

ASSOCIATED
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS
OF VICTORIA

CELEBRATING
100 YEARS

1908-2008

Published by the Associated Public Schools of Victoria in 2008
Associated Public Schools of Victoria Celebrating One Hundred Years 1908-2008
Compiled by Gillian M. Hibbins

Bibliography

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2. Carey Baptist Grammar School – History
3. Caulfield Grammar School – History
4. The Geelong College – History
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7. Melbourne Grammar School – History
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The Directory of the Member Schools of the Associated Public Schools has been used to indicate the year in which the six original schools were established as a public school and a chronological approach adopted as the criterion for order of entry. For the five schools invited to join the APS in 1957, their foundation dates, whether private or public, have then determined their place of entry: Caulfield Grammar School 1881, Brighton Grammar School 1882, Haileybury College 1892, St Kevin's College 1918, Carey Baptist Grammar School 1923.

This is an APS history and, for this reason, sports not acknowledged as APS sports such as bowls, equine, golf, gymnastics, martial arts, rugby, sailing, skiing, squash and others, although provided at a number of schools, are not included.

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Acknowledgements

The Heads of the Associated Public Schools, Dr. Pauline Turner, Chair, (The Geelong College), Mr. Phil de Young (Carey Grammar School), Dr. Gordon Donaldson (Scotch College), Dr. Helen Drennen (Wesley College), Mr. Chris McCabe (Xavier College), Mr. Stephen Meek (Geelong Grammar School), Mr. Stephen Newton (Caulfield Grammar School), Mr. Stephen Russell (St Kevin's College), Mr. David Scott (Haileybury), Mr. Paul Sheahan (Melbourne Grammar School) and Mr. Michael Urwin (Brighton Grammar School) resolved in 2007 to commission a history of the Associated Public Schools to coincide with the centenary of its establishment and the fiftieth year since the current membership of schools was confirmed. The Publications Committee comprised Dr. Turner, Mr. Urwin, historian Gillian Hibbins and Wesley College curators and archivists Kenneth Park and Margot Vaughan.

The schools had chosen their historians and publishers well, producing for the most part, not only excellently researched and analytical histories, but comprehensively illustrated and attractively designed books. Gillian Hibbins, who edited the publication and wrote the thematic pages, is indebted to this research, and to information and advice from Alf Batchelder, Morris Brown, Dennis and Mary Carroll, Paul Mishura, John Pennings, Mardi Simonetti, Luke Soulos, Tony Winder, and David Studham and Trevor Ruddell of the Melbourne Cricket Club Library. Apart from the books and some existing APS minute books and school magazines, she also consulted *The Argus*, *The Australasian*, *Australian Sports History Journal*, *Sporting Traditions*, *International Journal of the History of Sport* and websites for Geelong Grammar School Boat Club and APS Rowing by Andrew Guerin.

Thank you to Stewart Brook, John Davenport, Amanda Fogarty, Mark Hibbins, Bryan Jones, Peter Kaszubski, Paul La Cava, Con Lannan, Jim Mitchell, David Morgan, Tim Morris, Susan Nairn, Carolyn Rowland, Peter Skelton, Bill Waters, Keith White and, in particular, Frank Covill and Ian Wilkinson for providing a history of their respective school's sport, for locating a range of illustrations for this publication and for advice in discussions. Photoplay, Geelong, supplied a number of photographs.

Slightly more detailed accounts of the thematic pages with footnotes and references are available from the Associated Public Schools Office at 7 Morrison Street Hawthorn 3122. Those interested in premierships can find the details on the APS Sport website: www.apssport.org.au

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Paradoxically Public

'The School should be as far as possible worked upon the basis of an English public school, and prove in this colony no unworthy younger brother of the public schools at home', asserted Edward Ellis Morris, Headmaster of Melbourne Grammar in 1875. The term 'public school' was used for some of the grammar schools which had appeared in England by the sixteenth century to teach Latin. A number had been founded for public benefit, carried on under public management, and endowed for religious or philanthropic purposes. There were those which dated back to the Middle Ages, such as Winchester College in 1382 and Eton College in 1440.

Similarly, in the mid-nineteenth century, the Victorian colonial government granted land and funded the establishment of Melbourne Grammar School and Geelong Grammar School, Scotch College, Wesley College and St. Patrick's College in proportion to the size of their religious affiliation in the Colony: Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Roman Catholic respectively. Thus, all five had a common bond and a somewhat tenuous link with kindred English public schools which had, at that time, developed into large, fee-paying, boarding schools drawing children of wealthy parents from all parts of the country. Eton, Harrow, Winchester, Shrewsbury, Charterhouse, Rugby, and Westminster were officially designated as the [English] Greater Public Schools in 1864. Others were regarded as 'minor public schools'.

Along with the designation 'public', the new colonial schools were proud to appropriate the prestige of these ancient and highly regarded English public schools, and to imitate them. Both St. Patrick's and Xavier College were established by the Jesuits in 1855 and 1878 and they joined together to field sporting teams until 1901 when St. Patrick's, due to limited sporting facilities, the 1890s depression and competition from Xavier enrolments, relinquished the status of 'public school' in favour of Xavier, despite the latter being less enamoured of the English traditions.

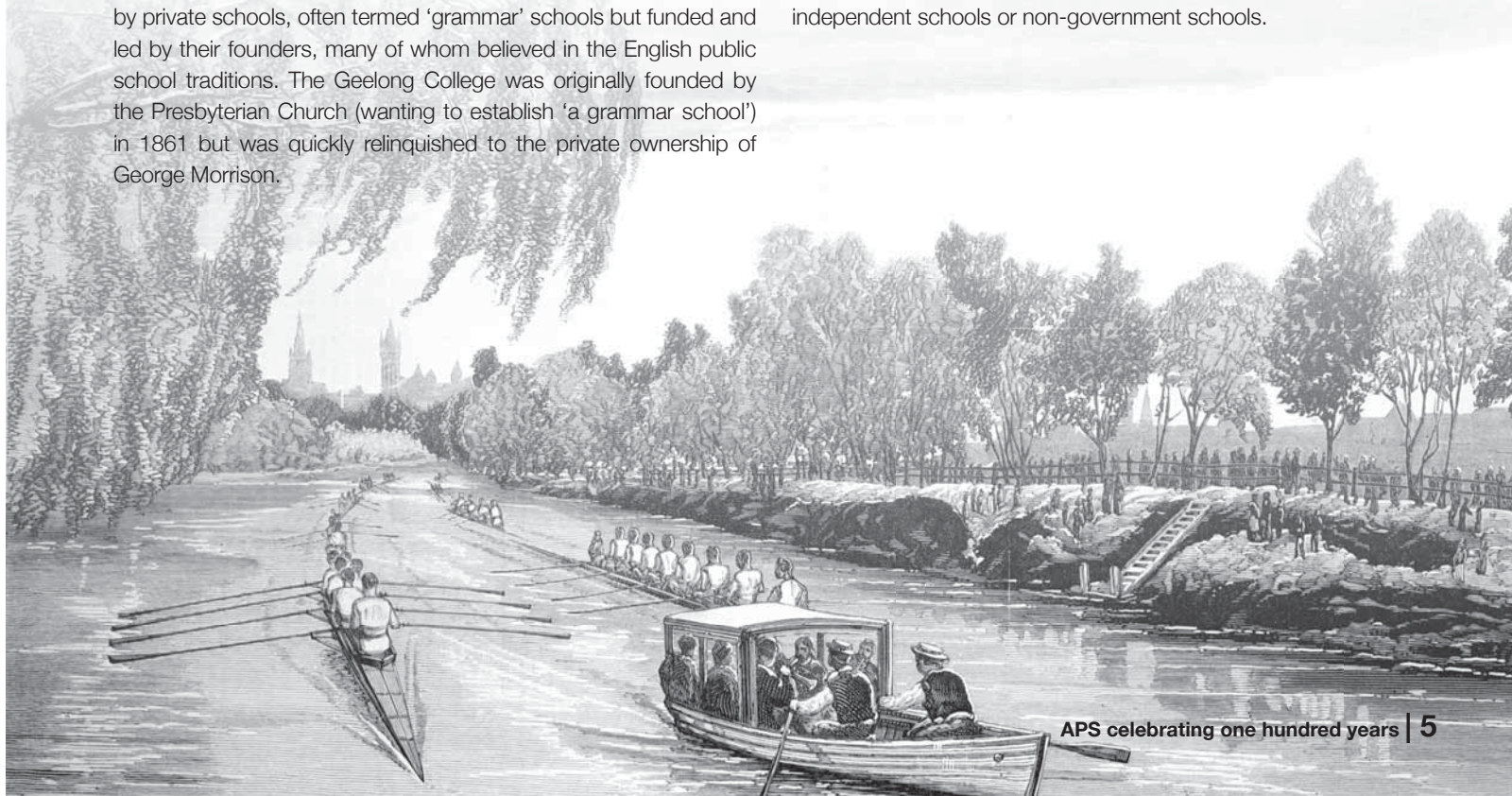
The alternative secondary education in Melbourne was provided by private schools, often termed 'grammar' schools but funded and led by their founders, many of whom believed in the English public school traditions. The Geelong College was originally founded by the Presbyterian Church (wanting to establish 'a grammar school') in 1861 but was quickly relinquished to the private ownership of George Morrison.

In the 1870s the five self-proclaimed public schools (then including St. Patrick's College but not Xavier College or The Geelong College) had delegated masters to organise the United Public Schools Athletic Sports. This expanded in 1877 to a meeting to discuss the 'conditions of the various competitions and composition of teams' in rowing, cricket, football and athletics, sports which the schools had already been playing among themselves but also with other schools. Squabbles over the definition of a schoolboy led to the 1890 Regulations for Athletic Contests amongst the Public Schools of Victoria which agreed to regularize times, ages of the boys and other matters for the four main sports. Delegates would consist of one master and one boy from each of the five schools.

In 1908, Norman Morrison, the Headmaster of The Geelong College and son of its founder, returned the College to the Presbyterian Church, and succeeded in having it included in the group of now six public schools. The minutes of the delegates were then headed The Association of Public Schools and since 1914 the title has usually, but not consistently, mutated to Associated Public Schools. The headmasters and delegates decided to debar each school from 'widening the area of competitive games in any way' and from competing against other schools with their first representative teams.

In the twentieth century, the term 'independent school' grew in favour. It was used in 1957 by the existing headmasters when inviting expansion of the group. Of the newcomers, Brighton Grammar, Caulfield Grammar and Haileybury College were church-affiliated, no longer private ventures; Carey was Baptist and St. Kevin's College of the Catholic Order of Christian Brothers.

Today the term 'public schools' refers to state government-run schools, and the term sometimes used, 'private schools', rarely but strictly speaking, refers to those schools originally established with private money. The schools which compete under the banner of the Associated Public Schools of Victoria refer to themselves as independent schools or non-government schools.



Scotch College

Scotch College has played a pivotal role in the APS as founder member and as organisational lynchpin.

Scotch was an early and often successful participant in the first public school games. When the competitions in cricket, football and rowing were regularised in 1891, Scotch promptly won all three sports that year, and modestly repeated this hat-trick in 1892. Thereafter, tales abound of overwhelming victory (such as another grand slam in 1978 and a unique run of eight back-to-back wins in swimming and diving (1990–1997), or of heavy defeat (such as five lean years of no major premierships 1982–1986).

Yet it is perhaps the closely fought outcomes that most seize the memory.

In 1919, for example, at the Head of the River, Scotch and Xavier each repeatedly spurted ahead, then fell back. Just before the finish 'Xavier, by desperate efforts, pushed ahead ... but with a final rush Scotch caught them, and the judge posted "Dead Heat" ... The crowd was wild with excitement'. A row-off (opposed by Scotch on medical grounds) ensued. Scotch led from the start but towards the end Xavier made up practically all lost water. It was 'neck and neck, but this time Scotch got their sprint in first, and although Xavier fought it out to the bitter end, they could not quite get up, and Scotch passed the post a canvas to the good.'

Later that year the Combined Sports were equally undecided until the last minute, with a close three-cornered contest between Scotch, Wesley and Melbourne Grammar. The last event was the Open Long Jump, and each of the three schools was well represented. Scotch's champion was Norm Tranter. He had already won the 100 yards and the 220 yards. But his luck was out. After two 'no jumps', he recorded a fine 20 feet 9 inches, but Sargent

of Grammar jumped 21 feet 11 inches in his last jump, so that Tranter had to break the record to win the Sports for Scotch. The challenge galvanised him to leap 32 centimetres further than he had ever jumped before, setting a record of 22 feet 1.5 inches (6.74m) that stood for 37 years, until broken in 1956 at the first Combined Sports at Olympic Park, on cinder tracks.

Another long standing record was that of (E.M.) Ewen "Ginner" Davidson whose Open High Jump record 6 feet 1.25 inches in 1927 stood for 33 years.



Ginner's other long-standing achievement was to serve the APS as its Secretary from 1940 to 1973. His successor, 1978-1988, was an outstanding College athlete and Olympian (R.W.) Bob Grant. Both men were members of the Scotch teaching staff, "Ginner" from 1932 to 1973 and Bob from 1960 to 1986. Nowadays the APS office is housed and serviced by Scotch at far below cost.

As with other APS schools, Scotch's sacrifice of staff time and facilities reflects at the organisational level what the APS preaches at the personal level: that the team derives its strength from the effort of its members. In sport, this is clearest in athletics where the final score is the accretion of many personal efforts. As Satura said in 1962: "our success has come, not from a huge number of first placings, but from a great number of seconds and thirds in all events. In other words, all-round strength, and not merely a few individual stars ..."



Scotch prefects lead the barracking during the Cordner Eggleston Cup for football against Melbourne Grammar School.



Geelong Grammar School

Geelong Grammar took an enthusiastic part in sport between the public schools in the nineteenth century particularly under James Lister Cuthbertson between 1875 and 1896. Historian Weston Bate wrote: "[Sport] was the unofficial religion at the school, with Cuthbertson its high priest". GGS was dominant in rowing, football, athletics and rifle shooting during that time and Cuthbertson sought the use of eight-oared boats in the Head of the River. With his encouragement and the Saturday rowing and camps along the Barwon, Geelong Grammar developed a pride in its rowing reputation, derived from thirteen wins in the race before the end of the century, which still resonates today.



James Lister Cuthbertson

It seems it was Cuthbertson who lobbied for the public schools to organise their interschool activities in 1877 and, once he became secretary of the committee with its master and two boys delegated from each school in 1879, it did not look back.

