



Duty

The History of Hale School and its Old Boys

'...who can deny that to Bishop Hale must be given the credit of being something more than the founder of what is now Hale School. He is the founder of secondary education in this State; he has urged parents to value wisdom and knowledge above wealth, and slowly the lesson has been learned. Steadily there grew up a generation in whose minds the truth of Hale's teaching had taken root, and the tradition thus implanted with so much toil and sacrifice has been built upon ever since'

No school or its graduates have played as prominent and integral role in the governance and development of Western Australia as Hale School and its Old Boys.

Since its establishment over 150 years ago, Hale School has produced six Premiers, an Acting Prime Minister, numerous recipients of the Orders of Australia, 13 Rhodes Scholars and influential pioneers of the State's pastoralist, forestry and iron ore industries. Old Boys, too, have become prominent musicians, artists, sculptors, illustrators, novelists and poets; they have become leading scientists, industrialists and businessmen. They have been recognised as distinguished public servants. They have served their country and been awarded the Victoria Cross, Distinguished Service Orders, Military Crosses and Distinguished Flying Crosses. They have represented the state and the country in sport at Olympic, national and state representative level. In other words, they have consistently upheld Hale School's long standing reputation of producing young men determined to excel, to lead and, above all, to implement the School's motto and fulfil their duty to their mates, their families and to the community.¹

¹ Canon A. Burton (1900), *History of Hale School, 1858-1900*, p. 3.4

1800s



Alderley Manor, Gloucestershire



Dr Mathew Blagden Hale

1811

Mathew Blagden Hale, the founder of Bishop's Collegiate School (later to become Hale School) was born at Alderley Manor, Gloucestershire on 18 June.

1847

Hale travelled to South Australia where he became an Archdeacon to Bishop Short in Adelaide. While there he was instrumental in the formation of St Peter's College in Adelaide and primarily responsible for the establishment of a mission for Aborigines at Poonindie on the Eyre Peninsula.

1848

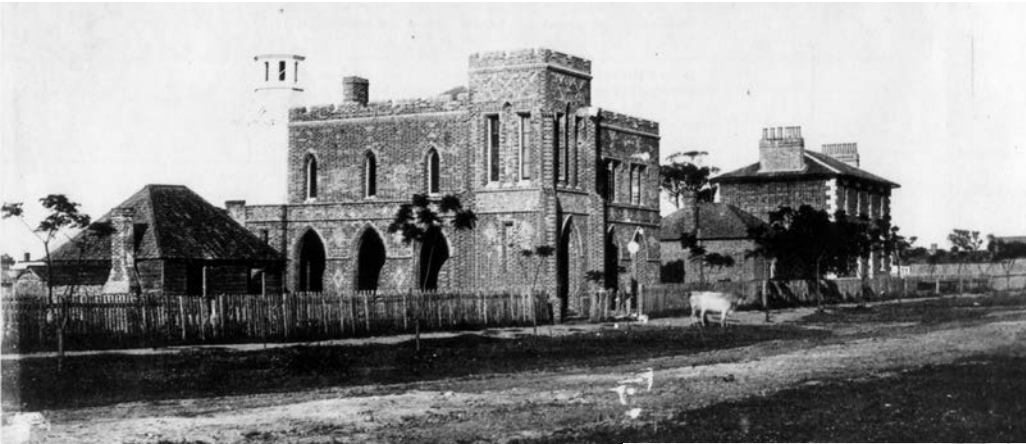
Hale first visited Western Australia with Bishop Short (in whose diocese W.A. lay) and met his future wife Sabina Molloy of Augusta.

1857

Hale was consecrated first Bishop of Perth at Lambeth Palace in London and arrived aboard the convict ship '*Nile*' to take up his appointment on 1st January 1858.

1858

Bishop Hale established the Bishop's Collegiate School, the predecessor of Hale School. The first pupil enrolled at the School was Laurence Eliot, son of the government administrator at Bunbury. Legend has it that Bishop Hale escorted the 11 year-old Eliot on horseback to Perth, camping out in the bush, over a three day period, in time for the opening of the School doors for the first time at 8.30 on the 28th June, 1858. Eliot was later to become the State Under Treasurer.



*Hale School's first site:
The Cloisters 1860*

1864

After the tenures of JG Bussell (Acting) and Canon B.G. Sweeting (1858-63) as Headmasters, the Reverend F.T. Taylor was appointed in 1864.

1865

18 August 1865: The proprietorship of the School was conferred upon a Board of Governors incorporated by an Act of Incorporation and became formally described as the *Perth Collegiate School*, notwithstanding that it was still popularly known as the *Bishop's School*.

1869

The Reverend F. A. Hare appointed as Headmaster of the School.



The Cloisters: 1865

*Back: T Quinn, G Eliot, BC Wood, Morton Craig, O Burt,
Alex Forrest, W Chidlow, W McKail*

*Middle: FB Wittenoorn, V Bruce, EB Courthope, F Burt, The Headmaster,
H Gale, A Burt, J Ramsay, F Durlacher.*

Front: E Wittenoorn, Geo Parker, AS Roe, Chas Edwrad, J Bovell, T Shenton

1869

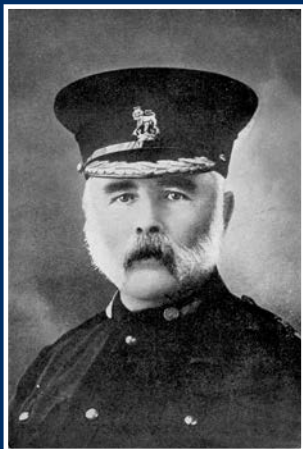
Bishop's School Old Boy John Forrest leads a 4 month expedition from Perth in search of clues to the fate of the long-lost Leichardt expedition.

1870s

Bishop's School Old Boys John and Alexander Forrest undertake various expeditions to open up vast areas of the state to agriculture, and were rewarded with various grants of land.

John Forrest - 1874





Col. E W Haynes (1872-1878)

1872

The School closed temporarily early in 1872 but several weeks later re-opened under Colonel E.W. ['Paddy'] Haynes. It subsequently joined the newly constituted High School in 1878. Haynes was born in Ireland, educated at Kings' College, a civil engineer by profession and migrated to South Australia in 1867. He travelled to Western Australia in 1871 and took up the post of second master under the Reverend Hare. Haynes.

1875

Bishop Hale requested retirement (from the Diocese of Perth) but was appointed to succeed Bishop Tufnell as Bishop of Brisbane where he was to serve for another 11 years.

1876

12 September: The High School Act 1876 was passed by the Legislative Council. The new school assumed the title '*High School*' and came under the control of Governors appointed by the State.

1878

Richard Davies commenced as first Headmaster of *The High School*. Paddy Haynes walked his 14 boys across St George's Terrace to join the newly constituted School located in Mr George Randell's house opposite. *The High School* and the Haynes' Perth Collegiate School became one.



The 1874 Expedition

Back: T Pierre, T Windich, J Kennedy, J Sweeney Front: A Forrest, J Forrest



Mr George Randell's house occupied by the School in 1878



Situated at the top end of St Georges Terrace, the Pensioners barracks were one of the buildings constructed by convict labour. Only the arch remains today.

1878

Paddy Haynes continues on as the mathematics master for many years before retiring, in between commanding the Perth Artillery, being a member of Anglican Diocesan Trustees, a member of the Licensing Court and an early Chairman of the Perth Building Society.

1879

13 June: The first copy of *The High School* magazine was published in March 1879. Six editions per year were published until 1881. There were no subsequent editions until 1905. In the interim the affairs of the School were included in an annual report to parliament. However, from 1905 onward *The Cygnet* has been published continuously, even in the difficult days during two World Wars and the Great Depression.

1880

Due to a lack of space, *High School* was given permission to use several rooms in the Pensioner's Barracks at the western extremity of St George's Terrace.



High School - George Street



1897
The School Football Team

1882

Thomas Beuttler appointed Headmaster. *High School* shifted across George Street to the old Military Hospital opposite the Pensioners' Barracks.

Instead of the previously used motto *Aspice, Respice, Prospice* ('Look both back and forward'), the motto *Floreat Schola Perthiensis* ('Let Perth School Flourish') began to be used, unofficially.

1883

John Forrest appointed Surveyor-General, as well as being the Commissioner of Crown Lands and a member of the Legislative Council. The first colonial born to be appointed head of a government department.

1885

The School's numbers totalled 55, with 17 of those being boarders.

1886

Bishop Hale returned to England from his post as Bishop of Brisbane at the age of 75 years, not to retirement, but as rector of the parish of Ozleworth, close to his place of birth.

1887

Alexander Forrest was elected the first member of the Legislative Council for the Kimberley. His horse *First Price* wins the inaugural Perth Cup, with an initial stake of 250 pounds.

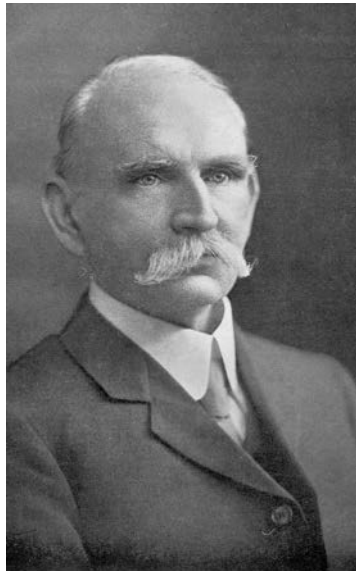
1890

21 October : The Western Australian constitution receives royal assent.

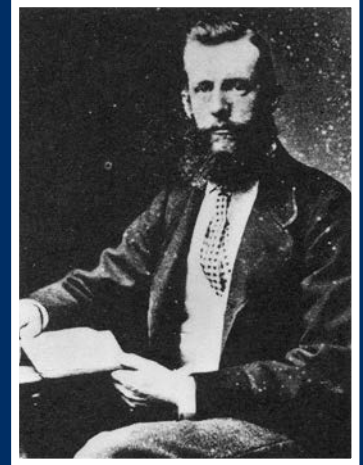
22 December: The Governor appointed John Forrest as the State's first Premier. Four of the five man cabinet were *Bishop's School* Old Boys, including Septimus Burt as Attorney-General, with Alexander Forrest as Cabinet Secretary (the 'Sixth Minister').

Leader of the Opposition in Western Australia was *Bishop's School* Old Boy Stephen Henry Parker (later Chief Justice of Western Australia).

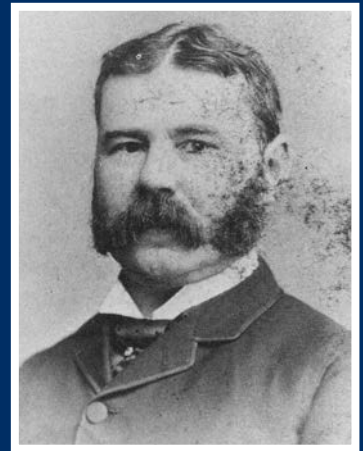
John Forrest's right hand man in the civil service (as Under-Treasurer) was the first student enrolled in *Bishop's School*, Laurence Eliot.



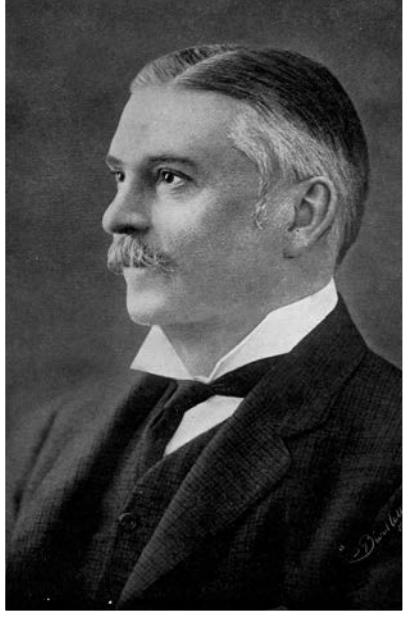
Laurance S Eliot CMG
The first boy enrolled at the School, June 1858



Septimus Burt:
Anglican politician, 1888. He was supported by the West Australian, was a foundation member of the Weld Club and believed that Horgan possessed a free flow of adjectives 'like all his countrymen'.



Stephen Henry Parker:
Lawyer, politician, Mayor of Perth and speculator in urban real estate.



F C Faulkner (1889-1914)

1890s

By 1890 numbers at the *High School* had still not risen much above the initial enrolment of twenty pupils. The arrival in September 1890 of Charles Faulkner from New Zealand and the advent of the 1890s gold rush period brought a change in the fortunes and the prospects of the School. A year after Faulkner's arrival numbers had risen to 33 and by August, 1891 the roll was 41; a year later it was 81. The School's future was assured.

Late 1890s

After C.Y. O'Connor committed suicide, Old Boy Alex Sanderson was one of the engineers to complete the Kalgoorlie pipeline (O'Connor's sons attended Hale School).

1895

Bishop Hale died aged 84, at Clifton, Bristol. He is buried in the family plot next St Kenelm's Church in Alderley, Gloucestershire

High School Old Boy George Leake became leader of the opposition in Western Australia, opposite John Forrest. In 1901 he was appointed Premier and Attorney-General before dying in office in 1902 at 45 years of age.

1899:

The Boer War broke out. Each Australian colony sent contingents in support of the British Army. Western Australia was ultimately to send 9 contingents to South Africa. 36 *High School* Old Boys served, including 10 in the first contingent, before the war ended in July 1902.

High School Old Boy Frank Parker earned a Distinguished Service Order after commanding a group of 22 Western Australians in a day long occupation of a kopje against a force of 400 Boer troops intent on attacking the nearby British encampment at Slingersfontein. The British commander, Major-General Clements named the kopje 'Westralia Hill' in honour of the gallant defence. Frank subsequently became Crown Prosecutor for Western Australia.



Hon. George Leake QC



Old Boy Anthony Forrest, son of Lord Mayor of Perth Alexander Forrest, School wicketkeeper and the bow in the crew which won the inaugural Head of the River in 1899, joined up but was killed in an action at Brakpan in the Eastern Transvaal in May, 1901 at the age of sixteen and a half years.

High School Old Boy Henry ('Harry') Maley also served in South Africa. He was later appointed to State Cabinet in 1921. He served as leader of the Country Party, Deputy-Premier and Minister for Agriculture. He was also a member of the Rottneest Board of Control, and Maley Street on Rottneest is named after him.

Francis Maitland Wyborn Parker

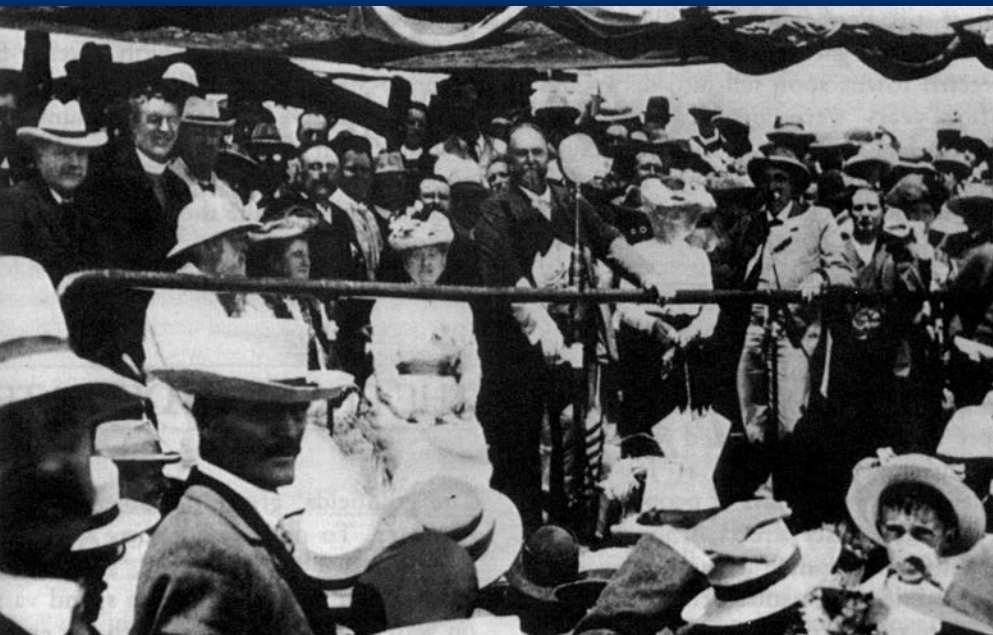
1900-15

1900

The first year of the Darlot Cup. The *High School* won it each year for the first seven years.

