



PENRITH HIGH SCHOOL 1978

PRINCIPALS REPORT

The big news for 1978 is the re-commencement of construction and maintenance. We have already had new paths, drains and minor landscaping completed. Mr. Ian Scott, the Regional Director, made an inspection of the school grounds on 5th October. He was accompanied by officers of the P. and C. and departmental experts. A long range plan of gradual landscaping is promised and will be introduced as funds become available.

Stage 2 plans were evaluated at a meeting in September in Penrith Sub-Regional Office. This was attended by Inspectors, Architects, teachers and P. and C. officers. Certain changes were suggested and are being considered as working drawings are developed.

The important announcement was made by Mr. Bedford the Minister of Education, that funding will be provided for Stage 2 in this financial year and that sketch plans for Stage 3 are to be drawn up.

These buildings are to come to Penrith High School through the hard work of parents and teachers who drew our deficiencies to the attention of our political representatives. We were, of course, helped greatly by the hard work of Mr. Ron Mulock, Minister for Mineral Resources and Development and member for Penrith in the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly.

At the beginning of the year, Mr. Bruce Brown came as Deputy Principal. Unfortunately he felt he had to retire early in Term 2. He was not replaced and Mr. Brian Toohey took over as Acting Deputy Principal. Mr. David Bass became Acting Science Master.

At the time of writing Mr. Bass has been appointed Science Master at Katoomba High School in 1979. Mrs. Caren Jennings has been informed that she has been transferred to Kuring-Gai High School from 1979.

A successful Red Shield Appeal was made with student collectors directed by Mr. Paul Nagle. Over \$600 was handed over to the Salvation Army. We are hoping to raise money for Stewart House and the Royal N.S.W. Institute for Deaf and Blind Children in the rest of the year.

Early in May, books, owned by the late Miss Garnsey, former Home Science Mistress, were donated by her brother to the school library.

Mr. Arch Turnbull reached his retiring age of 19th October. He has been a great asset to the school in his position of

General Assistant. Arch has produced fine printing on our very ancient offset machine.

This year Penrith Sub-Regional Office of Education was opened. We are beginning to notice the benefits of having most regional facilities just a few blocks from the school.

The enrolment at Penrith High School has remained virtually unchanged for several years and shows no sign of decline. This is in spite of decreases in several nearby high schools and the establishment of new schools at Cambridge Park and Blaxland. Our steady enrolment is likely to be due to the population growth at South Penrith and Regentville. The re-building of our school is coming at a time when the need for accommodation is being maintained. The whole school is faced with challenge to maintain normal services when Stage 2 begins in 1979. Demolition of Mathematics and History Labs. and the Canteen means the re-location of facilities. This is a challenge to students and staff which I am sure will be met with the tolerance and initiative already displayed. We are restraining spending on new equipment anticipating demands for hardware in the new buildings.

J. Mullane.