However by 1907 Geelong Grammar School's enrolment had fallen behind the other schools, numbering only 180 pupils compared to Melbourne Grammar with 435, Scotch with 390 and Wesley with over 300, meaning Geelong Grammar's sporting success faltered. The move to Corio in 1914 changed little although the spacious grounds favoured the emphasis on cricket, football, and athletics. The gospel of muscular Christianity was strongly preached: sport, hand in hand with religion, produced the rounded, whole man. Gymnastics, boxing, rifle shooting, tennis and fives were begun. Houses had been introduced by Cuthbertson

and house competition assumed a stronger position relative to the games played against other schools.

James Darling's arrival in 1930 as Headmaster changed the emphasis on sport; he considered too much time was spent on playing cricket and training for rowing, although he enjoyed the lift a win gave the school 'spirit'. Darling endeavoured to take public school sport away from the attention of the general public, seeking to have sports such as football played on the school grounds rather than on



public grounds, in this case, that of the Geelong Football Club. When a 50 metre swimming pool was dug in the grounds in 1954, swimming fixtures were first arranged with other schools. Rowing practice took place on the lagoon at Corio and the Barwon River.

Most importantly Darling established the alpine Timbertop school in 1952 which continued the outdoor tradition begun with the bush-walking and river rowing of the nineteenth century. Cross-country hiking and camping were early adventurous challenges and, as the high country opened up, skiing at Mt Buller and kayaking were included. With little direct relevance to the APS sports, such experiences nevertheless built endurance, fitness, and a healthy respect for co-operation with one's fellows, and preceded sports which other schools have taken up in recent years and who have also recognised the value of a rural campus.

In 1944 concern for boys who could not take part in the main sports led to the introduction of physical activities such as walking, cycling, volleyball, and cross-country running. After 1950 soccer, hockey, volleyball, basketball, and water polo also extended the range of sports. Gymnastics was better supported than at other public schools, except for Wesley with which Grammar competed. There was a new gymnasium in 1954, subsequently used in training athletes and rowers with weights and circuit exercises.

By 1980 boxing had been discarded and more boys were playing cricket and tennis. Sport, made compulsory for every boy, had been accepted without trouble. As the number of sporting activities exploded teachers took charge of these matters leading eventually to the 'directors' of today. The advent of the girls led to a rethink of the social opportunities presented by sport, but, by and large, these have fallen into line with those offered to the boys. The thread and thrill of APS sport is still providing one part of Grammar students' education and, if it did not, it would not be worth the doing.



Melbourne Grammar School

Melbourne Grammar was involved in inter-school sport right from its beginning in April 1858, playing both cricket and football with local schools. The early Headmasters of the School encouraged the importance of the public school ethos and of sporting games, in particular the emphasis on the values of leadership, team co-operation and discipline. By the turn of the century the forerunner of the APS Competition had begun, and the School was involved in regular competition with its brother schools in Melbourne and Geelong. The years that followed were very successful, as the School secured a number of premierships in each of the four sports: cricket, football, rowing and athletics.

In the second half of the century Brian Hone (1951-1970), an excellent sportsman himself, nevertheless sought to lower the emphasis on the four main sports with their prestigious first teams and premierships. Swimming and tennis in the summer, and hockey, rugby and cross-country in the winter, enhanced more boys' lives and allowed all to enjoy the benefits of healthy exercise. Hone himself coached under-fifteens football and under-sixteens cricket. Since 1970 it has become increasingly difficult for Headmasters to play a hands-on role, but Nigel Creese (1970-87), Tony Hill (1988-1994) and Paul Sheahan (1995-2009) have all played a prominent role in promoting sport in the School.

Rowing has always played a major role in the Melbourne Grammar sporting calendar, and there have been periods when the School has dominated the competition, especially five consecutive Head of the River victories in 1948-1952, and four in 1979-1982. A number of MGS oarsmen have gone on to represent Australia at Olympic and World Championship level, and by this measure it is perhaps our most successful sport.

Across all sports, the standout individual and team performance occurred on the same day, 19 March 1915, when the School 1st XI was 8/943 at stumps, with JC Sharp 498 not out. The following morning the final wicket fell at 961, with Sharp unbeaten on 506. He had been part of a 345 run partnership for the third wicket (RW Herring's 238 is often forgotten), 143 for the fourth wicket, 217 for the eighth wicket, and 112 for the ninth wicket. The team scored at an average rate of 145 runs an hour, and the day is now commemorated in the name of the School's cricket support group, the 961 Club.





Melbourne Grammar's greatest period of football dominance extended from 1917 to 1952, when Eric "Bully" Taylor coached the first eighteen to twenty-one premierships. In 1948 the team's full forward, Duncan Anderson, kicked 53 goals in five games, a record he bettered by one the following year, including 24 in one game against Geelong College.

Melbourne Grammar's last athletics premiership was in 1962, but prior to that the School had won the Combined Sports 28 of the 58 times the event had been held, including six in a row from 1920. In recent years the School's athletics programme, like most of the other major sports, has taken a more serious, year-round approach to fitness and strength-training benefiting from the Strickland Physical Education centre which opened in 1983.

Sport has always been, and continues to be, an important part of Melbourne Grammar's commitment to a broad education. All boys are required to participate, and the School attempts to cater for all abilities and as many interests as possible, with sports such as swimming, tennis, table tennis, basketball, badminton, water polo, cross-country running, rugby, soccer and hockey. This gives more boys the chance to assume leadership positions and to participate in activities they enjoy, while also encouraging them to pursue excellence in their chosen sporting activities.



Wesley College

The appointment of dynamic head master L.A. Adamson in 1902 and his consistent passion and emphasis over the next thirty years for amateur sport was crucial to the sporting ethos of Wesley and still remains influential in Wesley songs. Outstanding success in the first two decades as Head of the River, in football and in athletics, led Adamson to state that the boy who plays games and takes proper exercise feeds his brain with a supply of healthy blood – the healthy body nourishing the healthy mind.

The APS was welcomed by Adamson as entry to an exclusive competition observed by a broader public. Just as important as winning was how the game was played and graciousness in defeat. Adamson expected the boys to behave in a gentlemanly manner both on the sports ground or cheering from the sidelines.

His deputy, Harold Stewart, represented the College on the APS committee between 1903 and 1925 and, through him, Adamson's emphasis on the gentleman amateur was promulgated. Naturally Stewart, subsequently Headmaster from 1933 to 1939, continued to stress the importance of sport in the school, at the time reflected in the successful cricket team.

It was Neil MacNeil, following Stewart as Headmaster from 1940 to 1946, who made sport compulsory. The staff now had to coach and supervise, including MacNeil who coached rowing. Fawcner Park and Albert Park acted as playing grounds for the increased activity. The Wesley pool was the venue for aquatic competition between Wesley, Melbourne Grammar and Scotch College. Swimming and tennis gained in recognition without challenging the prestigious four sports. Although there was disquiet, MacNeil considered that the 'experiment of allowing every boy to choose his sport and then insisting that he should turn out at least twice a week to play it,

has worked well, if not flawlessly'. Compulsory sport did not survive the exigencies of the war, which necessitated Wesley's temporary relocation to Scotch College.

Wilfred Frederick's installation as Headmaster was anointed by Wesley's 1947 win in the Head of the River. He encouraged the development of tennis by appointing a tennis coach and basked in the cricket team's premierships for five years without feeling that compulsion was necessary to fire sporting enthusiasm.

Tom Coates had only been Headmaster for a short time when the APS enlarged to eleven schools and Wesley, like the other schools, soon recognized that a wider range of sports offered a number of benefits to pupils.



By David Prest's arrival as Principal in 1972, Wesley's physical education staff was giving serious consideration to delineating, eliciting and encouraging those benefits which they saw lay in enjoyable participation at different levels of ability rather than competitive success. For boys, this acquisition of recreational skills should mean self-esteem, physical fitness, and the development of qualities such as courage, perseverance, sympathy, honesty and group co-operation and loyalty.

'First colours' were now awarded to other sports as well as the still dominant cricket, football, athletics and rowing, the four which had disappointing results in the 1980s. Tennis won three premierships and the building of an indoors sports hall in 1984 fostered basketball and squash. Water polo, cross-country, table tennis, gymnastics and badminton had enthusiastic adherents. It was soccer, supported by the Greek students, which was the success of that decade.

The number of girls now entering the senior school and the sports fields added a new dimension to sports administration. They played netball and softball as well as tennis, swimming and athletics. It took time for girls' sports to be on an equal footing with the boys, made more difficult perhaps, when only five of the eleven APS schools were then co-educational. Increasing success in girls' sport brought increasing attention, particularly when the girls won their 1987 rowing final.

Today, Wesley is a very large institution with three metropolitan campuses, a residential campus at Clunes and three outdoor activity centres. New coaches are more likely to be recruited from the ranks of professionals, and a number of key victories have encouraged participation in sports not previously highly regarded. Boys' soccer is successful again and the girls' netball, basketball and softball were all firsts premiers in 2008.

The sports program is now much larger than the official APS list; however, the integrity of APS competition remains an important measure of the quality of sport generally. Playing within the APS reinforces, for all, the importance of commitment to one another and to representation of the College. Successes for Wesley College in the APS have been many and importantly uplifting, but, ultimately, it is playing sport and its distilled values which have bound together large numbers of past and present students, parents and staff to comprise the Wesley community.



Some Early Games

As winter approached in 1858 Dr. John Bromby read Tom Brown's *Schooldays* and shed a tear. It was 'a noble work' he confided to his diary. The first Headmaster of the new Melbourne Grammar School in the colony of Victoria, Dr. Bromby was not the only one to be moved by Tom Brown's struggle to play Rugby School football and the message of Thomas Hughes' book that moral as well as physical strength could be derived from athleticism and the playing of games. In 1860 the local sporting paper, *Bell's Life in Victoria*, referred to a gratifying change in public opinion: 'Within the last five years the advocates of muscular Christianity have become the majority. Such books as Tom Brown's *Schooldays* are among the most popular works of fiction...' Three years later in Tom Brown at Oxford Thomas Hughes emphasised the Christian belief that a man's body was 'given to him to be trained and brought into subjection, and then used for the protection of the weak, the advancement of all righteous causes, and the subduing of the earth...'

Morality, however, had not the staying power of muscularity; spiritual stamina faltered in the philosophy's heathen cry of the last half of the nineteenth century: 'Mens sana in corpore sana' (a sound mind in a sound body'). Both phrases were general enough to bear a variety of blurred interpretations but one simple attitude dominated: physical robustness and moral rectitude could both be attained by a dedication to athletic sports.

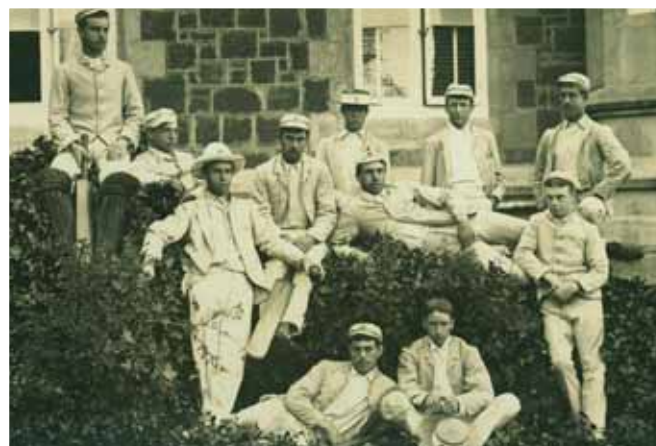
A colonial society approved of the values of co-operation, loyalty, courage, obedience to rules, and the rewards of dedication and persistence – all prominent on the sporting field. The public schools led the way in that their chief concern was the moulding of Christian gentleman through the corporate life of the school and, pragmatically, by clothing games with this ideology.

It was Dr. Bromby who hoped that 'by the annual union of the Schools in friendly contest, in athletic sports as well as by the annual boating and cricket matches, a pleasant feeling may be kept up among the pupils - the rivalry notwithstanding - as is the case with the Public Schools in England'. The boys were certainly interested more often in *corpore sana* than in *mens sana*.

The five schools, including St. Patrick's College which had opened at the end of 1854, competed in cricket, football, athletics and rowing between the 1860s and 1890s, not ignoring the privately owned and small church schools in Melbourne or the University as competitors. English and Australian cricket, English and colonial athletics, Victorian football, Oxford v Cambridge rowing and the Melbourne Regatta, all comprehensively reported in the press each year, set the tone for the 'big four' sports.

Colonial cricket was well established when Geelong Grammar had Scotch College to play at Geelong on 26 February 1858 and Scotch repaid their hospitality by winning by 14 runs. It is claimed 36 wickets were bowled! A return match in November was drawn, not having been played out. Geelong Grammar played Melbourne Grammar the day before and was awarded the match after a dispute about the number of runs. They did not meet again for 17 years!

Wesley began playing Scotch College and Melbourne Grammar on an irregular basis from 1870. Geelong Grammar and The Geelong College contested annually from 1876-1877 'except during periods of controversy', and Geelong Grammar joined the three Melbourne schools which played regularly from 1877. St. Patrick's played occasionally and not without some success. Xavier had opened in 1878 as Melbourne's second Jesuit school, and when admitted as a public school in 1901, the headmasters decided on one annual match between the schools.



Geelong Grammar School cricket team of 1885

Melbourne Grammar played football against both St. Kilda Grammar and a number of men from St. Kilda in June and July 1858. Melbourne Grammar won the first and the second ended in fisticuffs. Dr. Bromby would not make the same mistake again: the school's next opponent was not so easy or so rough. Over three Saturdays in August and September 1858 the lads from Grammar and Scotch College exhausted themselves playing a continuous game of football, probably under modified English Rugby School rules, among the gum trees north of the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The spring sun threatened to make this winter game unpalatable, and the result was declared a draw - one goal each. It was not, as is so often asserted, Australian Rules football that was being played; those Rules originated in May 1859. The two schools played again in 1859, then 5 times in the 1860s.

It was not until 1869 that victory was given to the side scoring the most goals in a given time instead of the side scoring two goals and, in that year, Wesley made its first appearance. Geelong Grammar and The Geelong College began a longstanding rivalry between 1868 and 1914, with honours about even, although students from both schools played with the Geelong Football Club from August 1864. The Geelong College played Scotch in 1868 and matches were played irregularly in the early 1870s and regularly in the late 1870s and 1880s between the four schools except St. Patrick's College. After regulations were set up for two matches per year between each school in the 1890s, they played more often and the one match a year policy applied after Xavier was admitted in 1901.