1901

On 1 January John Forrest, politician, ten years the first Premier of Western Australia, was appointed the first Federal Treasurer for the Commonwealth of Australia. After many achievements, he was to die in 1918 at the age of 71 years. Perhaps his most visible legacy is King's Park, of which he was an active proponent, together with Surveyor-General Malcolm Fraser and Alexander Forrest. Baron John Forrest of Bunbury was the first President of the King's Park Board.



The official opening of the Goldfields Water Supply scheme.



Hon Sir Walter Hartwell James, KCMG, KC

1902

High School Old Boy Walter James succeeded George Leake as Premier and Attorney-General. He was later to be a Senior Partner of the firm Stone James & Co, which ultimately merged with Mallesons to create Mallesons Stephen Jaques, now one of Australia's leading law firms. He was also a foundation member of the UWA senate before serving as its Chancellor from 1930 to 1936. He was subsequently knighted, appointed KCMG (Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George).

1903

24 January: The Kalgoorlie pipeline is opened. A former Governor of *High School*, Dr John Winthrop Hackett, stated: 'Two men and two men alone were responsible for the Coolgardie Water Scheme, Sir John Forrest and Mr C.Y. O'Connor, the man who gave his life for it'.²

² Sir Winthrop Hackett, in Bill Edgar (2008), *From Slate to Cyberspace*, Wembley Downs, Hale School, p. 69.



The Hon. James L Walker



Alexander Phipps Turnbull



Thomas A L Davy



Frank B Riley

Rhodes Scholars

1904: James L Walker (1902) was the first Old Boy to become a Rhodes Scholar. He went on to become Hale's first Justice of the Supreme Court, W.A.

1907: Alexander Phipps Turnbull (1906)

1909: Thomas A L Davy (1909)

1912: Frank B Riley (1911)

1908

Headmaster Charles Faulkner formed the School's first cadet unit under the blueprint laid down in the Australian Army and Defence Act of 1908.

Undeterred by the assertion that the School did not begin until 1878, Old Boys of the 1860s from the *Bishop's Collegiate School* played cricket matches against the boys of *High School* and were pleased to call themselves 'Old Boys'.

1910s

Bishop's School Old Boy Sir Edward Wittenoom heads the Perth directorate of the 'Jarrah and Karri Company', one of the world's major timber companies.



CRICKET MATCH

Bishop Hale's School XV v High School XI! - 24 February 1905

Back: S Phillips, David Forrest, LS Eliot, Sir Henry Parker, Sir John Forrest, George Lefroy, Morton Craig, W Morgans

Middle: Oct Burt, RF Sholl, Charles Edwards, Geo Parker, SF Moore, Sept Burt, W Clifton, M Bunbury

Front: FS Brockman, JJ Higham, Knight, AS Roe, HS Ranford, Frank Craig



The Laying of the Foundation Stone - 1914

1914

14 February : Two foundation stones for the first purpose built School building were laid at the Havelock Street site by the Governor, Sir Harry Barron, and prominent Old Boy Sir Edward Wittenoom. The Board was granted a 99 year lease.

The 1914 Cygnet reported:

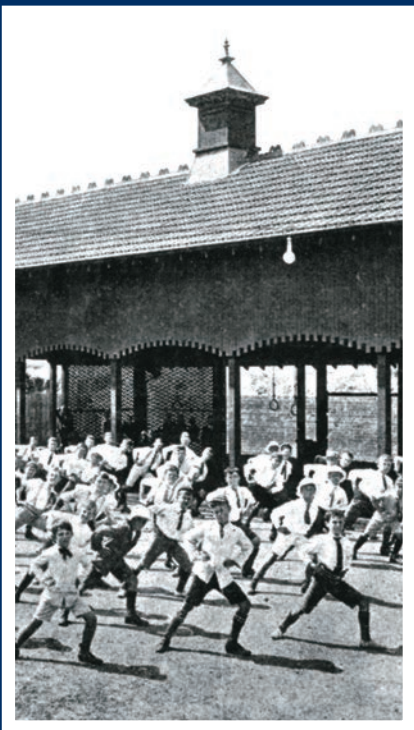
*'During the progress of afternoon tea Sir Edward Stone... commented on the fact that the School had turned out men of high and lofty ideals and a sense of duty to the state. He thought that nowadays young men tended to strive too much after games, instead of seeking to improve the knowledge. He could desire that young men should take as keen an interest in their intellectual advancement as they did in sport. He said that the High School had done an immense amount of good and trusted that the difficulties before them would be easily surmountable...'*³



The Opening of High School: 14 February 1914



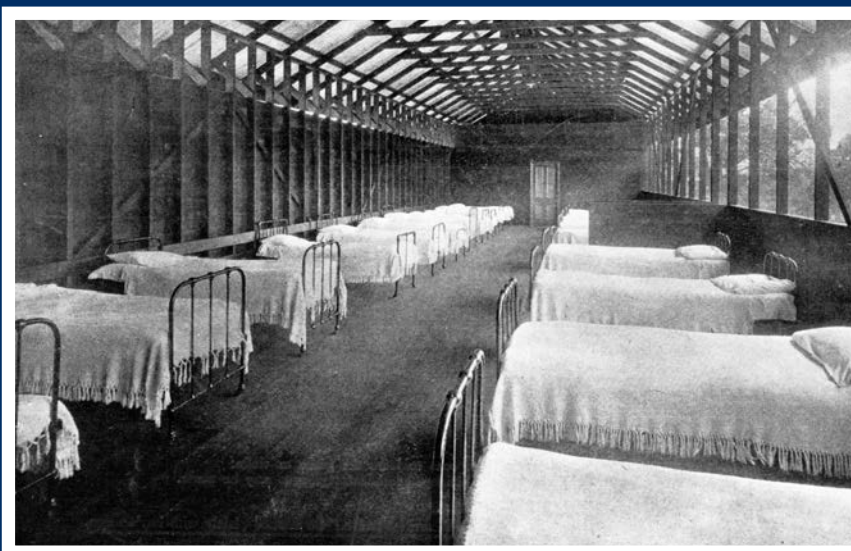
*Havelock Street School
1919*



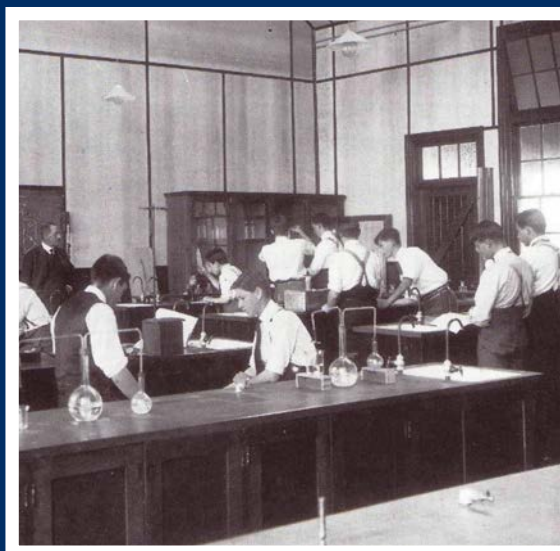
Swedish Exercises



The Lecture Theatre



Boarding Dormitory - George Street



The Chemistry Laboratory

The Great War

The Great War Years

1915

Eleven *High School* Old Boys took part in the landing at Anzac Cove on 25th April, 1915. Ten were killed on Gallipoli between April and December, four of them at 'The Nek' on 7th August. This action was dramatised in Peter Weir's memorable, poignant film, '*Gallipoli*'. One of the *High School* boys was the 1907 Rhodes Scholar, Phipps Turnbull; the others were Harold Barraclough, Reg Moore and Vernon Piesse. Today they are commemorated in the *Hale School Memorial Grove* along with 121 other former students who lost their lives in the Boer War, the Great War, World War II or in the Korea conflict. Leslie Craig, badly wounded in the attack, survived to eventually return to Australia and was later instrumental in the successful move of the School from West Perth to Wembley Downs. Today, the main School oval is named in his honour.

Matthew Wilson appointed as Headmaster

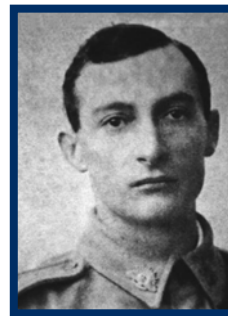
High School Old Boy Aubrey Hardwicke was killed on Gallipoli. After the war his parents donated the *Aubrey Hardwicke Memorial Prize*, which, to this day, is awarded annually to the Captain of School.

1916

Captain Cecil Foss, formerly a *High School* boarder from Babakin, led the first Australian charge against German positions on the Western Front. He was awarded a Military Cross for gallantry but was killed in action later that year at Pozieres.

1918

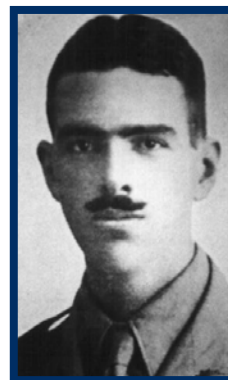
Charlie Foulkes-Taylor, a former boarder from Yuin Station, won a Military Cross for his part in the drive against Turkish forces at Es Salt, Palestine, in May 1918. On 1st October he led the Western Australian 10th Light Horse scouts into Damascus in the early morning and took the surrender from the local officials. They passed through the city in pursuit of the retreating Turks and left Lawrence of Arabia and his entourage to enter the city later and take all the glory from the world press contingent. This was featured many decades later in the iconic film, *Lawrence of Arabia*.



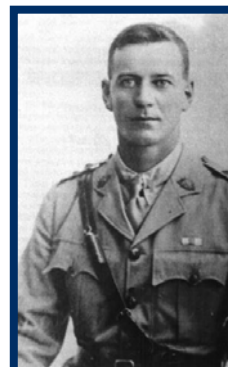
Alexander
Phipps Turnbull
(1898 - 1907)



Leslie Craig (1901-08)



Cecil Maitland Foss
(1907)



Charles Foulkes-Taylor
(1906)

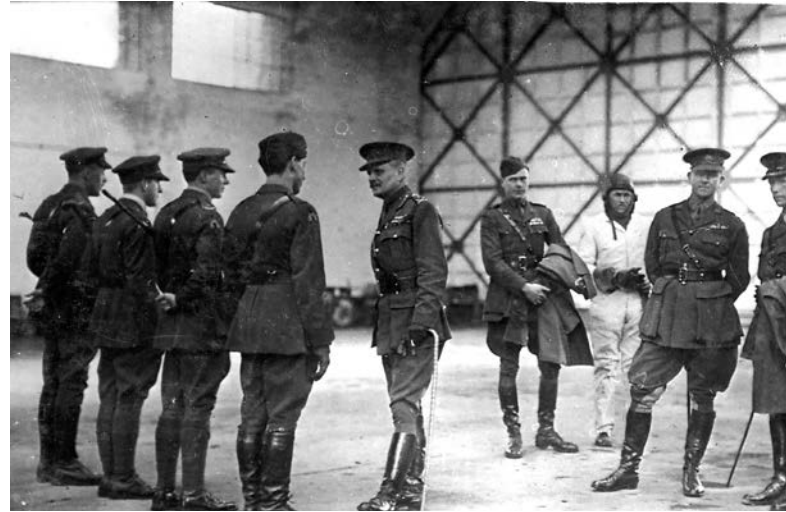


Roy Phillipps medal group - WWI

1918

Roy Phillipps

Roy Phillipps was badly wounded at Gallipoli when a member of the 28th Infantry Battalion. He was to be repatriated to Australia but, instead, inveigled himself into the flying corps where, subsequently, he became the second highest scoring 'ace' of No 2 Squadron of the Australian Flying Corps, with several Military Crosses and a Distinguished Flying Cross to his credit. He was killed in a flying accident in 1941



Captain Roy Phillipps (centre rear), part of an escort for General Birdwood, 1918



George Maitland DCM - 1918

George Maitland

George Maitland could be called Hale School's 'Simpson'. He joined the 4th Light Horse Regiment and his first job was to make coffins for those killed in action on Gallipoli. Later he took part in the famous charge of the Light Horsemen at Beersheba (featured in the film, *The Light Horsemen*). In 1918 he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for rescuing wounded fellow soldiers under heavy fire, placing them on horseback and taking them to safety. During the Second World War, George joined up again and won a Distinguished Service Order for rescuing troops under fire, in much the same area as he had done in the Great War – this time, however, he used a truck! Maitland ended the war as the Deputy Director of Australian Army Medical Corps with a CBE to add to his earlier decorations for bravery.

Frank Slee

Frank Slee, originally a member of the 48th Infantry Battalion, was accepted into the Australian Flying Corps and was posted to France in mid-1917. He procured a bravery medal with a difference – a German Iron Cross. Shot down after a dog-fight with several German pilots he was captured but was entertained by his victors and, as a memento of his tenacious fight, he was given an Iron Cross medal by one of them – Hermann Goering!

Frank Slee in an Avro 504





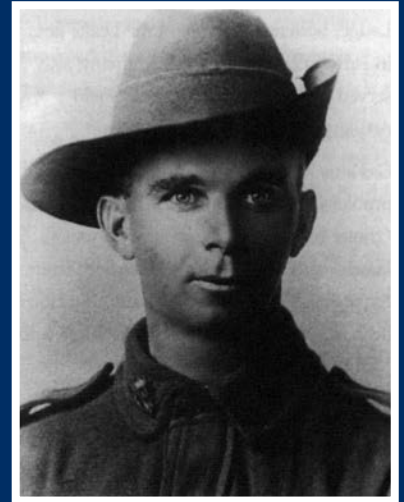
Sir Ross McLarty, KBE MM

Ross McLarty

A future Western Australian Premier and *High School* Old Boy, Ross McLarty, later knighted for his services to the state, won a Military Medal for gallantry on the Western Front early in 1918.

Ernie Parker

Ernie Parker, a barrister and solicitor joined the armed forces as an artilleryman late in the war and was killed on the Western Front in May 1918. He is commemorated in Western Australia's Sportsmen's Hall of Fame as one of the most talented all-rounders in our history (he won the 1908 Australian Singles Tennis Championship and was a triallist for the Australian Test Cricket Team),



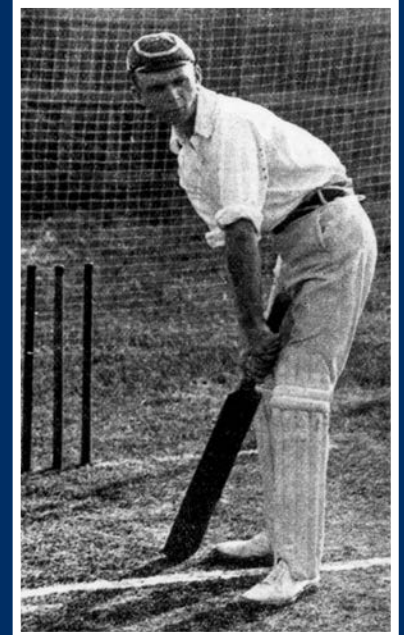
Alf Bessell-Browne

Alf Bessell-Browne was *High School's* most decorated soldier of the Great War. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Order for services during the Boer War and then served right through the Great War, ending it as Brigadier-General, Commander of the 5th Division Royal Artillery C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., mentioned in despatches six times, and with an American Service Medal to add to his array.



Volunteers for service abroad - inspected by Major Bessell-Browne

Altogether, 265 *High School* ex-scholars served during the Great War, most of them in the 1st A.I.F. Forty four were killed. They are commemorated in the Hale School Memorial Grove at Wembley Downs, below the Chapel of St Mark.



