



TALKABOUT

A PUBLICATION
OF THE STUDENTS OF
WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE.

Vol. 2, No. 29

DECEMBER 14, 1948

PRICE: ONE PENNY

A Welcome to Practice Schools

This, the last issue of "Talkabout" for 1948, is the first issue to be sent to teachers at Practice Schools in the Wagga area. It is hoped that this innovation will be welcomed by teachers as a means of learning something of the life of the students who are thrust upon them twice annually.

The circulation of "Talkabout" amongst Practice Schools has long been a moot point at Editorial meetings. Many students have taken copies of the paper with them to Practice Schools, and teachers have evinced keen interest in the matters dealt with therein—which has led us to forward copies of this issue.

Teachers will probably find that the paper is of a limited appeal since it is written primarily as a newsheet for the students of a residential College. It is hoped that occasional articles may be found of interest and that in the future the paper may become a forum in which both the theory and practice of educational matters may be discussed.

Students frequently complain that they observe a marked difference between "method" as expounded in College, and as it is practised in the school by the successful teacher. Such a hiatus causes the student much confusion, and the practising teacher some doubts about the validity of the theoretical approach.

If the paper manages to forge a binding link between the College and the schools it will have done much to reconcile these differences which are at least, both confusing and deplorable. Before any liaison can be effected teachers must have the right to express their views in these columns. Accordingly we shall be pleased to receive letters or articles from teachers on any topic. Matter is printed over a pseudonym, if the writer encloses his name and address as a token of good faith.

We trust that teachers will avail themselves of the pages of this paper to give us the benefit of their views on the practical side of teaching.

We in turn hope that they may find something herein, in sport, or general articles which will interest them, and which will help place the relationship between the College and the practising teacher on a firmer basis.

Literature Lecturer Levis

During the past 18 months Mr. Levis has given much help in the way of experienced advice to the members of "Talkabout" and the Writers' Group. In many cases he has built up confidence by encouraging remarks and by showing an interest in all work written. He has, at all times, found the time to consider, and reconsider, work which he thought could be improved upon. He has criticised frankly and pointed out the weak as well as the strong points of any writing. This has been especially valuable as it is only when a writer sees his mistakes that he can begin to eradicate them.

Mrs. Levis also has been frank in criticising work read at Writers' Group meetings in her home. She has been keenly interested in all work and has, at all times, criticised constructively.

We appreciate very much the fact that the door of the Levis's home has always been held open to us.

Wholly set up and printed at "The Daily Advertiser" Office, Trail Street, Wagga Wagga.

Editorial

It is with mixed feelings that I write my last Editorial. My association with "Talkabout" and the many people who are implicated in its weekly appearance has been a happy one, but I shall be glad to dissociate myself from a certain group within the College, which has consistently demanded that the paper be used not as a means of discussion but rather as a medium through which to disseminate incisive and malignant criticism of their neighbours.

To the advertisers who have supported the paper so loyally since its inception, I extend my most sincere thanks, and I trust that the happy relationship which now exists between them and the present Editorial Committee may be further strengthened in the years to come.

To my friends, June, Dave, Wyn, Bette and Mary, a big "thank you" for your unfailing help and loyalty. Our term of office has been a most enjoyable one, and one which I feel we shall look back upon with pride in years to come.

Without readers there could be no paper—so I commend them for their patience in persevering with our ravings, suffering nobly born. And I must thank those who have written spontaneously or upon coercion at any time.

Their work has produced a paper which can and will progress.

Finally, to my mate John Mitchell and his newly elected coterie my best wishes for their term of office. I trust that John's broad shoulders may not become unduly stooped under the Herculean burden of being the eyes, ears, and voice of the College, and that he may enjoy his incarceration in the Editorial office as much as I have mine.

ALAN FRYER.

THE NEW EDITORIAL STAFF



Standing (l. to r.): Don ("Ike") Wyburd (Business Manager), Alan Buckingham, Geoff Spiller (Sports Editors). Seated (l. to r.): Barbara Hoare (Sub-Editor), John Mitchell (Editor), Merv Gray (Sub-Editor).

With Deep Regret

we record the death of our fellow student, Merv Gray, whose photograph appears on this page and who was drowned in the Murrumbidgee River last Sunday. We of "Talkabout" and the Writers' Group, who knew Merv well, feel his loss most acutely. His sincerity, enthusiasm impressed all those who were fortunate enough to know him. To his parents we extend our most sincere sympathy in their tragic loss.

