

50TH ANNIVERSARY 2000

The Towers 2000
Penrith High School

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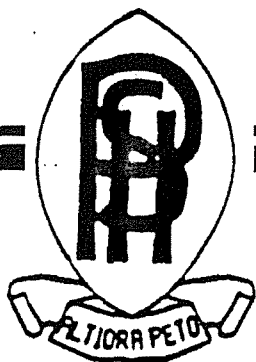
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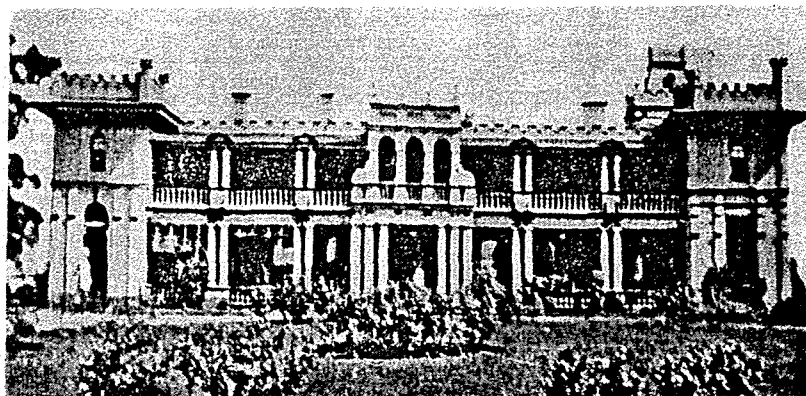
4731-4200 HENRY ST
 02 4721-2020
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Spares
 OPEN 7 DAYS
 STOP
 SHOP 2, 26 HENRY ST.,
 PENRITH NSW 2750
 CHRIS MULLOY

Cover design by
Mike Pretlove
 Year 12



The Towers

History Supplement



What follows here is a taste of the history of Penrith High School. Students have combed through interviews with past students and old copies of *The Towers* searching for snippets which would retell the story of the school and its community.

The Towers Our Link With The Past



A picture of The Towers from the side view.

The First Owners

For almost 40 000 years, the Penrith area has been inhabited by the tribe of Aborigines known as the Dharug. In 1817, Governor Macquarie granted a 470 acre parcel of land to John Best, a freed convict who had been sent to Australia on a seven year sentence. John Tindale, also a freed convict, in 1824 purchased the land from John Best. He named the land *Hornseywood* and built a house on it.

on to his widow, Sarah Barber. Mrs Barber sold two blocks of land at the western end of the estate to the Department of Education in 1911. When Sarah passed away, the estate was passed on to Reverend Hatfield Hall, the Anglican Rector of Penrith. He auctioned it in 1924 and *The Towers* was bought by a Sydney firm.

From Person to Person

Hornseywood was sold by the Tindale family in 1886 to Dr Alexander Barber. In the early 1900's, Dr Barber renamed the property after a castle in Ireland, called the *Tullaghmurry*. He remodelled the house, building a new facade with towers featured at either end of the building. These alterations caused the local townspeople to refer to *Tullaghmurry* as *The Towers*, a popular name that stuck to it! In 1906, Dr Barber died, having never actually lived in his castle. The property was passed



An interior picture of The Towers.

Faye Lo Po'

Member for Penrith



**CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR
50TH ANNIVERSARY**

Shop 11, Spotlight Building,
Station Street, Penrith

Phone : 47218432

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First Links to Education

In 1926, negotiations between this firm and the Department of Education began for the sale of the rest of the property, but these negotiations later broke down. Penrith Intermediate High School rented land from the Barber family to use as a playground and in 1935, the Towers was sold to Mr Allen. Three years later, he agreed to sell *The Towers* and the ten acres of land surrounding it to the Department of Education.

