



# ad astra

NEWSLETTER TO OLD GEELONG COLLEGIANS

No. 18

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## EDITORIAL

### SHOULD IT BE EASY?

Rome was not built in a day. Romulus, its founder, slew his brother for laughing at its slow growth. (There were "knockers" even in the eighth century B.C.). Later, according to legend, it was peopled by a rape of Sabine women. Despite such teething troubles, the city is still expanding, though details are lacking as to methods currently employed.

The College develops along more prosaic lines. Its early struggles are fully recorded. It has steadily advanced by the sacrificial efforts of a great number of people, famous or obscure, with the result that each new boy, on coming to the College, has found himself provided with grounds and buildings, libraries and laboratories, standards and traditions, an ever-increasing legacy from the past.

Yet perfection, mirage-like, retreats before us. Our generation in its turn is called upon to endow the future.

The new 1965 constitution gave the O.G.C.A. greater striking power for the fulfilling of its historic objective, to promote the welfare of the College. Through the Geelong College Building Fund, the Association is now able to give the Council permanent support in its planning for the future.

But he is a bold man, or a shortsighted one, who expects that the new programme will be easy to launch and sustain. Nothing worth while is ever easily achieved.

We cannot expect to find the task easier than our forbears did. There are in fact signs that it may be harder.

The Association's old method of finance by annual and life memberships has been rendered obsolete by inflation. The setting up of the office at the College and the launching of the



BERT KEITH  
Editor "Ad Astra"

### Ken Takes The Chair

Ken Nicolson, College master for 32 years, first Head of the Preparatory School, cricket coach for 15 years (A.P.S. premierships in 1946-7), Honorary Life Member of the O.G.C.A., is also Chairman of the 1946 Year Group.



KEN NICOLSON

Ken did not need persuading to take the job. On hearing that there were vacancies, he promptly volunteered.

#### CRICKET

He naturally selected a year with some strong cricketing associations to give him a flying start.

When interviewed for "Ad Astra", he asserted that his motives are primarily personal. The College is for him a way of life, and this chairmanship presents opportunities for keeping in touch with at least one bunch of Old Boys. If at the same time it benefits the College, well, so much the better.

#### PLEASURE

Ken says that the work is definitely not arduous, being much more pleasure than business. He has heard from a good number of his men and has replied to all letters received so far.

As to the future, there is the challenge to extend such contacts to take in most of the 'forty-sixers, with the pleasant prospect of meeting many of them at a Year Reunion which is proposed for later in 1968.

#### ADOPT A YEAR

So far Ken Nicolson is the only man to "adopt" a year to which he does not belong, but the idea is one to be recommended.

Annual Giving Programme have required much hard work, expense and experiment. Unexpected "knocks" have come from some who could have given positive assistance. There are still problems, such as the vacancies for year chairmen and the difficulty of "getting through" to men in remoter areas.

Despite the problems, the outlook is bright:

- The annual report on the scheme, issued last December, revealed a splendid effort by more than 800 Old Collegians who believe in the Association's work and the College's destiny.