Ernie Parker

1919

In the December 1919 *Cygnets*, the editor wrote:

*'The Great War, with its toll of brave men, has left us bereft of many who could ill be spared in a young country while, at the same time, it had afforded hundreds that opportunity of the wider education that travel alone gives. All schools in Australia will benefit in the future from the influence of the Old Boys who have seen the world, and have stood the tests of the greatest war in history. It is more evident every year that public schools depend to a very large extent on the support of men who have been educated in them, who have lived the full, rich life that these schools give, and who have carried out into the world, memories of happy days and friendships formed for life.'*⁴



Havelock Street School - 1919

1920-40

1920

Headmaster Matthew Wilson reported that at the end of 1920 the numbers at *High School* had lifted above 300 for the first time. A War Memorial Wing was added in 1924 and was used as the Junior School section of the complex.

1920s

Numbers at the School fell as a result of the Great Depression to 235 by 1928 with only 35 boarders enrolled.

⁴ 1919 *Cygnets* report in Edgar, *From Slate to Cyberspace*, p. 145.

Fees and Terms.

All Fees become payable on the first day of each term, and pupils subsequently withdrawn are liable for a full term's fees.
A reduction of 10% on board and tuition is made in the case of brothers.

The School Year is divided into **THREE TERMS**, of practically equal length, the dates for 1920 being as follows:
1st Term, 10th February to 14th May; 2nd term, 1st June to 27th August; 3rd term, 14th September to 17th December.

FULL BOARDERS.

Under 12 years Board - £16 10/-; Tuition - £6; Total - £22 10/- per term.
Over 12 years, Board - £18 3/-; Tuition - £7 7/-; Total - £25 10/- per term
Laundry - £1 6/- per term.

WEEKLY BOARDERS.

Under 12 years Board - £15; Tuition - £6; Total - £21 per term.
Over 12 years, Board - £16 13/-; Tuition - £7 7/-; Total - £24 per term

DAY BOYS

Under 12 years, Tuition - - - £6 per term | Over 12 years, Tuition - - - £7 7/- per term.

DAY BOARDERS.

£4 per term, in addition to the day fees.

£4 per term, in addition to the day fees.

[N.B. - A Meal is provided at the School House for day boys whose parents may wish them to have a hot dinner.
The price works out at about 1/3 per meal.]
The above fees include School Magazine, Physics, Chemistry, Cadet Corps, Physical Culture, Games, Sports, etc.; the wages of permanent groundsman, soil, seed, water, materials for cricket, rowing, tennis, football etc. The charge includes all Physical Training except Boxing.

EXTRA SUBJECTS.

LABORATORY FEE, 5/- per term.

DANCING, £1 1s per term

BOXING 17/6 per term

ELOCUTION 10/6 per term

MUSIC. Arrangements may be made if parents desire their sons to learn the piano or violin.
Where necessary for boys to remain at School during the holidays special arrangements may be made.

CLOTHING FOR BOARDERS.

The following list is meant as an assistance to parents. All articles MUST be marked plainly with boy's name.

3 Suits (one dark, for Sunday wear)
3 Suits Pyjamas
6 Soft Shirts
12 collars
6 Handkerchiefs

3 Serviettes
6 pairs Socks or Stockings
4 Singlets
1 Rug
1 Overcoat

3 Pairs Boots
1 Pair Slippers
Brushes (clothes, hair, teeth and nails)
Straw Hat

Headmaster Matthew Wilson's son Frank (born 1916), who attended *High School*, between 1924 and 1928, and lived with his parents at the George Street site before the new boarding house was completed in 1926, wrote the following regarding the School in the 20s:



Havelock Street Laboratory with 'Dil Newbery, 1920s

I believe that the site and some of the buildings, including our family quarters, were originally a military hospital, conveniently situated across the road from the Barracks (the Public Works offices in the 1920s) and that an underground passage joining the two sites passed under George street, through which patients and staff could be evacuated should someone (one wonders who ... Aborigines? Germans? Things from outer space?) ever attack. Certainly in the 20s there were still extensive cellars under the Headmaster's quarters, but I was a timid child and too impressed by the blood-curdling accounts of my brother Ron and other 'big kids' about convict skeletons still chained to the walls and the like to venture down and see for myself (almost surely there was nothing down there other than mice and cockroaches, of which, understandably for such old buildings, there were quite a few around).

There were many fine old trees around the perimeter fences: I recall Cape Lilac, Pine, Moreton Bay Fig, Mexican Pepper and two fine fig trees bearing excellent fruit, somewhere near the main buildings.

...The domestic staff were mainly young girls recruited from the goldfields where mining was suffering from a recession at that period. They were a cheerful lot and in my pre-school years I spent most of my days with them in the kitchen, laundry and dormitory... They sang rude songs of the day about "Kaiser Bill", or "Germany You're Up the Tree!" or "Mademoiselle from Armientieres (parlez-vous)". They lived on the premises, getting food and keep plus the princely wage of one pound, two shillings and sixpence a week. More senior girls got

perhaps two pound and the senior cook Edith, who was on top of the pecking order, got an enviable three pounds.

The maids got a half day off each week on which, if lucky, they were taken to 'the pictures' (the Price of Wales or Grand in Murray Street, the Palladium or Pavilion, Hay Street) by their boy friends to see Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford, Rudolph Valentino (in 'The Sheik' or 'Blood and Sand'), Charlie Chaplin ('The Kid' with Jackie Coogan) and, of course, Garbo. It was more or less an obligation for their escorts to buy them a small box of MacRobertson's excellent chocolates ('Old Gold', 'Dolly Vardin' or 'Vanity Fair') costing perhaps 2/6d, the empty boxes being displayed thereafter as trophies on top of their wardrobes.

Catering for the appetites of 50 or 60 hungry boys must have been quite a challenge for these girls. Mutton, potatoes and cabbage were predominant, I think, and I recall enormous, tubular shaped 'steamed roly-poly' and 'spotted dog' puddings, larded over with IXL plum and raspberry jam from Tasmania. And, of course, endless boring custards of rice, sago and tapioca (ugh, not frogs eyes again?!), with plenty of golden syrup to mix in.

Food supplies and laundry were delivered by horse and cart; and now and then dray carts carrying barrels from the Swan and Emu Breweries down on the river's edge would role by from the direction of Mill or Spring Streets, pulled by teams of superb, brawny Clydesdales and bound for pubs nearby.



Havelock Street - July 1927

There were few motor cars or trucks; buses had just started a Perth-Fremantle service and the successful ascent of Malcolm Street by them when fully loaded was sometimes in doubt.

Trams ran along Hay street from the 'Car Barn' terminal in East Perth (alongside Queen's Gardens and the W.A.C.A. ground) through West Perth to far-off places like Subiaco; the Nedlands swimming baths, even in time as far away as Claremont, to the Showgrounds and down by Bay View Terrace to the river.

The dormitory ... was basically a 'sleep-over', open on the inward side, of wooden construction with a roof of corrugated iron. It was airy and comfortable but had one serious defect, in that it was situated right alongside the George Street picket fence, and therefore hopelessly vulnerable to stones thrown on its tine roof by larrikins in the dead of night, usually accompanied by derisive shouts of 'water melons' (an unkind reference to the rather distinctive design of the school cap of that period, with its alternative segments of light and dark blue). From my own 'sleep-over' a short distance away, I could hear the enraged cries of 'larries' from pyjama clad boys in hot but generally hopeless pursuit down George to Hay Street and beyond.

Twice daily on weekdays and once on Saturday mornings, the boarders would walk to and from the main school and classrooms at Havelock Street. The route crossed George Street, through the main gate of the Barracks (the arch still stands), up a wooden stairway and along a

diagonal path flanked by big oleander bushes, along the side of Parliament House, then across Harvest Terrace and up through 'the sandhills' and the area where the new boarding house was to be built in 1926, and finally to the main classroom buildings on Havelock Street, to merger with the 'dagoes', the despised but envied day boys with homes in West Perth, Subiaco and South Perth.

Scrub covered the 'sandhills' area; hovea, leschenaultia, smoke bush, banksia and other wildflowers were quite profuse, and the sandy slopes falling away to Harvest Terrace and Wilson Street (now Parliament Place) gave splendid scope for toboggan runways for boys seated on the polished lids of kerosene tins.

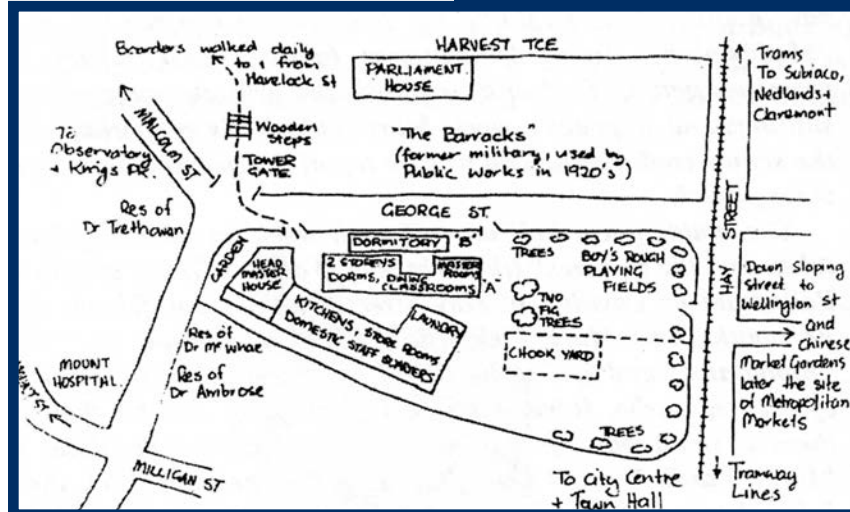
The school day began at 9.00am with all classes lined up in ranks on the floor of the main assembly hall and the Headmaster, masters and prefects facing them from the raised dais. My father, Matt Wilson, would stand at a lectern and intone the Lord's Prayer at a brisk pace, after which we would file over to our respective classrooms, the youngest in the care of the cool and elegant Miss Doris Green ('Greeneyes') and others to such notables as 'Fuzzy' Rankin, 'Jerry' Polan, 'Billy' Whitton and on to the new wing ... with its Olympian rulers, 'Dil' Newbery and E.P. Clarke.

P.T., known as 'drill', was supervised by 'Buckety' Wells, an old soldier of rather forceful mien, bristling hair and moustache, whose annual 'tour de force' was the Drill Display on the school lawn on Speech Night before and assembly of admiring parents and families, culminating

in a squad of older boys swinging fiery Indian clubs, which often set boys' hair on the surrounding green alight for brief periods. Despite, or perhaps because of, its obvious dangers, this part of the programme was always enjoyed by all. Coloured lights festooned the main face of the school buildings, adding to the overall air of glamour and excitement, speeches made and prizes, academic and sporting, distributed by some notable of the period.

One of the more memorable and best loved characters at George Street was William Drinkwater, the 'yardman' who kept the grounds clean, fed the chooks we kept and did other odd jobs. He was affectionately known to every as 'Old Bill'. Sadly he didn't always live up to the image suggested by his surname and would periodically go off on alcoholic binges to nearby corner pubs on Milligan and Wellington Streets, returning noisily to his quarters after closing time to ironic cheers of encouragement from dormitory windows, My mother was fond of him, and fought a continual losing battle against bottles of methylated spirits hidden here and there by Bill, 'against a rainy day'.

A short walk down hill to Wellington Street brought one to market gardens, about where the Metropolitan Markets later stood. These were neatly cultivated by Chinese and had a faintly sinister reputation among the boys, perhaps due to the ridiculous

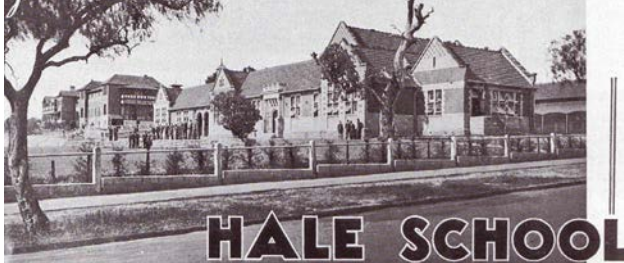


George Street site, circa 1920

and pernicious 'Dr Fu Manchu' image that then was attached to the harmless, gentle, Oriental immigrants who tended them so lovingly.

The St George's Terrace/Malcolm Street side was much more up-market. Eminent medicos proliferated everywhere – Dr McWhae right next door, Dr Ambrose a short way down the Terrace, Dr Trethowan on the corner opposite; the Mount Hospital just down the road. Their sons were day boys at Havelock Street, their daughters sent to St Mary's in Colin Street, presided over by its formidable Headmistress, Miss Dannett. West Perth was a closely-knit, tree-lined, quiet little residential area in those days, where everyone knew everyone else.⁵

⁵ Frank Wilson memoir in Edgar, *From Slate to Cyberspace*, pp. 151-156.



Western Mail, Hale School 'Promo' - 1938

1922

As early as 1922 it was recorded in the minutes of an Old Boy's meeting that T.A.L. ('Taddy') Davy had stated that the time would come when the School would have to be moved further way from the centre of the city. For the time being the matter was dropped as being too far into the future coupled with the onset of the Great Depression. After numbers rose in the late 1930s the matter was raised again.

1923

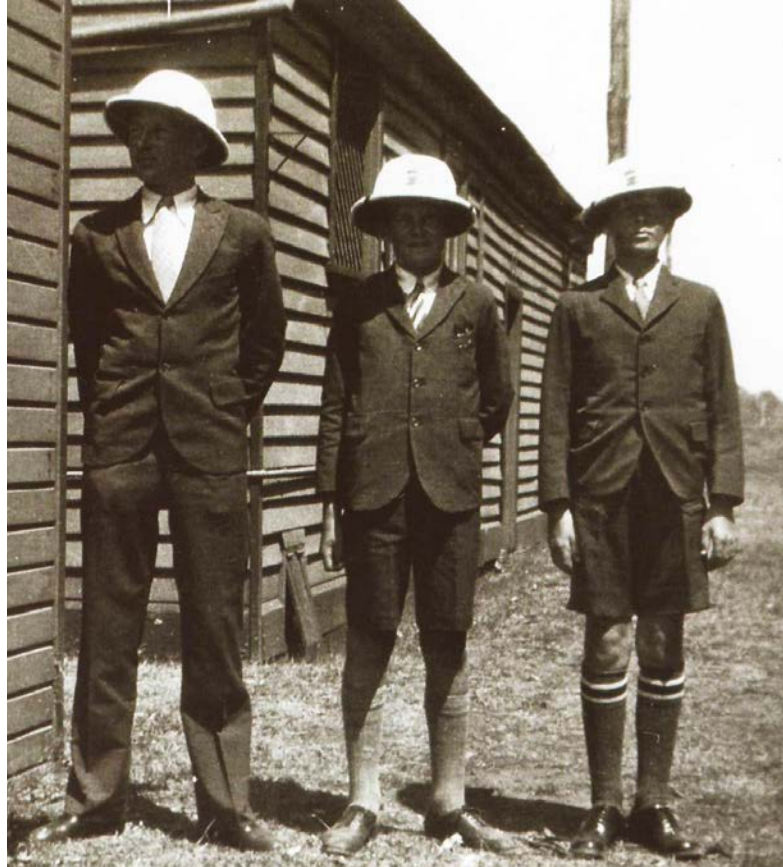
With the proliferation of state high schools in the 1920s the name *High School* was no longer distinguishable from other secondary schools. The Old Boys' Association subsequently called a meeting and members were asked to express their opinions about a change of name. Some of those suggested were: *Perth Grammar School*, *Hale's School* and *Hale College*. At the meeting of the Old Boys' Association in 1923, T.A.L. ('Taddy') Davy moved that the name of *High School* be changed to *Hale School*. It took another six years of sometimes heated debate before an Act of Parliament eventually ratified the new name.

1925

Arthur H Christian (1922) became the fifth Old Boy to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship.



Arthur H Christian



School Uniform - Early 1930s

1929

Matthew Wilson was replaced by Philip Le Couteur as Headmaster.

Le Couteur only stayed a short time. He was replaced as Headmaster by Dr Arnold Buntine.