Sporting Notice

At the conclusion of a particularly successful year of sport it is fitting that a little space should be devoted to illustrating the relative success of our respective teams.

FOOTBALL

Without exception all football teams in both codes completed excellent seasons. The Blake Cup team won their final by a wide margin of points, while the under 10.7 team had little more difficulty in also winning theirs and adding another trophy to the trophy case (of the future).

In a replayed final the first soccer team had a very easy win, bringing an end to a particularly successful first competition season. The second team, although of much lower standard, played

exceptionally well throughout.

CRICKET

Although not receiving the fullest support of the Wagga Association, College teams have commenced what promises to be a bumper season. The first team has won all of its matches in very easy fashion and some excellent performances have been registered by its players. The second team are at present also leading in their competition, while the thirds are continually improving.

BASKETBALL

This team may perhaps never be bettered in the future of the College. During the season their play was exemplary and it was little wonder that they remained undefeated. The three lower teams, although all very good, were made much less prominent because of the superiority of the firsts.

HOCKEY

The five teams all did well. Both the men's and women's first teams set a particularly high standard. The men won their final by two goals to one during a period of extra time. The women were not so fortunate and were eliminated in the semi-final. They were compensated somewhat, however, by winning a challenge cup from the High School team.

TENNIS

Both the men's and women's teams missed the semi-finals, only because of interruptions caused by the vacations. With much potential talent in the College the standard here, too, is naturally very high.

BASEBALL

As most of the players involved had never played the game before, great things could not be expected. However, towards the close of the season most of them "had a few clues" and much more can certainly be expected next year.

ATHLETICS

The performances here were not on as high a plane as in other recognised sports. However, the carnival was particularly successful with the added first year competition helping in the making of many new records.

INTER-COLLEGIATE WEEK

All who attended were extremely appreciative of the trouble to which the Balmain students went to make the week the success that it was. Our College was once more on top on the sporting field, but all will regret that Balmain are not returning the visit next year to seek revenge.

"TALKABOUT"

Editor: Alan Fryer.

Sub-Editors:

June Scott, Dave Rummery

Business Manager: Jim O'Ryan.

THE OLD EDITORIAL STAFF



Standing (l. to r.): Jim Hartnett (Sport Editor), Betty Sanders, Wyn Walshaw, Mary Comino (Reporters), Jim O'Ryan (Business Manager). Seated (l. to r.): June Scott (Sub-Editor), Alan Fryer (Editor), Dave Rummery (Sub-Editor). We regret that Sports Editor Nick Bric knell was absent when this photograph was taken.

Scene at Lunch Time

It is hot. The sides of the tiny room are bulging to accommodate the fifty-four ravenous students pressing through the door. A table occupies a precarious position in the middle of the room and is soon the centre of a frenzied rush. Boxes, previously kicked to one side, are hastily unpacked. Loaves of bread are brought out, and several lusty creatures, armed with very blunt bread-knives, rush to the attack. A winning smile from one "helpless female" so armed brings Jake to her feet, and he finds himself with the knife in his hands before he realises it.

Now begins the usual fight over whose butter is being used for whose bread. The table sways gently to each motion of the knife, as dainty slices of meat half-inch thick are rammed between dainty slices of bread one and a half inches thick.

"Where's the salt?" roars Jake.

"Fall to cheese." (Guess who!)

"I want my orange. Where's our box?"

"Over there, pot that one, stupid. That's the infants' box." ("And how," mutters someone under his breath.

"How about the kids on duty? You'd better take them something."

"Clean forgot 'em. Hang on, I'll see if I can rake up something."

"Here comes the tea. Where's my mug?"

"You don't call this tea, do you? It fails to impress."

"Just a moment. Someone's at the door."

"What's that? A riot, Mr. Yalland? Oh, no, it's only the students having lunch."

B.J.H.

Letter to the Editor

(The Editor, "Talkabout")

Dear Sir,—Merely for the guidance of those to come, might I (in official public service jargon) beg to suggest that the official "welcome but be careful" dossier issued to incoming studes should include a warning about the art and craft material.

Truly the cost of six shillings is very reasonable, and even considerate, for those who desire to love and cherish their art and craft "objet d' art," but for those whose love is otherwise, six shillings is rather costly—to say the least!

I grant that we were told that we were entitled to hand back the models and drawings if we didn't desire to pay the expected six shillings, but, here's the intriguing catch—we were told almost a year and three-quarters, after our "baptism of lectures," enabling enough time to come to pass for the student to carefully lose, destroy, decorate or eat the foresaid models and drawings.