Claims that Scotch and Melbourne Grammar rowed in 1859 or competed in a pair-oared race before June 1868 have been convincingly refuted by Paul Mishura. In 1868 *The Australasian* reported that several new crews had appeared on the Yarra River. The rowing of two schools, it said, was of 'the crudest and most primitive description', until two members of the University Rowing Club had taken them in hand, the result of which was a challenge from Mr. Morrison's pupils to Dr. Bromby's. It was accepted, and training began, which simply meant a hard row every evening. Earlier a Scotch pupil had capsized. Headmaster Alexander Morrison immediately and personally tested whether each Boat Club member could swim the breadth of the Sandridge Baths (at South Melbourne) with his clothes on. Two could not manage it.

It was agreed to row on 18 June 1868 from the Botanical Bridge (a pedestrian bridge which then existed on the western side of the current Anderson Street bridge) downstream to the boatshed of boat-builder Jem Edwards at Princes Bridge. Tossing for stations,

Scotch won the north side which gave them the inside rowing at the notorious (then a swimming) Baths' Bend, and they won by almost two lengths. Melbourne Grammar School was not disgraced. Observed 'Remus', if they had obtained 'the north station and been artistically steered, the race would have been closer'. From the crowd lining the banks, estimated to be two thousand strong, there was hearty, genuine and impulsive cheering.

The two schools contested again in June 1869 (Scotch won) and in June 1870 and 1871 (Melbourne Grammar School won). With some reluctance Wesley was finally allowed to challenge the other two in 1871 when each of the three races between the three schools was rowed individually. Geelong Grammar first competed in 1875, Xavier in 1906 and The Geelong College in 1908. Second crews raced from 1875 to 1879 and throughout the 1880s and 1890s but not all the schools were represented. The boats from 1868 to 1898 were four-oar, inrigged, single stroke, string-test boats with fixed seats. Geelong Grammar

bought an eight-oared boat in 1878 but it was some considerable time before they were able to persuade the other schools to race with the longer boats. Fixed seats gave way to the more efficient sliding seats as rowing in Melbourne converted to the new technology.

At the end of the eighteen sixties each school began its own athletic sports, replicating those of the 'old country'. Melbourne Grammar, Geelong Grammar and Wesley held the first combined meeting in November 1870 with some 556 entries and 27 events including kicking the football, throwing the cricket ball and pole-vaulting. Individual prizes were awarded as well as an overall standing for each school scored by points. Scotch College under Alexander Morrison did not participate 'to prevent devotion to athletics encroaching on school work' and Wesley's Headmaster Henry Andrew followed suit in 1881. The sports were abandoned. A proposed restoration was rejected in 1891; only some incomplete meetings (in events and schools) were adopted between 1900 and 1905 when the combined sports were revived.



Football near the M.C.G., 1866.

Xavier College

In 1900 the entry of Xavier into the public schools changed the role of sports at the College. Club teams became school teams and were put into the hands of masters. The legendary football coach and sports master, Fr. Frank O'Keefe S.J., was an immensely popular and energetic Jesuit who left an identifiable impression on the school spirit. His dicta formed the basis of the original school football philosophy. His essential message was to:

*'Keep them strong in body, calm in mind,
Leaders, not craven followers behind,
Fast, fair, fearless, courting the open day,
Knowing no meanness, lovers of manly play.'*

Now in the teams' win and loss ratio, the school itself came somehow under judgment and public school sport was a social and class phenomenon. Many thousands could be expected at mid-week football games and it used to be said that it was as difficult to get a lawyer in his office or a doctor in his surgery on Wednesday afternoons as it was to get a clergyman for a funeral on Mondays.

For decades after 1900 the total sporting energies were locked into rowing, football, cricket and athletics. More individual sports like sailing, canoeing, golf, even tennis were given no encouragement. It was APS sport that gave the school a sense of identity and unity. Spectator support was high and fervent as the competition in the four areas every year placed the school in some hierarchy of social achievement. Football, in particular, figures as Xavier's strongest sport, with fifteen of the last twenty titles and twenty-nine overall. The importance of APS sport to Xavier and the general community could not be over-emphasised.

The expansion of the APS in 1958 extended in a most positive way the formal contact Xavier had with other schools in inter-school sport. The increase of sports at Xavier helped to develop a more meaningful pattern of life in which students could both find and extend themselves. In the 1970s seven hundred boys dispersed the focus of interest far more widely. Team sports including soccer, basketball and hockey, as well as swimming, tennis and cross country, were introduced.

In recent decades over half the APS schools became co-educational. Most students and staff coped easily with this change. However, the year after Geelong Grammar went co-educational, the Xavier Under 16A football team was beaten by the Geelong team which, obviously, comprised twenty boys. This did not stop the Xavier coach Jock Plunkett putting the following match report on the notice-board: 'The Xavier Under 16A team should be ashamed of itself. It is the first time in Xavier's proud 100 year tradition that we have been beaten by a girls' school!'

In 2008, with a student population of over two thousand, a broad range of sports is offered from the EYC (Prep to Year 4) to the Senior Campus where a student has the choice of fifteen summer sports and twelve winter sports. Students are now relishing the Physical Education and Sports Centre, named after Fr. P.J. "Paddy" Stephenson S.J. (1921-1925, 1931-1991), and containing a multi-purpose hall, gymnasium, indoor swimming and diving pool, fitness-testing laboratory, classrooms and viewing area for spectators.

Three highlights stand out in Xavier's involvement in the APS. They are, firstly, Xavier's first APS premierships in 1910 when the school won both the cricket and football titles. Secondly, Xavier and Scotch dead-heated in the 1919 Head of the River; in the re-race, Xavier was narrowly beaten by Scotch.



Thirdly, at the start of the 1999 rowing season, Xavier had not won a Head of the River in fifty-one years and had often been seen as the underachievers of APS rowing. Come the final, and the coaches, Peter Antonie and Brian Dalton, told the crew that 'it was not how hard you row, it's how well you row hard that will win you a boat race and that it only has to be perfect'. In the end, it was. Xavier won by one and one quarter lengths or, in rowing vernacular, 'by clear water'.

Section 31 of *The Characteristics of Jesuit Education* states that "Education of the whole person implies physical development in harmony with other aspects of the educational process. Jesuit education, therefore, includes a well-developed program of sports and physical education. In addition to strengthening the body, sports programs help young men and women learn to accept both success and failure graciously, they become aware of the need to co-operate with others, using the best qualities of each individual to contribute to the greater advantage of the whole group."

The games people play marks their lives. The APS school games have reflected and moulded Xavier and its people in a memorable way.



The Geelong College

Two testing football matches against Geelong Grammar and Scotch College in 1868 signalled The Geelong College's entry into an active inter-school sporting program which was to remain a vital part of the School's identity for the next 140 years. When the APS era opened in 1908, the College had its own oval although football games that were played there were often characterized by excitement and verve rather than skill. As one commentator of a very rough, low-scoring game in 1910 politely observed: 'obviously it was difficult for the players to keep their feet, and apparently they were forced to clutch at their opponents for support'.

Prior to 1908 when keen sportsman and Headmaster, Norman Morrison (1898-1909), brought the School into the APS, the College had dominated both its local competition and that of the members of the Victorian Schools Association (VSA). So accustomed to success at shooting, football and cricket had The Geelong College become that the ignominy of the savage defeats in its first years in the APS competition were only huskily whispered about in later years.

Gradually, The Geelong College regained its erstwhile pride. Although no premierships fell to the School for many years to come – football in 1925, rowing in 1936 and cricket in 1946, it was not long before The Geelong College had re-asserted its competitive spirit. The 1920s were increasingly a period of sporting excellence. In 1947, the year of another football premiership, Geoff Burch, in his first APS cricket match, was to take 9 for 29 against a traditional APS rival and redeem the memory of earlier defeats.

Geelong's location on the Barwon River, excellent rowing facilities including the College's own boatshed since the 1890s, and dedicated coaching have led to enthusiasm, high participation rates



Albert Bell

from both genders and success. In 1955 a series of rowing victories in the Head of the River began when the College's legendary coach, Albert Bell, led the firsts crew in what, for many older Collegians, was the golden age of College rowing.

Developments of the Mackie Oval and at the Preparatory School were vital to the expansion of oval-based sports beyond cricket and football. The College

had tennis courts in the 1890s and has improved and expanded on these to include a number of all-weather courts. College sport has assumed a vibrant maturity and diversity in recent years with players developing their skills and pursuing the enjoyment of sport in a challenging new range of options. The construction of the Rolland Recreation Centre in stages from 1969 has enabled provision of basketball and badminton courts and was a necessary precursor to entry into several APS competitions. The synthetic Rankin Field has enabled hockey to flourish. Swimming, diving and water polo benefited from the long-awaited construction of an indoor aquatic centre in 1999. Indeed, the introduction of such sports has enlivened the APS competition as a whole.

The steady expansion of APS sports and the advent of co-education in 1974 ushered in a new era for College sport with the boys benefiting from this evolution while retaining





traditional strengths in football, cricket and rowing. For their part, the girls went on to assume a noteworthy prominence in the late 1990s, winning premierships in athletics, hockey, netball and tennis and permanently changing the concept of athleticism at the College with an emphasis on skill and teamwork rather than individual strength and endurance.

The Geelong College has had Olympians in rowing, cycling, athletics and fencing. It has produced Australian cricketers Jack Iverson, Ian Redpath, Paul Sheahan and Test captain Lindsay Hassett. Numerous VFL and AFL footballers from the College include Edward 'Carji' Greeves, in 1924 the first Brownlow medallist.

Currently, not only is student physical health regarded as being a necessary condition for academic performance, it is perceived as essential in its own right. Competitiveness is seen as a natural spur to performance but is not generally pursued as an objective in itself. While coaching expertise has improved significantly over the last decade, success in the College is not measured solely in terms of premiership wins but through the demonstration of confidence, fair play and ability by this truly sporting generation of students.



'To Play The Game - The Only Real Victory' 1908-1930



Melbourne Grammar 1918 football match

In 1908 The Geelong College was welcomed into the public schools and for the next fifty years the 'four sports' remained the most important sports, as gold-lettered honour boards, trophies, school colours and blazer pockets testified. The APS delegates consistently refused to play against other schools or to increase the number of interschool sports. They only reluctantly acceded to the University's annual request to play a combined APS football team and decided not to include swimming as an APS sport.

Other endeavours such as sailing, golf, walking, climbing, canoeing, and even team sports like tennis and lacrosse, tended to be regarded only as exercise, and took a back seat as energy and boys were directed to the competitive team games.

The emphasis given to sport in the first half of the century varied and depended much on the attitude of the headmaster, although as Dr. James Darling pointed out later, 'there is no need to encourage sport; the natural inclination of every British-born man or boy is on its side' and, by 'British-born', he was including those of the British Empire. Complaints about the undue concentration on sport appeared before the turn of the century and became the focus of continued debate during its first two decades as audiences grew for the APS football matches and boat races.

It was primarily Lawrence Arthur Adamson, enthusiastic sports master at Wesley and thereafter Headmaster for thirty years from 1902 to 1932, who initially built on the legacy of others to construct a monument to the virtues of school sport. The messiah of athleticism, Adamson had a philosophy

summarised by historian Andrew Lemon: 'Sport created a sense of unity and purpose at Wesley. Sport encouraged boys to improve their health and develop their physical potential. Sport, [Adamson] believed, taught life-lessons about practice and persistence, courage, teamwork and how to deal with reverses and misfortune. Sport offered unacademic boys a purpose in life; an incentive to stay on at school, to act as leader and inspiration to the younger ones. Sport offered heroes and legends.' Overall, these advantages were seen as subordinate to the moral training, it was asserted, that sport instilled.

Adamson had much support. William Littlejohn returned Scotch College to the combined public school sports in 1905, when previous participation had been denied by Alexander Morrison. Littlejohn made sport compulsory except when a medical certificate exempted a pupil and he pursued a more English public school route for the school. 'To play the game', said the Scotch College chaplain, meant 'clean sport and honourable dealing'.

Following Xavier's incorporation as a public school, Father James O'Dwyer 'embraced the English, Protestant and secular public school spirit with enthusiasm' and 'enlarged and embroidered this with Catholic virtue', historian Greg Denning wrote. At both Scotch and Xavier, continued sporting success exhilarated and encouraged the ethos.

Richard Franklin (1915-1936) at Melbourne Grammar was an unabashed supporter, so much so that historians, Weston Bate and Helen Penrose, claim sporting prowess was held in higher esteem than academic success.

However, at Geelong Grammar Francis Brown (1912-1929) was occupied with moving the school to the isolation of several hundred acres at Corio and coping with the war-induced turnover of staff, forcing him to use his energies on building supervision, administration and finance. His deputy, James Cuthbertson, a kindred spirit of Adamson, continued an emphasis on sport, especially rowing.

The Geelong College celebrated its jubilee with athletic sports and went on to build a new tennis court and enlarge its oval. Headmaster William Bayly (1910-1914) presented the College with a racing eight. The College suffered during the war years and its enrolments dropped but, in 1920 a fine sportsman, Rev. Francis Rolland, began twenty-six years of transforming the College with new buildings and a new spirit.

Inevitably, there was a reaction. So vociferous and increasing did criticism become from 1920 that the



headmasters of the schools were moved to decry the giving of presents to successful crews and teams, and to encourage modification of theatre nights celebrated after the Head of the River but to leave the tradition of sporting dinners untouched. In May 1930, Xavier's Father O'Keefe and Charles Cameron from Geelong Grammar led the delegates in deploring the excessive amount of publicity given to public school sport and asked the headmasters to suppress this as much as possible. The headmasters agreed and asked for practical suggestions as to how this could be achieved.

The local press provided much of the attention. From the very beginning of public school sport in the 1870s and, particularly in the first half of the twentieth century, considerable space in the local press was given to speculating on which school would succeed in the competitions and to describing the matches, the boat race and the athletic sports.

