUNBURY SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL**



**60th
Anniversary**

1923 - 1983

BUNBURY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL — 1983

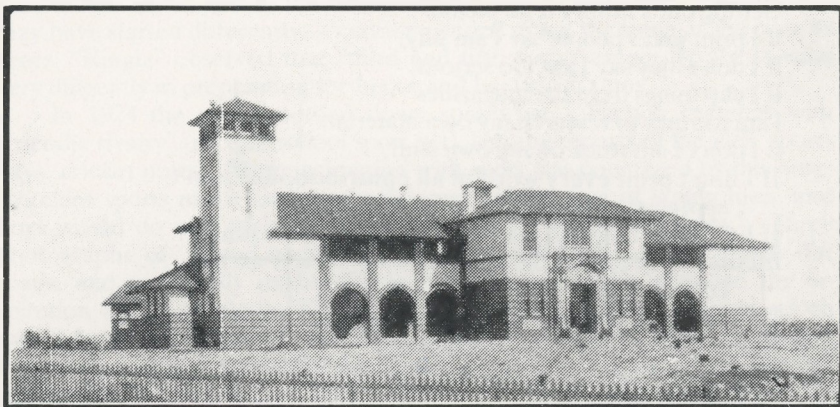


In the first part of this booklet the first fifty years of B S H S are recalled in the original 50th Anniversary edition

The "Sixth Decade" continues the story and brings us to our 60th Anniversary celebrations

"En Avant" B S H S '

BUNBURY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL — 1923



Ex students will probably disagree with what they read about the school during the period which they attended. This is as I see it from 20, 30, 40 or 50 years removed from when it happened.

The idea is to give continuity to the development of an institution of which most people see only five or less years of the fifty years for which it has existed.

I had no intention of writing a scholarly account of Bunbury Senior High School. It is sufficient to recall significant events, unique events, funny moments, sad moments. To avoid slighting anybody I have to a large extent refrained from naming names. Readers can relate their own experiences to what they read, and maybe remember things long forgotten, learn things they never knew. Here is a chronological pot-pourri of Bunbury Senior High School — fifty years of kids.

An Ex Student
Bunbury Senior High School

HISTORIAN'S DILEMMA

Getting out a history is no picnic.
If I print jokes people say I am silly,
If I don't they say I am too serious,
If I clip things from the magazines
I am too lazy to research my own material,
If I don't I am stuck on my own stuff,
If I don't print every word of all contributions I don't
appreciate genius,
If I do print them all the pages are filled with junk,
If I make a change in the other fellow's article I am too
critical,
If I don't I am blamed for poor editing.
Now, as like as not, some one will say
I swiped this from some other source—
I did.

Adapted with apologies—and thanks—to
Len Cantwell, "Kingia" editor 1965.

A great deal has happened in fifty years on that sandhill next to the town of Bunbury. For fifty years students have climbed that hill to go to school. By 1921 it seems Arthur Street school was inadequate and another school, to draw students from all over the South West, was planned. The site on Boulter's Heights was favoured by Sir James Mitchell, then Minister for Education. Plans went ahead, and a contract worth £15,000 was let to Totterdell & Sons for a two storey building, including eight classrooms, two science laboratories and a gymnasium (presently the hall).

On 6th February, 1923, one hundred and sixty-six students from all over the South West commenced school in the new building. On 9th February Sir James Mitchell, as Premier, with Mr. Colebatch (Minister for Education) opened the State's fourth Secondary School. And this event occurred on, "Kingia" reports, "a scorching hot day, when a climb up the sandhills was by no means enticing." Mr. Sherlock officially began his ten year stay as Head and had a staff of eleven.

The "Kingia," produced by prefects, noted that the school was "severely handicapped by (its) great distance from any other secondary school." About this time the Kingia was chosen as the school crest. The plant, "a native of South West Western Australia . . . is slow growing and can be very old." A photo of the school shows a very barren looking hill top, with the small building perched on top—as yet no trees or lawn—but later in the year great loads of couch grass and thousands of trees "of every conceivable and unpronounceable variety," were delivered.

