



Ad Astra

NEWS-LETTER OF
THE GEELONG COLLEGE

No. 10

GEELONG

April 1964

The Geelong College 1861-1961

The Story of the College's first century.

- Headmasters and Assistant Masters
- The Old Collegians
- Cadet Corps
- Sports
- Records and Register

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SENIOR SCHOOL Industrial Fund plus Generous Private Donations NEW SCIENCE BLOCK

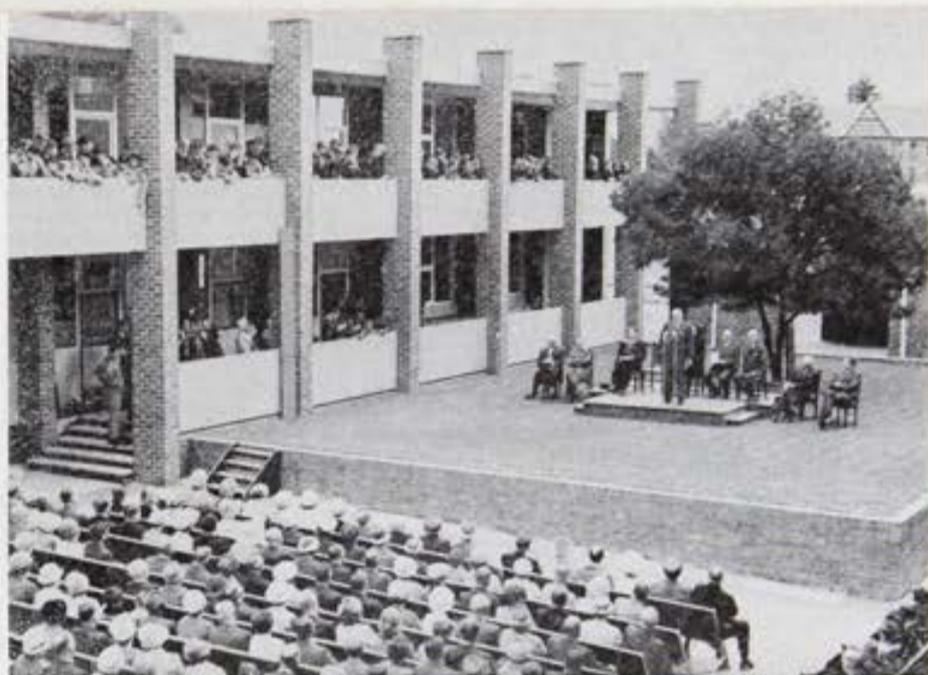
MENZIESISMS

Under the constant threat that rain would wash out proceedings, the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, did open the Sir Arthur Coles Science Building on Wednesday, 12th February. We had a very anxious morning, when emergency plans to allay the machinations of Jupiter Pluvius were contemplated. However, 2.30 p.m. brought a very large gathering of Old Boys, parents, friends, staff and present boys into the open. Here, Sir Robert, a professed believer in miracles, put the finishing touches to the latest College miracle. Sir Arthur Coles, in referring to the generosity of Mrs. C. R. Roper and the magnificence of the grant of The Industrial Fund for the Advancement of Scientific Education in Schools, said that he considered the chain of events a miracle. In opening his address, Sir Robert said that he too knew something of miracles.

"When I look back on the seven Federal elections, I know that they happen. I am a convinced believer." Sir Robert then moved immediately to the important task of opening the building. "Now, just in case we get washed out, I must

recall at once that it is my duty to open the Building in the name of Sir Arthur Coles, to open one of the two labs. in it, to name it after the late Mr. Roper, and to name the other one after a celebrated character of whom I used to hear a great deal when my boys were here — Tammy Henderson. I think it is a concession to Presbyterian respectability that the lab. to be named after him is the 'T. Henderson Laboratory'.

"Now, it is quite right that this building is partly the (Industrial) Fund, but it is also, in a very large degree, the result of two remarkable private benefactions — from Sir Arthur Coles and Mrs. Roper. And you know, ladies and gentlemen, there is a certain symbolism about this. I hope that whatever governments may do — and my own does what it can in these fields — we will never reach the point at which private citizens feel that their own obligations end with the payment of their taxes. That, I think, would be the defeat of humanity. I don't want governments to be responsible for all those things in a school like this, or elsewhere, which appear



The Prime Minister opening the new science block.

to be good things. And that is why it is a splendid thing for our country that we should have people like the two to whom I have made reference, and there are many others here who, I recall, in other fields have shown that they have a sense of personal obligation, achieving personal satisfaction in doing something of this kind, and I hope that that will go on whatever may be done by governments."

