



The Towers

MAGAZINE
of
Penrith High School
1960

The Towers



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Headmaster's Message

Dear Boys and Girls,

On the walls of my office there hangs a picture of an old mansion called "The Towers." This building once stood on the site now occupied by Penrith High School. This school has links with the early settlement of Penrith. The School Houses have been named after early explorers, Blaxland, Wentworth, Lawson and Lennox, men of courage and the determination to succeed.

Although Penrith High School is only ten years old, it is developing traditions which also depend on courage and determination. It is developing traditions in academic achievement and in sport and debating. High standards in these fields require courage and determination.

Although the school is only ten years old, it has become rather shabby and dilapidated. Fortunately some additions are now being made to the school, and extensive repairs and painting are planned. Next year the school buildings should be in excellent order once again. With its attractive grounds and modern building, Penrith High School is a school any boy or girl should be proud to attend.

I would like to see the development of another tradition as well as the tradition of achievement. I would like to see the development of love for the School and pride in being a member of the School.

Every pupil should make a resolution to take greater care of the school building, the school grounds, the furniture, the library and school equipment.

It is the duty and the responsibility of every pupils to maintain the school in good order and leave it in good condition for each new group of pupils.

The community forms a judgment of the pupils of a school in many ways. They are judged by their academic and sporting achievements, by their dress and by their conduct inside and out of school. Pupils are also judged by the care they take of their own class rooms and their school generally.

There is a Towers Cup awarded every week to the class that looks after its class room best. I would like to see this idea develop into a tradition of love for Penrith High School.

—J. P. Sharpe,
Headmaster.

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Penrith High School was built ten years ago. Few of the school's present pupils would remember its construction, and none would remember its predecessor. Most of us, although not being historically minded, may have been curious about the connection between Penrith High School and the name of this magazine, as well as that of the "Towers' Cup."

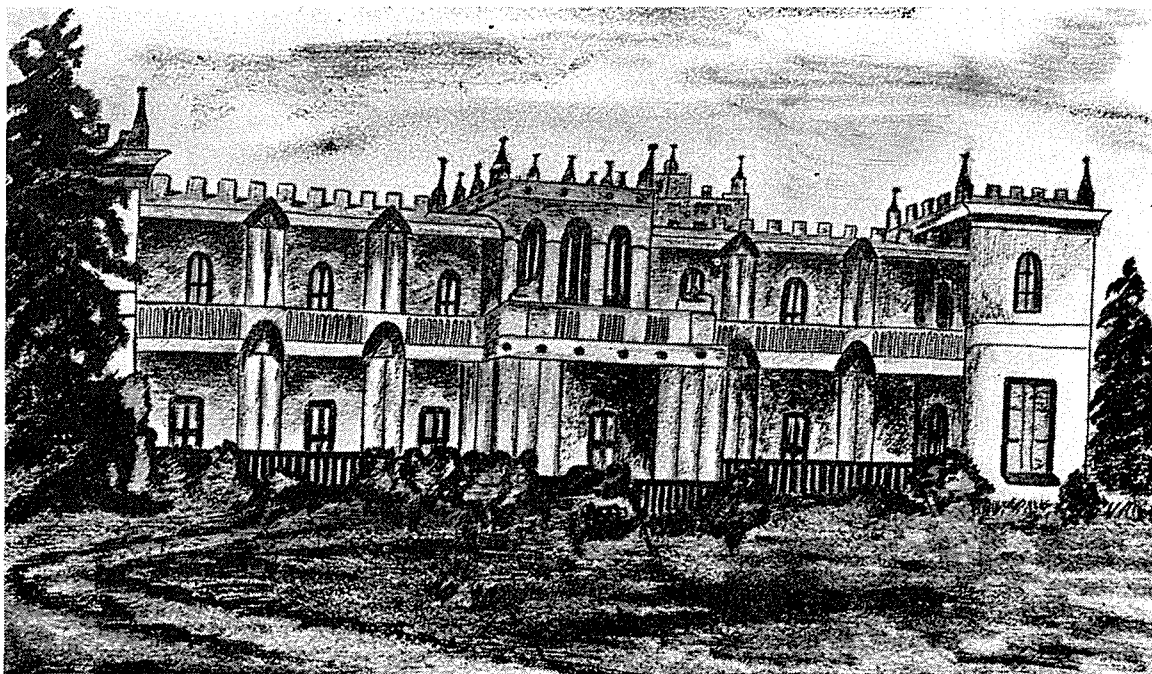
The history of "The Towers" starts nearly one and a half centuries ago, when an early settler, John Best, was granted 440 acres of land in the Penrith district. By 1824 the land had passed to an eminent citizen, John Lindale, who, retaining only that portion of land bordered by the Great Western Highway, King, Lethbridge and Doonmore Streets,

granted portions to all recognised denominations, and auctioned the rest.

The property retained was named "Hornseywood Park," and the house that Lindale built on top of the hill was known as "Hornseywood." A U-shaped house, it had private quarters in the front, and a kitchen and servants' quarters at the back, the latter being separated by a courtyard. The school oval is on the site where assigned convicts ploughed the land to grow wheat. The wheat farms failed, but the convicts left descendants who are leading citizens in our community today.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, a Dr. Barber bought the house, and came there with his wife to live. Soon after-

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(Block donated by Anthony Neale Pty. Ltd. Artist: Lee Foster, 3B)

wards, the couple went for a holiday to Ireland, and the doctor brought back blueprints of an Irish castle, "The Towers," which he planned to re-model "Hornseywood" after.

After raising the ceiling of the house, Dr. Barber had a facade built at the front, with false windows to give the appearance of a two-storeyed house. Towers were commenced at the corners, and the house renamed "The Towers." In the meantime the doctor underwent an unsuccessful operation in Sydney, and died before the towers were completed. Work was abandoned, and the house left in the incomplete state it retained till its end. It was Dr. Barber who was responsible for the varied trees that are a credit to our grounds today.

Several years later, Sarah Barber sold the western portion of the property for the con-

struction of the Penrith Central School, later known as Penrith Intermediate High School. When she died, the widow left the rest of the estate to Reverend Hatfield Hall, an Anglican rector of Penrith, who had taken up another appointment before her death.

An auction and a transfer resulted in the property being owned by the Educational Department in 1924, thus allowing teachers at the adjacent school to board there. The end of the 1940's saw the demolition of the historical old "Towers," and the erection of the modern High School we now attend.

Thanks should be attributed to those who preserved its history by introducing the name "The Towers" to the magazine and awards of Penrith High School.

—Colin W. Johnston, 4A.

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