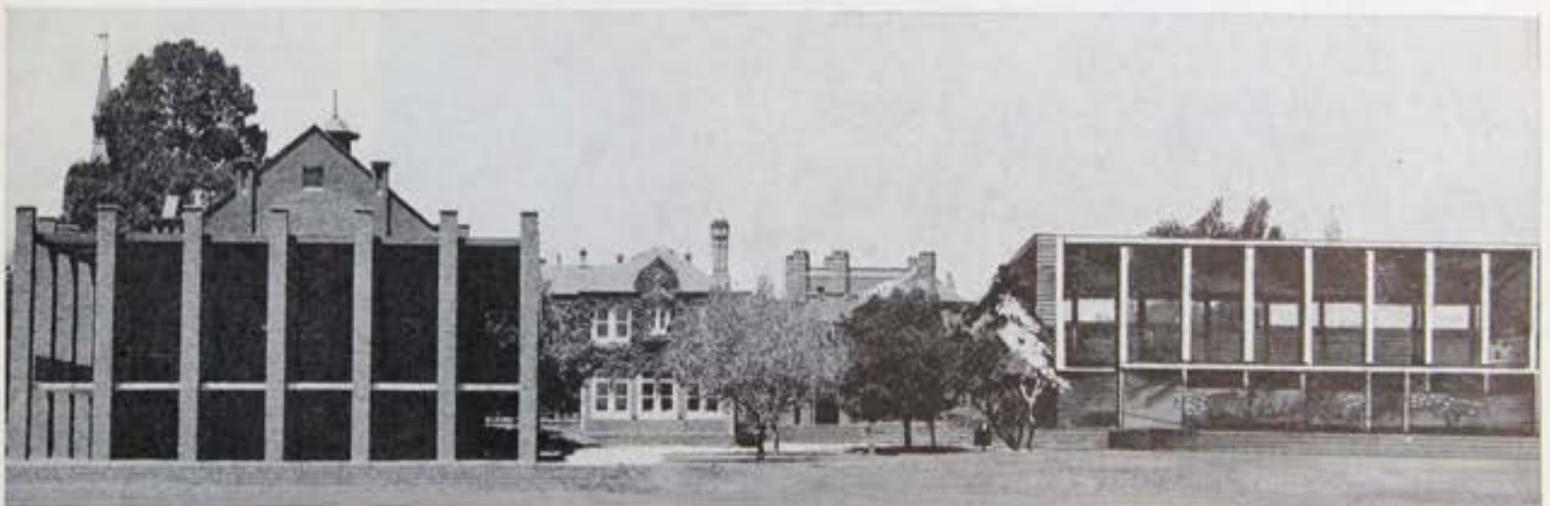
- At the Association's request, the College Council is calling for preliminary plans of the first stage of the Rolland Centre.

- It is hoped that a significant announcement concerning the building of the Centre will be made at the annual meeting next month.

- The plan for building by 1969 is still lustily viable.

Those who have supported the new programme have good reason to be proud of their work.

It has been, and will be, worth the struggle.



## ON NEWTOWN HILL

## COLLEGE LIFE AND TIMES

With the athletics season finished, the closing weeks of 1967 became a period of strenuous endeavour in the field of ideas. This October metamorphosis bears a perennial charm: for a little while, almost anyone becomes an earnest student, "to scorn delights and live laborious days."

But it was all to some effect, as witness the examination results outlined elsewhere.

Speech Day was again a pleasant open-air affair in a mild breeze under the shade of the sole surviving pine tree.

And now begins College Year 108. "Old" boys almost unrecognizable, with tanned skins and sun-bleached hair, looking like photo negatives; "new" boys rather overawed and tentative; masters putting a bold face on it, but obviously collar proud.

Organization moves quickly into top gear.

The College is always different, yet always the same.

The usually beautiful grounds have shared in the calamitous effects of drought and water restrictions, so that Stewart has had trouble enough to maintain a few patches of green in the batting areas. Water divined near the House of Music failed to materialize, but the great semi-trailer tanker trundling over the senior oval was an effective king-sized watering can, bringing 1,500 gallons of river water each trip.

In the 1967 examinations, the College Sixth Form of 78 boys registered a matriculation rate of over 80 per cent. There were 17 first-class honours, 73 second-class honours, 17 Commonwealth tertiary scholarships, and the exhibition in General Mathematics.

The winning of the 1967 House Competition by Mackie was a fitting finale to Mr. John Carrington's twenty-eight years as Housemaster.

The record of 107 yards for throwing the cricket ball, set by E. A. Morrison in 1881 and equalled by A. B. Timms in 1892, was not in danger when the event was revived in November, but social service funds benefited from the entry fees.

The well-remembered fences of Sacred Heart and the Hermitage have been renovated. Experts say that the wooden capping at the Convent is easier on the fingers than was the old corrugated iron.



ALAN SCOTT

Alan McI. Scott ('47) joins the College English staff this year. He has been at Ballarat College since 1957 and was one of the live wires in O.G.C.A. Ballarat Branch.

A group of College boys assisted in the erection of the Nativity scene on the roundabout near Johnstone Park, Geelong.

Christmas vacation activities included a Third Form hike in the Brisbane Ranges, a canoe trip on the Glenelg River and a senior hike in the Nadgee Faunal Reserve, N.S.W. Boys also participated in cadet promotion courses, Outward Bound, Quest, National Fitness camps and Lord Somers' camp.