The Prime Minister then announced the Government's proposal to make grants to

schools for Science buildings and equipment to total £5M a year. This, he hoped, would "so improve the scientific equipment in the secondary schools as to give every boy or girl who has a scientific bent an opportunity to be much better trained, much further forward, much more accustomed to the handling of new techniques and new equipment than ever before." He added that he was "sure that this is going to pay enormous dividends in the development of the universities, in the development of science and, therefore, in the development of Australia."

RAINMAKER IN REVERSE

Having mentioned also the proposed increase in scholarships for secondary school students, the Prime Minister gently chid himself for "rambling on" and said, "I have really talked the rain away — you must con-

cede that point. I am delighted about all this. I am sorry that Frank Rolland can't be here. This would be a great vision for him, but I am delighted. I have seen this school grow over a long period of years, grow in strength and grow in beauty, and now adding to itself something which I hope will make a powerful contribution to scientific training.

Sir Robert concluded: "And so, Sir, I have great pleasure, great honour, in naming this building after Sir Arthur Coles, and in naming the two labs. in the sense I have described. I want to say that my pleasure on this occasion is equalled only by the pleasure of my wife, who got to know this place very well over a period of years and who is delighted, like me, to see what great strides the school made when the Menzies left."



Distinguished gathering — the official party at the opening



A less formal moment — looking backwards and forwards.

The Sir Arthur Coles Science Building SCIENCE MASTER'S COMMENTS

For quite some time prior to 1963 it had become apparent that problems due to congestion and lack of adequate storage space in the older Chemistry and Physics laboratories had become acute. It was most opportune, therefore, when the Trustees of the Industrial Fund visited the College and inspected our Science facilities. They realised our urgent need and offered a grant towards the cost of a new laboratory block. These new laboratories were not intended to replace, but to augment, existing laboratory space and also to allow modern

work are closely integrated. In effect, the laboratory becomes a teaching laboratory where theory may be tested at once. To this end, the scale of operations is reduced to the semi-micro size. Each student uses smaller quantities of chemicals, but with his own semi-micro kit learns to be more precise and accurate. These kits are readily stored, resulting in overall economy of cupboard space. The visitor may remark the lack of balances for weighing chemicals, but may not realise that modern balances are, if expensive, much more rapid than older types. He might note with interest the provision of a projector and screen for visual aids — another aspect of streamlined courses. Less obvious, but no less important, is the provision for closed-circuit T.V., surely not far off, and possible experiments on the flat roof of the building. Again, a visitor may not at first note the absence of door-knobs on cupboards and drawers. Magnetic fasteners keep cupboards firmly closed, and a simple groove in the door replaces the door-knob.



Mr. A. A. Grainger,
B.Sc. (Man.), Dip.Ed.,
Senior Chemistry Master
1963.

trends in Science teaching to be catered for adequately. Sir Arthur Coles, by a magnificent gesture, viz. a substantial gift of money, showed his ever-ready interest and enabled the building programme to be implemented immediately. The Sir Arthur Coles Science Building subsequently erected in late 1963 and opened in February, 1964, by the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Sir Robert Menzies, is a fine tribute to the generosity of Sir Arthur Coles. The building comprises two Chemistry laboratories and a storeroom on the ground floor, and two Physics laboratories with storeroom on the first floor.

Many features of modern laboratory design are evident even on casual inspection, but there is much which would escape notice. Perhaps the most obvious change is that these new laboratories are a far cry from the gloomy, smoky and odoriferous edifices of the past. They are in fact naturally well lighted, airy, and free of fumes. Indeed, there are only two 'fume' cupboards in the ground floor, and even these double as severy hatches between storeroom and laboratory.

Modern trends in Chemistry and Physics courses demand that theory and practical



Mr. T. Henderson, M.C.,
M.A., B.Sc. (St. Andrew's),
who retires in May, after 35
years as Senior Science
Master.