Dr Ken Tregonning adjudged Buntine's time at Hale School,

*'... Indeed very effective years. "Dr Buntine was a tyrant" David Jenkins has written. "Masters and boys alike were frightened of him, which was just as well because the School had been through a bad period ... "Buntine saw it was a question of discipline". As he said at his 1932 Speech Night, School spirit could not be taught, there were no text books, yet it was a vital subject for any School, and for it to be good "discipline is the essential element ... moral discipline, at least in part self-imposed and exercised in a School largely through its boys; a real discipline which is combined with real freedom.'*⁶

⁶ Ken Tregonning (1993), *Young Hearts Run Free*, Wembley Downs, Hale School, p. 168

1933

One of those to join the dwindling boarding numbers was Miles De Courcy Clarke. Boarding, in those days, was not for the faint-hearted as described by then thirteen year old Miles in one of his early letters for his parents, which in part read:

'... Last night we had new boys boxing and there was good fights. Mr Pervis, our new master who used to fight for Melbourne Uni, was the referee. At the finish there was blood all over the floor and walls. I fought a boy call McLarty, only I was beaten. It was very close and we had four rounds instead of three to decide it ... I am writing in pencil because I have just had my fountain pen and my microscope pinched ...

*I am playing tennis a lot now and am pretty good. I beat a nephew of Jimmy Mitchell yesterday 6-5. It was a good game but the chap I played cheated so I always had to be on the alert.'*⁷

⁷ Miles de Courcy Clarke letter in Edgar, *From Slate to Cyberspace*, pp. 166-167



W L (Bill) Brine

1939

Chairman of the Board of Governors, W.L. (Bill) Brine, had begun the search for a new site in the middle of the 1930s. Brine heard of a farm where aboriginals used to camp near Herdsman Lake. In company with the then Headmaster, Dr Arnold Buntine, the pair examined the site and recommended it to the Board of Governors. In June, 1939 an agreement was entered into for Hale School to purchase the 'Herdsman Lake' land of 48 hectares for 2,260 pounds.

Planning and preparations were begun to facilitate the move to the new site, but in the interim World War II broke out, the Headmaster went off to war in the Middle East and the prospects of an early transfer of activities rapidly lost way. It was to be another two decades before the move to Wembley Downs finally took place.

1940

Rohdes Scholar No. 6
- Colin C Clarke (1936)



3 September (Black Sunday)

This evening, the Prime Minister of Australia, Robert Gordon Menzies, made the following announcement:

*'People of Australia, it is my melancholy duty to inform you officially that, in consequence of the persistence by Germany in her invasion of Poland, Great Britain has declared war upon her, and that, as a result, Australia is also at war.'*⁸

⁸ R. G. Menzies in W. J. Edgar (1994), *From Veldt to Vietnam, Haleians at War*, Wembley Downs, Old Haleians' Association, p. 79.

World War II

*Merv Parry (1924-31)
pictured with his wartime uniform*



World War II Years

1940s

On the outbreak of World War II, *Haleians* again joined in great numbers, 278 into the army, 82 to the Royal Australian Navy and 223 to the Royal Australian Air Force. Twenty others served in British or American units.

1940

Headmaster Buntine joins the AIF fighting in N. Africa. Charles Hadley appointed Acting Headmaster until Buntine resumes at Hale in late 1944.

Former Master-in-Charge of the English Department, Ralph Honner, won a Military Cross for gallantry in North Africa in 1941, and then the Distinguished Service Order for his leadership of the 39th Militia Battalion on the Kokoda Track, and then at the Gona in 1942.

Paul Royle

Paul Royle (*High School*, 1923-27) crash landed his aircraft in France on 18th May 1940 and was taken prisoner and eventually lodged in Stalag Luft III. He took part in the 'Great Escape' in 1944 and was one of those who escaped the 50 reprisal executions by the Gestapo.

Paul was welcomed back into the Hale School fraternity at an Old Boy assembly in 2002 - after an absence of 75 years! He had been reported as killed in 1940 and the School had prepared his commemorative plaque for placement in the Memorial Grove before he made contact again.

*Captain of School, Kingsley Rudeforth (1996-2002)
welcomes Paul Royle (1923-27) back into the fold.*

Ian Keys

Ian Keys, another *Haleian* pilot serving in England, was shot down over France in 1942 and was lodged in Stalag Luft III too. He took part in the so-called 'Wooden Horse' escape from that encampment, also in 1944.

Mervyn Parry

Mervyn Parry was the *Haleian* who was away the longest from Australia. At the outbreak of war he joined the RAF and was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross after his first 'tour'. He was then transferred to Training Command, instructing on Oxfords, Wellingtons and Stirlings until 1943. For this duty he was awarded the Air Force Cross in a task that he described as being more dangerous than operational flying over Germany. Then, as an acting Wing Commander, he was transferred to 106 Squadron flying Lancasters, completing another operational tour and earning a bar to his DFC.

Hugo Armstrong

Another to win two DFCs besides Parry was Hugo ('Hoogie') Throssell Armstrong, named after his famous uncle, Hugo Throssell VC, as a fighter pilot with the Royal Air Force. By early February, 1943 Armstrong had been in command of No 611 (RAF) Squadron for five months and had scored 12 confirmed 'kills' with a string of probables plus damaged enemy aircraft to his credit. He had just been awarded a bar to his Distinguished Flying Cross when he lost his life over the English Channel on the 5th February, 1943. In all, *Haleians* won a total of 19 Distinguished Flying Crosses for gallantry in the air.



Alec Choate



Lance Howard DFC

Alec Choate

Alec Choate, an artilleryman in North Africa in 1942, wrote wonderfully evocative poetry about his experiences in the desert.

*... No passer by would ever understand
What scars of war were also here, now blurred
And softened, smoothed away. Nothing was heard
Of war in this spent moonlight, not a sound.
Peace for awhile seemed earnest, and profound.*

And when the great artillery duel was over:

*... Gone was the day's gunfire, gone its skies that
burned,
Gone was it's drag of boredom, gone its fear.
Back to the laager ... the men returned,
But still not back to life they held so dear.
Here was respite, but the true rest was not here.
No wife or lover claimed one as her own.
Each man of thousands exiled slept alone.*

Choate was subsequently awarded the 1986 Western Australian Week Literary Prize for poetry. He was editor of *Summerland*, the Western Australian Sesquicentenary 'Anthology of Poetry and Prose.'⁹

Lance Howard

Lance Howard may well have considered himself one of the luckier survivors of the war. He was navigator on the last Lancaster to return from the famous Dambuster raid in 1943, piloted by Warrant Officer Bill Townsend. 'O for Orange' returned at zero feet to elude the German radar and night fighters. When they landed as dawn was breaking the motors had tree branches in their cowlings and telephone wires wrapped around the wings in several places! Lance was awarded an immediate Distinguished Flying Cross on landing; his pilot the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

The central lake at the Royal Air Force Association retirement complex in Bull Creek, Western Australia is named Lake Howard..

Ian Keys

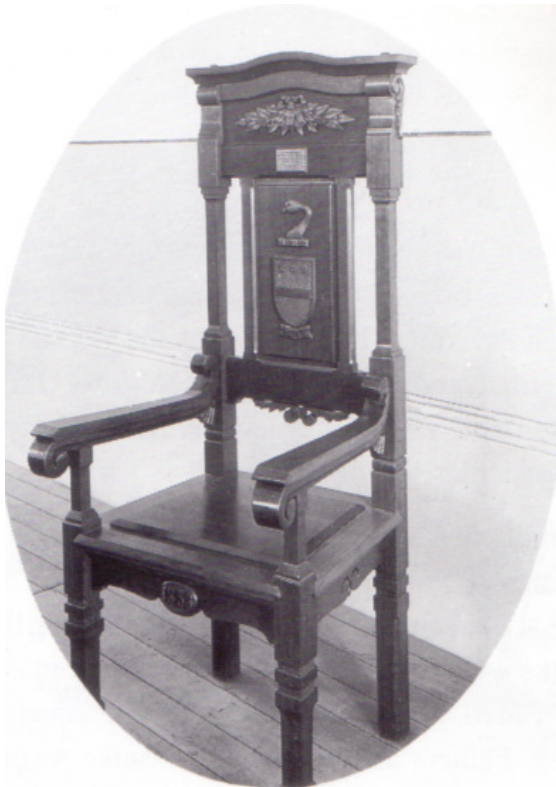
Ian Keys was shot down over France in May 1942 and, after being captured, spent most of the time in Stalag Luft III. He was involved in one of the most innovative escapes of the war. In his book, *The Wooden Horse*, Eric Williams described how a tunnel was dug under the noses of the German guards using a vaulting 'horse' placed over the mouth of a tunnel relatively near to the prison wire. Though weak with hunger, dozens of men, including Ian Keys, vaulted and exercised on and around the horse daily for many months which those below excavated their way beneath the wire. Three men, Peter Howard, John Clifton and Phillip Rowe, eventually managed to escape and successfully make their way back to England via a precarious route through Sweden.

⁹ Alec Choate poem 'On the Frontier' (1978) in *Gifts Upon the Water*, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, pp 54-67.

1945

Headmaster Arnold Buntine leaves at the end of 1945 and Vernon Murphy takes over at the beginning of 1946.

First Master JB ('Dil') Newbery retired at the end of 1945, having previously been the Senior Science Master. The current science wing at Hale School is named the *Newbery Science Block* in his honour.



The Kennedy-Smith Memorial Chair
In memory of his two sons killed during the 1939-45 war - donated by their father.

The War ended. Don Wilson, a *Hale School* boarder from Manjimup, remembered the end of the war to:

The news of the German surrender in May 1945 didn't make much of an impression to me. There was a lot of celebration going on in the city, or so I was told, but apart from the big headlines in the copy of the West Australian newspaper that was daily clipped to the board in the common room, for me at least, it didn't seem to be of any great import. We were still at war with Japan and I think the Japanese were always a more realistic enemy to us than ever the Germans were. So when, four months later, the Japanese surrendered, we really did celebrate – if you can call throwing a few rolls of toilet paper out of the dorm windows and running down the corridors make a lot of noise 'celebrating'.

Franky and I had a surprise contribution to make that we were keeping until night-time. During the afternoon we had taken an axe from the wood-heap behind the kitchen and gone over into the old Observatory grounds and selecting a tree which had a large fork in it, we proceeded to chop it down. We then cut off the tops and bottom so that it formed a large 'V'. This was quite hard work for two skinny eleven year-olds and by the time we had dragged it around to the front of the Boarding House building, we were really fagged out. But it was all in good cause and so we carried on, eventually pulling it down onto the steep, sandy incline in front of the main building. From here, one had quite a good view over a

large piece of West Perth. There was no high rise building to block the view as there are today.

We pushed the prong of the stump into the ground and propped it up so it would stay put and waited until after tea-time when it would be dark. At the appropriate moment we went back with some old newspapers and a box of matches. Packing the newspaper and any other combustible material we could find behind the 'V' shaped piece of wood we set fire to it. The anticipated blaze that would silhouette our message of 'V' for Victory set out across the playing fields fell somewhat short of our expectations and the wind kept blowing the burning pieces of paper back up the hill and into the garden at the foot of the boarding house. Instead of being congratulated for this display of patriotic fervour, the dreaded Miss Bruce trued up on the scene and accused us of 'trying to set fire to the school' and sent us straight up to our room where we were locked in.

So much for patriotism and the celebrations of 'V.J. Day' (Victory over Japan) ... or as they're more fond of calling it these days, "V.P. Day' (Victory in the Pacific) ... Musn't upset the Japs ... Oops! Sorry, Japanese.

It didn't end there either. The next day the slightly blackened stump, sitting on the side of the hill, led to the discovery of the tree we had chopped down in the Observatory and we were in more trouble still.¹⁰

¹⁰ Old Haleian Don Wilson, in *Manji Boy*, chapter 6, Hale School, 1944-45', pp 60-61

The Cygnet, in a sober mood, reported:

When the use of the atomic bomb against a Japanese city was announced, Dr Buntine read the following, which is very applicable. It was written by Mr H.G. Wells several years ago:

*'Invention and scientific knowledge have taken our hearts and imagination by surprise. Our social and political ideas, our morals, our ambitions, our courage, have had as yet no corresponding expansion. Plenty overwhelms us and we do not know how to distribute or use the wealth we can now produce. Power – gigantic power – has come to us and we can use it only in mutual injury according to the methods of the warring past.'*¹¹

Dr Ken Tregonning Headmaster of the School between 1967 and 1988, in a retrospective letter responding to Hale School Year 10 Australian History student Lachlan Gepp's query in 2005, wrote the following:

'During the four years of my involvement I collected a few character guidelines. It may seem odd, but I think war taught me, or gave me, a definition of love. If you are prepared to throw yourself on an exploding bomb to save the life of someone, then that is love. Forget physical attraction, that is superficial. Would you give your life for another? ... in war you had to ask yourself, why am I at 10,000 feet in the pitch darkness, ready to be killed? Love, or bloody stupidity?.'

There was another characteristic I think war gave me, trust. You have to have complete trust in

your crew. They depended on you, their skipper, but by golly you depended on them too. Night flying, moonless, a joint exercise, and you made sure you could survive each night. I think love and trust helped me at Hale, as did, I suppose, any leadership qualities I had. Both in the army and more particularly in the RAAF, I was called on to give leadership to men much older than me, and you knew that if you ducked for cover and passed the buck, you had not measured up. So I think this characterised my life at Hale also.

Service for others, I think, was another. You were far removed from working for your living. You were committed to years of serving your nation in some organisation that helped others. I think you'll find the war generation quite outstanding in the voluntary service organisations it established, or strengthened by their commitment. Certainly when I lived in Singapore the selfishness of the people there was marked in contrast to the W.A. environment. No one there would do anything for anybody, whereas we ex-servicemen would, as a matter of course, volunteer to help. Maybe this was characteristic of Australians anyway, but I think the war helped shape an approach.

Two years in England exposed me to the social divide that was – and is I think – dividing the country. As a Sergeant pilot, not an officer, various hotels were banned to you, and in many ways you were made to understand you were inferior. Near our drome was a big army base where we were welcome – but only in the N.C.O.'s mess. Sergeant Francis

Burt [later Western Australian Governor and Chief Justice] was in 10 Squadron flying Sunderlands. In two years he never met the Commanding Officer. There was a long tradition – people were above you by their heredity, not ability, and you had to know your place. I found this social division ghastly, and developed a feeling of great support for the underdog. This influenced me strongly in Singapore, where I was active in supporting an end to the British overlordship – and at Hale too.

I think it is one of the reasons why the British media, and much else, dislikes Australia. It is where its working class migrated to – and was successful.

There was one aspect of the war I never embraced and that was hate. I knew I was going to bomb German towns, yet all I felt was sympathy for the poor devils below. When I lived in Singapore I made many Japanese friends and all I could feel for them was compassion. I think at Hale I worked to the saying of Paul to the Corinthians: "I have been given authority to lift you up" – and that I tried very hard to do.

*There are other character aspects of mine that I think were developed in those years in the services, but I fear I have bored you already ... so let's leave it at that. After all, we won the war, that's the important thing.'*¹²

¹¹ Cygnet, June 1946, pp 7-8

¹² Ken Tregonning personal letter to Lachlan Gepp, quoted in Edgar, *From Slate to Cyberspace*, pp 243-245



'HOME'

Ex-POW Keith Pescod (1930-32)
(*'All boots, ribs and Adam's apple'*)
with wife Amy, Sydney, 1946.

1940s

1946

Vernon Murphy took up his appointment as Headmaster of the School.

1946

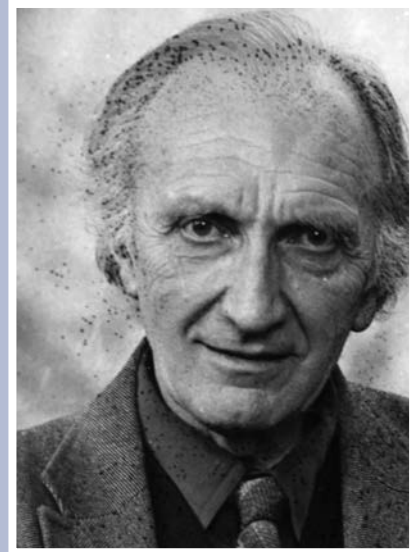
Old Boy Ross McLarty was elected leader of the State Liberal Party and, after leading the party to victory at the election at 1st April 1947, became Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Housing, Forests and the North-West. Ross was created KBE (Knight Bachelor) by the Queen in January 1953 and held public office until 1962.

