



Ad Astra

NEWS-LETTER OF THE GEELONG COLLEGE

No. 5

GEELONG

May 1961

"THE SECOND CENTURY"

Week-end Conference, 14th - 16th July

In most of our Centenary Celebrations, as might be expected, the emphasis is on the fine record of the College throughout the past hundred years. However, during the "Open Week," parents, Old Collegians and friends of the College will be able to see something of the present work being done at the College. And at the end of that week, we turn our attention to the future.

When the boys go off for their mid-term week-end, their places will be taken at the College by Old Collegians, some of them, no doubt, the fathers of the present boys, returning to the College to renew old acquaintances, to explore new buildings, and to enjoy each other's company. But with such a gathering of men, with all their experience and concern for the well-being of their old school, it would be a pity to miss the opportunity of asking them, together with parents and others interested, to give some careful and serious thought not just to the past, but also to the future.

Discussions on this theme can be of tremendous help to our new Principal and to the College Council in planning the work of the College in the years to come.

An interesting programme has been worked out, and a panel of experts is being arranged so that the greatest possible value can be obtained from this great opportunity. Details of the programme are as follows:—

Friday, 14th July

3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Registrations at College Masters' Common Room.
5.30 p.m.—Kirrewur Court (for Dinner at 6.45 p.m. in College Dining Hall)
6.45 p.m.—Opening Dinner. Welcome by the Principal and the Very Rev. Sir Francis Rolland.
8.30 p.m.—Opening Session, Morrison Hall, Chairman: Sir Arthur Coles. "Whither Australia?"
Address by Professor J. D. Legge, M.A., D. Phil. (Oxon.) Professor of History at the Monash University, followed by questions and comments.
10 p.m.—Supper

Saturday, 15th July

8 a.m.—Breakfast
9.15 a.m.—Assembly, Morrison Hall
9.30 a.m.—Discussion on "Whither Australia?" under the leadership of a panel of experts.
10.30 a.m.—Morning Tea
11 a.m.—Continue discussion (in groups, if desired)
12 noon—Break
12.30 p.m.—Lunch
2.15 p.m.—Address: "Whither Education?" Professor W. H. Frederick, M.A., Dip.Ed., Professor of Education, University of Melbourne.
3.15 p.m.—Tea
3.45 p.m.—Discussion on "Whither Education?" under the same leadership.
4.45 p.m.—Break for recreation
6.15 p.m.—Dinner
Address: "Whither Geelong College?" The Principal, Mr. P. N. Thwaites, M.A. (Oxon.), B.Ed.
8 p.m.—Light evening's entertainment, Morrison Hall.

Sunday, 16th July

8.30 a.m.—Breakfast
9.30 to 10.30 a.m.—Service in Morrison Hall.
10.30 a.m.—Morning Tea
11 a.m.—Discussion on "Whither Geelong College?"
12.30 p.m.—Lunch
2 p.m.—Conducted Tour of Highton Project and any other places required.

The Very Rev. Sir Francis Rolland will be preaching to the present boys in their Centenary service at St. David's Church on the Friday morning, and will remain for the Dinner in the evening to welcome back to the College many who were boys here with him.

Sir Arthur Coles, for twenty years Chairman of the College Council, will also be with us to join in the welcome and take the Chair at some of the meetings.

Professor John D. Legge (1939) was recently appointed Professor of History at the Monash University, and is very well qualified to introduce the theme "Whither Australia?" which, of course, provides a background against which the future of

our whole education system and, in particular, Geelong College must be placed. What he has to say can be fully discussed on the Saturday morning, under the leadership of men who have given particular attention to certain fields. These will include: Mr. E. W. McCann (Primary Industry); and Mr. H. C. Fallaw, President of the Old Collegians' Association (The Professions).

Having gained some impression as to what may be in store for Australians in general we move on, after lunch, to consideration of the educational implications of this, under the experienced guidance of Professor W. H. Frederick, former Headmaster of Wesley College, and now Professor of Education at the University of Melbourne. His address will form the basis of a further discussion, led by the same panel of experts.

