

HISTORY OF SCHOOL MAGAZINES

The first School magazine was published in June 1897. It was to be made available to all past and present students at the cost of two shillings, post free. The driving force behind the magazine was J.R.Castling, one of the initial twenty-three students to enrol in 1888, a staff member from 1897 to 1900 and the composer of the School song. He received editorial help from A.S.Grose, Dux in 1896 and one of the founders of the legal firm Wilson, Ryan and Grose and J.K.McKelvey, Dux in 1897 and the first past student to be knighted [1934].

In the first editorial the editors wrote: "It is hardly necessary to dwell on the value of such a magazine. By its means a record will be kept of the doings of the School, which, besides being interesting to the present members, will in time be useful as a trustworthy though slight history of its development." The School is indeed fortunate to have a copy of every School magazine, from 1897 and as the founding editors had hoped the magazines have become a valuable source for research into the history of the School.

Between 1897 and 1911 two magazines were published annually. True to the policies of the founding editors the magazines reported on many and varied school activities. Pride of place in the magazines was the Speech Day Report from the Headmaster as well as prize winners and examination results. Also included were music and drama performances by students. Sport also received a comprehensive coverage including scoresheets from cricket fixtures and football matches. Essays written by students were also published and as the magazine was edited by past students there was always a comprehensive coverage of what past students had achieved on leaving the School.

From 1912 to 1917 there was only one magazine published annually and then between 1919 and 1937 only eight magazines were published. Magazines published between 1915 and 1917 are a sad commentary of Grammar's involvement in World War One. On the other hand, it is a wonderful record coupled with photographs of many students involved in that conflict. The record of our involvement is aided by the fact that some of our past students were writing letters to the School describing life on the Gallipoli Peninsula and on the Western Front.

Only eight magazines were published between 1919 and 1937. Of these eight magazines only four were published between 1923 and 1941 and a couple of them were only nine pages in length. Many reasons can be put forward for the lack of magazines but those years were extremely difficult for the School. These problems were so bad that the state government looked at closing the School in the mid 1920s. While the School negotiated that hurdle, the depression of the 1930s added to the financial problems. Added to the financial issues is the fact that the then Old Boys' Association, who for many years were the driving force behind the magazines, had become defunct. It was not until after World War Two that the Old Boys once again became active.

T.B.Whight, a former student and teacher at the School, was appointed Headmaster in 1939. In 1941 he produced what was then the longest magazine in the School's history. In 1946 he produced an even longer magazine, fifty-three pages in length. The 1946 magazine went a long way to covering the events of the School during the years the campus was situated at Rosslea in Hermit Park. In doing so Mr Whight was following the hopes of the founding editors that the magazine becomes a "trustworthy but slight history of the School". Mr Whight was able to produce such comprehensive magazines because he was the first to introduce advertisements in the magazine. The 1941 magazine had nine pages and the 1946 magazine had fourteen pages of advertisements.

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Mr Blank, Headmaster from 1948-1965, and Mr Daniels, Headmaster from 1966 to 1975, both continued with the policy of supporting the magazines with advertisements. In the 1950s a magazine was published nearly every year but in the early 1960s only two magazines were printed. From the time Mr Daniels started in 1966 there has been a magazine published every year. Continuing with the policies of the first editors the magazines were a comprehensive coverage of sporting, social and literary events in the School. Also included in the magazines were photographs of art and sculptures done by the students. During this period the policy of publishing the individual photographs of each Year 12 was also introduced. Mr Daniels became the first Headmaster to introduce a separate publication named *Epigramme*. This publication was edited by senior students and consisted of student writings, photographs and art works.

Magazines changed little during the period of Mr Morwood's tenure as Headmaster, 1976-1992, except that Form photographs and more sporting photographs were introduced. There were also fewer advertisements in the magazines. While the *Epigramme* was no longer published the English Department printed an annual booklet named *Quill*. This booklet aimed at publishing quality poems and essays written by students. Art sketches by students were also included.

Over the last twenty years the publication of School magazines has improved in quality and with a different emphasis. While still maintaining the original philosophy of the founding editors the magazines are now published in full colour with many and varied photographs. In addition various publications over the last few years, such as the Principal's Newsletter, Boarders' Snippets and Speech Night Reports, have added value to the development and history of the School. Perhaps, of greater value to an archivist is the list of names of all students enrolled that appear in annual School magazines.

The founding editors of the that first magazine published in June 1897 in conclusion to their editorial wrote that it was hoped that "the magazine would promote the feeling of *esprit de corps* which makes a school truly great". There can be no doubting that this has been achieved.

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