Referring to my original paragraph—please be considerate enough (nay, decent enough) to warn the eager, keen and mouth-opening studes about the domestic and financial obligations that are to be imposed upon them.—Yours faithfully,

KEN McLEAN.

SMALL SCHOOLS' SECTION DOES IT AGAIN

Ian Thomas, popular small schools' man, is now a proud daddy. We congratulate him and his wife Betty on the birth of a son—Trevor. Trevor and Mrs. Thomas are progressing favourably.

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A certain suave gentleman has a fondness for usherettes and mannequins. Are these the reasons for frequent trips to the "Big Smoke"?

Have all the Schipps come in yet, Vera?

Yarrangobilly Caves seem to have a great attraction for studes lately. Is it the caves or the possibility of a breakdown that is so attractive?

The two Temora girls have a fondness for certain Novascastrians. But all nice girls love a sailor, so don't worry, girls.

Music hath charms, more so than women, at least to one male member of the community! To others, however, they rank equally; the hall being in great demand on Friday night.

We've heard of Bathurst burrs, but Bathurst girls are much nicer. You can bank on that!

Outsiders still impress, week nights, as well as week-ends.

Two's company and three's a crowd, but apparently not always. What do you do with Moira, Keith?

Country lanes still have their charms, don't they, John?

The Jacks and Johns are having a tough time. We still believe gentlemen prefer blondes.

Mick and Noreen found two matches of equal interest on Sunday, but to either onlookers the third was the best by far.

Sorry, Harry, for the mistake a couple of weeks ago. Col Swan should have been the gentleman named. Anyway you're not doing badly, even with so many fingers in the pie. (?—Ed.).

Speaking of swans, not only lunches drew the swans in the park. Shirley seems to have a magnetic personality. Who said it was a hen's section?

Scotty dogs are being ousted by dogs without pedigrees. Merv, how could you? "Animal Antics"—by Lonnergan.

Don't let—this happen—to you! Get Crystolis Rapid and forget pediculosis!

Barbara seems to be doing quite a bit of pat-ting around lately. It might Spill'er, if she's not careful.

M is for Marj and also for Marcia, but who is for Ralph.

That sure was a Bonnie serenade the other night. Believe you were the conductor, Fred.

You'd expect people who go to the dance on Saturday nights to dance, but

the majority prefer to walk.

Alan still likes to go walking. Any bets?

Was it "Hereward the Wake" whose eyes were of different colours—or are we seeing double. Isn't black an unusual colour for an eye!

It seems that Don's practice is needed, judging by rehearsals—or is he just kidding?

Teacher Trainees' Association

Students who are wondering why the recent census of travelling expenses at vacation was taken will be interested to know that the Minister for Education (Mr. Heffron) has informed our association of his willingness to reconsider students' claims for free travel at these times. It is evident that very few students are interested in their union, but since this will mean they are getting something out of it, there may be just a small flutter of interest. Any student interested in further activities of their association are advised that meetings are held in spite of their non-attendance.

GWEN ROBERTS, Secretary.

Bus Antics

Once again we are pioneering, only this time more so. We've had to cut the road through to Ganmain, and is it a rough job!

All the notable personalities have been assigned to this buckjumping rodeo, amongst them being Jack and Marie, who always fight with orange and banana skins; Merv and June, who invariably sleep all the way, June on Merv's shoulder going out and Merv on June's coming back, and, of course, we have that most talkative and domineering person, Graeme.

We haven't succeeded in capturing his heart yet, nor hearing him say "yes" to that one and only question. But several are trying.

Moira is also aboard and during the last few days has been learning the relative sizes of sheep. Moira forgot her perspective and didn't know sheep came so big.

So far, besides the studes, we've had collections of evil-smelling yabbies, slimy snails, flutes, phys. ed. posters and sundry other teaching aids all calculated to destroy the respectability of the bus. It's marvellous how these aids travel from school to school.

And then, of course, there are the clutters-up of luncheons. Marg Welfare has lived up to her motto every lunch-time so far. Quoth she: "I simply love eating," and, oh, boy, does she. How many cups of tea is it Marg—four or five—I can't keep count?

Merle seems to be the most conscientious, for she always has to be helped

out of the bus by Bernie and Bill—invariably has to carry half her aids. It's terribly dangerous sitting beside her—one can't move a muscle. Under the seat is a regular jumble sale for all her aids.

Tom usually serenades us with the latest ditties he's taught the class and Gwen invariably asks if they sang flat—I wonder why?