After a break in the late afternoon for fresh air and recreation, we meet again for Dinner in the College Dining Hall and listen, in these pleasant surroundings, while our new Principal, Mr. P. N. Thwaites, outlines some of his ideas about the future of the College for us to think about over-night and discuss on the following day.

Having worked so hard throughout the day, it has been decided that we should devote Saturday evening to a programme of a more light-hearted nature, and plans for this are well under way.

After breakfast on Sunday morning, we will gather in the Morrison Hall for our morning service, the sermon on this occasion carrying on the same theme of "The Second Century."

It is hoped that the discussion on the Principal's address will bring forth some valuable, practical suggestions and comments about the part which the College may play in the future of Australia and, once again, our panel of experts should be available to comment on matters concerning their own particular field of interest.

There will also be an opportunity, during this discussion, to hear from Mr. I. A. Dean, Principal of the new Agricultural College at Highton, something of this project to be opened in

February next. It is quite possible that a number of boys will go on from the College, in the years to come, to this new venture, to prepare themselves for a career on the land.

After lunch, those interested will be taken out to Highton to see the progress of the buildings and facilities there, but others who would prefer other activities will also be catered for. The Conference will close during the afternoon.

As the accommodation available is clearly limited, those Old Collegians who wish to be in residence at the College must apply promptly, and a form on which they can do this is included elsewhere in this issue of "Ad Astra."

All the sessions and meals will also be open, up to the limit of our capacity, to non-resident Old Collegians and to parents and friends, provided they let us know in plenty of time of their wish to attend. The fee is as follows:—

Resident—£5/0/0 (all inclusive)
Non-Resident—£2/2/0, plus 15/- for Dinner, 10/- other meals.

Please talk to all your friends in your area about this week-end and, if possible, try to organize a party to come to it. It should be great fun, extremely interesting, and very valuable to the College.

An application form is included in this newsletter.

STOP PRESS

New Boarding House a Stage Nearer

After prolonged and detailed study in Committee, the College Council has undertaken a course of action that may result in the new Boarding House being built in time for use from First Term 1963.

After our tremendously successful Centenary Building Fund Appeal last year, many supporters wondered why an immediate start could not be made on the full project. Unfortunately, buildings must be paid for in hard cash and if our Building Fund is to yield money only over a spread of 5 years, prompt building could only be done on borrowed money. In a project of such magnitude as our complete scheme, a very heavy burden of interest would be shouldered if everything were to be done at once.

Council action so far has been to make a beginning on small projects which form

part of the whole scheme and for which finance can be expected to be available reasonably soon after completion.

Now, however, it appears that, after completing the two projects set down for 1961 (totalling £60,000), it should be possible to carry the interest burden on borrowings sufficient to complete a larger part of our scheme until Fund receipts come in.

The College Council, therefore, has given permission for this final stage to be commenced subject to two important provisions:

Firstly, that the total cost will be within a permissible figure, and
Secondly, that outside finance to this extent can, in fact, be obtained.

These two provisos pose difficult questions themselves and are being tackled with vigour by sub-committees.

To every supporter of the College, your Council can ask only one thing — show your support by backing your promises to the Building Fund on time and in full, so that the greatest possible amount of ready money will be in hand at any given time. We are determined to build and keep building and confidently count on an overflowing Building Fund to support any financial commitments undertaken.

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

Fund Total £154,500
Fund Receipts £41,121

Outstanding Promises £5,800
Representing 500 donors

This year's Buildings will cost £60,000.

Centenary "Open Week"

The boys of the College will be busily occupied during the week of July 8th—14th in activities to celebrate the Centenary. The aim will be to show that the School is very much alive to the challenge of the second Century.

Parents will be welcome to visit and inspect the school during the afternoons of Open Week. The programme printed below is still subject to minor alteration.

Friday 7/7/61

8 p.m.—Concert (Opening)

Monday 10/7/61

1.15 p.m.—Music Recital.
2.30 - 4 p.m. and 7.30 - 9 p.m.—Science Exhibition.