Nineteen twenty-three clearly was different to any other year which followed. It was the year of beginnings: the P. & C. was formed, as was the

Ex-Students Association. The lack of a reference library was being rectified. Hospitality was not forgotten: the staff and upper school students entertained the officers and cadets of the Belgian training ship, "L'Avenir." While 1923 may have started differently, it certainly ended much the same as the next 49 years: "Kingia" observed that "third and fifth forms especially are stewing very diligently in preparation for Junior and Leaving Exams."

In 1924 the school settled down somewhat. Faction matches with "friendly rivalry" (no interschool sport yet), lengthy reports of the girls' sports days, cricket notes. A preoccupation with sport was countered by this note: "Modern sports make too great a demand on the time of young men, and boys would do well to keep the sterner side of life before them." Three photographs of "Views around Bunbury" showed two unidentifiable dirt roads, and an equally unidentifiable swamp. The radio provided the inspiration for an article in "Kingia." "We sit down before a cabinet which seems to us to contain a multitude of knobs, switches, brass plugs and figures and adjust the headphones to fit our ears . . . we try to **imagine** music . . . something resembling a voice . . . fascinating certainly." One other, setting a precedent for 50 years, complained of the evils of school magazines: "I can't write an article, there's nothing to write about." A great mystery in second term—"we have been expecting the arrival of a new mistress whose identity is clothed in mystery."

In 1925 the magazine expanded to three editions, and included lengthy sports critiques (so much for the warning of 1924). School equipment improved by the arrival of scientific apparatus and the "long awaited" electrically driven lathe. The first mention of ex students was made in 1925. Nine were teaching, one at college, one at University, four in the bank and one studying dentistry in Melbourne. The first annual swimming carnival was held: "to make it a great success keener competition and more entries will suffice in 1926." The girls sport was soundly organised for the first time by the appointment of Miss Burgess as sports mistress.

The size of the Oval was greatly increased by the hard work of second year boys, who later decided to build themselves some tennis courts. Even now shortage of accommodation caused sympathy to be extended to those who had to suffer lessons in "draughty vestibules." University Extension Lectures were held in 1927—"a wide range of subjects." As far as sport was concerned there was keen competition against other teams (businesses, other towns, ships) but not the success hoped for against other schools at Country Week in Perth. An article on the future school oval hoped to see the end of 1927's "miniature Sahara" and to see "beautiful grounds with luxurious dressing rooms, when everyone will have forgotten about unfortunate predecessors who had showers under the discoloured water of the antiquated gymnasium. A day will come perhaps when no one remembers the old stone cricket pitch." Does anyone, I wonder? The Ex Students had a special blazer made (45/- each) in 1927—an indication of the Association's strength.

In 1928 a bazaar was held instead of a concert. The school was also successful at Country High School Sports, winning football, hockey and

athletics, playing against Albany, Northam and Kalgoorlie. "Kingia," taken off guard, noted that it was "as gratifying as it was surprising." Miss V. Kealy, the 1923 Head Girl, returned as a teacher in 1929—apparently the first ex-student to do so. The cricket team was very strong and enthusiastic at this stage, although meeting with little success against local teams. Also in 1929 a Perth branch of the Ex Students Association was formed by Dr. Fowler, an ex-staff member who took a Ph.D. at London University. Two interesting articles appeared in "Kingia" in 1929. One of a trip to Brisbane which spoke of the unique events of "essaying" a drive across Australia "purely for pleasure." The other article called "Beautiful Bunbury" lauded the "most magnificent town in South West Western Australia, with a population of 5,000."

Two new classrooms, and a long awaited library were built for 1930—the only unhappy ones, the prefects, who considered this rather extended their duties. An article in "Kingia" on the North West mentioned Broome, "the metropolis of the North," and Port Hedland, "not an attractive place."