Tom Hoar

Tom Hoar has left us with the following picture of the School in the 1940s:

1947

Rhodes Scholar: John Rigarfsford Clarke (1942)



'My introduction to Hale School commenced in June 1948. At this time I was a third year student at U.W.A. and a resident at St George's College. Mr Vernon Murphy, the headmaster of the school, then situated at in Havelock Street, West Perth, came to the college to talk to any young man interested in the teaching profession. In particular, he wanted a person prepared to take up a position as an assistance resident boarding master and, hopefully, one capable of teaching Applied Mathematics to a sub-leaving class. To my great relief I was offered the position. At the time I was attending university as a C.R.T.S. (Commonwealth Re-construction Training Scheme) student. My allowance was three pounds five shillings per week (the college was charging three pounds ten shillings). My father had passed away while I was in the RAAF during the war, so I had no financial back-up to draw on. Even with my limited mathematical prowess I could sense that time were perilous. And so, when Mr Murphy offered me five pounds a month and everything found, I jumped at the opportunity.

Mr Murphy then offered to drive me to Hale to show me the school and its facilities. He talked with great enthusiasm and assured me that it was not only one of the great Public Schools in W.A. but also in Australia. He mentioned my accommodation as a bed-sit complete with modern furniture, with a study desk and bookcase. Whenever I hear the expression, 'one of nature's gentlemen', I immediately think of Mr Vernon Murphy.



I was to thoroughly enjoy my thirteen years teaching under V.S. Murphy, affectionately known as 'Spud'. He led by example and gave full support to his staff. He demonstrated a genuine concern for all and was proud of his association with Hale School. Some critics would say he was too nice a fellow to be a really great headmaster.

I would have to admit to being appalled when I first entered the School. The actual school site dated back to the 1st World War and the boarding house site to the mid-1920s. Even at this time the School was anticipating a move to Wembley Downs and hence there was a reluctance to spend unnecessary money at the existing site.

Why was I appalled with my first impressions? In the teaching block the classrooms were small – jammed together and feeding into the one passage way. The classrooms were absolutely bare, with the exception of the one chalk blackboard. It was obvious from the outset that the teaching was going to be a chalk and talk exercise. The room in which I had to try and teach

twenty unwilling sub-leaving students was part of the School gymnasium. This building was a wooden, ant-infested area and far from weather proof. The students sat on long wooden benches – a half dozen to the same writing bench. I had a portable blackboard which, at any particular time, could be located anywhere on the School site. I had attempted to counter this problem by arriving early to class and locating the board before the boys' arrival. The science block was another wooden, unsafe structure with the one lecture theatre and several poorly equipped labs. Having just come from the labs at UWA those at Hale were quite a contrast. They had to be seen to be believed.

The one redeeming area was the School Assembly Hall. This building had great character and charm and could house the staff seated on a raised platform and the 300 students in the body of the hall. The rear of the hall served as the School library. It comprised of half dozen glassed-in book cases and two or three bench forms.

The one toilet block accommodated staff and students and was, at best, basic. Unless one was desperate, or wished to know the latest School rumours or gossip, it was an area to be avoided. The staff common room was cramped with one huge table, supposed to operate as a work bench. There were sufficient chairs for all staff to be seated. The ten most senior members had a small wooden locker while the remainder just left their books etc on the table.

A.C. ('Corry') Marshall was a strong disciplinarian – with no great sense of humour; he was not always appreciated either for the dreadful puns that were part of his everyday conversation. He was, however, a gifted teacher of Latin, French and English and, although not always appreciated by boys and colleagues alike, he was greatly respected.

Lister ('Ducky') Drake was loved and respected by all and gave great service to his school, both in and out of the classroom. He had served in the army during the war and enjoyed his years of involvement with Hale School army cadets. He was very capable with his hands and built his own caravans and boats and was responsible for organising the staff in helping built a woodwork centre for the boys.

Wilfred Corr was quiet and unassuming, but a man of the world. He was liked and respected by all. He taught latin, arithmetic and book-keeping to Years 8 & 9 and

was resident housemaster responsible for the new Year 8 boarders. He helped all boys overcome their homesickness and was most generous with his time. He had served in the First World War, had worked in London, been a handicapper with the Western Australian Turf Club and was very involved with the Western Australian Tennis Association. The much sought after present P.S.A. trophy for tennis is called the Wilfred Corr Cup in his honour.

Charlie Hamilton was another of nature's gentlemen, a well liked and well respected colleague with a great fund of stories. He was a retired state school headmaster and came to Hale to help out during the war years. He was responsible for teaching art and looked after the 1st XI cricketers. Initially the boys were concerned about his advanced years – until he showed himself well capable of bowling out all of the top batsmen in the team with his underarm leg and off breaks! Charlie Hamilton was keen for the boys to grow up as good sportsmen as well as men of the world too.

Doris Green was a wonderful lady and a caring and gifted teacher. She was responsible for the small Prep School boys, all of whom remember her with affection. She was the only person who both understood them and could adequately control them. Whenever she was away no senior school staff could be found to take her place – they feared for their reputations as effective disciplinarians. Miss Green came as a temporary replacement in 1919 and retired in 1954. She came out of retirement, temporarily, in February 1961, to honour the school that she loved by giving the very first lesson at the new Hale School site in Wembley Downs – many of her former pupils sat in the classroom with their own children at their knees.

The students had absolutely no facilities worth talking about. The grounds – very small and limited – were supposedly grassed but were mainly covered by sand and Guildford grass. There was a small asphalt area in front of the School which served as an assembly area in the morning and a parade ground for the cadets.

The boarding house reminded one of a rabbit warren. The boys slept in dormitories, twenty five to a dorm. The only furniture was their bed, which had to be made to military standards. The towels had to be hung in a particular way at the end of the beds. Cloths and personal items were contained in lockers in the change rooms, which were part of the toilet-shower room facilities. Again, these were basic – no hot water and no privacy.

The resident boarding house masters used the same facilities. Each dormitory had a so-called bed-sitter at one end. One had to walk the length of the dorm to reach one's accommodation. Imagine the comments heard when you arrived home late at night, possibly a little worse for wear. The study desk and chair were in fact a set from the old kitchen and the book case was a shelf that could hold, at most, a dozen books.

The boys had to do their prep down in the School teaching block and they were supervised by the resident staff. One could hear the conversation from the boys after lights out. One's education was certainly broadened by some of the stories that floated through.

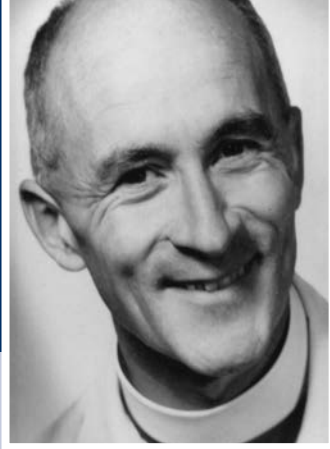
The School had two ovals up in Kings Park (across from the current Royal Kings Park Tennis Club), where the training for cricket, football, athletics in all years, would take place. The first teams played at Subiaco or the WACA. The under-age and House teams went to Kings Park. The grass surfaces there left a lot to be desired. They were made up largely of weeds and Guildford grass. Rowing, swimming and life-saving took place in Crawley Bar. The boys walked to these activities through Kings Park and then down Jacob's Ladder to Mounts Bay Road and then past the brewery.

Maintenance around the School and at Kings Park was carried out by 'Jock' with his enormous rotary mower, with which he attacked the Guildford grass, and 'Mattie', whose only tools of trade were a hammer and a supply of six inch nails – with which he carried out all maintenance work. These two operated from a tin shed at the back of the boarding house. This shed housed not only their equipment but also contained a fridge for their lunches and their grog.

It only took six months as a resident assistance housemaster for me to come up with the answer as to why one should accept the challenge of a full-time teaching post. I could not believe, at first, that both staff and students were prepared to give such dedicated service to their school – that they were prepared to actively live and work to the highest standards of citizenship; that they could enjoy a genuine fellowship together. They had an obvious respect and love for their school.

For sixty years I was fortunate enough to be a member of this great Hale family' ¹³

1950s



1950

Rhodes Scholar: R Bruce Rosier (1945)

1950

The Korean war begins.

Roger Underwood, son of Professor Eric Underwood, attended Hale School between 1954 and 1958. His recollections are recorded in his book *Tree Climber*.

'... My own school days were very different to those described by Charles Dickens or George Orwell. Here I am talking about my secondary schooling, which I spent at Hale School from 1954 to 1958. It is amazing how the shared experiences of youth create bonds you hardly know exist until they surface at a change meeting or a social function decades later.

There was an asphalt parade ground in front of the school where we lined up in our classes each morning before marching in to 'assembly'. There were also two small grassy fields where we played and ate our lunches, and a set of bitumen tennis courts down on the lower road.

Up on the hill and with magnificent views overlooking Parliament House and the suburbs away to the north, was the great rabbit warren of the Boarding House – a mysterious place to the dayboys, redolent with the aroma of overcooked mutton and burnt rice budding, but 'home' to the eighty or so boarders and two or

three masters who resided there. Every morning at just before nine o'clock, the bell would be rung and we would form up into our classes, each under the eye of the school prefects. The Head Prefect (or School Captain) would stand on the steps and shout "School! Attention" At this command we would lurch to attention, and then march off class by class into the school hall. An invariable ritual then followed. Having again been commanded to come to attention, we would stand while Mr Murphy, the headmaster, led in a line of masters. Each wore a grey suit and a shabby black academic gown, and they marched in order of seniority, the youngest or newest man bringing up the rear. Up on the podium, Mr Murphy would read a prayer, and one of the prefects would read from the bible. Then the congregation of boys would rise again, and we would sing one of the standard hymns of the day ('Oh God, our help in ages past' or 'All things bright and beautiful'). The musical accompaniment was provided by the ancient German master (Herr Lutz) on the even more ancient piano. Mr. Murphy would make a couple of announcements and then turn and nod to the School Captain who would again command us to attention while

the masters marched out. We then filed off to our classrooms to begin the days schooling. We had an assembly exactly like this every morning on every day for the five years I attended Hale.

Most of the masters had nicknames, some of which were affectionate or humorous, and some cruel or reflecting on the way the boys felt them. Mr. Murphy was always known as 'Spud'. I recall 'Monkey' Marshall, 'Turkey' Altorfer, 'Log' Davey, 'Taffy' Wall, 'Duck' Drake, 'Keyhole' Corr, 'Straightshit' Strahan, 'Fizz' Lutz and 'Sluggo' Shields. In my first year we had been taught art by Charlie 'Humbug' Hamilton, whose son Charlie was a forester (I found out later), and taught me at the Forestry School.

Bill Altorfer was an amazing figure. Tall and angular, he dressed immaculately in a reefer jacket and striped trousers. He ran the boarding house with an iron hand, but managed to be popular (or at least well-respected) at the same time. He taught me English, French and Latin for three years, and I regarded him with great respect. He had an infectious roar of laughter and always had a twinkle in his eye. I heard years

later that Bill had been a recruiting agent for the Australian Secret Service (ASIO), but this never really seemed possible to me. Mind you, he did drive a Jaguar, attend first nights at His Majesty's theatre and was the sort of person to prefer his martinis stirred, not shaken.

I was very lucky to have Tom Hoar as my ultimate maths teacher. He was one of the most dedicated and accomplished teachers I ever knew, and I still give him credit for me passing the Leaving exam, which in turn made the rest of my life possible. Mr. Hoar used to hand back our corrected mid-term and end-term papers shuffled into order of merit from the lowest to the highest marks. As the terms went by and I continued to profit from his teaching I moved higher and higher up the class list, as demonstrated by this simple technique for rewarding students without disclosing marks received.

Willie 'Keyhole' Corr was a tiny mouse-like chap, with a sad face, rather like that of the doormouse in the illustrations in *Alice in Wonderland*. It was said that he had been wounded in the trenches in World War 1, and had never recovered his spirits. I liked him, and he hated the way some of the boys teased and took advantage of him. Apart from a stint in the army during the war, Keyhole lived his whole life at the Hale School boarding house, where he had a tiny room off C Dorm. Every Tuesday he would drive off in his little Ford Anglia to a local bakery and come back with a mountain of cream buns which he would give to the boarders for a treat at suppertime. As far as I know he did this out of his own

pocket.

The gym master was 'Sluggo' Shields. He was short, florid and extremely muscular, and was said to wield the most powerful cane in the school. Sluggo took us for a physical education, a period of which we had nearly every day. PE might be in the gym one day, where we worked out on the parallel bars or did vaults off a springboard, or swung on rings; or it might be a game of baseball; or it might just be 'physical jerks', where we stood in lines and touched our toes, swung our arms around or jumped on the spot, or we might go for a long hard run up into Kings Park and back. At the end of an hour of PE we would all troop back into the classroom, faces glowing, and settle back down to conjugate Latin verbs or parse sentences.

Finally, a word on Monkey Marshall, my English and French master in my Leaving year, and Deputy Headmaster of the school. The Monk was a very influential and a most feared figure in the Hale School of the 1950s. He was a spare, stooped man, the very model of an old-fashioned Dickensian schoolmaster – cold and humorless, a strict disciplinarian, and with piercing, unforgiving eyes. There was never any question in anyone's mind that he was the School Enforcer. His nickname was apposite. In both appearance and outlook, there was indeed something of the medieval monk about him. He had a fine line in sarcasm, and could tear a boy to bits in front of the class. What he was very good at, however, was teaching students so that they passed the Leaving exams, and his record in

this respect was outstanding. I was always in awe of him, and tried hard to earn his respect. This I found impossible, especially after one humiliating experience. As one of the school prefects in 5th year, it came my turn to mount the dais one morning and do the daily reading from the bible to the assembled school. The Monk was a very religious man; he chose the passages to be read each day, and listened carefully to the reading. Unfortunately my biblical and scriptural knowledge was close to absolute zero, and when I came to read the designated passage, which concerned someone called Job, I pronounced it as 'job' as in 'he did a good job', rather than 'jobe' as required by religious tradition. In this particular biblical passage, old Job figured in nearly every sentence. After I returned to my seat, I could feel the Monk's piercing eyes on me, and a strange feeling of guilt took hold of me. I wasn't sure how, but somehow I felt I had stuffed up. I was right. In the first class that morning The Monk swept into the room and withered me with a biting sarcasm. What made it worse was that his criticism of my biblical ignorance was directed at my parents as well as me. Strangely enough, not one other student or master ever said a word to me about it, and I eventually concluded they had not noticed or did not care. Presumably 90% of them routinely switched their minds to other subjects when the morning bible reading began, while the other 10% possibly thought I had been taking the mickey.

A mysterious bit-player in school affairs in my day was the émigré

janitor. He was said to be a Russian, but as he spoke little or no English it was impossible to tell. He was a small man, almost a dwarf, but powerfully built and he wore a heavy beard and long unkempt hair. He seemed to have only two jobs: chopping the wood for the kitchen stoves and hot water system up at the boarding house, and cleaning the school lavatories. He was the first person I ever saw splitting jarrah foot-blocks into firewood billets using a full-size axe held in one hand by its throat, while he turned and steadied the foot-block with the other hand. As I found out years later, this took extraordinary strength, concentration and a good eye. On lavatory cleaning duties, he would stride around the school in rubber boots with a coil of hose in one hand and a bucket of disinfectant in the other, muttering gutterally to himself, presumably in Russian. His lavatory-cleaning technique was quick and effective: the whole interior of the toilet block would be sluiced down by application of a jet of water from the hose to walls, floors, doors, windows and ceilings, followed by a strategic sloshing of the contents of the bucket. He was known to us all as 'Old Phenyle'.

Looking back, I also think now that the teaching culture at Hale was a good one, even if this may not have been a result of school policy. It was made clear to us that if we were to succeed it was up to us – we would not be drummed into scholars. I can remember one master making this very explicit to me once. 'Underwood', he said 'what you have to realise is that I get paid whether you pass

your exams or not'. The onus was squarely on me. As a result, in my day at least, Hale boys did not do outstandingly in the Junior and Leaving Exams, but they were always successful at university.