Reginald William Earnest Wilmot devoted regular columns to public school sport in *The Argus* and *The Australasian* as 'Old Boy' between 1892 and his retirement in 1935. Born in 1869, he played cricket at Melbourne Grammar, left in 1888 and was awarded a university cricket blue in 1890. Xavier historian Greg Denning has described him as 'a very zealous guardian of the sporting spirit. For forty years he celebrated pluck and skill and self-sacrificing team spirit, and he glowered

at excesses in competitiveness or too close an imitation of the 'gladiators' of professional sport. Above all he savoured the proper behaviour of victors and losers... For forty years and for two world wars he exalted in the spirit of generosity and self-sacrifice, of submission to team requirements, of playing with total effort for no other reward than the school's good name.'

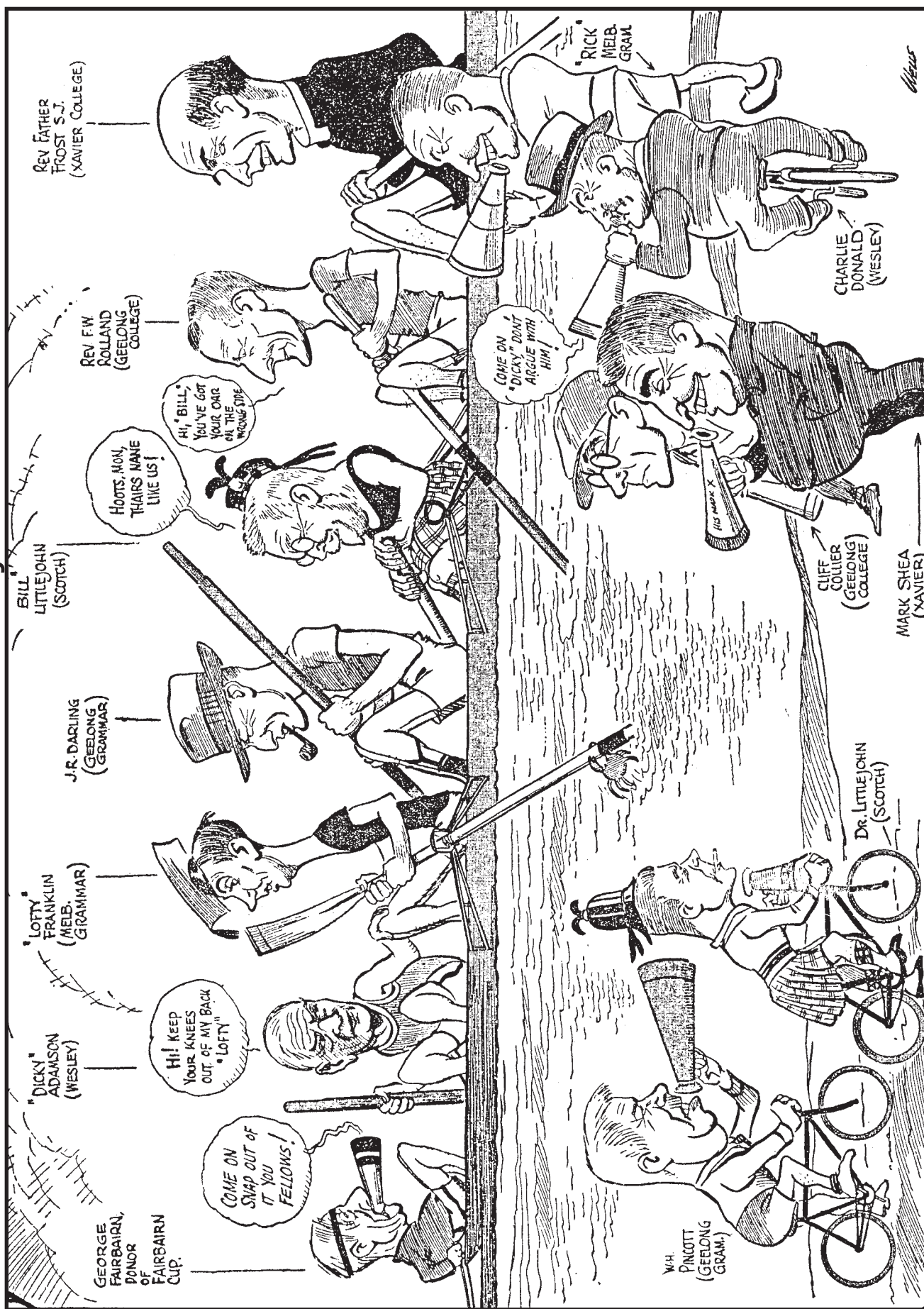
An active vice-president of the Metropolitan Amateur Football Association at the beginning of the century's first two decades, Wilmot supported Wesley's Headmaster L. A. Adamson in his attack on professional football, payment being opposed to the public school view of sport as improving moral uprightness, and Wesley's Harold Stewart in his work as the Victorian Amateur Football Association vice-president from 1912 to 1932 and VAFA President from 1933 to 1946.

James Joshua (Jim) Blake was an old boy of Wesley College (1917-1922) began as a casual on *The Herald*. Blake wrote a weekly column on school sport as 'Mentor' in *The Herald* from 1937 and as Jim Blake in *The Sporting Globe* from March 1938 except for a few short breaks due to wartime paper rationing. He retired from fulltime writing in 1965 but was still writing his school columns in 1983. During this time he was sympathetic to the schools which had newly joined the APS and encouraged their efforts and teams.



Wesley College crew 1911

“The Heads” On the river - By Wells



Series of clever caricatures by Wells of the Public School headmasters of Melbourne and Geelong and the coaches for the head of the river races to be rowed tomorrow and Friday Samuel Wells *The Herald* 13 May 1930.

The Most Challenging Game Of All

Preparing young men to be good soldiers had been significant since the schools were founded and, in 1908, when Prime Minister Deakin spoke of the increased emphasis on sport in life during the last thirty or forty years, he was repeating a familiar creed: 'not merely the physical training but the discipline of sport, its effect upon character and courage, its prominence as an educational process, were valuable. It has been found that the true sportsman, pitted at his best against his opponents under rules of fair play, is the manliest man who walks this planet today...' He went on: 'We are laying the foundations of a physical stamina and capacity which is not only exercise and sport, but which in the hour of need will respond to the nation's call...may mean a nation's safety, its name and its existence.'

Young Australians, some from the public schools, had already responded to another 'nation's call'; the Boer War (1899-1902) encouraged military training and more discipline for young boys. Both rifle shooting and cadet corps took on a new emphasis and urgency.

In 1908, it was considered that rifle shooting should be regarded as a public school sport. It had, after all, been first contested in 1873 when hardware merchant James McEwan provided a challenge cup for the public schools, won by Wesley in 1873 and 1874 and retained with its third win in 1877. In the next few years both Wesley and Melbourne Grammar were keen contestants until cadet rifle competitions were instituted by the Victorian Rifle Association in 1884 and the other three schools joined in.

Cadet corps were formed from 1884 throughout the schools of Victoria and the public schools were quickly off the mark. Alexander Lucas, Melbourne Grammar corps instructor wrote: 'I am proud of the pre-eminence the School has gained in the noble games of Cricket and Football and I trust that it will be equally distinguished for its patriotic spirit in its boys coming forward as volunteers to learn the art of defending their country, should invasion ever be attempted...' Melbourne Grammar set up a miniature rifle range in 1906 and, at Wesley, rifle training was returned to the position of significance which it had held in the late nineteenth century. In 1911, the introduction of compulsory universal training for all boys over fourteen years of age meant drill and physical exercise but on the outbreak of war the

Defence Department called in all rifles and this made it impossible for school rifle matches to continue.

Large numbers of sportsmen from public schools, both teachers and past pupils, enlisted in the First World War. The popular metaphor of sport as war, particularly football, appeared in the sporting press and in the discourse of the public schools and amateur sporting clubs. Father O'Dwyer at Xavier said: 'If I wished to teach soldierly qualities, I know of no finer training than that which the struggles of our Schools Association gives its members.' Xavier boys sang their patriotic sporting school songs as, with a Xavier flag in one hand and the Australian flag in the other, they were proudly urged to war in September 1914.

Wesley Headmaster, L.A. Adamson, argued that professional footballers should have enlisted. He told the boys 'a patriotic German' could not do better than 'to get into touch with the most physically fit men in this community - the most fitted for war by their practice in mimic warfare, and to pay them ...to stay here in Australia, instead of going to fight'. He appealed to the boys not to support the League football matches.

Thirty Xavier boys had already died fighting when the newly appointed Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, Daniel Mannix, opposed conscription in October 1916 and the school was seen as a bastion of Irish Jesuits, a disaster in the predominantly Protestant sporting ethos. School sport took on a religious bigotry, so much so that, when Xavier won the football premiership in 1917, the school and the Catholic community rejoiced more than they might otherwise have done.

The year of 1917 was one of reflected aggression in which 'regrettable incidents' showing ill-feeling between schools such as school war-cries, cap-snatching and boys fighting each other on and off the field at matches had school masters concerned. The APS delegates blamed the premiership idea for dominating school games, with football as the main offender, and recommended discontinuing all premierships games for a period, to which the headmasters acquiesced. To their combined credit, they replied, when asked to lift the ban: 'Playing at hate here in Victoria seemed repulsive when hundreds of letters told how the real brotherhood of all Public School boys was being shown under other skies and tested as it had never been before.'

In April 1916, the APS delegates suggested that a charge be made at football matches and the proceeds devoted to the Patriotic Funds. The following year they agreed to help the Red Cross and Patriotic Funds by selling programmes at 6d to the public and 3d to schoolboys at the Head of the River. Programme-selling and admission fees became a standard feature at the boat races and athletic sports for some time, the proceeds donated after the war to hospitals.

As the death toll, honour boards and the reading of casualty lists mounted, grief and some understanding of the grim reality being faced overseas, modified any sense of adventure or decoration. Indeed, Melbourne Grammar's historians concluded that the effect of war was a 'more sober outlook on life and a truer sense of perspective'. The mimic warfare of games became less important. The public was less interested, following the loss to enlistment or death of sporting



Melbourne Grammar School shooting team 1908

heroes. Teams into which students might have expected to graduate were abandoned as their older brothers enlisted.

Of the 4,700 public school boys who responded to the 'call of duty', many were sportsmen of note. The fitness derived from sports and athletics held them in good stead through appalling hardships, as did the camaraderie of fellow school sportsmen. Australia's flying ace, Robert Little, allegedly flew Scotch's cardinal, gold and blue streamers behind his plane in 1915. He was one of the 756 public school men who died.

The soldiers returned to a society which knew little of the hell they had survived, some traumatised for ever, some reiterating the creed they had absorbed before they left - and tested. Was it Richard Franklin's war service until 1917 which led him, as Headmaster of Melbourne Grammar, to consider that team games played an 'important part in the formation of character, and that it is essential that School games should be team games - games in which the boy must be asked to play for his side, and if necessary to sacrifice himself to the good of the whole'? Old Wesley boy Robert Grieve, winner of the Victoria Cross for heroism in France, spoke to a school assembly and quoted the school football song: 'Play the game together, self is but a fool. Let defeat dismay you not, fortune find you cool.'

The depression was the next challenge for public school boys, most better able to handle it because of their privileged family and

school backgrounds than their poorer contemporaries. But the fees were hard to come by and there was less financial chance of staying on at school and playing sport.

Whatever the experience, there were fewer patriotic speeches and fewer smoke nights to farewell volunteers at the beginning of the Second World War. Father Hackett, Rector of Xavier, sent his boys off in 1939 with four pieces of advice: 'Keep fit. Don't grumble. Shoot straight. Pray hard.' The schools' cadet corps practised with the British .303 service rifle, the Owen gun and on the Thomson submachine gun. Sportsmen and the top athletes were usually the non-commissioned officers. Now the Air Force and the Navy also claimed their enlistments. As before, the bonds of school and sport lifted spirits, hearts and voices in horrific times overseas.

These were difficult times for the schools. Most school competition continued much as usual although the groundsmen had gone to fight. Everything was in short supply; old customs such as giving a student the cricket bat if he hit a hundred runs were ended. Cups for individual athletic events were no longer; the money went to wartime fund-raising efforts. Clothing coupons did not run to sports uniforms or spiked shoes and hand-me-downs were the order of the day. Petrol restrictions meant fewer inter-school contests.

Wesley was invited to share facilities with Scotch College when the defence authorities requisitioned Wesley as the headquarters of Military Ordnance for the Australian Army in March 1942, and



did so until the end of 1943. It seemed to do neither school any sporting harm, the two sharing four premierships between them, Scotch football and cricket, Wesley athletics and rowing. They each barracked for the other school against their joint rivals. The splendid large Scotch College oval hosted the combined athletic sports which returned to the St. Kilda cricket ground in 1944. Wesley's 'back turf', however, was trenched with air-raid shelters and other facilities, such as the empty swimming pool and the gymnasium, suffered from military use. It was not possible to continue compulsory sport.

In 1942, when the Japanese were near our northern shores and air raids were possible, the Federal Government required that there be no large crowd gatherings organised, especially in the capital cities. The Regatta was cancelled, although the Melbourne schools rowed in challenge races on the Yarra, as did the Geelong schools on the Barwon.

In 1943, this division was repeated and, when Melbourne Grammar and Geelong Grammar were victorious, they were

expected to meet to decide the winner. For various reasons this did not occur and the following year MGS was listed as the winner. Controversy continued until 1967 when they were formally declared joint winners. In 1944 and in 1945, as in pre-war races, all six crews competed but arranged that the Geelong crews decide a heat on the Barwon and then come to Melbourne for the finals. Petrol rationing made it undesirable to transport boats between the two cities so the Geelong rowers came to Melbourne and used borrowed boats. The schools found it hard to get old boy coaches, and minor repairs were made by the student rowers themselves. By the end of the war, the boats were in a bad state.

Sadly, these wars were not the only ones to affect young Australian men. There were battles to come in Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam and Iraq. As Greg Denning so pertinently observed of the students who went to the Second World War, 'These young dead had longer preparations for life than they had life.'

Below: Wesley College's back sports turf beside the College chapel was used to store military equipment, and trenched with air-raid shelters. Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial.



Adulation Of The Sporting Blood Was Chilled

Colin Covill *The Melburnian* August 1970 p.37

It took James Darling, Geelong Grammar's intellectual Headmaster, to take on the enthroned but ageing Adamson over the glorification of athleticism. "But Darling", Adamson allegedly objected, "it's the only thing that marks us off from the State Schools". "Oh, come, come," said the mild-mannered Francis Rolland, "not the only thing, I hope." Rolland, another remarkable man and Headmaster of The Geelong College (1920-1945) had a moderate perspective on sports' place in education and Darling's arrival at Grammar in 1930 had his ready approval.