Tuesday 11/7/61

1.15 p.m.—Music Recital.
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.—Library Display.
2.30 p.m.—Tachistoscope Demonstration.
3 p.m.—Audio-Visual Demonstration.

3.30 p.m.—Gymnastic and Physical Education Demonstration.

8 p.m.—Parents' and Friends' Social Evening.

Wednesday 12/7/61

1.15 p.m.—Music Recital.
2 - 5 p.m.—H.O.G. open for inspection.
3.30 - 4 p.m.—Display of power aero models. Mackle Oval.
3 p.m.—Class T.V. Broadcast.
Classes for singing and instruments throughout the afternoon.

Thursday 13/7/61

1.15 p.m.—Music Recital.
2 p.m.—Presentation of J. H. Campbell Library in Morrison Library.
2.45 p.m.—General's Parade Cadet Corps.
7 p.m.—Boys' Banquet

Friday 14/7/61

Publication Centenary Edition of "Icarus".
11 a.m.—Centenary Service, St. David's. (School only).
12 a.m.—Exeat.

between items and during supper to move around and renew friendships.

Lindsay Bent is doing a wonderful job in organizing the details and will have a programme of artists worthy of the occasion. Because of the seating arrangements and the intention to leave "move around" space, seats will be rather limited and early application is advised.

Why not start getting your party together now and make an advance reservation for a large table?

An application form is included in this newsletter.

BIRTHDAYS

The importance of the Centenary Celebrations is heightened by the fact that this is also the year of two other important College Anniversaries.

The Old Geelong Collegians' Association was founded on May 3, 1901. Before that there had always been a strong Old Boy sentiment at the College, and Dr. Morrison encouraged it from the beginning, seeing it as a strong buttress to his own work within the school. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the Doctor's death in 1898 evoked many expressions of admiration and loyalty, and in the following year the Dr. George Morrison Memorial Library was built by the gifts of Old Boys. One of them who spoke at the opening ceremony, Mr. James Osborne, said that the reunion of so many Old Collegians suggested to him that an association might be formed to keep them in touch with one another and with their school. From this remark proceeded the organizing work which created the O.G.C.A.

On May 14th, 1921, the first College Preparatory School building facing Aphrasia Street (now known as the "Old Prep.") was opened by Sir John MacFarland, a member of the College Council, who was also the Chancellor of the University of Melbourne. During the first term of the year it had functioned in two classrooms attached to St. David's Church, its teaching staff comprising Mr. K. W. Nicolson and Miss M. C. Trumble. In his annual report at the close of the school year the Principal (the Rev. F. W. Rolland) said: "In a few years the senior school will feel the full influence of having a stream of boys coming to it already well-grounded in its subjects and imbued with its spirit."

The influence of both the O.G.C.A. and the "Prep.", embracing as they do the older and younger brethren of the College family, has been a powerful force in making the achievements of the century well worth celebrating.

Facts and Figures

Since last reporting, there has been little change in the overall total of the appeal which now stands at £154,500. Contributions have come in steadily during the past few months but the early part of the year is not a favourite time with donors. Total receipts into the Fund now stand at £41,121 and a large amount is expected to come to hand in May and June to lift the total to the expected figure for this half year.

At this time, as many early contributors are sending in their second instalment, the Follow-On Committee is giving special attention to a fairly large number of promises which have been overlooked so far as first year donations are concerned. Special reminder letters have been sent out to these friends and some £1,400 has been received as a result. However, some 500 promises are thus far unfulfilled and an amount of £5,800 is outstanding. This is vital money if our building plans are to be financed this year, and your Committee urges all those who have not yet sent in

their donation to make use of this year's Tax Rebate and send off a cheque right now.

As reported elsewhere, approval has been given to Building projects costing £60,000 this year and for this we need a steady flow of donations, preferably in the months as promised, so that any financial arrangements made by Council can be honored.

In addition, we now face the prospect of borrowing quite large sums in 1962 to complete the Boarding Block. This raises thoughts of two ways in which our supporters may help. Firstly and very important, is to send in donations on time and even, if possible, ahead of the due time, as this will reduce the total of our borrowings.