Furthermore, sport was regarded as almost as important as scholarship at Hale School. One afternoon a week was officially given over to competitive sports, and we placed cricket in the summer, football in the winter, athletics (track and field, as it is known today) in the spring and tennis in the autumn.

At other times we swam, rowed, played hockey, shot rifles, entered life saving competitions or boxed. I was in everything, with the exception of boxing which I regarded then, and still do today, as a ridiculous pursuit. The only boxing match (in fact the only fight) I have ever had in my life, was the so-called 'Boarder's Fight'.

This was a compulsory boxing match which every new boarder had to enter – three one-minute rounds with some other new boarder, or a selected opponent, and they were fierce encounters. My brother and I both had to go through this ritual. He remembers coming to me in great trepidation for my advice, and me telling him "to dance about and keep the gloves in front of your face". I can't remember if I followed this excellent advice myself – in fact I have managed to expunge all memory of this abysmal event entirely from my brain. There was a specialist boxing master, Danny Ryan, who came to the school regularly to coach the boxing team. Danny plied his trade

around all the private schools at the time, teaching the "noble art" as he called it. He had a crooked nose, a grotesque cauliflower ear and addled brains as testimony to its nobility.

My father and elder sister Jill were keen tennis players, and I had learned the rudiments of the game from them, but my main introduction to stroke-making and serving came from Max Bonner, the school professional. Max was a laid-back, suave man, darkly burnt by a lifetime on the courts, his eyes hidden behind mirror sunglasses, and his black hair slicked back with brilliantine. He was one of the first tennis professionals in Perth.

He made a good living moving from one school to another all over the metropolitan area, giving his classes, and later, when pro tennis was starting to become acceptable, he became a promoter, bring the big name players to Perth.

His teaching methods can be described as 'tennis by numbers'. Thirty or so schoolboys would stand in a row facing him on the court. 'One!' shouted Max, and we would all take our rackets back, pointing at the back fence. On the command 'Two!' we would put our front foot across and sweep the racket to the hitting position. On 'three!' we would flourish a follow-through and fall over. We would then go through the serve and the volley in the same manner. I don't remember tennis balls ever being part of the lesson.

Hale in my days was largely free of cruelty and bullying. One or two

of the teachers were regarded as sadistic. Mostly when someone was caned they deserved it. A mild form of cruelty was the nicknames bestowed on many boys, often relating to physical appearance or disabilities. I can remember Boof, Corkhead, No-Neck, Blackbeard, Granny, Scrubby, Beefy, Dog, Duck, Rooballs, Tubby and many others. I was called 'Underpants' for a while, but this was too much of a mouthful and was soon abbreviated to 'Uns'. Both my brother and I were addressed as 'Uns' for most of our Hale School days.

The year my brother and I spent as boarders was a significant part of our education. The school boarding house was a world apart. Here, unlike at home, life was highly regimented. You awoke to a morning bell, showered and dressed as one body, and then trooped down to the dining room for breakfast. Afterwards there was an hour to fill in before school classes commenced, and in wintertime (which I remember most clearly) this was usually spent trying to get warm. The boarding house was completely unheated and the upstairs dormitories were bitterly cold. At lunchtime there was another meal in the dining room and then back to school until classes ended. The afternoons were usually spent wandering around the empty school grounds, playing hand-ball against a wall, kicking a football down on the grass, or 'training'. The latter was my great escape. I have never been much of a long distance runner, but I re-invented myself as one when I became a boarder, because this was one of the few legitimate ways

of getting off-bounds. I would put on my shorts, a singlet and sandshoes and go and see the Duty Housemaster and request permission to get on with my training as a cross-country runner. Anything to do with sport was OK, so permission would be automatically given. I would then trot off down Havelock Street and cross over into Kings Park and spend the next two hours or so quietly walking or jogging around the cycle paths through the bushland, listening to the birds, and sniffing the wildflowers. It was a great psychological relief and outlet. Similarly, one afternoon a week I would take the tram down Murray Street for my music lesson, and part of the great pleasure of this was the sense of freedom it gave me.

The aspect of boarder life I disliked most was the evenings. We would be assembled for dinner and marched in, seven or eight to a table. The masters would then arrive and one of them would intone grace (invariably "For what we are about to receive may the Lord make us truly grateful"). Then dinner would be served. Finishing the main course (usually boiled mutton and vegies) and sweets (most often rice or tapioca pudding) was compulsory – you were not allowed to leave the table until your plates were empty. Most of us were always hungry and had no trouble with this requirement – we would also wolf down multiple slabs of bread and jam. After dinner we would file off back down to the school again and there sit in the same classroom we had occupied all day for yet another hour or two, for what was called 'prep'. Prep

was another name for homework. A housemaster would supervise each class doing its prep, but basically you did what you liked, so long as you kept your mouth shut and did not leave your desk. Many of the boys spent prep writing letters home.

After prep it was back to the Boarding House and into bed. We slept in three great dormitories, each with about 30 beds, and each bed with a tiny locker in which you kept your personal belongings. At a given time, slightly different for each Dorm, the housemaster would come in and check that each bed was occupied, turn off the lights, and lock the doors.

Lights out would signify sleep for some, mischief for others. I can remember some wonderful arguments in the dark in C Dorm when I was there, one or two of which ended up in blows....

In retrospect, I am grateful for having experienced the year of boarding school. It opened my eyes to a new world, far removed from the soft and privileged life I led at home. There I had been used to the freedom to come and go, to my mother cooking superb meals and generally being concerned about my day-to-day welfare and my father taking an affectionate interest in my schooling and sporting life. At Boarding School I was not much more than a number to the adult world. Basically I had to look after myself, or go under. By the same token, the boys I was thrown together with in C Dorm treated me as a mate, and looked after me when I was a newcomer to

the system. Two of them stood by me on an occasion when I was threatened, more or less in passing, by the school bully. These were lessons in the school of life, as compared to the school of academia which the dayboys only knew.

There were three big ticket items on the Hale School calendar each year: Anzac Day, Old Boys' Day and Speech Night. These were the occasions on which parents came to the school, mingled with staff, met one's friends, and generally provided an alternative adult input to school affairs. Anzac Day was particularly poignant. The mid-1950s were not so long after the end of the war and many of my schoolmates had fathers who had been away fighting. Also, many former Haleians had served and died in both wars, a reminder of which we had each morning as we filed into assembly past the plaques commemorating those who had fallen. We always had a special assembly on Anzac Day, and the whole school would fall silent for one minute and a bugler would play *The Last Post*. Then there would be prayers and a hymn (usually *The Recessional*) and one of the Old Boys who had been in the war would speak briefly about his mates. I always found all this very moving, and would have trouble keeping a dry eye. Afterwards we were awarded a 'Half Holiday', which meant that we could leave school and do our own thing for the afternoon. For some reason, a group of friends and I fell into a routine of walking down to the Barrack Street jetty after the Anzac Day ceremony, taking a ferry across to South Perth and spending the

afternoon wandering around the Zoo. I don't know why we did this, but I remember that it was peaceful and interesting at the Zoo in contrast to the emotional impact of the ceremonies earlier in the day.

Speech Night, which incorporates prize-giving, was by unanimous vote of all students (with the possible single exception of the Dux of the School), the most boring night of the year. The entire student body plus parents would turn up, and we would be subjected to lengthy speeches from Spud Murphy, a clerical bigwig from the Church of England (on one occasion a gaiters-wear Bishop), the Chairman of the Board of Governors, the President of the Old Boys Association, the School Captain and, for all I remember, 'Old Phenyle' as well. It went on for hours into the night. I was never a prizewinner, not in the academic field anyway, so my appearances on Speech Night would be confined to something like a quick whip up to the stage as a winner of the Open High Jump. My brother, on the other hand, was a brilliant student and was Dux of the School in his final year. Regrettably I missed that Speech Night, being down at Pemberton at the time engaged in fighting a bushfire, but all through the days our schooling overlapped I can re-call him shyly mounting the dais every speech night to be rewarded for winning one academic prize after another.

I never thought of us as being a very special mob, but my Hale School class uniquely produced two Rhodes Scholars (Bruce

Bennett and Malcolm Treadgold, both of whom later became university professors). There was also a judge, a Lord Mayor (Peter Natrass), a doctor, two dentists, a hydrogeologist, a forester (me), three pharmacists, three accountants, a stockbroker, a priest, a funeral director, an architect, a renowned commercial artist, a wine-maker and restaurateur and a number of businessmen, farmers and pastoralists. As far as I know, none of us went to gaol, although there was one who probably should have. This is impressive, but not as impressive as the class of which my brother was a member. His fellow-Haleians included a State Premier (Peter Dowding) and Opposition Leader (Bill Hassell) and the famous author Robert Drewe. My brother himself became a doctor and later a professor of medicine at the university. In addition to all this, in the class which fell between mine and Peter's was Hendy Cowan, later to lead the National Party and become Deputy Premier. Among them was the champion footballer Ron 'Macca' McBride.

Macca played in a premierships team with West Perth, the year after he left school. This was well before the advent of the Eagles and Dockers, in the days when the WAFL was as significant competition. I played with Ron in the school First Eighteen football team for two years and he was the fastest and most ferocious young man I ever saw on a football field. He was also a screamingly fast opening bowler for the school's First Eleven cricket team, in the mould of the feared West Indies

fast bowler Charlie Griffith.

Like Griffith, Macca didn't throw all the time, only about one ball in ten, but that one was 25% faster than the others, and caused significant damage to opposition batsmen.

My schooldays eventually came to a resounding climax. Firstly there as the Leaving Exam, a traumatic experience, but in the end a minor triumph. We had been well prepared, I had worked hard and got through. There was also the end-of-year School Dance, an old fashioned ball, at which I managed to avoid making a fool of myself on the dance floor. Finally I had the immense good fortune of being awarded a scholarship to go on to University; this was a watershed, across which I made the transition not just to adulthood, but a whole new world

and life.

Over the succeeding forty plus years I had only once or twice been back to Hale School, which to me is still the cluster of elegant colonial brick building on Havelock Street, now the State Convention Centre. It is greatly changed, and seems to me to be extraordinarily smaller now than it as then, especially the classrooms. Nevertheless, the place has a palpable atmosphere. Without too much trouble I can faintly hear the chatter of schoolboys lining up for morning assembly or the bellow of Under Officer Binks on the parade ground on Army Cadets day. In the old hall, I hear an echo of three hundred voices singing as one in the great, crashing emphasis on the most popular line of our most popular morning hymn... 'with great ador – ATCHION'. Or I see in my mind's

eye my little group of friends (Bill Gibbs, Hamish Cuming, Dick Kelsall, Angus Davidson, Dick Bird and company) eating our lunches on the grass by the chemistry lab, and in the background Bill Altorfer striding down from the boarding house on the curving brick path, his gown billowing in the breeze, his horn-rim spectacles flashing to left and right and the buttons on his reefer jacket glinting in the sun.

And when I remember these things I cannot escape a feeling of gentle nostalgia for good days long gone. Maybe they were not the best days of my life, but they were good enough.¹⁴

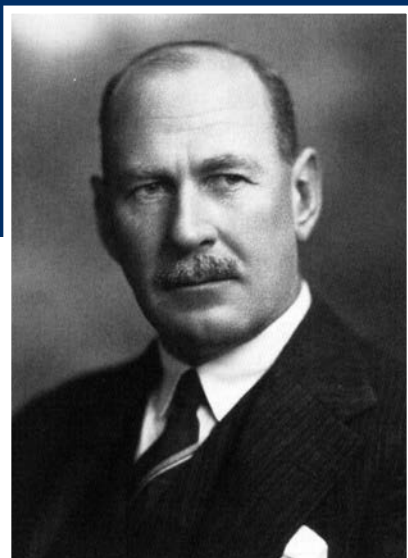
¹⁴ Roger Underwood (2003), *The Tree Climber, the education of a forester*, York Gum Publishing, pp 22-47

Havelock Street, circa 1955



1950s

By the 1950s, unprecedented post-war growth was underway and Western Australia's population increased from 570,000 in 1950 to 730,000 by 1960. Consistent with that, the Havelock Street School's population swelled with the result that it rapidly become overcrowded. In 1933 it had only 205 pupils, including 33 boarders. By 1953 there were nearly 400 pupils all told with nearly 100 boarders, some sleeping over the Headmaster's living room.



The Honourable Leslie Craig CMG

1954

The Wembley Downs land was available but an already heavily burdened bank overdraft precluded any development by the School there. Representations were made to the State Labour Government in an attempt to break the impasse. The Board of Governors' new Chairman Lesley Craig, made representations to the Anglican Church regarding the matter. Finally Premier A.R.G. Hawke, a friend of Lesley Craig despite sitting on the opposite side of the Parliamentary House, proffered an offer that if the School could obtain £150,000 from the Diocesan Trustees to invest in the new school, the Government would pay Hale School £225,000 for the leasehold of the Havelock Street site.

1957

Michael G McCall (1951) became Hale School's ninth Rhodes Scholar.



Michael G McCall





1958

On the 28th June, precisely the 100th anniversary of the School, Chairman of the Board Leslie Craig and Premier Hawke laid the foundation stone for the new School at what is now the lower (Brine) oval of the Wembley Downs site

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE



Enthusiastic students record the occasion

Premier 'Bert' Hawke, assisted by Chairman of Hale School Board of Governors, Leslie Craig



Leslie Craig turns the first sod



The Board of Governors wasted little time starting the Wembley Downs development once the negotiations had been finalised. A leading Perth architect, Marshall Clifton, was engaged, in association with Old Boy Tony Brand [1942-1948] Sloan Constructions was engaged to carry out the building program and the long-awaited new era of Hale School was underway at last.



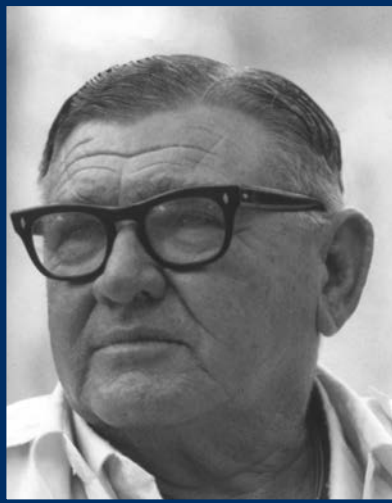
Junior Boys carrying out 'earthworks' next to Memorial Hall - early 1960s



Wembley Downs campus under construction - 1960



Wembley Downs campus - 1961, prior to the building of Memorial Hall



*Peter Wright (1922-24)
and Lang Hancock (1925-27)*

One day in November 1952, Lang was flying below threatening clouds just above the red cliffs and boulders of the Pilbara landscape. He later recalled:

'Perhaps it was the rain on them. They were red, but a red I hadn't seen before. A deep ochre red. As I flew into the comparative safety of the Ashburton Valley I was convinced that the walls I had seen were walls of iron'.¹⁵

Peter was enthusiastic about Lang's discovery and after some discussion they formed a partnership, remarkable in as much as there was no written agreement.

That company was the L.G. Hancock Asbestos Company, later becoming Hancock & Wright. Despite differences in personality and temperament, the partnership was able to overcome giant obstacles in their quest to open up the Pilbara ... Lang took samples and proved the deposits but it was not until 1960 that the Federal Government lifted the embargo on the export of iron ore. Despite a lack of interest from many overseas companies the partners persevered and finally succeeded in playing a pivotal role in the development of the iron ore industry in the Pilbara region.

1960s

Late 1960:

The Federal Government at last relented and lifted its ban on the export of iron ore. Old boys Lang Hancock [1924-1927] and Peter Wright [1923-24] formed a business partnership to capitalise on the deposits Hancock had discovered in the Pilbara region in 1952. It was the beginning of an exploration and development phase in Western Australia that continued into the next century.

Although Peter was two years apart at Hale School, Hancock and Wright had been friends. Peter was staying at the Hancock Station Mulga Downs near Wittenoom, when Lang was in the process of developing the blue asbestos deposits he had discovered in Wittenoom Gorge.