One of the few parts of the 1871 buildings to retain its original use has been the Principal's residence. But now, to make way for adequate staff flats in Morrison House, Mr. and Mrs. Thwaites are moving to their new home, situated by the Noble Street entrance.

## Revolution at The College

## Pupils Gain Power

We live in an age of revolt, upheaval, turmoil, heart transplants, moon probes, satellites and cybernetics. Africa is in ferment, China seethes with cultures, America is tense with racial suspicion.

But none of these modern developments is more explosive than the violent revolution in education in which the Geelong College has been recently caught up.

The Old Boy who still sees the College as it was in his day—even ten years since—if he returned there in 1968, would have to think and work fast to adapt himself to a new world of ideas and methods.

Take some modern educational thinking, especially the work of those who have been sounding the mystery of how children learn. Add to this the "hardware" developments in television, recording, projection, scientific experimentation and a great expansion of libraries and ancillary services. Shake well together and serve to College boys, and it is easy to see why parents these days are having so much difficulty with their sons' homework.

Practically every subject at the College, at every level, has been affected by this upheaval. Teachers are being trained, or re-trained, on the new lines; students are subject to tests and questionnaires; daily time-tables and the examination system are being overhauled; new buildings are going up, old ones being adapted.

Specific developments at the College include:

- The new syllabuses of the Physical Science Study Committee and the Chemical Education Projects, being applied by Mr. Seaton and Mr. Grainger.
- "New" mathematics and the provision of a mathematics room in what used to be the physics laboratory. Mr. Tattersall is in charge of this work.

- Audio-lingual laboratories at the Preparatory and Senior Schools, under the guidance of Mr. Davey and the new senior French master, Mr. Humphries.

- A Geography room in the former chem. lab. to cater for the emphasis now being given to experimental and mathematical aspects of this subject. Mr. McNeill is responsible for this area.

- Increasing use of the library for Economics and History, including the construction of a set of cubicles with ear-phones where boys may use a growing collection of tape and gramophone recordings at will. Mr. Dobb (Senior Economics), Mr. Barley (Senior History) and Mrs. Wood (Library) are active in this department.

- New English courses with emphasis on extensive reading and writing rather than on formal drill and exercises. Experiments (directed by Mr. Mahar) in "team teaching" instead of the traditional one-man-one-class relationship.

- Arrangement of the Senior School time-table into hour-long periods in place of the previous 40 minutes.

- Organization of General Studies courses (directed by Mr. Stock) for non-academic boys, who will be prepared for Technical Schools Intermediate and Leaving Examinations.

- Completion of the Preparatory School science block, where Mr. Cameron will be in charge.

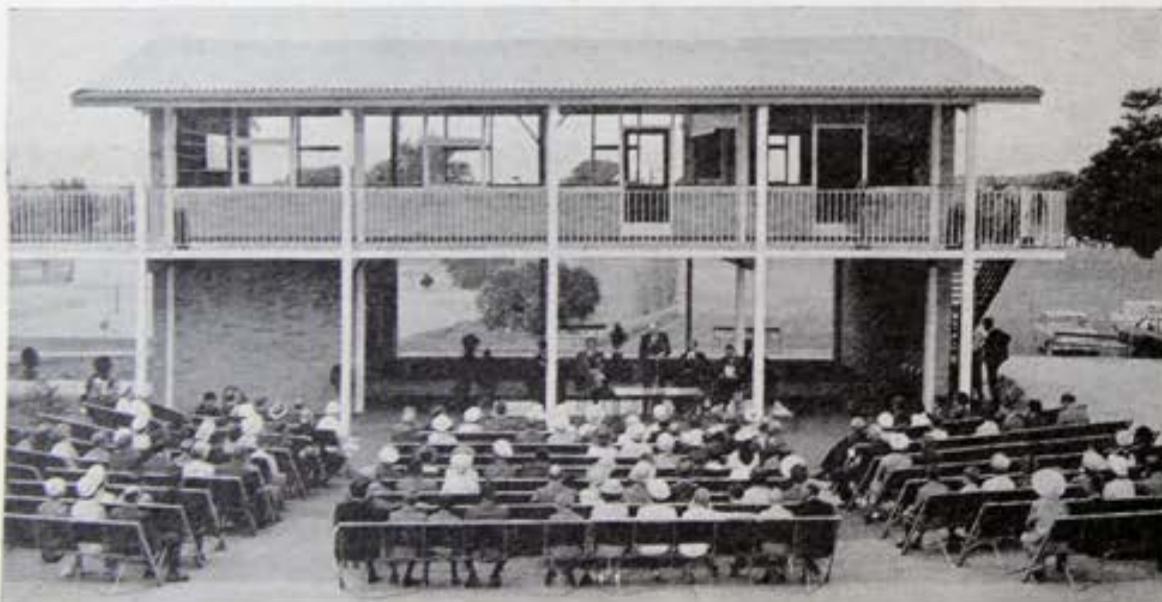
One fundamental principle underlies all these developments: pupil activity, pupil discovery, the inductive establishment of skills and knowledge, with skills always placed above mere factual knowledge. Guided self-teaching, in fact, is the method and the objective.