A future Principal (1963-64), G. Griffiths, was a prefect in 1931 and mentioned in the cricket critique as "a good slips fielder, but still loquacious." He starred with the bat however, making 94 against Hale School. The same year the P. & C. President gave a prize for the student "who has done the most unselfish work for the benefit of his or her school fellows."

At the depth of the depression, 1932, there was a drop in Lower School numbers, "one of the ways in which the general financial stringency is being felt in the school." But Upper School was the largest on record. "The closing down of mills and the curtailment of industries have had their effect. Regular avenues of employment are closed . . . higher qualifications are demanded." Hence a larger Upper School.

Although few details are given and the magazine was by and large cheerful, the depression must have been a trying time. Costs were necessarily reduced—small ways such as fewer photographs, less equipment. Nevertheless the school undertook a cricket tour in 1931/32 and played against Northam and Hale Schools. Also in 1932, Keith Hough, an ex-student, won the Sandover Medal.

The outstanding event of 1933 was the transfer of Mr. Sherlock and the appointment of Mr. Irvine as Headmaster.

In 1934 the magazines are missing and it may be that none were printed for reasons of cost. No one can remember if this was the case, or simply whether interest in the magazine died away. The Editorial of 1935 said in part "newspaper letters and articles on the lack of employment for youth are not calculated to make students look forward with eager anticipation to the future which appears rather more full of unpleasant problems than the present." School, beneath the facade of sporting clubs and cultural clubs—French, Camera, Drama for instance—must have had rather more problems than is apparent in looking back. However, life at school went on—school dances every two or three weeks, the gymnasium equipment

was renewed, the Stamp Club was revived by Mr. Davies-Moore and the Lower School, and the Dramatic Society was formed. As for the school itself "lawn was beginning to justify its name." Thanks were extended to Nicholsons Ltd. whose "kindness enabled (us) to hear the Jubilee Broadcast to schools."

In 1936 "very few dances owing to the ban on such by the staff." One wonders why. Observation was made of going to the "Talkies"—"not only do the films supply humour, but they are also instructive and help us to broaden our minds." Despite the 1930 extensions and a drop in numbers in 1932, the situation in 1937 was again one of overcrowding: the second time in 15 years that the school population had caught up with the accommodation. Evidently the fact that scholastic and sporting records had not suffered was enough to appreciate this expansion as a not altogether bad thing. (Enrolment in 1937 was three hundred and two). The commercial course for girls began in 1937 (provision for typewriters was a problem: these were purchased and one donated by Miss Mitchell). The Library also benefited during the year to the tune of eighty five new books. The great pendant that successive editors of "Kingia" had had for "Applied Quotations" fell somewhat in 1937: only three pages of them this year.

A standing arrangement was made in 1937 by which all students of Bunbury Primary School proceeded to the High School.

Another rise in enrolment heralded 1938: three hundred and forty in February. Commenting on this the School Notes said "people's outlook on life has perceptibly broadened during the last few years, and . . . most parents now aim at giving their children at least one year in a High School before they have to face the hardships of earning a living." This brought problems, with awkward solutions: classes in the gymnasium and locker rooms. An interesting insight into school life appeared: "the first three periods pass with ever increasing slowness, but on the last point of endurance, we are liberated for a whole quarter of an hour! (Another) two periods are passed between fits of dozing. Home to dinner next and relaxation till a quarter to two. The three periods of the afternoon are passed with reflection on the weekend. Then down to the beach, unless encumbered by the duties of music. Tuesday passes more brightly: sport in the afternoon.

The following year one of the original staff, Mr. Fowler, was appointed Head in Geraldton, the Brunswick bus service was begun, and overcrowding was so severe that there were three classes in the gymnasium. This situation was alleviated in 1940 by the addition of two classrooms and the east wing of three classrooms and a staff room. The woodwork room was not in the main building but on the western slope of the hill. At this time I am reliably informed that the "thing" to do amongst the more daring of the boys was to scale the wall outside the office block and scratch one's name or initials on the lead coursing there. "S. Richards" in fact could still be found, if one looked—which I haven't.

