



## HEADMASTER'S REPORT

At Penrith High School in 1976 there have been several interesting changes. We have been allowed to have a full-time Careers' Adviser. Only two other State high schools have been given this opportunity. This teacher exposes students to a wider spectrum of vocations than has been possible in the past. We have concentrated on a "catching up" programme in English and hope to expand this service next year. For the first time we have completed the module Year 7 and Year 8. This means that the Wyndham concept of Form 1 as a consolidation year has been modified. Courses commenced in Year 7 are now continued into Year 8 with most students doing the same strands. The School Certificate has been awarded this year on school assessments with grade distributions based on the controversial moderator. In 1977 the Higher School Certificate may be based on school assessments and external examinations with equal weighting. Academically, there have been many changes in one short year in Penrith High and other schools in the State.

There have been structural changes going on, in 1976 and more are foreshadowed for 1977. The new building will be occupied by the time the 1976 Towers is published. It is a beautiful architectural specimen. The rooms are all for use in specialist and craft departments. In bringing this building into service the usage of the rest of the campus will be changed. There will be some re-arrangement of teaching spaces. We will not acquire many additional ordinary classrooms and some of what we have will be lost to us. None of us, however, will regret to see "Siberia", at the bottom of the Primary School, ceded to other purposes.

Other structural changes which we hope to see soon, include a Public Works Department uplift for the old portable buildings and some re-paving between the hall and the new science building. Access paths to the new block will also be created.

Some of these changes will cause extra expenditure from our own revenue. Padlocks, curtains, pictures, trees and a public address system are among items on which our money must be spent. At a time when public funds are not available to the same degree as in other years, there is a clear indication that we must help ourselves by increasing internal funds.

We wish our school leavers from Year 12 and Year 10 the best of success in finding scholarships, tertiary places and other entry to the work force.

There are strong indications that their opportunities are not as great as has been usual for many years past. This situation provides a great challenge to teachers, parents and government.

During 1976, the cost of bus transport rose - not as much as had been expected - but more than did our school fees. This and other increased charges, together with a large decrease in government grants, has caused the staff to consider ways of raising money without increasing school fees. At the time of writing, it cannot be promised that school fees will not be increased.

We are aware of the financial burden of school excursions but would remind



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parents that they are beneficial to the students. The time spent at Jindabyne in field study, or a visit to an actors' workshop in "Hamlet" at Bathurst contribute more than they cost in developing students' knowledge. We will try to keep excursions on a rational basis in 1977.

During 1976 we were presented with the Ken Ausburn Shield for the best and fairest Rugby player. Ken went to school here. He died during the year and to commemorate him his work-mates raised money to buy the trophy. We have had other generous donations including those made to the Headmaster's Appeal. Further financial help will of course be sought in 1977 from public and private sources.