Secondly — if any supporters have funds available for loan (with or without interest) the Council would like the chance to discuss the terms and security which the College might allow use of such Funds.

Build we must — help us to find the essential finance to hasten the work.

To Build or Not To Build

Building Committees, like some ladies, are permitted to change their minds without notice. In our case, we must advise that the decision to proceed with the new Changing Rooms early in 1961 (see December issue of Ad Astra) has been rescinded. There are two main reasons for this reversal of form.

Firstly, and most obvious to those forced to make the decision, was the simple fact that approval was given to spend around £10,000 and final estimates came to a total of some £15,000. This may not surprise some who queried the circular design as "cost inducing", but the main reason was that a structure large enough to accommodate lockers for all the Prep. Boys, and the necessary shower facilities, and so on, just could not be built for £10,000. So, reluctantly, Council had to ask for a new approach that would operate within the strait-jacket of available finance.

Secondly, we must face the fact that the present situation, whereby Junior Boarders are transported to and from the new site at lunch time and after school, because all their living facilities remain at Senior school, is wasteful and frustrating. It has been an

urgent priority to provide some additional day rooms and dining room space for these boys. Thus, it seemed possible that an overall saving could be made if these two projects could be combined in some way and this is the solution that has been adopted.

A new block in line with the West classroom block is to be built and will, in fact, be the beginning of the whole new Boarding Block. The new building will contain adequate changing rooms for present use, and, by utilising the plumbing lines to be used in the Boarding House, will reduce costs considerably. In addition, the Common areas of the ultimate Boarding House will be concentrated in this present building. This will enable our junior Boarders to live a full day at the Prep. Site, returning to the Senior School only to sleep. Full use will then be made of classrooms, sports and daytime facilities at the Preparatory School, leaving correspondingly more empty space at our crowded Senior School.

The architect is busy on working drawings for this stage and it is hoped that tenders will be called and work commenced in the very near future.

Centenary Celebrations Parents and Friends Night

Whilst the Centenary Week calendar is understandably slanted towards Old Collegians, one night has been set aside especially for Parents and Friends so that husbands and wives will be able to attend together.

A Social Evening has been arranged and will be held in the Morrison Hall on Tuesday, July 11th at 8 p.m. (Dress informal). Plans provide for a series of Cabaret style tables and there will be ample time

College History

May we remind you that the official Centenary History of the College is on the point of being published?

We have been privileged to see proofs and these confirm that the book will be a worthy one — a volume that you will want and will be proud to own. It contains 240 pages of text, including the story of the College's first hundred years, together with copious records. The illustrations, binding and jacket are of a

standard befitting the subject.

The pre-publication price of the History still stands at 30/-, including postage.

For your convenience, an order form is included in this newsletter.

Several hundreds of orders have been received, and the edition is strictly limited.

If you have not yet ordered your copy (or copies), we urge you, please, to complete and return the order form at once.

O. G. C. A. Centenary Ball

Date:—Thursday, 27th July
Place:—Palais de Danse, St. Kilda.

Programme:—7 p.m.: Sherry and savouries
8 p.m.: Dinner till 1 a.m. Dancing

Price:—£4/10/0 per double ticket

Drinks:—Own arrangements. (Soft drinks are on sale at the Palais)

Note for country visitors:—The date coincides with

the Ram Sales in Melbourne.

Applications for tickets may be made up to 20th July, to any of the following:—

G. W. C. Ewan, 1 The Nook, North Balwyn.
F. W. Brown, 32 Charles St., East Brighton.
E. K. Doery, 4 Birdwood Ave., Elwood.
S. K. Pearson, 9 Grandview St., Glenroy.

An application form is included in this newsletter.