Bus services were extended to Harvey and Capel in 1941. The war was formally acknowledged in "Kingia" by including a list of ex-students

servicing with the forces—mostly in the R.A.A.F. On a more mundane level the Harvey bus had an accident with a telegraph pole resulting in one unfortunate spending eight weeks in hospital. Enrolment reached its peak: four hundred and nine.

Nineteen forty two brought a serious scare with Japan entering the war. "Great uncertainty . . . evacuate or not? . . . arrangements for billets in country in an emergency . . . daily evacuation practice . . . no swimming carnival (we especially missed the dance, but the gymnasium was blacked out in preparation for the end of term dance)".

Authorities decreed no danger existed in 1943 and some degree of normality returned—to be upset by a fire in the electrical system, apparently creating havoc. School numbers were down to only about three hundred and fifty. The library made a plaintive plea for "lifted" books to be returned—"our library is one of the best of its kind in Australia and it is our responsibility to maintain its reputation."

To celebrate the Twenty first Anniversary of the school a dance was held at Bedford Hall (long forgotten), and a special three-tier cake was prepared. Also in 1944 the bus service from Busselton began, increasing enrolments to three hundred and ninety eight, and the school observed that "were it not for the great shortage of boarding houses a still greater number would be able to enrol."

World War II ended in 1945—such was the relief that the 1945 editors commented that, "this is the year of Victory and of Peace for which the freedom loving nations of the world have been working and dying. (After) six years of death, agony and suffering—are we going to allow it to happen again?" Due to the infuriating absence of school notes (making life difficult* for a would be historian) it is difficult to ascertain the effect of peace on the school. One suspects the differences lay in attitudes rather than operations. Children were irrepressible as ever, totally immersed in and blase about the goings on around them.

To indicate how much the present is taken for granted, the subject of Agricultural Science was first mentioned in a "Kingia"—yet there is no trace of when it started or finished its life as a subject at Bunbury High School.

Someone finally decided in 1946 that the picture of the school shown in every magazine for about twelve years was out of date, and in 1947 a new one shows the school complete with all the trees at the front. Ties were the latest craze—commented one discerning young lady: "some are extremely artistic, others are striking, the majority merely colourful. But none of them are common enough to pretend beauty either of colour or design." And worn with school uniform! In second term 1946 the school installed its "intercommunication system of loud speakers and radio." It was such an event that the Minister for Education performed the opening.

A council bulldozer was employed to level the school oval—"now nearly complete."

In what were products of the post war period the Cadet Corps were

formed in 1947, and money collected (£22) for the Food Relief Appeal for Britain.

Much emphasis was placed on results still—during 1948 “form masters at the school assembly read out the final results of tests which now replace exams.” Prefects of 1948 decided that responsibilities had considerably subdued their ego! The Cadet Corps had sixty six men; the P. & C. decided to finance a war memorial instead of a projector; the projector was to be supplied via the town projector committee.

In 1949 the new Head, Mr. Fowler, took office, replacing Mr. Bradshaw.

In a spark of wisdom the compiler of School notes observed it was not a popular section, but must be done. How right he was: therein lies the history. A record enrolment of five hundred and thirty one in 1950 this year caused difficulties in timetable construction. The school oval yielded its first crop of oats.

As a “tribute to lives of former students” a memorial plaque was unveiled in the Library on 3rd March, 1950.

The “Kingia” of 1951 celebrated the Jubilee of Federation. In an editorial rampant with chauvinism, the issue was “dedicated to those who fought so long to pave the way to Federation . . . to those who have . . . toiled so unselfishly to create a better Australia . . . and to those who have made the supreme sacrifice for the preservation of our ideals and freedom.” There followed a brief history of Australia.