It is clear that a room with desks, a blackboard and a master is no longer enough to provide a boy with an effective, modern education.

Both Commonwealth and State Governments have acknowledged this fact by their financial aid to independent schools, although their support so far is rather tentative.

To sum up:—In view of the vigorous efforts being made to keep up with the leaders in educational principles and practice, it is not to be wondered at that College results in open competition, as set out in another part of this page, are dramatically better than State-wide averages.

Those at the Geelong College responsible for providing an education for 2000 A.D. are well aware that a school which is not progressing in its ideas and facilities is, in fact, retrogressing into an educational museum.



Opening of the Preparatory School Science Wing on February 7 by Sir Hugh Ennor, of the Department of Education and Science, which financed its construction. The building has a General Science laboratory, preparation room, storage space and a master's study.

## PERSONAL

## Stardust

**STANLEY MARDEN** ('02), visiting the College in November after sixty years' absence, was pleased to identify older portions of the buildings and admire the new. When a student here in 1902-4, he was in the first eight and the athletics team. He later held N.S.W. State championships in middle distance running. After a career as grazer and international wool buyer, he is living in retirement at Terrigal, N.S.W.

**GRAHAM RICE** ('49), as assistant Australian Trade Commissioner in Los Angeles, U.S.A., has appeared on colour TV in a discussion of the growing and manufacture of ginger in Australia.

**DR. FRANK JUST** ('36) has returned from a year's leave spent in France, England, Spain and Italy. In Paris he worked on the preparation of a French reference grammar. **ROGER JUST** ('61) studied Latin and Greek at the Sorbonne for six

months as a "free" student, that without taking examinations.

**MALCOLM LYON** ('43) is back in Canberra after five years' diplomatic service in Delhi and Stockholm.

**MAC. HAMILTON** ('28) is appointed divisional manager for South Australia (wool and produce) with Elders-GM.

**ANDREW WALLS** ('25), Town Clerk of Box Hill, has been awarded the Myer Foundation Local Government Travelling Fellowship, which gives him the opportunity to study in Britain, the U.S.A. and Canada.

**MAX LAMB** ('25), retiring from the Bank of N.S.W., Newcastle, has settled on a small property at Wallington.

**BILL SMITH** ('50) is Shire Engineer at Maldon.

**ALBERT J. COLLOCOTT**, C.S.E. ('02), has retired as President of the National Safety Council (Victorian Division) after a record term of thirty years. He was Federal President in 1965-66.

**BILL COOK** ('50) is in research and planning with the Gas and Fuel Corporation.

**DON LAWLER** ('45) returns home after four years' duty in London and The Hague as Australian Information Officer specializing in migration.

The Rev. **GRAHAM LEHMANN** ('43), formerly of St. Kilda, was inducted as Superintendent of the Belmont Methodist Circuit.

**IAN FIELD** ('18) has retired after an exemplary career in transport with Geelong Trams and Trans Otway.

**FRANCIS FUNSTON** ('25) and family have settled on 6,000 acres at Jerramungup, 150 miles south-east of Perth, W.A. **IAN R. D. CAMPBELL** ('46) is another in the same district.