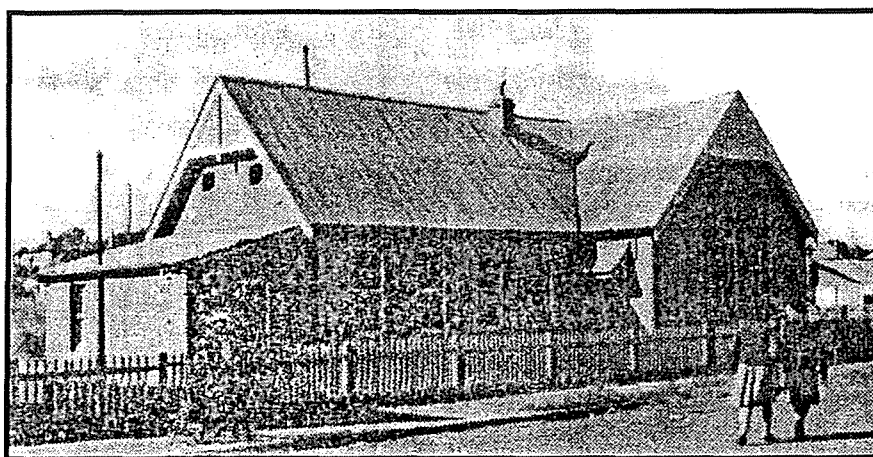
Falling Apart

The estate remained unused for years and the house became dilapidated. The Department of Education had planned to use *The Towers* to house extra classrooms but it was deemed unsafe, and because of its neglect, the building gradually fell completely into disrepair. In the 1940's, it was demolished to make way for the construction of the Penrith High School main building.

How it all began

Early Education

The first known school to serve the Penrith District was conducted by Reverend Fulton at Castlereagh in 1812. In Penrith itself, the first recorded school was established in Riley Street by the Church of England in the late 1830's. In 1850, the school moved to Henry Street and by 1862, a Catholic school had also opened in Penrith. By the 1860's, another school, not affiliated with any religion, had been established in Henry Street, on the site of the present District Office. This school was run from a disused building on the site owned by John Perry.



The Henry Street School

Growing, Growing, Gone.

By 1911, the Henry Street school was overcrowded and in 1914, its status was upgraded to a Superior Public School. A parcel of land on the corner of High and Doonmore Streets had been purchased in 1911 but not built on until 1917. The building contained ten classrooms and in 1925, Penrith Superior School was upgraded to an Intermediate High School. It could now accept students up to the age of fifteen. To cope with the increase in students that year, the old Henry Street School was reconditioned to be used again. Four classrooms were added to the new building in 1925-6. In 1938, the Education Department purchased *The Towers*, an old stately home which bordered the Intermediate High School and had ten acres of land surrounding it. It was thought that perhaps *The Towers* could be used to house more classrooms but it proved to be inadequate, due to its dilapidation. Its demolition was recommended and regretfully carried out towards the end of the decade. Prior to World War Two, only a handful of high schools existed in Sydney, even though there were many intermediate high schools. Following the war, plans were made to elevate Penrith Intermediate High School. Construction began on the buildings and was completed in 1949. The school was moved to its present site and upgraded to a full High School in 1950, the 62nd high school in NSW and the only high school between Parramatta and Katoomba.

Headmasters of the Past

- 1925 When the school became an Intermediate High School, **Mr L.G. Kendall** was Headmaster.
- 1928 **Mr F.R. Baker** assumed control in 1928 and remained until the end of 1943.
- 1944 **Mr E. C. Edwards** became Headmaster. At the beginning of 1950, the school was divided. **Mr D. Leithhead** became Headmaster of the Public School, and **Mr H. E. McGregor** took charge of the newly established High School.

Citizens' Petition

In 1865, the citizens of Penrith petitioned for the Henry Street school to be taken over by the Board of Education. The Board agreed, and in 1865, the first Public School to service the Penrith region was established. In 1868, its total enrolment was only 61 students, taught by four teachers. The school had a headmaster, and the classes were held in a dilapidated old building with weatherboard and hessian walls. By 1872, the total enrolment had increased to 165 and a new, brick building was erected to compensate for this influx. A teacher's residence was built in 1873. The school was again feeling the strain of increasing enrolments by 1878. Consequently, a new classroom

You will no doubt be pleased to learn that approval has been given to the raising of the Penrith Intermediate High School to full High School status, to take effect from the 1st January, 1950.