On a much more mundane level the school oval appeared to have come once again to a halt in its development.

Nineteen fifty two, and Mr. Fowler retired—a profile was published. The year saw the appearance of the “prefab” to replace the cloak room as a classroom. In the continuing saga of the oval, the oat crop failed—a transition to sheep was considered!

Opposition must have been mounting to them, but the compiler of “School Notes” noted “history must be recorded. I am not writing to be immediately read.” The school in 1953 was very overcrowded. Two prefabs and the gymnasium were used for classes. And the gymnasium was too small for all students at one dance. Separate dances were held for Upper and Lower School—it appears this was a rare occurrence.

In 1954 and 1955 large scale renovations repaired the heavy toll which thirty two years’ children had made on the school buildings. Paths, drive-ways and parade grounds were bitumenised. The newly acquired oval (at last) was made available for use, and work was commenced by the P. & C. on two new tennis courts.

New classes were established in 1956 to cater for children who did not intend taking up a professional course: they would do more practical subjects. “Then no longer will teachers have the unenviable task of teaching students who are not interested in the subject.” (Is it so easy?).

Newspaper of the times gave publicity to the ideal for a sixth year at High School (still debated in 1973), to abolish the Junior, and have exams

at the end of fourth and sixth years.

Driving lessons for fifth years began in 1956 under the National Safety Council. Cadets boasted one hundred and two members.

Then there appeared the "Temple of the Beachess," a biblical style record of the notable events of the year. This curious feature appeared spasmodically until 1966.

Such was overcrowding that in 1957 washrooms were used for private study. On the bright side though the P. & C. had acquired a tape recorder!

Mr. Davies-Moore, a teacher at the school for thirty years, left in 1958, and Miss Burgess, a teacher for thirty two years, left in 1956. Both ignored promotion and made the school their life's work.

A "History of the School," which appeared in 1959, saw the time since 1923 as a period of change and contrast (studied understatement!): "The school has been affected much and through all vicissitudes has eventuated as a single entity." There were eight hundred and forty pupils in 1959 compared with one hundred and sixty six in 1923, and the only addition to the curriculum was German.

The "regrettable death" of the Ex Students Association occurred "due to the general decline (of what?) after the last war." "The school is growing," said the History, "into a large, modern and comprehensive co-educational secondary school which will house one thousand, two hundred and fifty children, and will have a profound effect on the community." In an effort to relieve overcrowding the east wing was added causing much inconvenience. School notes for 1960 observed that the school had been designed for four hundred students and was presently holding nine hundred and ten. A long range plan of the time predicted one thousand five hundred students by 1966: never any suggestion that another high school could be built.

The new £58,000 wing was completed for 1960. It contained Science, Art, Manual Arts rooms and two architectural follies—verandahs built facing all exigencies of the weather, and sunshades on all windows facing south. In spite of these extensions classes were still held in washrooms and under the stairs (imagine it in winter).

Rowing was introduced as a sport, and David Dickson became the first ex student to win an Olympic Medal—a bronze for swimming in the Australian relay team at Rome in 1960.

The idea of lapsing the magazine was considered in 1960 and unfortunately this happened in 1961-62. These were Mr. Johnson's last years as Headmaster, and no material of any nature is available on the events.

We must jump to 1963 and read of an increase to one thousand students. Mr. G. Griffiths became the first ex student to become Principal. The editorial became very worldly and discussed with concern the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. nuclear agreements. On a more pragmatic note the School Notes compiler noted that the quick changes in staff members due to accelerated promotion had not been to the best interests of students. From 1959 (when Mr. Ibbotson produced "H.M.S. Pinafore") the drama club was

very strong, under the guidance of Mr. Ibbotson and Mrs. Fowler, and probably was interested in the Apex Club, P. & C. and school's combined project: the Amphitheatre, "to be of benefit to the school and community," with its outdoor Music and Drama stage. Ten years later, one wonders.