Geelong Grammar's historian, Weston Bate, suggests that Darling's English background disposed him to identify premierships with the professional, ungentlemanly approach to sport of the working classes. Darling expressed it differently:

'The so-called public schools', he wrote later in his 1978 autobiography *Richly Rewarding*, 'were knit together in a tight union formed for the sole purpose of conducting a series of annual premierships. By this means these schools kept themselves exclusive and nurtured a privileged position in the educational world.'

He singled out the annual boat-race for particular condemnation and went on: 'It was not quite so bad with the other sports but bad enough and the reputation of the various schools was either enhanced or tarnished by the successes or failure of their teams. The headmasters of the six accepted all this as right and proper and the whole public school world bitterly resented any attempt on my part to contend against it....

My main objections were twofold: first I did not like the exclusiveness of the six and the fact that these leaders of education appeared to base their pre-eminence upon such an inadequate distinction. Secondly, within the school public notice paid to the athletes as compared to scholars was not good for the standard of values which I was keen to establish. It did not take many years to get my views more or less accepted in the school but it had little influence on the general problem.'

Along with Rolland, Darling's support came briefly from Dr. William Littlejohn (Scotch 1904-1933). Then Colin Macdonald Gilray

(Scotch 1934-1953), an All Black player, introduced rugby and encouraged the cultural side of the school. Richard Selby Smith (Scotch 1953-1964) believed playing sport was more valuable than watching it, and doubled the numbers participating by enlarging the range of sports.

Adamson died at Wesley late in 1932 and Neil MacNeil came to Wesley in 1939, recognising that the schools had 'come to be regarded as representatives of privilege and guardians of a tradition of exclusiveness', the class division being engendered making them vulnerable to attack by other schools, by the press and by thinking people generally.

Discussion rolled on, only interrupted by the war years. Dr. Martyn Buntine replaced the retired Rolland at The Geelong College in 1946 and oversaw a broadening of the sports, particularly increased interest in tennis and swimming. At Melbourne Grammar 'sport was proclaimed a no word - to be replaced by 'games' and set within educational objectives that gave participation as much value as performance' by Brian Hone (1951-1970).

To both the intertwined questions of exclusivity and the glorification of sport, the answer was seen to lie in enlarging the number of schools within the APS. In 1957 Darling chaired the Public Schools Headmasters Association when the headmasters met, somewhat ironically, at that bastion of exclusivity, the Melbourne Club, on 8 August 1957. The time was ripe: there were a number of other fine schools around, and Darling had support from both Hone and Selby Smith. Dr. Martyn Buntine was nearing the end of his fourteen years at The Geelong College; Dr. Tom Coates was a very new Headmaster at Wesley.

Once it was evident additions would be made to the APS, Father Roland Boylen, rector of Xavier at the time, although opposed to the expansion, declared another Catholic school should be included. The choice was left to Father Boylen and the Melbourne Archdiocese but there was indecision until the headmasters assured the Catholics that the expansion was designed to 'lessen privilege'.



Caulfield Grammar athletic sports c. 1907



Siamese-twin race Brighton Grammar c. 1912

The Associated Public Schools Of Victoria Expand

In the interests of the 'Independent Schools', (no longer 'public schools'), it was agreed to invite Brighton Grammar School, Caulfield Grammar School, Haileybury College, Carey Baptist Grammar School, (Anglican, Presbyterian and Baptist) and St. Kevin's College.

The Christian Brothers had begun St. Kevin's College, 'a rare gesture of hope, a vote for the future' in war-weary 1918. The College became a full secondary school with the move from the city to Toorak in 1932 and primary schooling began in 1935. Its invitation relied much on the disinterest of the other two Catholic teaching orders in joining. The College was, however, building a brand new school at Heyington where it already had ovals. It would be the smallest of the independent schools.



The St. Kevin's College Four of 1936

Carey Baptist Grammar School was also buying nearby land and expanding, having begun in 1920. Its first Headmaster, Harold Steele (1923-1944), a believer in 'the well-rounded man' composed the school song which evoked the ethos of English public schools. 'Games' flourished although victories often seemed elusive. During Steele's term in office Stuart Hickman had been assistant sports master and, as the third Headmaster (1948-1952), Hickman had set about improving the sports ovals and adding a gymnasium.

The older schools, Brighton Grammar, Caulfield Grammar and Haileybury College, had been established as private ventures and developed religious affiliations. Begun in 1881, Caulfield Grammar had been incorporated fifty years later as suggested by its owner/principal, Walter Buntine (1896-1931). From 1933 it was administered by a Council predominantly of Old Boys and the school was associated with the Church of England.

Caulfield Grammar sport had benefited from the leadership of W. S. (Bill) Morcom who retired as Deputy Headmaster in 1961, having received the OBE in 1959 for services to school sport. He had the support of Frank Archer, Headmaster (1932-1954), an early coach of the first eighteen and first eleven. Archer opened Australia's first outdoor education campus at Yarra Junction in 1947, employed a full time physical education master and built a new gymnasium.

A new Headmaster and Oxford graduate, Stanley Kurrle (1955-1964), was keen to see this traditional sporting approach continued. Caulfield Grammar was the largest of the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria and had won a number of premierships in interschool competition.

Brighton Grammar was begun by Dr. George Henry Crowther in 1882. When Dr. Crowther died in 1918, his son, Henry, returned from the War to run the school. The Crowther family looked to sell the School in the early 1920s to the Church of England. When it became clear that was not a possibility, members of the local community led by Canon Hancock, Vicar of St. Andrew's Church, raised the funds to buy the School. The Brighton Grammar School Association was thus established in 1924.

A gymnasium and sports pavilion were built despite the depression of the 1930s, and the school's population rocketed in the late 1940s as bayside suburbs extended. It had just bought the Gas and Fuel's Corporation's three acres over the road in New Street and, with Canon Philip Wilson (1924-1967) as Headmaster, was set to expand. For many years Brighton was a member of the AGSV, enjoying healthy rivalry with Caulfield Grammar School.

Haileybury was founded in 1892 by Charles Rendall who stood for 'cricket-and-classics', a tradition carried forward to the 1940s by his successors Louis de Crillon Berthon (1915-1922) and Sydney Dickinson (1923-1941). Rendall made Australian Rules football compulsory, and encouraged tennis, gymnastics, athletics, hockey and swimming at the local Baths. In 1939 Dickinson ensured the school's continuation, negotiating the adoption of the College as a fully constituted Presbyterian school which treasured its association with Haileybury College in England.

Under Sholto Black (1942-1953) all boys played sport and learnt to swim. Black was responsible for post-war rapid growth: in 1956 Haileybury was the second largest in the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria.



The 1947 Haileybury swimming team

‘The Standard Staggering And Yet Stimulating’.

The *St. Kevin's College Annual* commenting on the first year in the APS

The letter of invitation to join the APS was accepted in November 1957 by the five schools. The letter pointed out that the Association of Public Schools was ‘originally formed as an organisation for the playing of interschool games and membership of the Association does, therefore, imply readiness to participate in some or all of the games which we play against each other’ and that decisions affecting inter-school games would be made by common agreement. Apart from this emphasis on sport, it was considered that ‘greater values have been gained by our membership’ and they hoped this would continue to be fostered.

The new schools were welcomed officially by the Scotch College Headmaster, Selby Smith, who said it had been felt ‘for some time the Association [of Public Schools] was unrealistic, slightly offensive and bad for independent schools’. Despite this unappetising description, it was no surprise that the five schools were delighted to be included with the oldest and most prestigious secondary schools in Victoria, or that some old boys and parents of the original six were not pleased to have their exclusivity diluted.

Carey's Headmaster, Stuart Hickman, said, “it was one step further towards the Greater Carey’. Brighton Grammar received the invitation as ‘a token of confidence and encouragement’. To St. Kevin's College, the invitation was unexpected as the school was among the smallest of the Associated Catholic Colleges but ‘most acceptable for the good of the church generally in Victoria, the prestige of the [Christian] Brothers and of St. Kevin's’.

Except for St. Kevin's, the other schools had been members of the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria and there was a period of sad transition from old colleagues. Initially, the schools remained in the AGSV competitions for swimming, cricket, tennis and football, first competing in the APS combined athletics sports in 1958 and in other APS competitions in 1959. Wisdom and tact were necessary all round for headmasters to steer between the shoals of envy and disdain.

On the whole the newly fledged APS schools found that it was a struggle to play sport successfully against the usually larger and better provisioned original six. The coach of the Haileybury football team, Frank Northcott, had high hopes going

into its first-ever match at home against The Geelong College, regarded in 1959 as a lesser side. The Geelong College inflicted a crushing twelve-goal defeat, leaving the Haileybury team shattered. Haileybury College's student paper, *Winged Heart*, wrote: ‘We may never rival the larger and older public schools in sport; certainly we shall not do so for a long time yet, but we must not stop trying’. Haileybury did not stop trying, nor did the other introduced schools. Nor would they be patronised, rejecting a suggested division into the A ‘old’ schools and the B ‘new’ schools for football, with promotion or relegation each year to depend on the previous year's results.

Increasing enrolments were no doubt a strong factor, but more acres and sporting fields were acquired. Almost immediately Carey bought 34 acres at Bulleen, opening four ovals, an athletics field and two grandstands in 1963. Some Haileybury staff and council members considered a slump in school morale following constant sporting defeats as a factor in the decision to expand with 49 acres at Keysborough, also opened in 1963 and big enough to allow for ovals, tennis courts and a swimming pool.

Caulfield's amalgamation with Malvern Memorial Grammar in 1961 and the development at Wheelers Hill from 1981 eventually helped to bolster their senior teams. A swimming pool was constructed at the Caulfield site in 1963 and, in time, the Wheelers Hill Campus also provided additional sporting facilities that were available to students from all campuses.

Brighton Grammar's immediate concern was development of the Gas and Fuel site and for several years the school used Brighton City grounds for hockey and rugby and hired tennis courts. With sparse sporting facilities at the schools, it was sensible to hire grounds at various venues to accommodate additional teams. Investment in new sporting equipment from hurdles to practice wickets was funded.

But an immediate benefit was the strengthening of school co-operative community effort to change the results, rallying councillors, parents, old boys, masters and students. One of the large challenges was to enter the school in the Head of the River, the most visible of the big four APS sports embraced by the six



older schools but not by any of the recent ones. It would also be costly. Brighton Grammar's reaction was typical, as its history Meliora Serquamus explains: 'Masters, Mercantile Club members, Old Boy coaches, generous parents, the Mothers' Circle, the School Council (together they provided many of the boats required) and the Meliora Club (an association of Old Boy oarsmen), banded together to assist school rowing for one purpose – to give rowers every chance to excel.' Some fifty boys began a new experience demanding team work and concentration.

Caulfield was quickly into action buying a racing eight, introducing rowing in 1958, and participating in the Head of the River with a thirds crew in 1959. The School built a boatshed at Albert Park in 1960, and in 1982 shared a new boatshed on the Yarra with the Banks Rowing Club.

In 1958, St. Kevin's, with the aid of the Hawthorn Rowing Club, boated a number of fours, and entered regattas in eights in 1959. The school competed at the Head of the River thirds competition in 1960, rowed in the firsts crews' competition in 1961 and qualified for its first winners' final in 1979. It, too, had a strong parental support group. A boatshed across the river was brought into full use in 1977-1978.

At Carey about twenty boys began to learn with a set of oars and a practice eight provided by Melbourne Grammar and the school rowed in the Head of the River in 1962 with six eights and five fours. Rowing helped to enfold the apprentices into the APS, for the other older schools also loaned boats, shared boatsheds and offered coaching advice, as did rowing clubs such as Powerhouse, Banks, Mercantile and Melbourne. Carey's Rowing Parents' Association raised the funds for a practice rowing pool, opened in 1966.

The recent inclusions were not the only schools to extend their sports fields and invest in more sporting equipment. All the schools boldly expanded their range of sports in the 1960s and hockey, soccer, rugby, basketball, and cross-country

proliferated. As time went by, sailing, skiing, volleyball, golf, badminton, table tennis and squash were seen where they had not previously figured. In some schools, sport was made compulsory, and in all schools more sports teachers were employed and administration streamlined.

The schools initially did not play a full round of the eleven schools, and premierships on occasions ended up being shared, sometimes a lopsided conclusion in the event of an uneven draw. All the schools realised that it was difficult to draw up fixtures for ten schools each week in cricket and football, leaving one school with a bye. It was an opportunity to diminish the importance of competition but one which received little support. Although the decision to admit the five schools had been based on a desire to end the exclusive rivalry between the six schools, a more general attack in society on competition and the singling out of successful individuals for notice was barely reflected in the APS.

By the end of the next two decades, the sports had been established on a solid footing in the 'new' schools. Success was noticeably difficult in the sixties with Haileybury snaring the first premiership of the schools, by sharing the football premiership with Xavier in 1965. Carey won the athletics meeting in 1966 with 'much joy and enormous pride'. By 1980 the newcomers had either shared or won outright the cricket premiership on ten occasions and the football premiership five times. A number of unofficial premierships in tennis and swimming came their way. Outstanding individuals who won events in the athletics gave cheer and hope to schools which overall could not gather enough points to figure in the top three.

Rowing was less conquerable. In 1977 Brighton Grammar's first eight broke the course record for the Barwon only to lose it to Wesley College who won the Head of the River that year. But in 1983 Brighton Grammar succeeded in winning the prestigious contest.

The 1980s were to see the next big change for the APS when some of the schools began co-education – enter the girls!



Caulfield Grammer School

Caulfield made a strong showing in its early years in APS competition. It was undefeated in its section of the 1959 cricket competition, achieved third place at the 1961 Combined Athletics Sports and was the first 'new' school to row in the Head of the River final in 1965. Premierships were won in cricket and football in 1967. One matter of concern was the lack of recognition given to tennis and swimming, which were premiership sports in the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria (AGSV).

From the late 1960s, new options including hockey, soccer and cross-country running were introduced. Basketball (introduced in the 1950s) also became a popular sport. In 1982, a sports pavilion and tennis court complex was constructed at the Caulfield Campus, and a rowing shed (built in conjunction with Banks Rowing Club) was opened on the Yarra River.