**GORDON YOUNG** ('48), formerly on the Carey staff as student counsellor, goes to Mercer House teacher training institute as full-time lecturer in psychology.

## WHO'S WHO



Executive Officer "Mac" McVittie at work with the three new members elected to the O.G.C.A. General Committee in 1967

**GARY BENT**: G.C. 1949-56; prefect and XVIII. Graduated LL.B. 1961; now in partnership in Geelong with another O.G.C., Donald Ingpen ('22). Chairman of '51; member of Annual Giving Committee.

**GRAEME PEARCE**: G.C. 1950-57. Was in New Guinea with Public Service before changing to municipal career. In 1962 joined Shire of Barrabool; becoming shire secretary in 1964, was youngest in Victoria in such position. Chairman of '53; member of Annual Giving Committee.

**ROBIN DENNIS**: G.C. 1943-55; member of XVIII. Three years of jackarooing, then went on to business side with pastoral firms. In 1965 became accountant at the College, where he also coaches Under 16 footballers. Chairman of '50.

**Cr. VAUTIN ANDREWS** ('27), President of Geelong and District Ambulance Service, was elected President of the Victorian Ambulance Services Association.

**JOCK COUTTS** ('63) made sufficiently good progress from serious injuries received in a car accident to visit the College in November. **ROBERT DAVID** ('60) also is recovering after similar misadventure.

**DUNCAN MCKENZIE** ('55) was one of the ANARE group seconded to Mawson Institute, Adelaide University, who spent a fortnight studying seals on Lady Julia Percy Island.

**HECTOR CUMMING** ('24) is President of the Australian Polwarth Sheep Growers' Association. **ROGER CUMMING** ('60) personally conducted 200 stud Polwarth ewes and lambs to mainland China.

**Dr. ROB MORETON** ('53) returns from a year in Launceston to join the medical staff of Prince Henry's Hospital, Melbourne.

**ROD WALLIS** ('61) has made a long move to take a position on the staff of the Townsville "Bulletin."

**IAN DOBIE** ('59) was among graduates from the officer course at Scheyville, N.S.W. Allocated to R.A.S.C., he went on to a further course at Puckapunyal.

**JAMES HICKMAN** ('65) after a year as a junior R.A.N. recruit at Leeuwin, W.A., was selected as one of the top twelve from a group of 600, a result which augurs well for his progress in the service.

## PUBLICATIONS

The collection of past copies of "Pegasus" still progresses. Two complete sets have been collected but copies of early editions of the magazine from 1911 to 1918 are still required. The latest contributors of early copies are the Cousen family to whom we are most grateful. Only 25 individual copies are now needed to complete five sets.

Well-known sports author, Mr. Richard Whittington, who is working on the story of Lindsay Hassett's brilliant cricketing career, has visited the College to locate source materials, including people with long memories.

Still booming is "The Land Boomers," by Michael Cannon ('41). Described as an "admirable and horrifying" picture of the 1880's boom and depression, it is now a best-selling paperback. Michael is an assistant director of Melbourne University Press.

"Too Big For Their Caps" was the title of an editorial in the "Geelong Advertiser" when news broke that certain Public Schools are discarding caps altogether or, in some cases, from the dress of senior pupils. The general tenor of the article was regret at such a sharp break from tradition, with praise for the cap as a distinctive emblem. The Geelong College is keeping the matter under constant review.

"Colourful Britain" calendars for 1968 feature a fine study of Salisbury Cathedral by John Champion ('43). Formerly in the R.A.N. Fleet Air Arm, John is now R.A.F., but remains faithful to his other love, photography.

A new outline of College history, traditions and organization has been prepared for the enlightenment of students and will probably be used as a basis for new boys' "initiation" tests.

## VALETE

With the co-operation of Mr. Thwaites, the first dayboys' farewell dinner was held in the dining annexe on December 5, while boarders were enjoying their usual end-of-year banquet.

Both functions were attended by representatives of the General Committee of the O.G.C.A., who, at a meeting in the Morrison Hall later in the evening, had the opportunity of talking to the "leavers" on the work of the Association for the individual member and for the College.