The Physics laboratories have been designed for maximum flexibility in the nature of the experiments to be done there, all benches being movable, and each being equipped with both direct and alternating current supplies. Least obvious of all, however, is the fact that junior and senior work in Science at all levels can now proceed in orderly fashion, replacing the difficult conditions of the past. Last, but not by any means least, mention should be made of the fact that the generosity of Mrs. Roper in providing finance for equipment in these laboratories gives more evidence of the goodwill of friends of the College.

A. A. Grainger

The New Rolland House

It has been said that one of the facets of the greatness of Sir Francis, the founder of Rolland House, was an ability to be elusive. Over the past three years this had developed as a characteristic of the boarding house that carries his name. Now, however, it has finally taken unto itself a permanent place of honour as the southern wing of the magnificent new Preparatory School building.

On Tuesday, 11th February, 1964 this new boarding house opened its doors for the first time to its seventy "foundation members". On that day forty "new" boarders began their College life, while the thirty "old" boarders returned from holiday on the following day. They were welcomed into the comfortable and attractive two-storeyed home by their Housemaster, Mr. M. J. H. Roland; their Matron, Miss N. B. Grenfell; and by Messrs. J. N. Watson, V. M. Lloyd and C. L. McPherson, the resident staff members. The staff and boys have appeared to settle in quickly and comfortably and the house, from the very first day has been functioning very efficiently. The dorm, leaders and house committee men appear to be getting, and to be giving, excellent co-operation.

The exciting task of building up a tradition of happy and responsible communal life particularly occupies the interest of Mr. Roland who, with his wife and young son, moved into the Housemaster's residence at the end of January. Mr. Roland is in no way new to the College, having already spent eighteen years here as a student and as a master. He has just returned from three years experience of boarding schools in England and in South Africa. Miss Grenfell has also been associated with the College for quite a number of years and Mr. J. N. Watson joined our staff just over a year ago. Mr. Lloyd has come to us from Ipswich Grammar School, having previously spent a

number of years as housemaster at Launceston Grammar School.

Mr. McPherson comes from Slade School, Warwick, Queensland, where for the past two years he was in charge of the primary forms and the junior boarders.

Many parents and friends and other interested visitors have come to see over the new Rolland House. Without exception they have exclaimed over some of its outstanding details. The five comfortable dormitories each house fourteen boys. Besides the two pleasant playrooms, the most attractive bathrooms, and the first-class dining hall, there is also, of course, a bathroom, a locker room, a drying room, a domestics' sitting room and bathroom, a master's study, and resident quarters for the matron and for the resident masters. Full use is made out of school hours of the Guildhall and of the Library, and two adjoining classrooms are used for evening study.



"Mr. Robert William Seaton, B.Sc., Dip.Ed. (Sydney), who takes up his appointment at the College in May as the new Senior Physics Master, after experience as Master in Charge of Physics at the King's School, Parramatta. Mr. Seaton is married, and will occupy a flat in part of 'Mossiel'."

HEREDITARY COLLEGIANS

Perhaps it is not surprising that the seventy boys have settled in so comfortably to boarding house rou-

time. Besides having a beautiful building and a splendid staff the boys have no doubt been prepared in some way by a home influence already closely related to our school. For instance twenty-one of these boys are sons of old Collegians and another ten of them had not only the good sense to send their fathers to the College, but also to send their grandfathers here before them. Sons of Old Collegians in the new Rolland House:

J. C. Anderson
N. L. Clarke
P. J. Dickson
B. R. Plain
P. T. R. Turnbull
P. J. S. Young
K. A. Borthwick
R. G. Colvin
N. G. Forbes
J. M. Slattery
P. Walter
D. J. Campbell
P. R. Davies
M. L. Koch
I. R. Smith
J. F. Woodburn
C. R. Carmichael
A. T. Dennis
I. A. MacPherson
E. A. Sutherland
T. J. Woodburn

Boys whose fathers and grandfathers attended Geelong College:

D. L. Baird
N. W. McArthur
I. H. Wettenhall
T. C. Dennis
P. J. Russell
P. C. Young
T. R. Dennis
P. H. Vanrenen
W. M. Foreman
A. R. Wettenhall

Each weekend thus far a number of boys have enjoyed the "swimming pool" and picnic area at the base of the river bank. The practice turf wickets have been put into operation for the first time, and each Saturday the excellent ovals have been well occupied by young cricket enthusiasts. The two tennis courts, also being well used.