The establishment of the Wheelers Hill Campus in 1981, which launched co-education at the School, also provided additional sporting facilities that were available to students from all campuses. Initially, these included ovals, tennis and netball courts, and a gymnasium. A swimming pool was added in 1989 and a synthetic tennis/hockey facility was completed in 1994. The gymnasium was refurbished in 2007 and work is currently taking place to enclose the swimming pool.

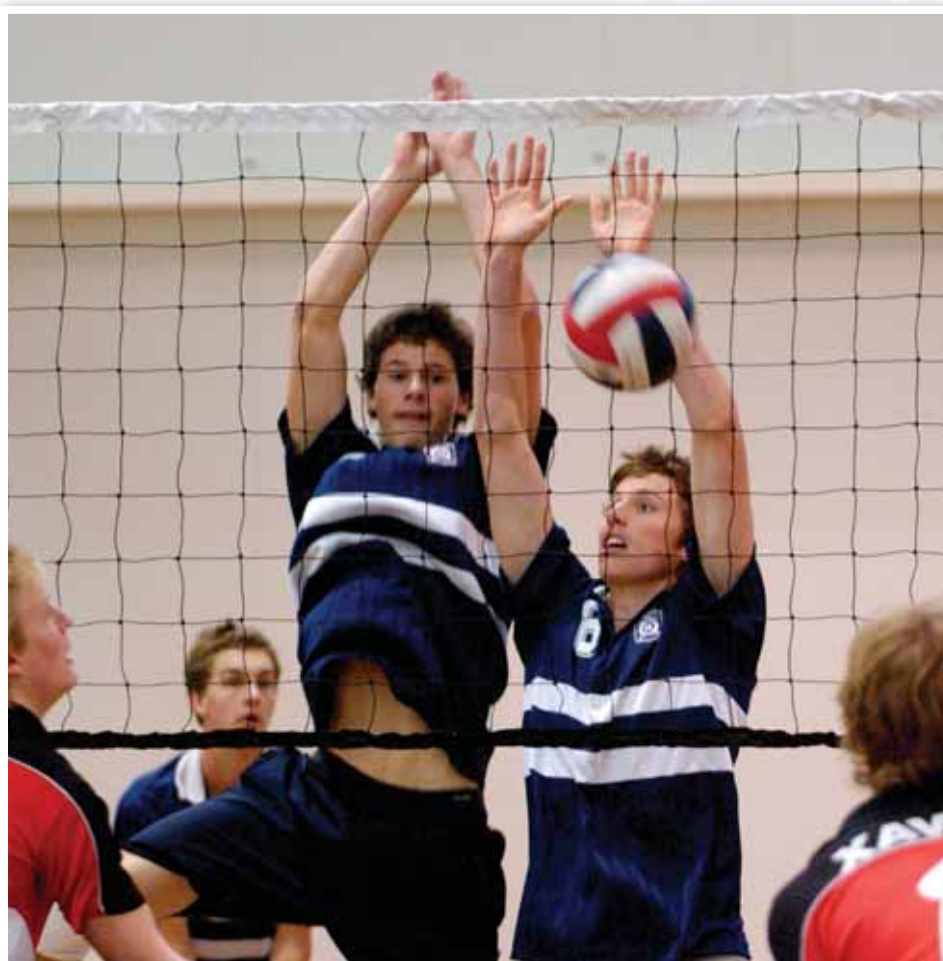
Increased enrolments (from less than 2,000 in 1993 to nearly 3,000 in 2008) have been a catalyst for significant developments in facilities, sports administration and coaching over the last fifteen years, some of which have built on initiatives begun in the late 1970s.

The completion, in 1997, of the first stage of the Sports and Physical Education Centre enhanced facilities at the Caulfield Campus. The centre includes a double gymnasium and weight-

training area. The second stage – a new indoor swimming pool – is soon to be built. The Centre is named for the former Premier of Victoria, Lindsay Thompson – past school captain, past parent, sports enthusiast and a great supporter of the school

Premierships have now been won in almost all APS sports for both girls and boys. Caulfield Grammar sports staff have given generously of their time and enthusiasm. Notable was Geoff Wilkinson, a former student appointed by Headmaster Archer. He was a highly regarded sports master, coach of the first tennis team from 1949 to 1986 and chair of the APS tennis committee for 31 years. The cup donated by Caulfield Grammar when an APS tennis premiership was instituted in 1987 is named in his honour. The name of the main oval at the Caulfield Campus remembers the 'legendary' Alf Mills, the groundsman/curator from 1934 to 1980.





The School is grateful for the establishment of a support group for rowing in 1978 and the ongoing help given by groups established in the 1990s and 2000s for most other sports. These groups include current parents (predominantly), past parents and past students.

Over the years many Caulfield Grammarians have pursued successful sporting careers after leaving school and some have gained distinction at the national and international level. These include Brownlow medallists John Schultz and Chris Judd, test cricketer Hans Ebeling and Olympic athlete Tamsyn Lewis, to name just a few.

The current sports program emphasizes participation, skill development and team spirit. Students are encouraged to support first teams and sport is considered an important element in the development of 'school spirit'.



Brighton Grammar School

Brighton Grammar looked back on a bleak record in its first years in APS sport, enjoying only the occasional success which gave some hope. When Robert Rofe commenced as Headmaster in 1967, he refused to accept the excuse that Brighton Grammar was a small school. A non-sportsman himself, he nevertheless unrelentingly set about building confidence and morale, but he warned that winning would come about only as a result of dedicated, disciplined hard work. Training lists were always checked and training methods carefully analysed. From early to late, Rofe made it his concern to visit Saturday games, and not only those played by the top teams. 'Participation' was one of his favourite words. This was appreciated and brought a constructive response from the boys.



Success with premierships began in the seventies; all in all, there were seven premierships with the first football premiership in 1975. This was followed by a win in hockey in 1976. Brighton Grammar School arrived with triple crowns for cricket, swimming and tennis in 1977, and a double crown for swimming and tennis in 1978.

A triple crown was also achieved in 1983 with wins in cricket, hockey and rowing. Cricket has been a strength for many years due, in no small part, to the stability of the senior coaches. The always positive Peter Toms coached for seventeen years stressing team spirit, discipline and sportsmanship, and patient and persevering expert, Gary McPhee, is currently celebrating his twentieth year as coach.



In 1961 the firsts crew rowed in the Head of the River and in 1977 the eight broke the course record for the Barwon in the intermediate final, only to lose it on the same day to Wesley College.



Rowing has been strong, especially since the historic victory in 1983. The school has built boatsheds at Carrum so that the boys can train at the National Sports Centre.

Although depth remained a consistent problem in athletics, enough individuals performed well to keep spirits high. Dale Seers from the late eighties went on to win the Stawell Gift. Gary Miniham, captain of athletics in 1979, won a bronze medal for the 400 metres in the 1982 Commonwealth Games. Gary still holds the school under-17 100m record. In the late 1990s and early 2000s Brighton Grammar School increased its profile in athletics by coming second four times in a row under the head coach, Brendan Mathews.





Hockey was invigorated early by Don Wicks, teams topping the competitions three times in the eighties, twice undefeated, but only acknowledged as an official APS sport in 1991. Over time the School added a gymnasium, weight room and tennis courts, and a hockey pitch off site. Tennis made successful appearances in 1977, 1978 and 1982, although it was not until 1987 that tennis became a premiership APS game.

Enthusiasm for swimming built slowly but steadily and a pool was opened in 1975. Appreciated by all swimmers, it encouraged the emergence of water polo players in 1983 who won many matches before the sport was officially recognized as APS in 2005.

Australian Rules Football teams needed large numbers of boys and struggled after 1975 until 1992 when the team took off the premiership a second time. The school has had Olympians in rowing, hockey, athletics and provided that important addition, an Australian Olympic chief physiotherapist in Ross Smith. It has produced three Australian cricketers and numerous VFL/AFL footballers. Football photo 4 or 13

There have been many memorable occasions of victory and celebration but most will remember a day at the end of a long, very hot term in 1983. An excited contingent of boys and staff travelled to Geelong in buses, carrying with them two confidence-boosting thoughts. First was the knowledge the school had won its third cricket premiership. Secondly, at an assembly, Principal Rofe had talked about how to behave when they won the Head of the River, not if they won.

The crew's spirits were soon high as they were successful in the semis. The start of the Head of the River final was even, but a strong push at the 500m mark, put Brighton Grammar School clearly in the lead and they commandingly dominated the race from that point on. Allotted the 'hill' that year, it erupted when every Brighton Grammar School boy savoured the history-making achievement as raucously as possible. The joy was unbounded. Brighton Grammar - Head of the River. The first win on our twenty-third attempt. Magical!



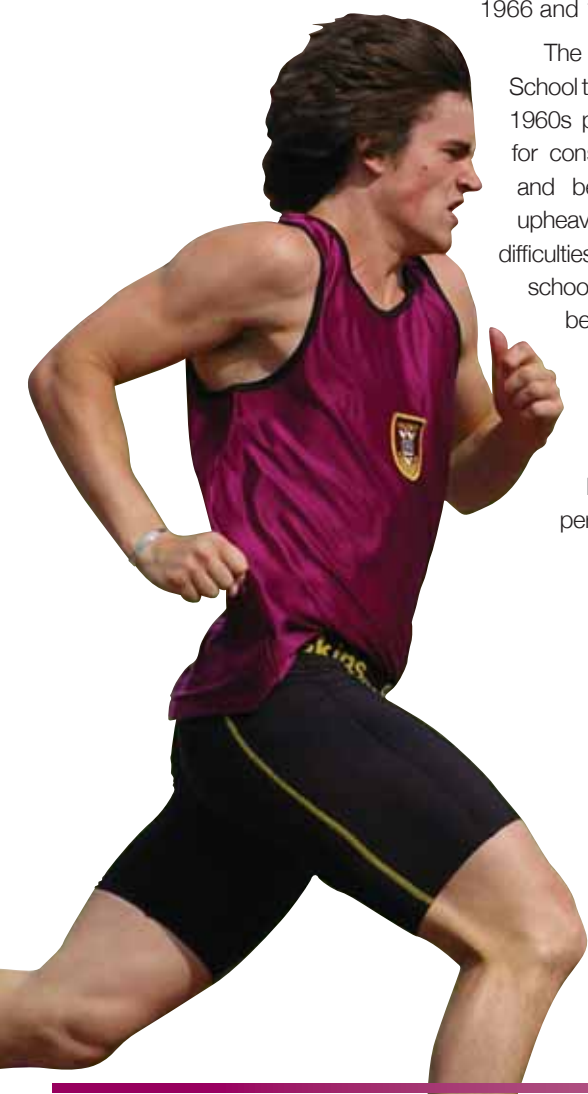
Haileybury

Haileybury's entry into APS sport in 1958-1959 was embraced with enthusiasm, excitement and some apprehension. Moving from the smaller Associated Grammar Schools competition, where Haileybury had only recently become a powerful force, particularly in swimming, constituted a major challenge. The school was situated on a small property in Brighton, and its lack of adequate sports grounds created logistical difficulties, both in providing space for the various teams, and in facilitating the intensive skills training of small groups.

Brian Clark was appointed the delegate to the APS in 1957, to be followed by John Masters from 1992 to 1999. Morris Brown was appointed to the key role as Secretary of the APS Delegates Committee from 1989 until he retired in 2003. Between them they oversaw a transformation in sport. The first few years of competition against the established APS schools were a struggle, particularly in athletics and football, and the opportunity to celebrate success was rare. Defeats impacted on staff and player morale at the time.

Nevertheless, things improved in the mid-1960s when the arrival of several outstanding teacher-coaches allied with a talented and powerful group of cricketers, footballers and athletes put Haileybury onto the APS map. Haileybury was the first of the newly-admitted APS schools to win a premiership, taking the football honours in 1965. Cricket premierships followed in 1966 and 1968.

The move of the Senior School to Keysborough in the late 1960s provided the opportunity for construction of many ovals and better facilities. But this upheaval produced its own difficulties. Initially the fledgling school at Keysborough was being "bedded down" in its stark new environment, with some weakening of the old community allegiances, and a less successful sporting period ensued.



The arrival of Principal Michael Aikman in 1974, and his appointment of past pupil and all-round sportsman Morris Brown as sports master, heralded the start of Haileybury's rise to prominence in the major sports on a regular basis. A string of dedicated and successful coaches including John Masters (football and athletics), Nick Tonkin, Jim Brown and Ian Greenaway (swimming) engendered a vibrant school culture and a determined will-to-win ethos across the school.

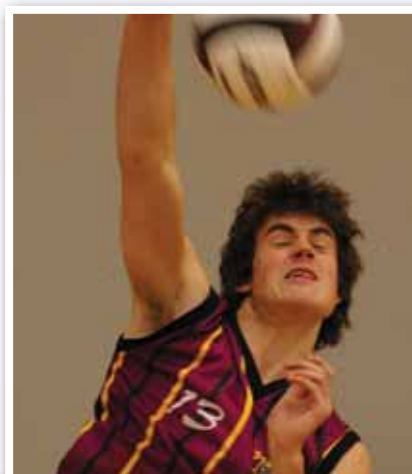
The 1980s and the early 1990s were a golden period as Haileybury excelled in APS competition in football, cricket, swimming, athletics, tennis, basketball, cross country and table tennis. Strong and vocal spectator support at major events became a Haileybury tradition and provided a stimulus for outstanding achievements. The singing of "Jerusalem" and the trading of banter with the students of the inner city schools added spice.

Haileybury leased its first rowing shed at Carrum's National Sports Centre in 1980 and rowing began, with Haileybury's best Head of the River results being third on three occasions.

Dr. Robert Pargetter's dynamic leadership and energetic input into Haileybury's sporting endeavors between 1999 and 2007 sharpened its competitive approach with a restructured sports management team, improved sporting facilities, and the introduction of targeted sporting scholarships (adopting the practice of many APS schools). This development led to Haileybury winning numerous APS premierships in a variety of traditional sports. Football, cricket, tennis, swimming, basketball and table tennis teams were extremely successful.

At the same time, in line with its new policy of parallel education for girls introduced by Dr. Pargetter, Haileybury broadened its offerings, adding lawn bowls, beach volleyball, equine sports, triathlon, netball, baseball, softball and sailing to the sports program. Careful planning, excellent facilities and good coaching ensured that the girls' sporting program was successful from the start with high levels of participation and premierships in swimming and diving, water polo, soccer, badminton and cross country in 2007, the first year the girls were in the senior school.

The headmasters and delegates have always demanded high levels of sportsmanship. They have seen sport as a builder of character. Good behaviour is encouraged and teams enjoy the interaction with the opposition at the conclusion of the game.