It is hoped in future to overcome accommodation problems and hold a single valedictory dinner for all boys leaving school.

## CHEAP AT THE PRICE

The September issue of "A.A." featured extracts complimentary and otherwise from correspondence received. The Annual Giving Committee treasures with special affection a modestly critical letter which was accompanied by a cheque for \$100.

Some members have since been trying to devise various degrees of invective to which they would submit for contributions of \$500, \$1000, and so on.

But perhaps resourceful and imaginative Old Boys can think this one out for themselves.

**J. T. O. (Tom) Dickinson** ('36) whose death was recorded in the last issue, was well known in the Rowsley District. He was a successful primary producer, established a Poll Hereford stud, won a prize for his soil conservation programme, and took an active interest in public affairs. As a navigator in bombers in the last war he made thirty trips over Germany. He leaves a widow and three young children.

## The Academic Question

After announcements of outstanding achievements in surgery by Jim Watts, F.R.A.C.S. ('45), as reported in the last issue of "A.A.", it is hardly a surprise to learn that Jim has accepted appointment to the new Monash Chair of Surgery at Prince Henry's Hospital, Melbourne.



PROFESSOR JIM WATTS

His career has been brief—he graduated M.B., B.S. from Melbourne in 1956—but clearly bound for the highest levels of his profession. He has had training and research in Britain and the U.S.A., lectured in several Universities and hospitals and won prizes in international competition.

Professor Watts takes up his new position this month.

Professor Norman Young ('42) taking sabbatical leave from Queen's College, Melbourne, is at Princeton, N.J., to prepare a thesis on the work of German Theologian, Bultmann. He is also giving lectures at nearby Drew Theological Seminary, where he took out his own doctorate in 1959. Future plans include attendance at the World Council of Churches gathering in Sweden in July.

Mr. Noel Sherson ('49), surgical registrar of Northampton Hospital, England, has been admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons.

Dr. Gordon Ennis ('50), awarded a travel grant by the Australian Post-graduate Federation in Medicine, will work at Western Reserve University, Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, U.S.A., on aspects of diabetes.

The Rev. Geoffrey Burger ('54), of Concordia Seminary, Adelaide, was ordained at St. John's Lutheran Church, Geelong, on January 7.

Roger Webb ('53), entering third year Divinity at Ormond, is at the same time student minister to Pascoe Vale North Presbyterian Congregation.

Full results of the 1967 study year are not available, but a few good reports have come to hand:

Jim Holden, M.Eng.Sc. ('51), has taken out his doctorate for a thesis in civil engineering.

Bill Lester ('53), maintenance engineer at I.C.I., Melbourne, passed the final mathematics subject required to complete B.Sc.

Ian Fairnie ('56) is one of the first batch of graduates in Melbourne's re-introduced Vet. Sci.

Peter Webb ('60) collected the exhibition in second year musical theory. He has been regularly taking the oboe part in "Man of La Mancha."

Brains, beauty and ball-sense! The tensions and distractions of top level sport need not hinder academic progress. Gareth Andrews ('60) finished Commerce with honours in four subjects and has a marketing position with Alcoa. John Davies ('57) having completed the Diploma of Physiotherapy, is in practice in Geelong. Paul Sheahan ('59) continues through his science course.

## MARRIAGES

David Morrison to Gwenda Shipard, Albury, April 9, 1966.

Garrick Fenton to Marion Lewis, Geelong, August 25, 1967.

Ian McLean to Glenys Crocker, Vancouver, August 26.

Brian Williams to Inge Beck, East Kew, September 1.

Randall Bell to Jeanette Shrimpton, Geelong, Sept. 2.

Rene Harris to Roslyn Benjamin, Melbourne, September 9.

Ewan Hazeldine to Morag Fleming, Blackburn, Sept. 9.

David Edge to Susan Gardiner, Geelong, September 9.

Robert Howard to Margaret Spencer, Geelong, September 21.

Robin Coulson to Sandra Pritchard, Melbourne, September 23.

Peter Doak to Gillian Pilbeam, Geelong, September 23.

Robert Russell to Julianne Scarlett, Melbourne, September 28.

Walter Wiggs to Pauline Lloyd, Geelong, October 7.