Quite recently Mr. David Moreton, of Lake Bolac, called to see over the new school and kindly donated excellent electric power equipment for use in the Guildhall.



A view of the new Rolland House taken from the quadrangle of the Preparatory School. The design is modern, but it harmonises with the older buildings.

RESERVE THIS DATE!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

for

O. G. C. A. DINNER DANCE

Stardust, St. Kilda

See June "Pegasus" for booking details.

Knowle House is gone . . . or is it?

A story of endings and beginnings

(Based on an article written for the Geelong Advertiser)

Geelong Collegians are familiar with the name of Knowle House, the two-storey building at the east end of Skene Street, Newtown, which sheltered the infant College in its first decade. Once the finest edifice in that part of town, it had gradually become the poorest, and a few weeks ago it fell to the wrecker.

FEVERISH 'FIFTIES

"Knowle House" was neither its first name nor its last. It was built in or about 1853 by Frederick Ferdinand Kaweraw, engineer, surveyor and speculator, who advertised it as "Hotel Garni", i.e. a furnished apartment house (not a hotel in the common meaning), offering lodgings which were much

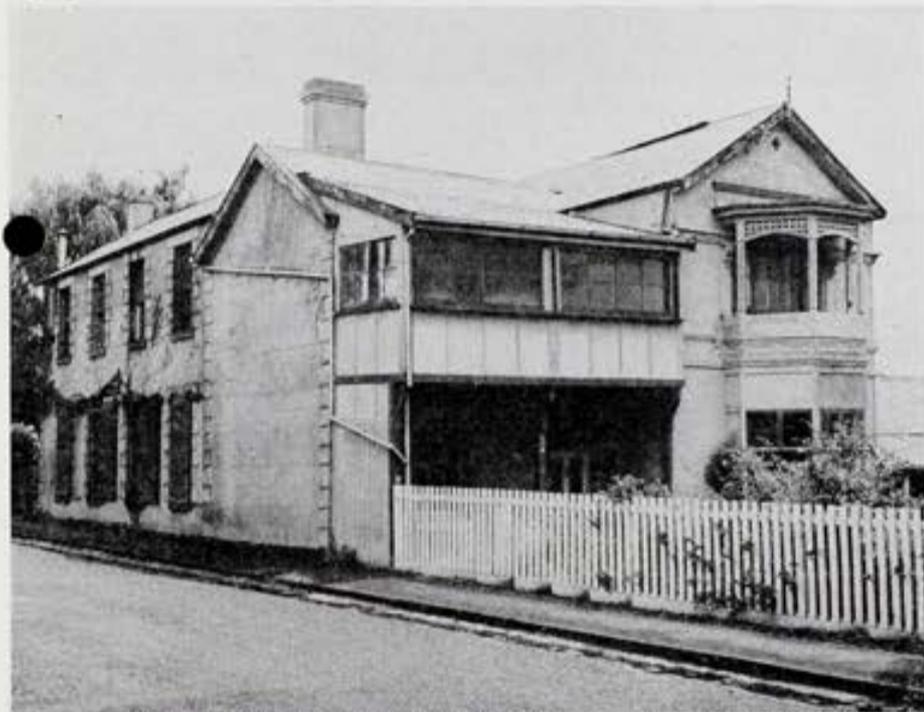
in demand when Geelong was a stop on the golden road to Ballarat. The recent generation has known it as "Wahroonga Flats."

The gold rush brought to Geelong a population explosion, which led in turn to a demand for education, especially when the first flush of the gold fever had abated. Dozens of church and private schools sprang

up, some of them surviving merely months, others two or three years.

A NEW LOOK

The Skene Street building comprising 18 rooms, kitchen, servants' quarters and stable and being now short of lodgers, seemed ready-made for the purpose, and from 1856 onward it housed at least nine different schools.



KNOWLE HOUSE, 1964, 111 years old.

(Geelong Advertiser photo.)