"The Kingia" included a staff list in 1964 showing fifty three teachers. The school notes finally went, but instead we have the Principal's notes. Mr. Griffiths mentioned the new school (Newton Moore High School) and pointed out that Bunbury Senior High School now had one thousand enrolled in Lower School. (Eight first year classes, seven second year and six third year classes.) In these, the early years of The Beatles, a cartoon appeared of the Devil's "pop" group, thinly disguised as Australian Beatles!

Nineteen sixty five, and Mr. Martin served for an interim year as Principal. This year the High School reached its peak in numbers. First year was split between Bunbury Senior High School and an annexe at South Bunbury Primary School prior to the Newton Moore High School being built.

Nineteen sixty six saw Newton Moore High School open, bringing about a "considerable" reduction in numbers, though by how much is incalculable. Mr. Bennett took office as the latest Principal.

Since 1967 there has been a reduction in the number of students, and consequently of staff. Trends have emerged which are largely a product of affluence, and modern times. Educational tours have been undertaken, students' cars vie with staff cars for parking space (increasingly so during the year as fifth years get their licence). The Cadet Corps declined and came to a halt in the 1970s. In 1968 it proved impossible to get a football team to send away to Country Week. 1973 saw the administration finally give up its battle to get students to wear uniform. Although never compulsory, uniforms were always worn by students until the 1960s.

The town has changed and with it the school. Students seem to look less to the school for social and sporting activities—they are now largely out of school hands; something which would have been unthinkable in, for example, the 1920s. The school itself has changed, become bigger and more affluent. The P. & C. has always been active, and by and large the school has been fortunate in its headmasters. School curriculum has changed increasingly so since the mid sixties with the Junior fading out, the Achievement Certificate becoming a reality, and the Leaving Certificate headed for the grave. Students spend less time on formal work and more time on optional studies. Prefects are no longer the demi-gods of former years, teachers were referred to irreverently in "Kingia" (would never, could never, have happened in the 1920s?) and the Cadet Corps is defunct. The school oval is finished (nearly) and **does** have modern change rooms with hot and cold running kids and hot and cold running water. But some things never change: the hill; the awesome regard of first years for the big three: Principal, Deputy Principal and Principal Mistress; physical education on cold mornings; "Kingia" (and trying to get articles written for it); Friday afternoons; the weather in winter.

"We cannot, looking back from this period, hope to do justice to all and everything." So said the historian in 1959. And so say I. All this history hopes to do for the ex student is recall things forgotten and give some idea of what went before and what came afterwards.

I.M.G.

THE SIXTH DECADE

1983 witnesses the 60th Anniversary of Bunbury Senior High School. Since its establishment in 1923, B.S.H.S. has built up and consolidated its reputation as a school of impressive academic and sporting capabilities. Each successive generation of student and teacher, has imbibed a great spirit of pride and energy. The 50th anniversary of the school saw the compilation of a booklet illustrating the history of B.S.H.S. to 1973. Now, we add another chapter to its history of contrasting continuity and change governed by ageless tradition, as we explore the last decade.

'Kingia', the school magazine, having endured through the six decades from 1923—83, has undergone noticeable changes. In doing so, many traditions have been broken, and others established. Apart from an increase in the size of the Kingia, the last ten years has witnessed modifications in its structure. The formality of the 'Kingia' has decreased considerably, with less emphasis on articles, stories, poems, etc., and instead, a profusion of photographs, cartoons and artwork with an emphasis on humour. The existence of the 'Kingia' has depended, in the past, upon donations from the business houses of Bunbury. To show its appreciation, the school printed advertisements for the businesses in the 'Kingia'. During the seventies, the 'ads' gradually became smaller until the practice was eventually discontinued after 1976. The cost of 'Kingia' is now covered by school fees. In 1974, the teachers produced the 'Kingia', and declared that if the students wanted another one the next year, they would have to do it themselves. Thus in 1975, the prefects produced the 'Kingia' and for the first time the students had to buy it. "We're sorry that you have to pay for your 'Kingia', but inflation has hit us too . . ."