John Davies to Cathryn Cornish, Melbourne, October 5.

Trevor Lumb to Lee Lowndes, Geelong, October 18.

Donald Morrison to Janet Gilbe, South Yarra, November 3.

Roderick Wallis to Heather Steel, Geelong, November 10.

Peter Norley to Aileen Sullivan, Geelong, November 18.

James McKenzie to Marion Price, Geelong, December 2.

Ross Singer to Willemina Herrewyn, Barwon Heads, December.

Geoffrey Wills to Diana Ayres, Melbourne, December 2.

Roger Elms to Rhonda Parker, Geelong, December 9.

David Birks to Kay Harris, Gardiner, December 13.

Albert B. Bell to Doreen Bonney, Geelong, January 2, 1968.

Ian Fairnie to Helen Jones, Parkville, January 11.

Robert Logie Smith to Susan MacMichael, Melbourne, January 12.

Roy Garrett to Anne Shrimpton, Geelong, January 12.

Geoffrey Burger to Audrey Hartwich, Murtoa, January 12.

John Newberry to Del Law, Cairns, January 20.

Rodney McCann to Phyllida Mitchell, Kuala Lumpur, January 23.

Graeme Johnstone to Carol Guy, Highton, January 26.

## SPORT

Ian Redpath ('54) and Paul Sheahan ('59) now form an Australian test cricket run-getting combination second to none. Special congratulations to Ian on his appointment as captain of Victoria for the match against New Zealand in November.

Olympic swimmer, Peter Doak ('57), took the official first dive into the new Geelong swimming pool in Kardinia Park when it was opened by the Mayor, Sir Roy Fidge ('22). Peter's 56.2 seconds for 100 metres is the best ever by a Victorian.

Bryan Langsford ('61), Geelong district senior and junior golf champion, was selected in the V.G.A. junior squad.

John Higson ('48) had a notable '67 golf season in England. At Mosely, Birmingham, he equalled the course record of 65.

Ray Apted ('14) is Chairman of Barwon Region, L.T.A.A.

Russell Rice ('50) usually appears high up in Geelong archery results.

The sloop "Caraid," which became "Cock of Bass Strait" by winning the Queenscliff-Devonport race, was skippered by Tom Hawkes ('37), with Trevor Collins ('36), John Redpath ('52) and Michael Thoms ('52) among the crew.

Ken Leach ('58), of Corio Bay Rowing Club, won the senior sculls at the Upper Yarra Regatta.

Lt.-Col. Neil Turner ('40) is in the forefront of the Nipper surf life saver movement at Point Lonsdale.

Andrew Wall ('63) showed golfing promise in winning the Ramsay Cup at Barwon Heads.

## OBITUARY

H. G. Rhind ('08) died at Lesmurdie (W.A.) October 28.

Dr. A. H. Maxwell ('91) died at Geelong, January 12.

M. E. Scott ('15), formerly of Gympie, Queensland, died in September.

W. S. Sharland ('17) was prominent as a footballer and cricketer and later as a sporting journalist and commentator. He served in the A.I.F. and was a member of the journalistic team which produced the service paper, "Guinea Gold." He died in Melbourne on September 17.

S. A. Mortimer ('09) served as an officer in the A.I.F. in both wars. After the First War he accepted a business appointment in Perth and later became General Manager of the Royal Automobile Club. He was a foundation member of the National Safety Council and was prominent in tennis and bowls. He died in Perth.

K. C. Purnell ('06) died at Heidelberg Hospital on November 1. He had a distinguished medical career in both wars, rising to the rank of Colonel and being awarded the Military Cross. In Geelong he was Medical Officer at the Geelong Training Prison and City Health Officer. For a number of years he was the College Medical Officer.

W. N. Ricketts ('15) commenced his rowing career as cox of the College VIII in 1915. As a member of the staff of Melbourne Grammar School, he coached the crew for twenty-one years with remarkable success, winning the Head of the River nine times. He died in Sydney on January 3.

## TWO CHAMPIONS



At the Preparatory School Speech Day, Paul Sheahan makes a presentation to Greg Lindquist, best all-round boy for 1967 and a State title winner in swimming.