*R. J. HEFFRON,
Minister for Education*

Porcelain Dolls Made to Order
From

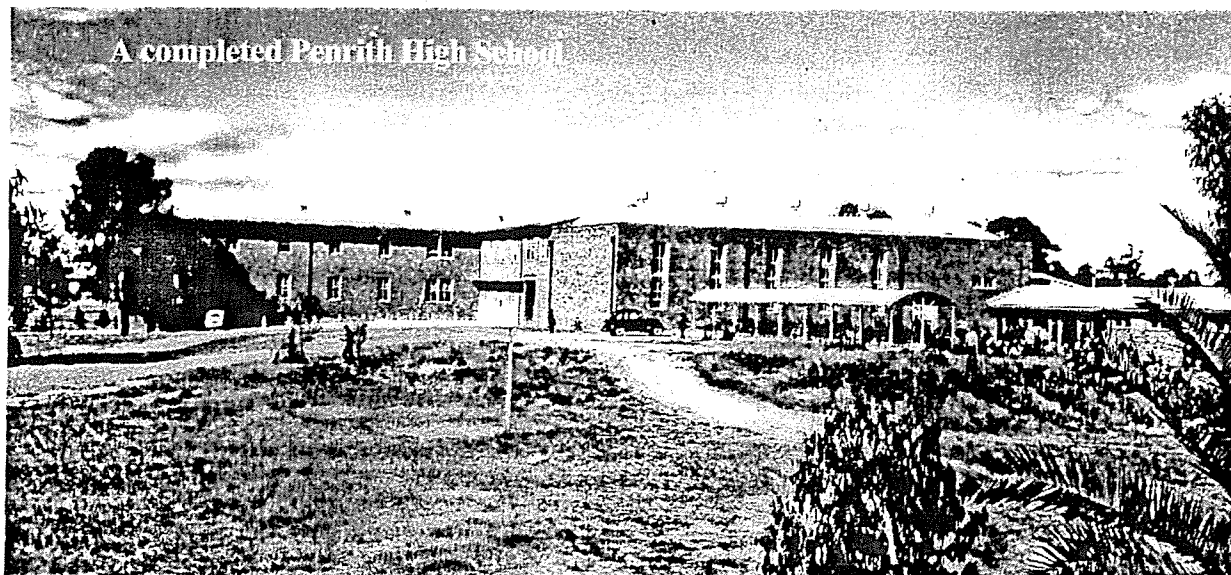
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KINGSWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

*The staff, students and parents of
Kingswood Public School
congratulate Penrith High School in
their 50th Anniversary year*

Mr. C.D. York, Principal.



Students took possession of the new school in 1950. The new premises enabled the school to function as a complete unit, instead of being scattered throughout old buildings and in other parts of town. The official opening ceremony did not take place until Friday 20th April 1951 and was attended by the Minister of Education, the President of the P and C, local dignitaries, ex-pupils and students and staff of the school. The first headmaster was Mr Hector E. McGregor and he was assisted by Mr T. Tasker as deputy. When he retired at the end of 1956, many tributes were paid to Mr McGregor, for his dedication and sterling work in the very successful founding of PHS.

On first viewing the new Penrith High School building, students were pleasantly surprised. The change provided everyone with a fresh start and marked the beginning of what was to become a brilliant place....

"..... 'Whackol!' and 'You beaut!' These were some of the ejaculations as we opened the door. Truly this outburst was justified. The walls of our room were painted partly in pastel blue, partly in pastel green.....During recess we roamed the grounds, viewing the building from every possible angle. Truly, from this first morning we liked our new school. "

A Program of Penrith High School's Official Opening

Penrith High School.