The Year of Achievement PROMISE FULFILLED

With the building of Knowle House at a cost of £50,000, the new Prep. School has been substantially completed. It is the fruit of a grand community effort and an achievement of which all who shared, in any way, in the planning and the financing and the building, may well feel proud.

One independent observer, specially qualified and experienced, has told us that in all his travels, in Australia and New Zealand, he has not seen a finer junior school anywhere.

The planners and the builders have finished their job, what of the donors? The next year should see their promises fulfilled.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

The total amount expended on land and buildings at the Prep. School has greatly exceeded a quarter of a million pounds. This has been undertaken in the faith that the Centenary Building Fund would run its promised course and that all stated gift intentions would be honoured on time. Overdraft accommodation has been strained to bursting, and the remaining promises are needed in full to reduce overdraft to approved limits by next year.

Donations running in arrears now present a pressing problem. The total of those overlooked cheques stands at over ten thousand pounds—not a large percentage of the total, but still a substantial sum, big enough to affect the overall position quite seriously.

Let us face the figures. Here they are:—

Total expended	£265,000
Total contributions promised to the Fund	£153,904
Total contributions received to date	115,814
Contributions still outstanding	£38,090
Total promises overdue—urgently needed now	£10,570

This total of overlooked gift intentions has been broken down by our statisticians as follows:—

180 donors have so far made no payment	£5,000
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118 donors have missed one payment	1,358
102 donors have missed two payments	2,759
37 donors have missed three payments	1,453
	£10,570

Analysis by areas of those who began well, but have forgotten one or more subsequent payments shows the following result:—

Geelong	120 donors
Shepparton	5 donors
Melbourne	36 donors
Hamilton	17 donors
Remote areas	79 donors
	257 donors

What can we do to rectify this situation?

If you have given regularly and on time, we give you our grateful thanks, for without you we could never have started the job, let alone finish it. Stay with us, and pass the word to other supporters that this is a vital year.

If you are involved in the above problem, will you please help us promptly in this important year. Send your cheque now and share in "The Year of Achievement."

The first of these was the Rev. G. O. Vance's "Geelong Grammar School", which was carried on there in 1856-7, before being continued in the Geelong Church of England Grammar School.

Soon afterwards, a Mrs. Boyce was announcing "Knowle House, Establishment for Young Ladies, late the Rev. Mr. Vance's Grammar School". This appears to be the first use of the new name, Mr. Vance's advertisements having given the address simply as Skene Street.

FOUNDATION OF G. C.

Certainly it was as Knowle House that the building became the home of the Geelong College. The centenary history ("The Geelong College 1861-1961") tells the story of those early years under Mr. (later Dr.) George Morrison—the school's struggle for existence, its scholastic triumphs, the growth of the headmaster's famous family, his determination to move to a more suitable site.

SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE

Other schools which operated for a while at Knowle House were:

Collegiate Institute for Young Ladies (conducted by Mrs. Arnold and Miss Hoskins);

The University School (Alan Wells Kearney);

Knowle House Grammar School (John Leechman);

Geelong Collegiate Institute (J. Parsons);

Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies (Miss McCann).

It is hardly surprising that the place was often referred to colloquially as "Knowledge House".

The last and longest school tenancy was that of the Misses Annie and Bridget Clanchy, who did not use the name "Knowle House". Their Central College, a highly successful co-educational school, ran from 1895 to 1923.

When these remarkable teachers felt the need of a year's rest, nobody could be found to assume the conduct of their college, and, quite suddenly, it closed its doors.

ONE MAN'S POISON

At the last speech night of "Central", prizes were won by R. D. Birdsey (dux of the college and prefect's prize), M. Bartlett, L. Hassett and N. Palmer (form prizes), among others. Their names and those of several other pupils, eighteen in all, appeared the following year on the G. C. register. It is interesting to speculate that the death of the one school may have given life-saving stimulus to the other; there is no doubt that the Geelong College, which had just been through a very lean period, received substantial benefit financially and scholastically and in sporting strength from this windfall.

DECLINE & FALL

In the 'thirties and 'forties, the property was owned by Miss Florence Royce, an artist who gave instruction in pottery and china painting.

Finally, it reverted to the original use as flats, its chief recommendation being

its proximity to schools and the business centre of Geelong. It was showing its age, and the many alterations had not succeeded in making it convenient or comfortable in any modern sense.

