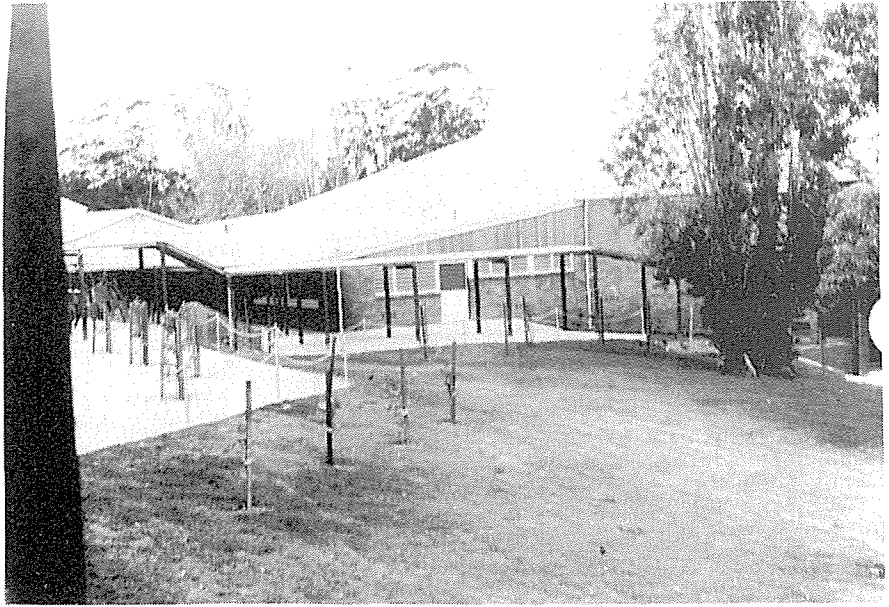
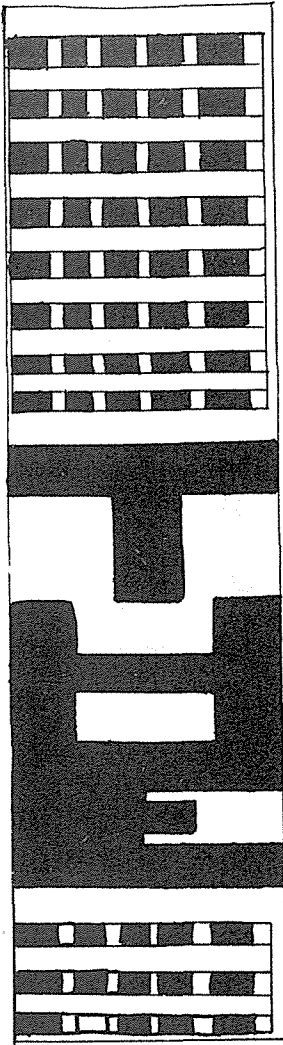


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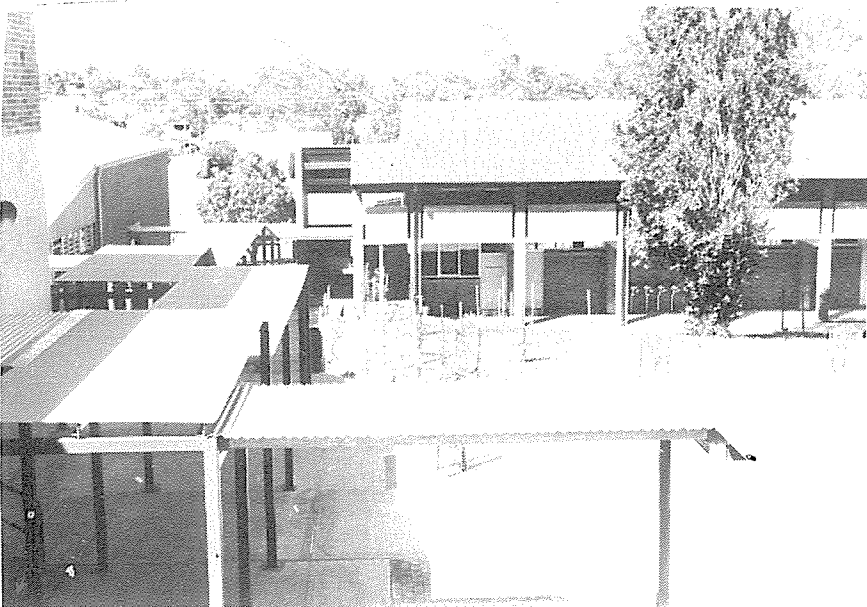
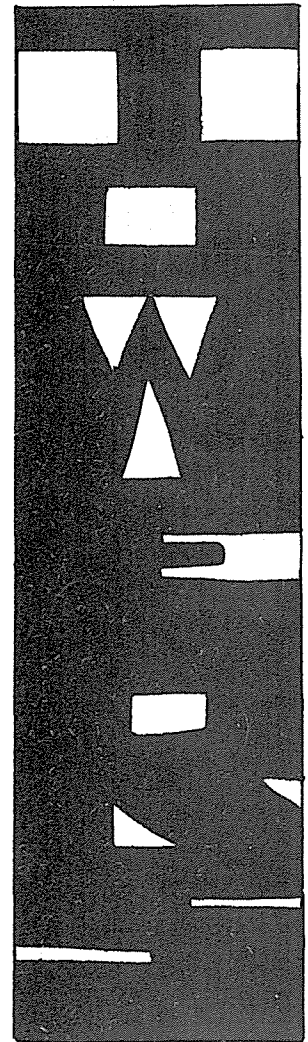
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### THE EDITORIAL