There were no photos of form classes until 1974, and the names of the individual students were not printed under them until 1975. Form notes were reintroduced to the 'Kingia' in 1977. In 1978, 'Kingia's' cover changed from the traditional plain design to a more interesting 'arty' look, which differs from year to year.

The 'Kingia' has, in reality, ceased to be just an informative magazine. It exists to provide entertainment and a host of memories, and this has come about largely in the last decade. We hope that you, the reader, will bear with us if you know of things which have happened that have not been included. "We cannot, looking back from this period, hope to do justice to all and everything." So said the historians of 1959 and 1973, and so say we.

Student numbers, which had decreased as a result of Newton Moore High School being opened in 1966, and the boarding hostels closing in the early seventies, picked up during the seventies and are presently around 950, with 1100 expected in 1984. This is a result of the region's population having increased significantly in the last decade, due to more industries being established in the district, especially the larger industries such as the Worsley Refinery. The increase in student numbers has therefore been synonymous with the increase in Bunbury's population. The larger number of students in lower school has also contributed to more students attending Upper School than in previous years. Another important factor was the rising unemployment from the early seventies onwards. Students find that higher qualifications are needed to secure employment.

Donnybrook is now the only outside district high school to contribute students to B.S.H.S. yearly, since this practice was discontinued by other towns of the South-West, when boarding hostels closed. Despite this, B.S.H.S. student numbers have increased during the seventies, and this enlargement of the school population has resulted in the necessity for extra rooms. Transportables and Demountables have been placed on the school oval and opposite to the school where the boarding houses were originally situated. An extra wing is at present being added onto the school in an effort to deal with the problem, but its construction was hampered in August of this year when gale-force winds struck, and destroyed part of the framework. Nevertheless, work is now proceeding steadily and is expected to be finished at the beginning of 1984. The additions and modifications will provide music, drama, computing, home economics, business education, art/craft and other general facilities. A hall/gymnasium and pre-vocational centre are also being considered as additions to the school, however these ventures will not be viable for quite some time.

"During the 1970's, hemlines shortened and expectations rose." The late sixties, early seventies saw girls' school skirts become shorter until the late seventies when they came down again. In contrast, boys' hair lengthened in the early seventies, but has slowly returned to a more traditional length. At one stage during the early seventies, uniforms virtually disappeared and the administration gave up its battle in that direction. However, uniforms are now back with a vengeance, and certainly visitors to the school are impressed with the high standards of dress and behaviour set by B.S.H.S.

During the last decade, a number of innovations has been made within the school system.

Work experience, an entirely new venture for the school, was introduced in 1973, where employers paid the students award wages for one week's work. The employers were therefore often unlikely to get value for money, so some businesses, although sympathetic to the scheme, could not participate due to economic circumstances. This, of course, was the time when the world-wide inflationary spiral had begun to affect Australia significantly and the demon 'unemployment' was showing its ugly head for

the first time in years. From 1976 onwards, more employers and consequently, more students were classified as observers, not workers. It has proved an extremely successful venture and given students more of an insight into the working world, and a chance to decide what they want or don't want to do later on in life.

In 1975, a system called 'pastoral care' was devised for the benefit of the Year Eight students. It consists of the Year Eight form teachers teaching their respective form classes for at least twelve periods a week, enabling them to get to know the students better, and making the students feel more secure. The Year Eight students stay together as a class mostly so that, hopefully, they don't feel quite as 'lost' as in previous years. One can well acknowledge the difficulty of transition for a young student from a Primary School to a large High School such as B.S.H.S. Also, 1975 saw the Leaving and Matriculation Exams being replaced by the Tertiary Admissions Examination (T.A.E.).