¹⁵ Lang Hancock in *The Peter Wright Story* (1994), Julie Ball and Bill Edgar, Hale School.



Scissors used at the opening ceremony - Wembley Downs 1961



The Governor, Sir Charles Gairdner cuts the ribbon; the Chairman of the Board, the Headmaster and staff look on.



1961

John Russell Prince was appointed Headmaster of the School.

6 March 1961 - The new School opened its doors at Wembley Downs after a formal ceremony presided over by Chairman Lesley Craig. The captain of school, Warren Lilleyman, handed a pair of scissors to the Governor Sir Charles Gairdner who cut the ribbon at the stairs leading to the then Administration Block.

The boys march in for the first time



The editor of the 1961 *Cygnets* reported:

'The final, and probably the most impressive, phase of the opening came when the boys of the School marched by Houses up onto the Assembly area and through the entrance of the School. The impression gained at the Old Boys' Assembly was reflected in the sight of the School entering the new buildings. The music was provided by the Western command Band.'

The early days had their difficulties.

'Without a hall, open-air morning assemblies caused some concern, with several boys wilting under the effects of the sun during first term. Second term occasionally found a potentially long lecture rudely interrupted by a sudden downpour of rain, which sent the multitudes scurrying for shelter. Lower School members were reported as having a competition each morning to see which one could amass the largest pile of blue metal in front of him in the fifteen minute period. ...

... Some time after the building of the new School hall started, one rather unusual sight was to see boys gazing wonderingly at grimy workmen mercilessly hacking down cement pillars which had been constructed only some four to five days before.

Nevertheless, despite all odds, assemblies managed to survive and maintain the dignified air of their Havelock Street predecessors.'

With the move to Wembley Downs the School was divided into seven houses, two of them boarding – Wilson and Faulkner Houses. The five day houses were Buntine, Haynes, Parry, Riley and Stirling.

Alistair Macmillan recalls:-

'My first year as a teacher at Hale in 1961 was, more importantly, the first year of Hale at Wembley Downs. For the Headmaster Mr J.R. Prince, the staff (some from Havelock Street, some new) and the excited boys of all ages, the School was 'ready', but were we? We had a beautiful and spacious school but we had no School hall, we had workmen everywhere (the tap of hammers and roar of pneumatic drills meant noise galore as the cement pillars of the Hall were constructed), we had outside all-weather assemblies, power failures, automatic bells awry, water failures and everywhere, but everywhere, – sand!

At first the sand dominated, all around us, all over the ovals, the quadrangle and in everything. To make the ovals playable, cinders were mixed with the sand (perhaps those cinders are a reason for the School's magnificent grounds today). When the rain came in April the grass grew and the all-conquering sand was controlled until it re-asserted itself when huge machines dug out the swimming pool.

Today's dining hall and lecture theatre were there but the library was a pokey, dim, small room in what is today's administration area, the Junior School was the present 'C' Block and there was no chapel. In fact the 1968 picture of the chapel's beginnings (when

there were no houses in Hale Road) shows how far we were from 'civilisation'. Transport, too, was a huge problem. The School tried (often unsuccessfully) to organise special buses, cyclists battled up Hale Road and parents and boys struggled in our isolation. It was then a most difficult time but through it all teaching went on, kids somehow survived the sand and noise, games were played, boarders were happy in Wilson and Faulkner and the new Hale eventually settled down.

On March 6th, 1961 (Old Boys' Day) the new School was officially opened. On a beautiful day the boys lined up in Houses behind the Old Boys and parents on what was then called Chapel Green. An eerie bushland scene prevailed – something of a contrast to our memories of the small Havelock Street site surrounded by houses, shops and factories. The mixing of the Old Boys and the students in a moving ceremony reminded us we were all part of a new chapter in Hale's history – the making of a new school!

1961 was then a very different time. We salute so many – the vision and the wisdom of our forefathers like Bill Brine and Leslie Craig in the acquisition and building of the site; the wonderful Old Boy farmers like the Fowlers, who bought down their bulldozer and cleared the bottom ovals;

the Duce family of Boyanup who financed the building of the old scoreboard in memory of their son Peter; successive Board of Governors for all their work – loyal and generous Old Boy and parent groups who raised so much money in so many ways – the Headmaster and staff who organised the huge move from Havelock Street – and especially the real heroes of the day, the boys!

By the end of 1962 we were the Wembley Downs veterans and as we raced off to the Commonwealth Games at Perry Lakes, we realised that, while schools and buildings are essential, it's the boys after all, who make it. But still, it was rather wonderful to have a new school on such a site and to appreciate the potential of it all.

Those at the magnificent Hale School of 2008 should look back in wonder at the Hale of 1961 and rejoice that it all happened.¹⁷

¹⁷ Alister Macmillan memoir (2008) in Edgar, *From Slate to Cyberspace*, pp 295-297.



1965: Peter Eakins and Frankie Kuhn lead the charge to the Inters Athletics from Havelock Street

John Prince

John Prince wrote, looking back in 1965:

'Coming as a stranger from the other world beyond the Nullabor, I had many things to learn. For instance, that sand is the best foundation for a building – in spite of what the gospel says – and the best for growing grass in, too! Wonderful stuff, in fact, this Western Australian sand. ...

It is impossible to recall any phase of the operation of moving the School without recalling sand; sand to be hardened into playing fields, sand to be covered by lawns, sand crunching underfoot in classroom and laboratory, sand driven by the sea breeze to turn the gracious administration foyer into a sandblasting chamber, sand to be kept out of the watering equipment.

The first dayboys came to meet the Headmaster the Friday before the School opened on Tuesday, February 14, 1961 – in a temperature of 98 degrees and, of course, amidst an ocean of sand. ... Picture a Headmaster trying to give new parents a favourable impression in a calm dignified interview, with a terrazzo grinding machine at work immediately outside the study door, hammers banging in the next-door office, and builders bursting in every now and then, while outside the Headmaster's wife took delivery indiscriminately of new boys and their parents, or of desks, science equipment, the kitchen sink or anything else anyone tried to bring in.

As if to make it clear to them that they would be the highly favoured of the new School, the boarders were welcomed on the Monday by a temperature of 112 degrees, and hammers, and the rest for good measure as well. ...

The first cricket match, against the Governor's XI in 1961, had to be seen to be believed. I have yet to hear cricket stories approaching those about the peculiar things the ball did that day – but the game was played and the pitch tried. ...

But enough of the facilities – they provide only the framework within which the real school is built. ... The first four years at Wembley Downs have been years of solid achievement ... If the physical foundation of the School is sand, I believe, metaphorically, the true foundation has been soundly laid in rock'.¹⁸

Tom Hoar

Tom Hoar remembers that for several years the boys would take their shoes off at the foot of Wilson House stairs to prevent the spread of sand on the upper level. On the weekends the farming boarders borrowed the Grounds Department tractor and landscaped the area around the boarding houses – and also planted many of the shrubs and trees that remain there today. There was a great sense of community spirit ...

In the sum of 1962/63 the Parents & Friends toiled with their own hands with their Holden utes, shovels and trowels to build the scoreboard on the north eastern periphery of Craig Oval.

¹⁸ John Prince in *The Haleian*, April 1965



1962

The swimming pool at the Wembley Downs campus is opened.

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war begins.

1966

The West Australian Institute of Technology opened its doors at the Bentley Campus for the first time. Those visiting Curtin University (formerly WAIT) today may walk past the R.G. Becher Building, which is named after *High School* student Dr Robert Becher who developed the process which produces synthetic rutile from limonite, a development which has subsequently added many millions of dollars to the State's coffers. Bob was honoured with an Order of Australia in 1988 and made a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, among many other honours.

Bob Becher (1926-28) wrote of his time at *High School*:



'Dad died when I was eleven, but I had been brought up to keep a stiff upper lip so that I cried at night when no-one could see me. As a result of my father's death we were very poor so Mother ran a boarding house and the older children went to work. However, in my case a rich friend of my Mother paid for me to attend High School where I had rich friends and saw how the rich and privileged lived. This experience probably helped my determination to become educated. In any case, although always relatively poor, Father and Mother had brought us up to be very proud and to walk straight, head up, both morally and physically ...

At High School almost every child, as I remember, was caned quite often, two strokes on the hand, which sometimes

raised blood blisters, for getting poor marks (in my case English and French) and up to six strokes on the bottom for being naughty, but most of us never cried or showed any emotion. In year ten I won the science prize with an average of 96% in Maths A and B, Physics and Chemistry, but failed English 49% and French 32%. I was a member of both the football and cricket teams and I won the under 14 mile in record time. I was looked down on by some of the rich boys because I earned my pocket money by being a caddy at golf. Caddies were paid one shilling and six pence for eighteen holes of golf. I also earned pocket money doing odd jobs and running messages ...

We were taught to be manly – that the sun never sets on the British Empire – Queensbury rules in boxing – God Save the king – salute the flag – Anzac Day etc. We learned lots of poetry, much of which I still remember, like 'My Country' and bits like 'How can a man die better than facing fearful odds'. 'If my son' and 'For the ashes of his father and the temples of his gods' and many more poems. Little did we know what lay ahead of us in World War II, when so many of the lads I knew were to die in battle or in prison camps.¹⁹



Rhodes Scholars

Malcolm L Treadgold (left) and Bruce H Bennett (right), both from the Class of '58 - were awarded Rhodes Scholarships in consecutive years: 1962 and 1963 respectively.

1966

Lister Drake is Acting Headmaster for 12 months.

The new Administration Block was officially opened by the Governor of Western Australia, Major-General Michael Jeffrey. In part of his address he said,

"... "this new complex is a living, breathing place for people. It will have a significant impact in the effective management and educational offering of the School".

1967

Dr Ken Tregonning takes over as Headmaster

The Chapel of St Mark at Hale School was dedicated.

1968

The junior boarding facility, Brine House, was opened.

1969

The Chapel of St Mark was consecrated.

¹⁹ Bob Becher in Edgar, From Slate to Cyberspace, pp. 303-304.

1970s

1970

The new library and the JB Newbury science wing was opened at the School. This was also the first operational year of Hale's 'Adventure Out' programme, centred on the North-West township of Wittenoom, which was to last until 1988. A house in the town and a Landrover vehicle were purchased by Lang Hancock and Peter Wright. The previous year an exploratory group comprising Vic ('Sluggo') Shields, Tom Hoar, Paul Maycock and Mark de Graaf surveyed the area and put in place the logistics of the operation. The 1970 Cygnet reported:

'Hale-Wittenoom was planned so that Year 11 boys would spend fourteen days at Wittenoom – a week in the town house under the overall supervision of Mr Bob McMath and their group master, and then a week out in the field under the supervision of the group master only.

Mr McMath was based permanently in the town house throughout the term and it was his job to ensure that the whole project ran smoothly, especially the change-over of the groups, one of which arrived every Monday morning. Mr McMath was also responsible for the logistical support of the base and yet found time to discuss problems with the boys, ferry supplies out to the field camp as well as perform many other tasks. Whilst in the town the boys slept in the town house and when out in the field they slept under canvas – and under the stars.



Weyno Gorge

*Field work was based as much as possible on the northern environment and a great deal of field work was finished by the boys ... it was hard and rugged, each boy being given certain duties in the house as well as in the field, something many of the city 'slickers' were not accustomed to. ... The whole concept of Hale Wittenoom was to bring the boys and masters together as well as let the day boys and boarders get to know each other, and their often very different points of view. It was also designed to toughen up and harden the boys, far away from the luxuries of urban life.'*²⁰

²⁰ Cygnet, 1970, article 'Important Developments', pp 12-13.



The first year of Hale in the north west - 1970

1971

By now the population of Western Australia had reached over 1 million, Western Australia's oil and gas industry was consolidating and the Ord River dam project was well underway. Enrolments at Hale School had reached solid proportions but Headmaster Ken Tregonning always maintained that one of the key components in quality education was keeping the numbers relatively low. 'We deliberately stay small – we could double the number of students here given all the grounds. But we stay with just 850 boys to ensure that each is an individual',²¹ Tregonning said.

The State Public examination board announced that the Junior Certificate Examinations would cease to take place in 1974. Hale School's response, via its Headmaster Dr Tregonning, was that it was not convinced that the accreditation method was superior to an examination system. And so Hale School continued to tread its own path despite criticism from many quarters and pressures to fall into line. "What is the point in being an independent school if one can't be independent" stated the redoubtable Headmaster.



Tim M E Davis

1977

Tim M E Davis (1971) awarded the 1977 Rhodes Scholarship.

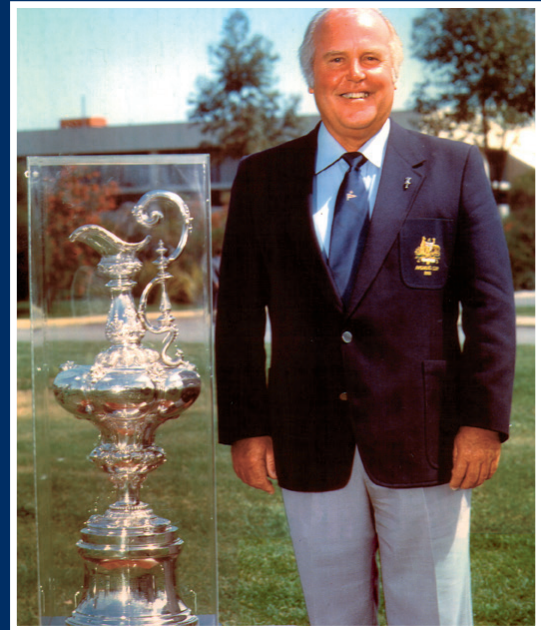
1978

This was the first year of prefects' bible readings at assemblies. Tim Urquhart of Parry House was the first to take the challenge to 'add a bit of colour' to the reading and, after delivering a reading with an unprecedented level of grammatical flair, became the only prefect in the history of Hale School to receive an animated ovation from the full assembly for a bible reading. No one has attempted to emulate Urquhart's achievement since.²²

Hale School lost its traditional grass tennis courts, replaced by plexipave courts.

1979

Western Australia celebrated its sesqui-centenary



'Newty' Roberts, 1983

1980s

1980

The Stow music centre was opened.

1983

Two *Haleians* were intimately involved in the America's Cup success at Newport, Rhode Island in the United States. John Longley [1953-63] was a Director of the 'Australia' challenge and Newton Roberts [1937-42] was a member of the support crew.

²¹ Ken Tregonning interview in 'Profile' (1982), *The Western Mail*

²² A full account of the Tim Urquhart bible reading in Edgar, *From Slate to Cyberspace*, pp 320-321

1983

The School invested in its first computers.

The Round House, originally the Art Centre of the School, was converted into a computer suite and the first computer courses were introduced to staff members in September 1983.

1984

Peter Dyer and Alex Panarese produced a book entitled *Computers for Everyone*. Some of the introductory sections now seem quaint. In chapter one there are sections such as: *What is a Computer?* - a basic navigation of the keyboard, the screen and instructions on login and logout procedures.

1988

Old Boy Peter Dowding becomes Hale School's fifth Premier of the state.

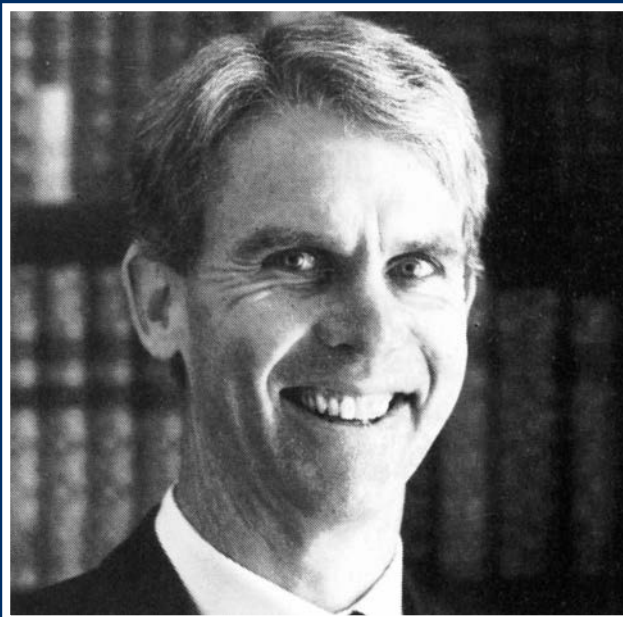


Cygnets 1988

1988

Headmaster Ken Tregonning announced his retirement. In an interview he stated that his tenure had been marked by '*... a gradual enrichment rather than marked innovations ...*'. He went on to say, emphasising continuity as well as change, '*you don't get true wisdom without tradition*'.²³ There have been many additions to the School during Tregonning's tenure but, probably more crucial than bricks and mortar in the School's metamorphosis, the School had enjoyed a twenty-two year period of stability, overseen with a certain sagacity of style and humanity. Tregonning's legacy was that Hale School stood on firm foundations, ready for whatever was to come.