There has been much concern expressed in the popular media about educational standards to-day. However, the contributions to this magazine show that there are many students who are not only literate, but also very thoughtful. They show concern about their own problems of growing up as well as the problems of the world at large. We are pleased with the large response of students and are sorry to have to limit the number of articles we can print. We hope that you, the reader, are equally impressed with the work in this year's "Towers".

The business community of Penrith have once again generously helped in financing the magazine. We thank them, our typist, Mrs. F. Chamberlin, our photographer, Mr. P. McKnight and all the students and teachers who have helped with the organisation.



## THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 1980

In this year there has been a falling off of numbers of students in Years 11 and 12. It is part of a general tendency in this part of the state. The causes are complex. Whilst all school leavers from these two years have jobs to go to, the suitability of the students' selections is often very doubtful. The greatest number entering any single occupation is in banking. Some senior leavers have gone to apprenticeships. There is a fear that the H.S.C. or tertiary qualifications may not lead to employment and when employment is offered there is a strong temptation to accept it whether suitable or not. This tendency has emerged in Year 10 with some leaving before earning a School Certificate. The best advice I can give parents is that they consult with me and/or the full time career's adviser.

We have taken up the offer to have Year 10 students doing a link course at Penrith Technical College. This allows some to do three hours a week fitting and welding and others to do the same amount of time in training for office work. It is inevitable that transition to work programmes will increase in most local high schools.

For several candidates the Higher School Certificate results are still not as good as they could be. One general underlying cause is part-time work done to excess. Some students are allowed by parents to do forty hours or more per week. These students are too tired to do school work and, in some cases, even to come to school.

The completion of the new buildings in October 1980 gives us the chance to expand learning activities which have been restricted. Aesthetically, the classroom block and gymnasium are of top quality and they are surrounded by new landscaping.

In sport, there have been many great achievements which are described elsewhere. I must mention the continued success in distance running and the Buckley Shield Rugby League side which won more games than any other school team has done in state-wide competitions in the last five years.

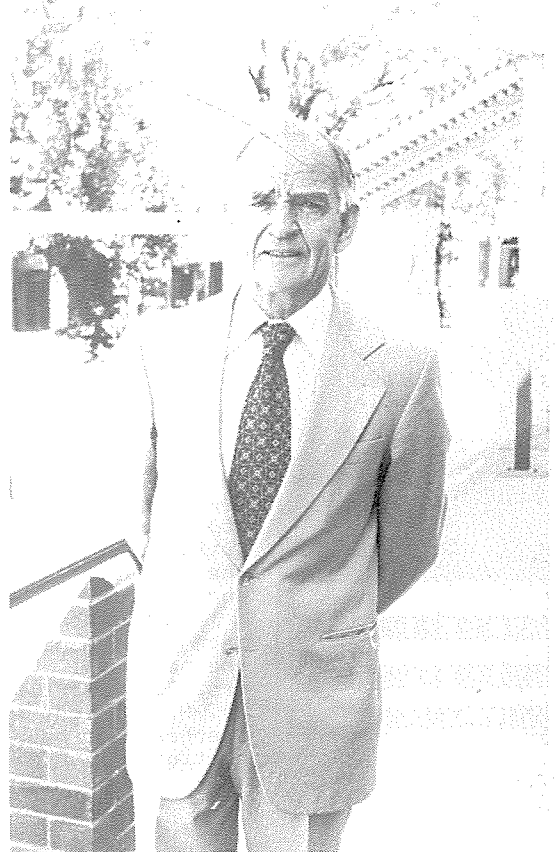
The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Parents' and Citizens' Association continues to operate the school canteen. Through their voluntary work a great financial contribution is made to the school. The Parents' and Citizens' have appealed for donations to a fund to help refurbish the new buildings with educational artifacts not supplied from the centre.

The full time chaplain and his wife, Bill and Faye Hodgson have brought a part of the community into the school. A Christian presence has been established alongside other social elements which have abiding influences upon young people.

The school enrolment will rise in 1981. There is a constant transfer of population into our area both north and south of the school.

During the year students of the school took part in charitable appeals. We have had remarkable success with small groups selling badges or pens to people in the town centre. Year 10, for example, took over \$500 from badge sales for the Multiple Sclerosis Appeal.

The Principal for 1981 will be Mr. Jim Gormley who is transferring from Riverstone High School. He lives at Glenbrook. Mrs. Gormley is Infants' Mistress at Penrith South Primary School.



I will retire from the end of 1980 and technically am principal until the new school year begins. This is the end of my fortieth year of teaching. I have spent about half of that time at this school. I enjoy teaching and working with young people. I am confident in the future of education and the part that Penrith High School will play in shaping it.

*J. Mullan*