St. Kevin's College

The sports, friendships and learning that thousands of Kevinians have experienced by participation in the APS have helped define the school. While the sporting prowess of all athletes that reach first team standard in any sport is admired, the greatest joy is that the APS allows mass participation across age groups and skill levels. The fifth eleven soccer team and the year 9 sixth rowing four are as much key parts of College celebration of APS Sport as the first eighteen Australian football side and national level athletes.

In fifty years of membership, young men have gone from St Kevin's to represent Australia in rowing, athletics, cross-country, tennis, swimming, football and rugby. Cricket, basketball, badminton and hockey have produced state and elite team representatives. Some fifty-seven Kevinians have gone on to play senior football at VFL/AFL level. Worthy also of celebration are the hundreds of old Collegians who have continued in their sports beyond school as part of the SKC Old Collegians' clubs or in local and community sport. The lessons learnt and enjoyment gained from APS sport will inspire future sportsmen of diverse interest and calibre in the years ahead.

Although playing non-premiership matches in cricket and football in 1958, it was not until the APS Combined Athletics Carnival of 1958 that the College's official debut in the new competition took place. For St. Kevin's, every sporting contest was a new experience, feeling very much the outsiders and working hard to gain acceptance. With fewer students than opposing schools, St. Kevin's would always have to draw on the qualities of enthusiasm, loyalty and co-operation to make its mark. Perhaps this is why recent successes in athletics have been so heartily cherished by many old boys from that era.

The school, for many years, resisted adding to its sporting options lest it weaken its competitiveness in the APS premiership sports. Cricket, swimming, tennis, and rowing were summer offerings and football the sole winter offering. In 1964 rugby and cross-country were added to the winter choices for students and both have been strongly performed sports since their inception. Basketball (1977), soccer (1979), table tennis (1990), lawn bowls (1994), badminton (1997), hockey (2003), squash (2004), water polo (2005), and volleyball (2006) have been added and allow for a great breadth in choices for the boys. This has only grown love and participation in the APS competition.





The 1989 cricket team finally was able to put thirty-one winless years to rest by winning the College's first ever APS premiership. It was a moment of great joy for the St. Kevin's community. Subsequent premierships proved to be less difficult and, since then, St. Kevin's has added its name numerous times to the premiership listings in a wide range of APS sports. Tennis was won five times in the nineties, cricket in 1989, 1991, 1992, 2001, and football in 1996. Cross-country, denied first by Brighton Grammar and later by Scotch College, was won in 2006 and 2007, basketball in 2001 and 2007, soccer in 2000, and badminton in 2003 and 2004. The recent highlight has been the consecutive athletics premierships of 2006 and 2007, ending Caulfield Grammar's magnificent run of twelve wins.

Involvement in APS Sport has enhanced the relationships between boys and staff as they spend their Saturdays together learning through shared experiences. Notable staff in the early days of APS contest were Br. Kevin Nangle, caring supporter of the battlers, Br. Maurie Howard whose keen eye could diagnose the technical deficiencies of many a young batsman, Ray Delaney who pioneered rugby, and Br. Jim Noonan who nurtured a generation of St. Kevin's College athletes.

Current Headmaster Stephen Russell, impressed by the breadth of commitment of his staff one Saturday, saw the football coach standing 'resolutely in the pouring rain directing and encouraging the team', the equally drenched hockey coach 'purposeful, positive and passionate in his direction of our firsts – against his alma mater' and a tactical and dedicated 'troika' of masters at the soccer.

For those who had endured some of the difficult years of St. Kevin's sport during the first thirty-one years of APS membership, the last nineteen years have provided great joy and reward in keeping the faith. The school is appreciative of those that invited the College to join the APS fifty years ago. Whilst it is a membership that has helped shape the school immeasurably, St Kevin's College takes great pride in the contribution it makes to the APS in this centenary year of its foundation.



Carey Baptist Grammar School

Carey's invitation to join the APS in 1958 coincided with the development of the School's sporting facilities at Bulleen, a far-sighted move which facilitated full participation in the comprehensive APS program.

Over the years significant emphasis has been placed on the participation of all students at all levels in sporting pursuits. The School believes there is a strong correlation between academic progress, sporting participation and individual well-being. This is why Carey students, through to year 12, are expected to remain active outside the academic curriculum in both summer and winter seasons; as are secondary teaching staff. A vital part of this expectation is the weekly APS competition.

While there has been an emphasis on participation, particular pride is taken in first teams achieving premierships. Rowing has enjoyed success. The boys' crews have won the Head of the River in 1985, 1995 and 1996, and the girls' crews in 2004 and

2005. Athletics, cricket and football, the other sports to make up the group of four once considered the major sports, have also tasted victory. The boys' team won the athletics championship in 1966 and the girls' team in 2006. Cricket premierships were achieved in 1963, 1970 and 1975, and the football team enjoyed success in 1999.

Carey, however, reflecting social change and in conjunction with the APS, has recognised a world beyond the so-called traditional four sports of past generations. Today the School enters teams across the full spectrum of APS competition and in the last half century the School has acquitted itself with distinction in the competition.

The boys have won premierships in badminton in 1979 and 1980; basketball in 1968, 1992 and 2002; cross country in 1999; hockey in 2006; soccer in 1988; tennis in 1975, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1982; and volleyball in 1983. Not to be outdone, the girls have won premierships in basketball in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000; cross country in 2006; hockey in 2000; netball in 2004 and 2005; and soccer in 2005 and 2006.

When past students reflect on their time at Carey, it is often with fond memories of an experience in a sporting team. And these positive reflections extend beyond schooldays to the sporting teams representing the Old Carey Grammarians Association.

Carey's best performed athlete is James Tomkins, whose rowing successes are remarkable: Olympic gold in the coxless fours at Barcelona in 1992; gold in the same event at Atlanta in 1996; bronze in the coxless pairs in Sydney in 2000; gold in the same event in Athens in 2004; gold medals in the World Championships in 1998, 1999, and 2003; and member of the Australian XVIII for the Beijing Olympics 2008.





World championships have been achieved by Emma Randall (basketball), Allan Cleland (croquet), Peter Foster (kayaking), Julie Prendergast (netball), Charles Bartlett (rowing) and Danni Miatke (swimming). Graham Yallop captained the Australian cricket team in the Ashes series of 1978-79 and played thirty-nine test matches in all. David Wansbrough was vice captain of the Australian men's hockey team and a silver medallist at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. Peter Robinson was captain of the Australian blind cricket team. Twelve other male and six female former Carey students have represented Australia in international competition.

Of course, none of all this could have happened without the hard work and commitment of Carey staff over the years. Hundreds have been involved, with some contributing well-and-truly above the call of duty. Highlighting individuals is always fraught with danger, but two "characters" are worthy of mention.

Russell Costello was sports-master and APS delegate for many years and coached the athletics, football and swimming teams with a happy combination of dry wit, resigned acceptance of indifferent results and eternal optimism.

Charles "Bunny" Gramlick preceded Russell. He also coached the same three teams and added tennis to his stable when there was no volunteer available. His powerful voice on winter afternoons at Victoria Park, Kew, and his old gabardine overcoat with a school tie serving as a belt, are part of Carey's sporting folklore. The APS sporting competition provides an opportunity to manifest those healthy bonds that are forged between staff and students, past and present.



The APS Regatta (Head Of The River)

The term 'Head of the River' derives from very early rowing races in narrow rivers such as the Cam in Cambridge in which the crews start in line and try to touch or 'bump' the crew ahead. The race usually took place over four days and the crews changed place each day according to the bumps scored. The crew with the most 'bumps' headed the line and was entitled 'the head of the river'. It seems that it was in October 1903 that the Public Schools' Boat Race first included the term 'Head of the River', which refers now to the race of the first crews for the award of the Fairbairn Challenge Cup, donated by Charles Fairbairn of the Geelong Grammar legendary rowing Fairbairn family in 1911.

In 1901, clinker outriggered eights with overlapping planks and sliding seats replaced the four-oared boats which had been previously used. In 1909, the race was held in autumn and this change from Term 3 to Term 1 was made permanent. The contest has rarely been dull, coping with collisions, floods, dead heats, and controversies over the venue, the rowers' ages and disqualification.

From 1879 the venue alternated between the Barwon River and the upper and lower reaches of the Yarra River – the upper Yarra predominating. A system of choice of water by each school operated: the Albert Park Lake was chosen by Wesley in 1887 and, in 1897, by Melbourne Grammar as it trained on the Lake and had the choice that year. In 1908, the APS, amended its rules for interschool contests to include The Geelong College, approving a suggestion from the Public Schools Headmasters' Association that, to accommodate the second Geelong school, the race 'be rowed on the Upper Yarra except in 1911 and every fifth successive year when it shall be rowed on the Barwon'. This lasted for the next decade before it became every third year on the Barwon from 1921 to 1939. The Geelong College already had an eight and immediately made an impact, coming second in the Head of the River race in 1908 to Scotch College.

From its introduction the race attracted large crowds, first of cheering schoolboys freed from classroom confines but later of the general public. By the 1920s the Head of the River had attained what was claimed as 'an almost Melbourne Cup prominence in the public mind'. The surrounding hoop-la and

hero-worship gave the schoolmasters some pause for thought. Melbourne theatres booked by supporters were decorated with school colours and the crew in their blazers appeared to great applause and cheering, regardless of whether they had won or not.

The press was not restrained in analysing the various eights for weeks beforehand and in raising the significance of the event, no more so than 'Old Boy' (Reginald Wilmot) who wrote in *The Argus*: 'The title of the Head of the River is more than a name; it means the glorification of young athleticism, it signifies the apotheosis of schoolboys, and, while the fact that a boy is in the crew is enough to single him out for special notice, the possibility of his being one of the victors is something to quicken the pulse of all connected with him and his school.' When Xavier won the Head of the River in 1929, *The Sun* had pictures of the Friday heat-winners in the Saturday paper, and then, on the Monday after the race, the Xavier crew receiving the Fairbairn Cup and an insert of the picture of the cox, covering the entire front page.

The long hours of strenuous training for such a short race time, and the sight of eight young men moving in harmonious unison 'all swinging together steady from stroke to bow' was unmatched in any other sport. Of course not only one crew rowed; there was the gradual introduction of second and third crews and, in 1943, the losers of the three heats competed in a new race called the 'Losers' Final'. Experience in the increasing number of organized junior and open regattas helped to steady nerves.

The Barwon River became the permanent venue from 1948 to 2000. The construction of the Swan Street Bridge during 1948 provided a welcome excuse to move the venue after the 'unseemly' behaviour of the crowd the previous year. There was a picnic day atmosphere as the cars arrived from Melbourne, fluttering school scarves and colours. On the north shore of the Barwon River a small hill ran up to the bridge, just after the finish line. It inevitably became a mass of struggling boys as one school tried to urge the others into the water. Headmasters warned, threatened and punished, but to no avail. In 1953, school prefects co-operated in allotting the 'hill' to each school in turn. Even then there were skirmishes around the periphery.



Carey Grammar's rowing camp



Haileybury College Boys 1st VIII which rowed in the 2007 Head of the River



Wesley College Boys

Parents and others occupied the south bank, less aggressive but no less enthusiastic.

The use of speed boats for coaches and boat-trailers had made life easier. In 1954, the Pincott Memorial Judges' Box was erected in memory of ("Pinny") William H. Pincott, who was first Geelong College's rowing coach from 1908 to 1916 and then Geelong Grammar's from 1923 to 1943. Racing eights replaced the clinker eights, became lighter, moving from smooth-skinned plywood, then fibre glass to a composite construction.

From 2001 the venue was changed to the Nagambie Lakes despite opposition from the Geelong schools, and Haileybury which favoured the National Water Sports Centre on the Patterson River at Carrum. Nagambie had the convenience of providing 2000 metres with eight possible straight lanes, although only six of them have been used. The heats could be rowed in the morning and the finals in the afternoon. Parents and students joined together on the one shore instead of being divided on either side of a river. Although the crowds initially were smaller at the new venue, it had the very real advantage of taking the race out of the limelight of Melbourne or Geelong, but retaining the decorated cars and the picnic fun.

A wide range of distances were rowed in the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. From 1938 the Yarra course was a mile less 66 yards, and the same applied on the Barwon from 1948. The seconds rowed over three-quarters of a mile until 1967; then they also began rowing over a mile. Other crews rowed over half a mile. With the move to Nagambie in 2001, senior crews row over 2000m, with the more junior crews rowing lesser distances. With co-education, the girls began to row in 1981, as explained in the next pages. A number of APS rowers, both female and male, have gone on to contribute to interstate and international crews.



Scotch College Boys 1st VIII crew relaxes after victory in the 2006 Head of the River.



Geelong College Girls



The Geelong College launches boat, the Alistair J Miller

Enter The Girls

The Geelong schools led the way in co-education with girls fully integrated from the start to the finish in both schools in the nineteen seventies, at Carey and Wesley in the eighties, at Caulfield Grammar in 1995 and at Haileybury College in 2006 with its parallel Haileybury Girls College. In a somewhat unexpected side-benefit, the movement into co-education by some of the schools has tended to blur the resistant division between the 'old' schools and the 'new' schools.

Co-education presented all sorts of challenges, not the least in girls' sport which had a number of early problems, especially for the staff. There was no formalised competition and this had to be organised, initially with other independent girls' schools which could provide top quality opposition. This proved to be difficult in itself because those schools did not want to play sport on Saturday mornings which most of the boys' schools did, and the co-ed girls had to go after school-time in buses to the various venues.

Matches were also arranged with local girls' teams, such as those by the Caulfield Grammar Wheelers Hill Campus within the Waverley and District competitions, and with 'sister' schools to the other APS 'boys only' schools.

Not until the turn of the century were there five APS schools to play against and two of them were outside the metropolitan area. Travel time was and, to a lesser extent, remains an issue. Although some opportunities existed for girls to compete in APS competitions in the 1980s, it was not until the 1990s that the opportunities available for girls and boys were similar. A significant move occurred when the multi-campus Wesley and Caulfield Grammar provided a team from each of two campuses, giving not only their students more opportunity to play interschool sport, but expanding the number of teams available within the competition and making it more even.

Some talented girls in firsts teams who did not have other girls' teams with which to compete were eventually included in the boys' firsts if they were good enough, in such sports as volleyball, table tennis, cricket and tennis.