O. G. C. A. Boat Race Ball

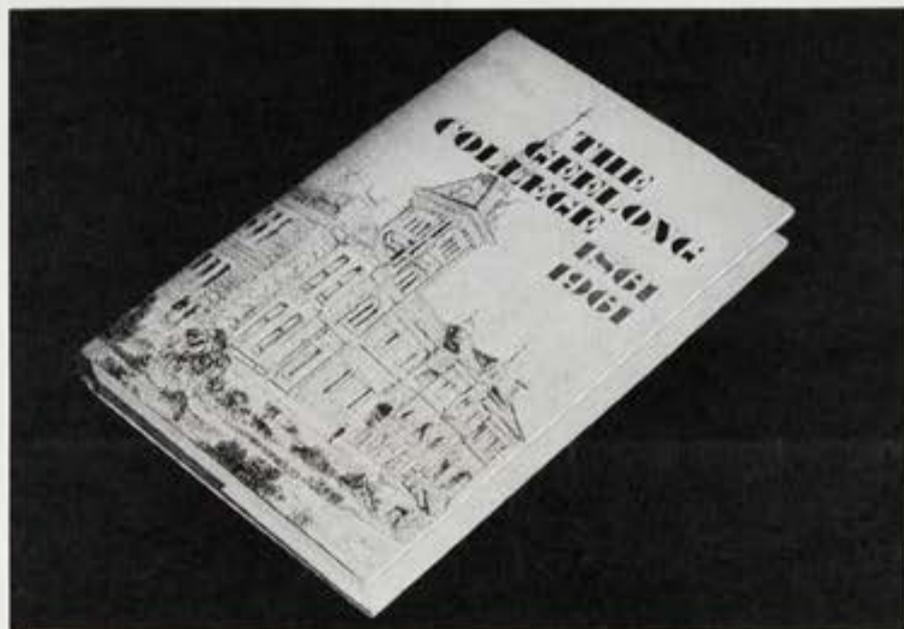
Barry Solomon and his committee must have gone to special pains to ensure that the Centenary Boat Race Ball, held on Friday, 14th April, was an outstanding event.

A giant golden electrolier made a striking centre-piece in the decoration of the Palais, and the boarace motif was boldly outlined by crossed oars round the walls. The finishing touch to a

very satisfying decor was provided by the usual team of lady volunteers, who filled in with a surprising wealth of floral beauty.

College crews had all won their heats, the hall was filled to capacity (about 450) and all went merry as a marriage bell.

Even the elders (of whom there were many) were sorry to see the evening go.



PLEASE CUT ALONG DOTTED LINES AND RETURN URGENTLY

CENTENARY BOARDING-IN WEEK-END
July 14th - 16th

To the Bursar,
Geelong College,
Geelong

Please book me in as—

- (a) Full boarder (£5/0/0)
- (b) Meals only (£2/2/0)
- (c) Non-resident (Nil)

I enclose cheque for £ _____ in payment

Name
(Block letters)

Address in full
(Block letters)

(If Old Boy) Date of leaving the College.....

O. G. C. A.
COCKTAIL PARTY AND ANNUAL DINNER
8th July

To Mr. B. J. Solomon,
C/o Solomons Pty. Ltd.,
Moorabool Street,
Geelong

- Please send me ticket for
- (a) Cocktail Party (10/6)
 - (b) Annual Dinner (£2/-/-)

I enclose cheque for £ _____ in payment.

Name
(Block letters)

Address in full
(Block letters)

Date of leaving the College.....

GEELONG COLLEGE HISTORY

To the Bursar,
Geelong College,
Geelong

Please send me _____ copies of the Geelong
College Centenary History.
I enclose cheque for _____ in payment.

Name
(Block letters)

Address in full
(Block letters)

(For office use only)
Despatched

GEELONG COLLEGE
CENTENARY HISTORY

Name
(Block letters)

Address in full

(To be filled in by person ordering)

O. G. C. A.
CENTENARY BALL 27/7/61

To Mr. F. W. Brown,
32 Charles St.,
East Brighton

Please send me _____ double tickets.
I enclose cheque for £ _____ in payment.

Name
(Block letters)

Address in full
(Block letters)

Date of leaving the College.....