Well, now I must away for I can't sing everyone's praises.

B.E.S.

P.S.—I didn't mention Mr. Cornell nor Miss Reedman, but well—

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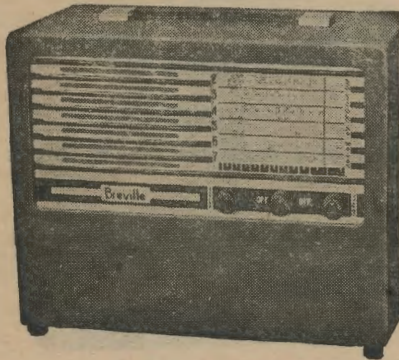
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**Pro-White Australia
Policy**

On the surface this policy seems prejudicial to good relationships with coloured races, but when it is considered that the aim from the beginning was not one of racial superiority or inferiority, but purely a political and economic difference, this policy seems desirable.

To the casual observer the policy appears to be harsh, illogical and selfish, and only useful for creating ill-will, but this is not so.

Actually the White Australia Policy is not true to name for it is primarily "a non-British exclusion policy." This was because in the 1920's to 1930's there was a slight excess of non-British immigrants, largely Italian, but including Greeks and Yugoslavs. Public outcry determined that British immigrants should be in the majority. Thus was born the White Australia Policy as we know it to-day—the exclusion of coloured foreigners for racial reasons.

Contrary to popular belief the policy does not discourage immigrants, neither does it offer an affront to any individual foreign nation because it is not "specific." No countries or people are banned but there are curtailments on prospective immigrants. Temporary visits are allowed for people unable to reside permanently in the country.

Some people have advocated bringing Asiatic peasants into the country for agricultural pursuits, but as they are accustomed to mere subsistence tillage, presumably the population in cities is to die off. They are furthermore accustomed to being underpaid in contrast to our custom of being overpaid. One hesitates to think of the chaos such a move as this would bring.

A further so-called argument for these people is that the present British and Australian stock is incapable of the arduous task of pioneering necessary to open up this country, but are Asiatics any better and have not the Australians pioneered to open up new territory? (Look at us!) Would not these foreigners destroy the distinctive cultural features of Australian life and lower our living standards.

Alfred Deakin, Attorney-General in the first Federal Government and three times Prime Minister, said in 1901: "No motive power operated more universally on this continent, or in the beautiful island of Tasmania and certainly no motive power operated more powerfully in dissolving the technical and arbitrary political divisions which previously separated us than the desire that we should be one people and remain one people without the admixture of other races." His words still hold true.

Deakin was a strong advocate of a White Australia Policy and it was on his observations that the Bill was passed. "The way in which Australia could most strengthen herself and the Empire is by the multiplication of her citizens of British descent, bred and

reared under civilised conditions of education, employment and self-government." Australians still maintain these ideas. We must therefore retain our policy to ensure that we maintain these things.

Unrestricted immigration can give rise to an alien population with different political and social institutions which are neither welcomed nor acceptable to the Australian way of living. Look at the problems now faced by America and the results of her foreign industrial invaders.

Some years ago the Japanese forbade the entrance of Chinese coolie labour for similar economic and political reasons as we have placed against unlimited Oriental entry. The Japanese war amply justified this move. How long would Australia have lasted with a Jap. population of only one and a quarter million in 1941?

Then there is the question of religious issues should an alien population spring up in Australia. Are their so-called un-Christian religions to be stamped out, or are they as the numbers increase to change us?

There is the inevitable and unenviable problem of the half caste, etc., who are acceptable to neither side. The Asiatic particularly is a prolific breeder, so that if allowed in any great numbers to enter this country we may also be faced with a large number of Australian-born Asiatics who will unquestionably follow Oriental traditions. Even with restricted immigration there may still arise a problem.

As Deakin said: "To preserve the continent for the Anglo-Saxon stock, the British flag and the Christian faith is no mean ideal." It is not the colour of skin that is the main issue, however, but one of ideas and usage that could be introduced into the country with an invasion by foreigners.

Whilst in theory it may be all right to say that the Asiatic and other coloured hordes should be admitted because they have not the living space and we have too much living space, in practice it is calculated to destroy all our ideals, traditions and customs.

It is vitally important to us to maintain ourselves at a high standard of living. The White Australia Policy is necessary so to do. It must be kept to keep our population percentages in harmony and to keep us in our own country.

B.E.S.