The House Points System was devised in 1976, contributing to the Student's House as well as his individual tally. Thirty points qualifies the students for a half-colour, fifty for a full-colour. (The colour is determined by the students' House). In 1978, B.S.H.S. began to participate in the Wales Maths Competition, in which many of our students have distinguished themselves by winning prizes, distinctions or by simply trying their best. In 1979 the male population of the school must have felt they were being neglected . . . tradition was altered at the School Ball, with the introduction of the "Beau of the Ball" to accompany the traditional "Belle of the Ball". B.S.H.S. appears to have gone a little international from 1977 onwards. The school has been involved in various teacher and student exchanges effected with other countries. The teacher exchanges have been with Canada while student exchanges, organised by either Rotary or A.F.S., have varied — mostly with the U.S.A., but also Japan, South Africa, France, Italy, Brazil and New Zealand. In 1978, French students went to New Caledonia during the August holidays, and again in 1981 and 1983.

Bunbury, during the past four years, has been honoured with visits from well-known people, including Royalty and prominent politicians. 1979 was the year of Western Australia's 150th Celebrations. Prince Charles visited Bunbury, and students from all over the South-West (including B.S.H.S.) flocked to Hands Oval to catch a glimpse of the future King. 1983 saw him return to Bunbury, this time with his wife, Diana, Princess of Wales. B.S.H.S. students were among the thousands of students assembled at Hands Oval to see the Royal couple. Malcolm Fraser paid a visit to Bunbury in 1979 and came to the school to deliver a talk to the students. A year later, the then Lord Mayor of London, Sir Peter Gadsden visited B.S.H.S. Students had the opportunity to witness the pomp and ceremony which was Sir Peter's hallmark, when he proceeded from the school entrance to the amphitheatre where the students were assembled. In 1983, before the Federal Elections, some B.S.H.S. students were able to witness Bob Hawke making a speech in Bunbury as part of his electoral campaign.

There was a great and sad upheaval in the school in 1981, when the Principal, Harry Bennett, retired after sixteen years, one quarter of the school's existence. The words he wrote in 'Kingia' on his retirement reflected not only his sadness in leaving, but also the tremendous pride he held in the traditions and undying spirit of B.S.H.S. "Over the years it has come to be expected that students of this school will set very high standards for themselves and that their conduct will be governed by certain values, some of which are often considered nowadays to be old fashioned — such values as honesty, courtesy and consideration for others. I am sure that present and future generations of B.S.H.S. students will continue to adhere to these standards and will not allow the fine traditions of this fine old school to be forgotten. I am sure, also, that I will always continue to feel justifiably proud of my long association with the school and its traditions and with so many fine young people (both students and staff) whose company I have enjoyed so much as they have passed through the school during the last 16 years."

Tom Spencer then became the Acting Principal. B.S.H.S. received a new Principal in 1982, with Jan Sobkowiak and on his retirement in early 1983, Tom Cornwall became the Acting Principal. The new Principal in 1984 will be David Rourke. Over the last six decades, B.S.H.S. has been extremely fortunate with its Principals, each successive one upholding the fine traditions of his predecessor, as well as making valued contributions of his own. All have proved to be efficient but also humane in their dealings with the students and staff.

The school on the Hill has seen six decades of students and staff come and go, each successive generation adding another chapter to its unique story of tradition and change. The old building is still standing as strong as it was sixty years ago and with its immortal traditions of school uniforms, prefects and the 'Kingia', they provide an indestructible foundation to which many additions and changes have been made without harming the establishment, rather, enhancing it. There have been, for example, remarkable advances in education, mostly occurring in the last decade. Computer courses have been introduced and transition education is proving invaluable in helping students to decide on careers. Various additions have been made to the actual school buildings to accommodate a rapidly increasing school population. It is because of the well established foundations of B.S.H.S. that these changes have been effected, while the old building remains strong and the fine old traditions maintained, flourishing in the good times, and enduring in spite of the bad times.

MELISSA PARKE, Year 12, 1983