The old house did not yield easily to pinch-bar, hammer and tractor. Much of it had to be taken down piecemeal, at half the rate possible in wrecking many a comparable structure of later design.

Bluestone foundations were sound, the roof still straight, but weaknesses had developed at windows and doorways. Demolition of the original sections revealed heavy oregon joists, flooring boards of a dense, hard timber so far unidentified, cedar skirtings, and split laths of eucalypt in the plaster dividing walls.

(Early issues of the Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer carried numerous advertisements for imported timbers, but few references to local forest production.)

Timbers were fixed with hand-made nails, whose manufacture ceased about 80 years ago.

The large cellar beneath one of the front rooms would have been a necessity for a boarding-school in pre-refrigeration days, while the beautifully set brick well in the back yard performed an even more vital function.

THE PHOENIX RISES

Very little, apart from the human associations, is worth preserving. The College has acquired a small quantity of timber and some of the bluestone blocks, which will maintain the century-old tradition in visible form at Newtown.

The land, one of the best residential sites available in Geelong, is soon to be occupied by two modern brick buildings, a house, to the east, and a block of "own-your-own" flats.

The sponsors of this project, with a nice appreciation of historical values, have decided to carry on the old name of Knowle House, and it is intended to erect a plaque which will remind the passer-by of a day when advertisers addressed the public as "ladies, gentlemen, diggers and others," and the headmaster of the College boasted that each boarder had a separate bed.

INTO TRADITION

Until quite recently the old name was used at Newtown to designate the day-boys' house, but it proved superfluous when the new six-house plan was instituted.

Perhaps it will return to the College before long. It could well be employed to distinguish the now badly named "Old Prep" on the Aphrasia Street frontage.

In the meantime action is being taken to provide two enlarged photographs of the first Knowle House, one each for the senior and preparatory schools, with frames made from the timber which once supported Mr. George Morrison's heavy tread and the lighter feet of the earliest Collegians as they scampered to their separate beds.

Sport in Six Houses

As any school grows in size, it is important that it should not lose the close-knit personal relationships which are one of the chief virtues of a small school. One way to preserve these relationships is to organise the school into a House system, each House being small enough for all the boys in it to know each other well and for the Housemasters and other House staff to take a close interest in each boy's welfare. At the same time, the House needs to be big enough to allow it to enter adequately into all aspects of the School's life. And, of course, it is important that each boy should remain in the same house throughout his school career, so that all his talents and failings can become well known, and can be woven into a pattern of loyalty and service which makes him a valuable member of both House and School.

At the College there are now 411 boys in the Senior School. These have been divided into six houses of about 70 boys each, three boarding houses, Mackie, Warrinn and Morrison (formerly Senior), and three day houses, Calvert, McArthur and Shannon.

In the past, House Sport and some other activities such as House Music have been arranged in "sport" houses, each of which contained a mixture of boys from both boarding and day "administrative" houses. However, since the whole of each boy's interests and activities contribute to his personality, it is important that they should all be co-ordinated and centred in the life of his one house, not split up between an "administrative" house and a "sport" house. For this reason, we have begun this year to organise all our House sport and other activities on the six-House basis.

GREATER OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

This change has, of course, involved a good deal

of rearrangement of fixtures and rules for the various competitions. For that reason, the programme this year will be regarded to some extent as experimental and can be modified, if necessary, for future years. So far, the House Swimming Sports have proved quite successful, and the House Cricket has got away to a good start with a number of close matches. Each house has an Open and Under-age team in cricket and football, and is to play each other house, so some of the time formerly devoted to practices for inter-School teams must now be used for House matches. This has the advantage that more boys can be given an active part in the games, and some boys who would seldom play for the school can successfully represent their houses. We may even discover new talent in this way.

In the Rowing, each house will have one eight only. Two heats of three houses each will be rowed on the Wednesday after the Head of the River, and two finals (heat winners plus faster second and then heat losers plus slower second) will be rowed on the Friday.

The house Tennis will be played in third term.

It is hoped that as the Houses settle down in their new organisation, other house activities, such as House Plays, or Debates, will be undertaken, though there is some doubt whether these should be on a competitive basis. As soon as competition is involved, there is inevitable pressure for the best boys in each House to take part, and this may mean that some boys would be overloaded. It is better to spread the opportunities throughout the house, and this means that the standards must not be set too high for the weaker boys.