**TO THE BOYS AT
"THE ADVERTISER"**

To Fred for his perseverance with those inept in the procedure of printing, to Ron for his capable setting up of this paper; to Clarrie whose lino work obviates the need for proof reading; to Tom and Alf for help on numerous occasions, a hearty "thank you" from the Editorial Committee.

There is the praise for their ability to "suffer fools gladly."

An Appreciation of James Joyce's Ulysses

Confidentially, James Joyce was a Hollywood song writer. He was busy on the lyrics of a song very similar to "Chi Barba" or "Maizy Doats" when "Chi Barba" was published, thus stealing his thunder. Embittered, he decided to "take it out on mankind" by writing "Ulysses."

The title "Ulysses" is given to fool you. Actually, it's about a character Leopold Bloom who likes kidneys for breakfast and another character Gerty MacDowell who can read.

James Joyce would not insult his readers' intelligence by telling them where the action was taking place, but by a little careful reading, say 25 to 30 times, the reader will obtain a hazy idea of the main facts (perhaps).

The language of the story is really out of this world. ("Probably originated in the lower regions."—Ency. Brit.) It's smooth, it's subtle—but definitely, it's . . . well, judge for yourself.

I quote: "In a giggly peal young goldbronze voices blended, Bouce with Kennedy, your other eye. They threw young heads back, bronze gigglegold, to let freely their laughter screaming, your other . . ." A reward of ten shillings will be paid for every bronze gigglegold in perfect health, to reach this office. (3/-—Ed.)

Unhappily, the latter part of the novel was written when Joyce was in very poor circumstances. He could not even afford ink to punctuate Mrs. Bloom's monologue. However, this may prove an asset. When running short of party games this section can always be introduced as a "Where do I put the comma" competition. Of course each participant has an equal chance of being right, so everyone receives a prize and your party is a success.

There are other points (though what they are I've not yet discovered) that mark "Ulysses" as a literary treasure. Or something.

In conclusion, I strongly recommend that the book should be issued to all unwilling mental cases. After reading it they will be only too eager to enter the asylum.

"FLORENCE."

(By kind permission of the Callan Park authorities.)

Swimming Club on the Mat

At a meeting of the Sports Union held on 26/11/48 a matter of major importance concerning the whole student body arose.

This reference is directed to the lack of interest displayed by the delegates, D. Westley and T. Whitechurch, in failing to attend meetings held by the

Sports Union to represent the Swimming Club.

In the five previous meetings only one apology has been tendered to the meeting; the other four meetings just didn't seem to interest them.

The Sports Union took the matter in hand and guided by constitutional laws forwarded these delegates reprimands for their apathy.

An open inquiry will be the result of no acknowledgment by the delegates.

Are we all to suffer for the lack of interest shown by two students who initially accepted to shoulder the minor responsibility of representing their club at S.U. meetings?

Suspension of the club is the natural line to follow if interested members do not show more initiative and have their club run on a sound basis with worthy executive members.

Suspension of a club means such a club cannot participate within the College, and therefore our long-awaited swimming carnival may go by the board.

Eventful Days

The silence is shattered by a long, mournful blast that persists stubbornly until I sit up and blink in the direction north it for several minutes and then grope madly for the warmth of the towel. My bare feet slip in the hall, but I clutch the handle of the door tightly and then, as it bangs shut again, make rapid repairs to my general appearance with the aid of the full-length mirror. I can make my bed after breakfast but where, oh, where did I put those shoes?

"They're running!" comes from the watch at the hut's entrance while the feet pound steadily down the long corridor.

I bang the door and bolt madly, missing a discarded broom by .0009 inches. I collide with several other rabbits as they emerge from the long line of burrows and in single file we race down the corridor and out into the sunlight. My hair is still wet from the shower and I have not dried my back.

They certainly are running! We realise this as we see a blurred form disappear dining-roomwards.

The asphalt is hard underfoot, but we make a final burst for that door. The first three of us thud into it as it closes in our faces. We gasp and realise that some of the noses will never be the same shape again.

Slowly we file past the big table and then disperse, each to her own little groove in that vast, grinning world of faces.

The day, oh, eventful day that sheds its beams but once and then is gone, has set foot on the road to the past.

WYN WALSHAW.

Even if love is blind, it finds its way around all right.

The best way out of a difficulty is through it.

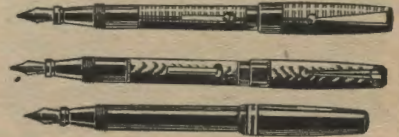
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