In 2000, the APS co-ed schools combined for girls' sport with the co-ed schools from the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria (Assumption, Ivanhoe, Penleigh and Essendon, Peninsula, Yarra Valley) to form the AGSV/APS competition. Since then Mentone Grammar has become co-educational and joined the AGSV. The situation in 2008 is much improved with scope for development. Girls' premierships exist within this competition for the sports played by eight out of the twelve schools involved; not all the schools play every sport. It has grown to accommodate approximately 3500 students each season.

The development of the girls' program was slow but steady. The schools employed female staff to teach and coach the girls and there was a major push to improve the standard of competition for girls. The girls' coordinators, later known as delegates, initially supervised by male staff, met regularly and their dedication and drive has developed the very good standard which exists today.

The introduction of co-education led to a further increase in the number of sports offered and a wide range of options are now available to both girls and boys. 'The access to an extensive variety of sporting and outdoor educational activities, such as cricket, gymnastics, basketball and rowing, was a terrific opportunity, compared to what was on offer at a girls' school,' said a girl who came to Carey in the early 1970s and clearly relished the opportunity. Such an opportunity, of course, did depend on the school from which the girls had come but, nevertheless, was true of many.

Organising sport was complicated when it was expected that girls' sport would be planned around the traditional timetable of the boys' competitions. Thus, girls' swimming carnivals had to be after school on Fridays as the pools were booked for the boys on Saturday mornings. Boys' activities had priority by weight of previous practice, such as use of basketball courts, and local venues were sought to accommodate the girls. There was encouragement to apportion facilities with generosity and justice. Boys' cricket started later at the Caulfield Campus to allow for an earlier girls' softball game, although they had to be trained not to walk across the softball diamond to inspect the wicket, and softball girls at Wesley were allowed access to the sacred front turf. Sports staff members have persuaded school administrations to demonstrate equal deference to the importance of girls' sport by scheduling high status times.



The facilities themselves were not always suitable for girls' sport and the girls had to adapt to what was available. It was soon found that tennis courts were too short as netball courts but this is being rectified with new courts as time goes by. Change rooms were in short supply and lunch rooms not always shared. It took some urging but girls' sport is now played at very good facilities in soccer, netball, tennis, hockey, badminton, softball and basketball. The swimming and athletics carnivals are held at the same venues as the boys, albeit some would say as 'the curtain raiser' to the 'real event'.

Although a small number of independent girls' schools had crews, the APS girls took to the water like, well, ducks. The APS senior regatta (the Heads of the River,) now at Nagambie, includes a number of races for girls, and the firsts girls' final for the Geelong Ladies Challenge Cup is the penultimate event of the day. Although some girls' crews rowed early in 1975, it was another six years before the girls from the two Geelong schools competed in firsts and seconds fours, rowing on the Yarra over 800 metres against independent girls' schools Melbourne Girls Grammar, Morongo and Lauriston.

In 1986 and 1987 girls from Carey, Wesley and Caulfield took part in an all APS firsts fours race over 1500 metres. First eights replaced the fours in 1998, second eights in 1999 and third eights in 2002 with the third eights reverting back to open fours in 2006. The senior eights row over 2000 metres and the fours over 1000 metres. The Geelong schools' traditional rowing strength and earlier start may explain why their girls have won 24 of the 28 finals between 1981 and 2008.

The introduction of females to traditionally male sports such as rowing and the introduction of new sports such as netball generated a respect for female athleticism and teamwork in traditionally male-dominated schools. Boys began playing netball in mixed inter-house competition and soccer was introduced to the girls. Combined training sessions in sports such as swimming, athletics and tennis appeared.

The impact of co-education altered the cultural nature of attitudes to sport itself. To some extent seen as a reflection of the changing view of female participation in the general community, staff and student attitudes evolved as female sport blossomed in the 1990s with successful APS hockey, tennis, netball, athletics and rowing teams. All co-educational schools give school sporting 'colours' in the same way to the girls as to the boys. A number of girls have gone on to contribute to State, National and Olympic teams. In the new century the girls themselves are vocal if they do not think that their sport is receiving equal billing. Women and girls continue to challenge the 'ocker' aspects of sport existing in Australia.



Amateur Or Professional

The growth of professional sportsmen was a class concern in the last half of the nineteenth century in that it distinguished the 'gentlemen' from the rest. It was tackled early by the rowing fraternity, by not allowing as amateurs those 'watermen' whose business lay with river transport but only those who took up rowing as a recreation. Professional cricketers had long been separated into 'gentlemen' and 'players' but a battle was fought over the 'expenses' that a gentleman could legitimately claim. Athletes could be clearly divided and professional runners suffered from allegations of race manipulation.

Public schools, likewise, insisted on amateurism because they were educating boys as 'gentlemen'. As early as 1875 the Committee of the United Public Schools resolved to introduce 'the excellent English custom' for the athletics meeting of requiring the boys to wear white university drawers reaching to about the knees instead of the professionals' tights, drawing a line between running 'in search of healthful pleasure' and those who make 'running their not always respectable trade'.

As paying the best sportsmen became more acceptable in the general community, church schools climbed the high amateur ground seeking the peak of moral virtue, not quite leaving the class 'gentlemen' claim behind but condemning money as being the root of sporting corruption. In particular L.A. Adamson of Wesley was asserting 'that where consideration of money and its advantages enter into the playing of a game, that game can scarcely provide the moral side of play...' and he claimed the agreement of the other public school headmasters.

This denigration of professionalism extended to the employment of professional coaches instead of relying on the teachers. From the beginning, rowing teams were coached by well-known pioneering rowers, such as Alfred Nichols for Melbourne Grammar in 1870, which would seem to be legitimate, as rowing required specialized skills, and few schools were fortunate to have an experienced practitioner working in some other educational capacity, such as Cambridge University rower, Martin Howy Irving, Headmaster of Wesley College (1871-1875).

Professional coaches were abandoned in 1911 when, led by Wesley's Harold Stewart, the APS delegates banned professionals or paid 'rubbers-down' in connection with, or in preparation for, all public school competitions. APS definitions of amateurs were those of the Victorian Rowing Association or the Victorian Amateur Athletics Association. Subsequently, in 1916, a school football coach was deemed not to be an amateur, having accepted expenses from teams such as Essendon and, although he was not paid by the school, it forfeited all matches for the previous three years.

To circumvent this was to employ the sporting coach as a groundsman or caretaker. Charlie Donald, Victorian King's Cup rower, joined the Wesley maintenance staff in 1901, coached the crews for 40 years, and is seen here at the new Wesley rowing pit in 1931.



In the early part of the twentieth century, students had a larger say in the social and organizational side of the fixtures and this influence was passed on from captain to captain. At first subject masters coached the teams, and those with sporting expertise often of a high order, coached the first teams. When it was customary



Caulfield Grammar girls and coach Aya Moriwaki

for teachers to be involved with sport, the employment of new staff could be influenced by potential coaching ability.

As interschool sport became accepted as a core part of the curriculum, the teaching staff tended to apply a set of values related to education rather than just skills-based competition. There was an emphasis on encouraging athletes to a readiness to give time and personal sacrifices for the good of the whole and a willingness to be utterly dedicated and to appreciate the worth of self discipline. In 1959, one of the headmasters of the introduced schools rejected a parent's suggestion that a professional football coach be employed, explaining that 'using the ordinary master [was better] because he looks at the boy as a whole and not just as a footballer'.

As the number of schools in the APS increased in 1957 and the number of sporting activities exploded, teachers in charge took care of these matters later to hand over much of this desirable activity to the paid 'directors' of today. Physical education teacher training was sparse right up to the 1950s, although it is now well established and all independent schools employ a number of university trained physical education teachers. The widening variety of sports taxed the ability of staff to provide a diversity of coaching skills and it became apparent that it was not possible to meet the increasingly high standards of APS sport and that professional coaches would need to be employed.

Sport at APS schools can only be justified if it is seen as part of the educational offering as distinct from a marketing or revenue-raising tool. Success in sport was regarded in the nineteenth century as encouraging increased enrolments and financial success, a view that, anecdotal evidence suggests, still lingers.

At the beginning of the twentieth century issues such as the use of over-age or 'ring in' players and biased umpires threatened to undermine the early inter-school competition. The introduction of regulations and agreements to govern such conduct and to uphold agreed standards

was the aim behind the existence of the APS committee as the delegates worked towards a competition with relatively high qualitative standards and 'a fair approach to competition'.

One way to encourage older boys with their peak physical strength, skills and experience to stay on as long as possible at school, even if it were just for first term's cricket or rowing, was to offer the prestigious title of team captain, and sometimes the remittance of fees. This was a practice which dated from the early part of the twentieth century, 'Old Boy' in 1907 writing that he knew of many cases where 'sports scholarships' have been given so that the crack footballer or cricketer or runner may earn honours for his school...', an accusation rigorously denied.

Disquiet and debate have since ensued as school Heads and sporting staff have increasingly found themselves under pressure to win sporting competitions which axiomatically must also have losers. Causing much hostility amongst the schools for some time has been the injection of money into what are called 'general excellence scholarships', but widely known as 'sporting scholarships', in which promising or established young athletes from outside the school are given scholarships as potential participants in an inter-school team. This may be regarded as infusing into other team members a sense of greater achievement and as lifting the profile of the school, or as running counter to the equitable values sport is expected to develop.

In more recent times an agreement has been reached amongst APS Heads to establish guidelines for the awarding of scholarships where sporting talent is an element of selection. There are, of course, academic scholarships, music scholarships and drama scholarships but, somehow, they do not seem to stir the same angst. 'Sporting scholarships' remain a controversial issue.

Below: The First Geelong College X1 and coach Greg Hansen



The Immediate Past, The Present And The Future

By the nineties, the range of sport had become so diverse and the number of under-age teams so numerous that each school had a vast undertaking in organising school sport. APS sport in 2008 provides the opportunity for nearly 36,000 students (some 20,500 boys, 7,700 girls and 7,700 primary students) to take part. The primary students play over four terms and can play a different sport each term.

In 1991, it was decided that the male sports, in which eight or more schools contest, would be recognised as an APS premiership sport. Apart from the original four sports, and swimming and tennis, which had been recognized in 1987, badminton, basketball, cross country, diving, hockey, soccer, table tennis, became APS sports in the nineties and, since then, volleyball and water polo have been included.

Apart from cricket and football, the girls in the six co-educational schools play all these sports, and add netball and softball. For them, premierships began for athletics, rowing and swimming in the eighties, cross-country, hockey, netball, softball, tennis, basketball, and diving in the nineties, and badminton, soccer and water polo in the new century.

To co-operate in organising such a complicated undertaking, the teachers in charge of sport at each school are represented by a delegate who meets the other schools' delegates four times a year. The girls' delegates also meet with the AGSV sports co-ordinators. Both groups review and send proposals for the good administration of sport between the schools to the APS Heads who have the final decision. This continues the work of similar past committees so that improvements in sports apparel and equipment, acceptable playing surfaces, payment of officials and umpires, the introduction of uniform numbers, changed

regulations and tolerable 'barracking' behaviour have evolved over many years and been approved.

A major reorganisation of APS fixtures took place after the introduction of the four-term year in 1987, causing some awkwardness such as playing matches on holiday weekends. From 1993 onwards, a full eleven rounds of matches were played in all APS sports and as it was not possible to complete eleven rounds of summer sport in term one, two or three, rounds were played in term four of the preceding year after year 12 students have completed their studies and are not eligible to compete.

Overseeing and monitoring these meetings of delegates is a fully financed APS office secretariat since 1990, currently with Luke Soulos as Executive Officer. He has continued the delegates' more recent development forums which discuss and share information about current practices with an eye to developing policies and guidelines for the future. One such development is the establishment of an APS website (apssport.org.au).

Under Luke's administrative scrutiny, hundreds of our school students play their sports, mainly on Saturdays. He organises and facilitates major functions such as those for athletics, swimming, diving, cross country and the APS regatta, as well as the weekly fixtures. At the conclusion of the summer and winter seasons, representative APS teams play matches against the equivalent teams representing the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria.

The work and co-operation of sports administrators and staff ensures that being in the APS means playing games with those of commensurate ability, similar training regimes, age groupings, rules and facilities. It provides certainty of fixtures with the clear ordering of results.



A healthy and desirable aspect of APS sport is meeting traditional rivals regularly and this hopefully inculcates a desire to try hard and win; there is always 'next year' as the ever reliable safety valve.

There have been some significant changes in participation in recent years. Australian football is apparently less popular than soccer because, it is suggested, parents consider the Australian game too violent, and soccer is the 'world' game. Cricket's demand for long periods of playing time has seen the popularity of the game wane as tennis has increased its appeal.

It is difficult to compare current record times and distances with the earlier records. Metrification means that 100 metres is about 109.36 yards; shot-puts have changed in weight, hurdles in height. High jumps have different lift-off requirements, runners compete on better tracks. Shoes and clothing have improved. The average age of the best sporting boys was probably higher a century ago.

Today, physical education, with fun and safety, is aimed at instilling a life-long love of recreational and sporting activities to prevent obesity and binge drinking and to promote good health. As Philip Roff, Headmaster at Scotch College, said, typifying the attitudes of our current principals, "Our health has a great bearing on our happiness and, in most cases, our health is related to our physical condition."

Selecting teams can be non-threatening if done with imagination and empathy. Along the way selection may still have to come to grips, particularly in the representative school teams, with avoiding competition for the sake of it, without losing the benefits of team building and self esteem. There is a thrill in playing sport, an aesthetic satisfaction in playing well that can be enjoyed and appreciated, regardless of the actual result.

Sport is a recognized and socially acceptable occupation and courses are run at tertiary level. The VCE contains the subjects physical education and outdoor education. Past students, parents

and prominent sporting heroes can all help the modern physical education and sports teacher to impart the most positive aspects of playing sport by realising that their own sporting education was not necessarily the only and best way to learn.

Our sporting communities still struggle with success as the sporting pinnacle. Great strides have been made with schools in recognising the glorious failures, once only worthy of passing comment, or perhaps as a clichéd consolation for loss, and to value each student's 'p.b', a personal best performance. The danger of hero worship has steadily diminished because the remarkable range of activities undertaken by the APS has diffused the number of 'stars'.

Society may yet move to a situation in which co-operation is seen as commensurate with competition in achieving the best result for everybody. There has to be a way by which sporting achievement is seen in its broadest terms, but which also acclaims excellence. Therein lies the crucial challenge for the future.