It is hoped that parents will take an interest in their sons' House activities, and encourage as active participation as possible.



CAPTAINS OF THE HOUSES, 1964

(l. to r.) T. A. Hinchliffe (Shannon); R. B. Davey (Calvert); D. G. Williamson (Morrison); The Principal; G. E. T. Andrews (McArthur); D. I. W. Lawson (Warrinn); R. F. Stewart (Mackie).

DONORS' DAYS

Now that our building programme at the Preparatory School is actually complete, we feel that some way should be found to say a personal "Thank you" to all those Donors whose promises and gifts have made this great project possible.

It is particularly appreciated that many of our Donors, especially those living away from Geelong, have probably seen little or nothing of the new buildings. Several special occasions and Open Days have been held, but, of necessity, our visitors on these occasions are usually drawn from the ranks of present parents and some local Old Collegians.

In order to attract as many Donors as possible, it has been decided to declare a number of Donors'

Days throughout 1964 and issue invitations to all those who have signed Gift Intention Cards for the Centenary Building Fund Appeal. We hope to entertain Geelong Residents to Afternoon Tea and those from outside the Geelong Area to lunch on one of several available dates. Arrangements will be made for those interested to see over all the Preparatory School Buildings and learn something about Prep. Activities.

Invitations will probably be in your hands before Ad Astra is published, so check the dates and come along on a day that suits you. Country and Melbourne donors are specially urged to accept this genuine invitation and we suggest you arrange for a group from your area to come down on the same day.

or suggestions to make, were diffident about approaching the Principal or members of the staff. The Chairman was indeed approached after the meeting over the question of school uniforms, and observations made in the ensuing discussions will be brought up at the next parents' committee meeting.

Mr. Thwaites, after introducing those members of his staff who were present, spoke about the different gradings of classes and how boys were selected for the A, B, C or D streams. Parents were obviously glad to have this selection so clearly explained. Mr. Webb followed with an interesting talk on the function of the House of Guilds, a section of the College that has played a vital part in developing the creative talents of the boys. Mr. Nicolson and Mr. Davey gave brief remarks about sporting facilities and school uniforms respectively. Supper was kindly provided by the school. The lady committee members were faced with the problem of trying to serve tea to approximately 120 in 90 cups, as this was the anticipated maximum attendance!

The next gathering will be on Monday, 13th July, with an outside speaker yet to be named, who will discuss educational problems with particular reference to careers and opportunities available to boys unable to go to University. This meeting will be principally for Fourth Form parents, but all parents will be welcome. Because of its general interest to all concerned, this meeting would also be regarded as the Annual General Meeting of the group.

The final meeting of the year will be held some time in the Third Term and it will be principally of interest to Fifth Form parents, but no details have been arranged to date.

Parents' Committee Formed VALUABLE STEP FORWARD

Everyone having any interest in the welfare of the College will be interested in the newly formed parents' committee. It is hoped that this body will be actively instrumental in organising informative meetings for parents in general, as well as serving in an advisory capacity. Mr. Thwaites had these functions in mind when he first suggested the formation of this group in the third term last year.

The committee appointed was Dr. & Mrs. J. W. Bishop, Mr. & Mrs. D. Borthwick, Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Cook, Mr. & Mrs. A. R. David, Mr. & Mrs. K. S. Smibert, Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Strachan, Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Urquhart, together with the Principal and Mrs. Thwaites. The first meeting was held on 15th

November last year and office bearers were elected, Dr. J. W. Bishop being appointed Chairman and Mrs. J. F. Strachan Secretary. A programme for gatherings to be arranged in 1964 was discussed and it was agreed that there should be a meeting for Third Form parents on Friday, 13th March.

This proved to be an outstanding success. After an opening prayer by the School Chaplain, Dr. Bishop on behalf of the College extended a warm welcome to all present. He then introduced the members of the parents' committee and explained its purpose. One important function of committee members was suggested — that they could well be approached by other parents who had criticisms



Paul Sheahan and Dugald Williamson visit the Rev. A. J. McAdam and his Under 13 cricketers at the new turf practice wickets at the Preparatory School.