²³ Ken Tregonning in Edgar, *From Slate to Cyberspace*, p. 323.



John Inverarity

1989

John Inverarity becomes Headmaster and begins an unprecedented programme of building and development, including the new Administration block, the Peter Wright Design and Technology Centre, the John Inverarity Music and Drama Centre and the Sports Pavilion on the northern bank of Craig Oval.

Inverarity's vision for the future of the School was definite:

A major aim of the School is to create an environment in which worthwhile pursuits and enriching human relationships flourish. It will be a place where there will be whole-hearted, enthusiastic involvement in, and commitment to, a balanced variety of worthwhile endeavours. This involvement should be coupled with a pursuit of excellence whilst taking great care not to sacrifice the sensitive and gracious aspects of life ...

High priority should be given to:

- *Pursuing academic excellence*
- *Understanding, caring for and loving the boys*
- *Heightening the spiritual awareness of the students*
- *Maintaining an optimum range of activities which should include music, drama, sport, out-dooring, debating, crafts and a variety of hobbies in an attempt to develop wholesome all-round boys with good measures of self-esteem*
- *Having a purposeful, well-ordered, busy, optimistic, friendly and encouraging tone in the School.*
- *Attempting to develop caring, tolerant, independent, lively, capable, honest, service aware and gracious school leavers who have a loyalty and sense of belonging to the School.'* ²⁴

The Outdoor Education programme was transferred from the site at Wittenoom, after 19 years of operation. Whilst other sites were readily available in the South-West, several staff were adamant that a North-West location should remain at the core and spirit of Hale's Outdoor Education programme. After initially operating from the Royal Australian Air Force base at Learmonth, the North-West camps were first transferred to Old Boy Richard Shallcross' wool shed and shearers' quarters at Bullara Station, before finding a more permanent base facility located at the Kailis Fisheries premises in Exmouth.

The new gymnasium and squash court facility was opened by the then Premier, Old Boy Peter Dowding.

²⁴ Inverarity in article, 'New Headmaster for hale School', *The Haleian*, February 1989, pp. 1-2

1990s

1990

The new hockey complex was completed. Central to this development was the hard work of Dr Scott Blackwell (Parent and President of Hale Hockey) and Dr Tregonning.

1993

Old Boy Richard Court becomes Hale School's sixth Premier of the State..

1994

The Peter Wright Design and Technology Centre was officially opened by Old Boy E Howard Wheatley (1931-1933), a long time friend of the late Peter Wright (1922-26).

Headmaster Inverarity's intentions regarding the facility were first signalled in the February 1990 edition of *The Haleian* in which he stated:

'... my great hope is to have a major Craft, Design and Technology facility within a couple of years and take a lead in Australia in this way'. Later he added "The aim of having a Design and Technology Centre at Hale is to provide an integrated centre for combining scientific and technological principles, with design, creative and manual abilities ... the aim will be to prepare students to meet the needs of the twenty first century ...' ²⁵

²⁵ Inverarity in *The Haleian*, February 1990, p. 3.

At the opening of the facility, Howard praised Peter Wright for his commitment to agriculture and mining, particularly with his partner the late Lang Hancock (1925-26). He also thanked Mrs Angela Bennett, Peter Wright's daughter for her generous commitment to the project which would contribute much towards the training of future leaders in business and industry in Western Australia and the nation as a whole.

Within the Peter Wright Design and Technology Centre are several workshops sponsored by other Hale families. One is the Frank Noble Systems Workshop, dedicated by Michael Gregg and family; another is the E. Howard Wheatley Computer Suite, sponsored by Howard and his family; and another, the Gerald F New Multi-Media Centre, a testament to the generosity of Gerry New and his family.

Premier Richard Court opens the 'new' WA Constitution Centre - October 1997

1997

A new Sports Pavilion was constructed on the northern extremity of Craig Oval to overlook all the Hale sporting grounds. Inside, photographs of winning Hale School teams in Public Schools' Association competitions since their inception in 1905, adorn the walls.

The old *Hale School* site in Havelock Street West Perth, is officially re-opened by then Premier and Old Boy Richard Court as the State Constitutional Centre. He said, *'... [the Building] provides a critical focus for reflection on how our constitutional and political processes have evolved, where we are now and where we are going ...'* ²⁶ In so saying one wonders whether Court was reflecting a little, at that moment on how much the old building had already contributed to those very processes.

²⁶ Richard Court quoted in Edgar, *From Slate to Cyberspace*, p. 338



In the body of the elegant main hall, where generations of Haleians suffered the interminable intonements of a succession of Headmasters and enjoyed annual School dances and then the tortures of many Junior and Leaving examinations, now stood 44 state-of-the-art electronic displays portraying aspects of Western Australia's History. At the back wall, moving digital images recreated Lord and Lady Forrest attending Federation celebrations in 1901 – where once several heavily carved benches played host to the School's meagre collection of library books.

Apart from the modern displays the new Centre offered a boardroom (classroom 4B where Barney Adams taught commerce and Wilfred Corr arithmetic), two meeting rooms, a theatrette, a debating chamber (classroom 6B, where boys in their final year took maths with Tom Hoar – and English and French with 'Monkey' Marshall), and a coffee shop (classroom 3A where Richard Court and others were taught Latin by Wilfred Corr, and English and history by 'Turkey' Altorfer). In the rear is an entertainment and hospitality courtyard area (the site of Barney Adams' book room and the Army and ATC 'Q' stores).

It is pleasing and quite fitting that the Havelock Street complex, remembered so vividly by many Haleians, and which has played such an important part in preparing for life so many young Western Australians in the past, received a new lease of life and continues to play a prominent part in the education of the younger generation in this state.

1998

At the Wembley Downs campus a new Art & Sculpture Centre was opened. Adjacent to it are four standards supporting sculptured bronze wings or vanes, sponsored by the Hale Art



Exhibition Committee. According to the sculptor, Andrew Stumpfel-Shaw, the work has a theme of *Young Hearts Run Free*, with reference to the book by former Headmaster, Dr Ken Tregonning. The sculpture interprets the theme in two parts – a young heart and freedom. Young hearts, however, are not the sole domain of the under 18s – the wings move to face into the wind and therefore are in a constant state of change. Mixed with this theme, are the cardinal points of the compass, Plato's virtues and four of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (knowledge, piety, wisdom and understanding).

In recognition of the invaluable work done by a range of individuals in establishing the campus at Wembley Downs in its manifest forms, the Board of Governors continue the tradition of naming buildings after various people who have been profoundly influential in the life of the School. To add to facilities such as Craig, Vernon Murphy, Brine and

Fowler Ovals, the Peter Duce scoreboard and the nomenclature attached to the boarding and day houses, a music and drama centre, completed not long after the retirement of Quenton Stow (Board of Governors, 1959-79; Chairman, 1962-78) was named in his honour.

The swimming pool was named after long-serving staff member, Doug Poake, in recognition of his extraordinary efforts as a coach with the Hale School swimming teams during the unbroken run of PSA victories from 1967 to 1984.

The Dining Hall is now known as the Tom Hoar Dining Hall, named in recognition of Tom's 1948 to 1985 teaching and administrative career at *Hale*; as secretary of the Old Haleians' Association for many years and then as an Assistant Archivist until 2008.

1999

At the Anzac Day service in April 1999. Headmaster John Inverarity commissioned the Hale School Memorial Grove at a ceremony below the Chapel of St Mark. The grove now commemorates 125 *Haleians* who lost their lives while serving the country – through the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902, the Great War, Second World War and during the Korean conflict of 1950-53. A series of six curved limestone walls play host to those lost in the Boer War, at Gallipoli, on the Western Front, in Air Crew Europe [WWII], the Middle Eastern Theatre [WWII], Australia and the Pacific Theatre [WWII], and then Korea.



Hale School Memorial Grove

2000 onwards

2000

In parallel with the building of the new Music and Drama Facility was the redevelopment of Brine House. On completion it was to now play host to all new Year 8 boarders in what was considered a more nurturing environment. After this initial boarding year the boys would then be assigned to one of the senior boarding house for the Years 9 to 12 sojourn at Hale School.

The new Brine House quest (configured by a group of former Brine Housemasters, in discussion with Bill's son, Dr John Brine), denotes some of the key pursuits in the remarkable life of W.H. (Bill) Brine. The open book denotes his early life as a scholar, the portico his outstanding career in the building industry (Winthrop Hall at UWA and the State War Memorial are two of his notable projects), the rising sun denotes the start of life's pursuits by boys in Brine House, and the motto exemplifies the care and nurturing aspects of the House.

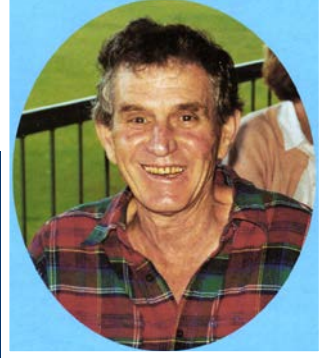
Brine House crest:

The open book denotes Bill Brine's early life as a scholar, the portico his outstanding career in the building industry (Winthrop Hall at UWA and the State War Memorial two of his notable projects), the rising sun denotes the start of life's pursuits by boys in Brine House, and the motto exemplifies the care and nurturing aspects of the House.

The new Brine House



'Mac'



2001

A long serving, pivotal character in the life of the School, Deputy Headmaster Alistair Macmillan, announced his retirement. 'Mac' was a student from 1948 to 1955 and after graduating from UWA he returned to the School as a Master in 1961. Over the next 41 years 'Mac' played many parts – history and mathematics teacher; inimitable football and athletics coach; Buntine Housemaster for 15 years; Deputy Headmaster for 10 years and, finally, as Director of Day to Day Operations until retirement. Whilst those are the bald facts; they hardly begin to describe the man and his enormous influence over the Hale campus at Wembley Downs.

2002

John Inverarity completes his 14 year tenure as Headmaster of the School.

After Inverarity announced his retirement, then Acting Deputy-Headmaster, David Bean wrote:

'Under John's Headmastership, Hale School has both maintained and enhanced its long-standing reputation for high standards of learning, for sporting excellence and, above all, for a century and a half, the preparation of young men for leadership in the communities they enter, imbued with the notation of duty, the School's motto. But as only a great Headmaster can do, John has transformed the culture of the School while, at the same time, retaining the traditions of the past.' ²⁷

²⁷ David Bean quoted in Edgar, *From Slate to Cyberspace*, pp 346-347



2003

Stuart Meade is formally commissioned as the 19th Headmaster of Hale School. In accepting the commission he said:

'... I want the students of Hale to be proud of their School. Not just as Old Haleians reminiscing at Old Boys' functions, but while current students. Proud of the community of which you are part...

To the Board of Governors: ... your work, so often unacknowledged, is crucial. The ancient Chinese made it plain when they said:

*"If you think in years, plant rice,
If you think in decades, plant trees,
If you think in centuries, educate your children".*

... There are many theories I could espouse and promises I could make, but I prefer to let actions speak louder than words. However, to close, I would like to leave you with the words of Stephen Gellet. They express clearly my commitment to Hale.

'I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good things, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show a fellow being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it. For I shall not pass this way again.' ²⁸

²⁸ Stuart Meade quoted in Edgar, *From Slate to Cyberspace*, p. 348



2005

Andrew Lodder (1999) became our most recent Rhodes Scholar.

2007

Demolition began on the old Faulkner, Wilson and Loton House buildings in preparation for the construction of the new Library and Resources complex.

2008

A statue of Bishop Hale was erected by the Old Haleian's Association outside the Cloisters in central Perth in March 2008.



2004

The re-naming of 'B' Block – the J.B. Morrison Teaching Block, after Jock Morrison. It was immediately re-named 'The Jock Block' by the man himself.

A new combined boarding house building opened containing both Wilson and Faulkner houses. Loton House became a day house.



2008

28 June, Founders' Day: the School celebrated its Sesqui-centenary with a service in St George's Cathedral and at Government House ballroom, with the Governor-General of Australia, Major-General Michael Jeffery as the guest of honour.

2009

Construction of the Library and the Teaching Complex ends and construction on the new Middle School begins.

1 July 2009

The Forrest Library opened its door to students early in 2009. The official opening and naming ceremony, however took place on July 1. The Archbishop of Perth, The Most Reverend Roger Herft, blessed the Library and Old Boy, Andrew Forrest was called upon to unveil the plaque commemorating the official naming of the building, on behalf of the many members of the Forrest clan who have attended and supported Hale School since the 1850s.



2010

5 March 2010

Education Minister Dr Liz Constable MLA joined Head of Middle School, Mr Michael Valentine, Headmaster Mr Stuart Meade, The Anglican Archbishop of Perth, The Most Rev Roger Herft and Chairman of the Board, Mr Brett Fullarton for the official opening of the much anticipated new Middle School building.

26 July 2010

The Junior School's new multi-purpose hall, which was funded under the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) scheme was officially opened.



2011

23 January 2011

A previous recipient of the Medal of Gallantry, Ben Roberts-Smith (1994-95) was awarded the Victoria Cross; the pre-eminent award for acts of bravery in wartime and Australia's highest military honour - for his service in Afghanistan.

The citation reads, 'for the most conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of extreme peril as Patrol Second-in-Command, Special Operations Task Group on Operation SLIPPER.'

Today, the School's purpose remains that of its founder; is to be a leader in boys' education. It has been steadfast in its vision; to provide opportunities for every boy to excel. It is committed to upholding its Anglican heritage and Christian principles. As it has done consistently for over 150 years, it values teaching and learning, integrity, excellence, community and leadership.

A long-serving teacher of 35 years, who wished to remain anonymous, was asked about his time at Hale School. He said:

"What of my nearly 40 years? A lot changed since the 1970's but, strangely, nothing much has. Information technology has manipulated our lives but the boys, for me, remain pretty much the same. Basically they still want the same things – to be secure and confident about themselves. What I still like about Hale is that, even now, in this modern climate of indulgence within the community generally, our boys, here, still have to run the whole race to earn their place in the sun. They are still made to work and earn any accolade. There's something pretty sound in that."



This is intended to be a 'potted history' of Hale School.

We acknowledge that it is not exhaustive.

For a comprehensive history of the School and its Old Boys the following publications are available through the Old Haleians' Association:

'FROM SLATE TO CYBERSPACE - Hale School 150 Years'

To commemorate the school's 150th anniversary, Archivist/Curator, Mr Bill Edgar, has written a fascinating account of the statesmen, explorers, entrepreneurs, movers and shakers whose education at the School has provided the leadership for Western Australia's modern development and prosperity.

Listed in the back of the book are the names of every student who attended Hale School during those 150 years.

'FROM VELDT TO VIETNAM – Haleians at War'

This book also by Hale Archivist/Curator Mr Bill Edgar, gives a comprehensive account of Old Haleians' involvement in various theatres of conflict from the Boer War through to Vietnam.

Notes and images compiled by Lee Panotidis, with the assistance of Bill Edgar and Judy Greaney, from:

- *'From Slate to Cyberspace – Hale School - 150 years' by Bill Edgar*
- *'Young Hearts Run Free' by Dr Ken Tregonning*
- *'Snapshots' by David Aitken & Roger Gray*
- *'Hale School, Perth – the Story of its Foundation and early years' by Canon A Burton*
- *The resources of the Hale School Archives/Museum facility.*

Duty