CENTENARY SOCIAL EVENING
PARENTS and FRIENDS, July 11th

To Mr. L. G. Bent,
16 Grant Street,
Newtown, Geelong

Please send me _____ tickets.
I enclose cheque for £ _____ in payment.

Name
(Block letters)

Address in full
(Block letters)

New Classrooms for Old

One thing is certain about this College of ours. Life is never dull! No sooner is one urgent problem tackled and a solution found than another curly one crops up in a different place.

This year's prize problem appears to be the continued growth of Senior School even though no additional enrolments have been made. Let me explain . . .

Over the last few years, there has been a definite trend towards a higher leaving age and more boys each year are staying on and studying for their Matriculation. In 1962 it is estimated that there will be sufficient students in Form VI to require an additional class, if numbers in each class are to remain at a desirable, low level. Likewise, back in Form I, there are already enough boys to make it certain that in 1962 Form II will contain one more class than this year.

This expansion is unavoidable, as, once a boy is admitted at any level, the College is committed to provide a place for him right through his schooldays. So we are faced with a certain

two and possibly three new classes in 1962.

This, of course, requires 3 new classrooms and this is an insoluble problem at Senior School. There are actually three classrooms in the New Preparatory School at present being used for other purposes — for example the Assembly Room and Arts and Craft Room.

The Headmaster has proposed a solution involving a transfer of Forms from Senior to Preparatory School and the use of these three, already existing, classrooms. In order to vacate them, approval has been given to build a North extension on the West end of the present Classroom Block as originally intended. This extension will include a ground floor Assembly Room, and upstairs will be devoted to Arts and Crafts. The cost will be in the vicinity of £20,000 and this additional building raises 1961 expenditure on new building to approximately £60,000, which more than exhausts 1961 and 1962 receipts into the Building Fund. Prompt, generous and continued support to the Building Fund is thus a vital necessity.

Centenary Garden Party The Rains Came

The College Garden Party, which opened the Centenary year on Wednesday, February 8th, was a noteworthy occasion in more ways than one.

Three large marquees, for afternoon tea, adorned the Mackie oval; the Southern Command Band had taken up its post in front of Mackie House; a team of Old Collegians was putting up a token resistance to the College 1st XI on the main oval; and a caterer and his large staff were to be observed hard at work just off stage. Beneath the flag, out towards the centre of the Mackie Oval, the Chairman of the Council, with Lady Coles, the Principal, with Mrs. Thwaites, and the Moderator, received such a gathering of civic dignitaries and friends of the College as has probably never assembled at the school before. So far as human organisation could go, from the car-parking to the National Anthem, all was set fair for a formal and glamorous "at home."

Then the weather, which is still out of our control,

even in this atomic age, took over the direction of affairs. The day selected was to be the first rainy day for months, and the relevant hour was to be the wettest hour of that day.

This eventuality, though unprovided for, was anything but calamitous. Any possible starch was washed out as the fifteen hundred or so present huddled together in one or other of the marquees, where it became difficult to cope with tea and cakes with the proper show of decorum; and this resulted in an easy informality

and a general close-quarters conversation, which might have been difficult to achieve in the great open spaces outside the tents. Maybe this all started with the happy smiles of those who needed rain most and who were hoping that their properties were getting it as well.

Among so many distinguished guests, may we be pardoned for noting specially that Sir Francis and Lady Rolland were present and both appeared to be in grand form.

Our thanks and congratulations go to the Council and the organising committee on the undoubted success of the party.

O. G. C. A.

Cocktail Party and Dinner

Old Collegians are reminded that on Saturday, 8th July, (following the P. S. Football match against the Geelong Grammar School on the College oval and the O. G. C. A. Annual Meeting in the Norman Morrison Hall), there will be a cocktail party, at 6 p.m. at Kirrewur Court, and the Annual Dinner, at 8 p.m.

in the College Dining Hall. The guest speaker at this, the Centenary Dinner, will be Prof. J. D. McCaughey, Master of Ormond College. Accommodation is expected to be taxed to the utmost, and early application for both functions is advised.

An application form is included in this newsletter.