✱

The Headmaster

and

The President

of the

Parents and Citizens' Association.

invite you to attend

The Official Opening of the
New School

by

The Hon. R. J. Heffron, M.L.A.

Minister for Education

on

Friday, 20th April, 1951

at 11 a.m.

R. F. Smith, President

H. E. McGregor, Headmaster

Programme.

OPENING ADDRESS

The Chairman (Mr. F. J. Allen)

ADDRESS

The Director-General of Education (Mr. J. G. McKenzie) or his Representative

THE SCHOOL CHOIR

INTRODUCTION OF THE MINISTER FOR
EDUCATION

The President of the Parents and Citizens'
Association (Mr. R. F. Smith)

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL
AND UNVEILING OF A COMMEMORATIVE
PLAQUE

The Hon. R. J. Heffron, M.L.A., Minister
for Education

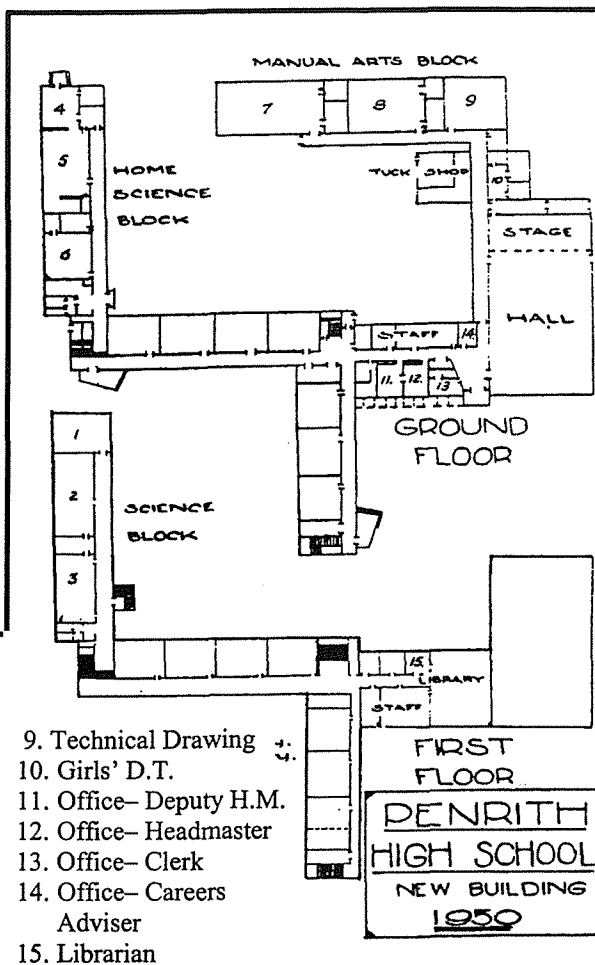
THE SCHOOL CHOIR

VOTE OF THANKS

The Headmaster, Mr. H. E. McGregor.

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

Right This is the 1950 plan of the school, but a lot of work was still needed to it finish off. Sports fields needed to be constructed and resources acquired. Penrith High School's lack of equipment was evident in the smallness of the library collection (only 1500 books in total—300 of which were non-fiction or reference). The local townspeople and business people supported the school with many donations of money and equipment to supplement resources.



KEY

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Demonstration Room | 9. Technical Drawing |
| 2. Chemistry Laboratory | 10. Girls' D.T. |
| 3. Physics Laboratory | 11. Office- Deputy H.M. |
| 4. Laundry | 12. Office- Headmaster |
| 5. Kitchen | 13. Office- Clerk |
| 6. Needlework | 14. Office- Careers Adviser |
| 7. Metalwork | 15. Librarian |
| 8. Woodwork | |

A.S. Lamrock Shield

The A. S. Lamrock Shield was presented to the school by Brian Lamrock, in memory of his father in 1950. It was intended for annual competition by the four Houses into which the school was divided. Scholarship, Sport and Service, which between them cover practically the whole field of pupil activity, were the basis of the competition.

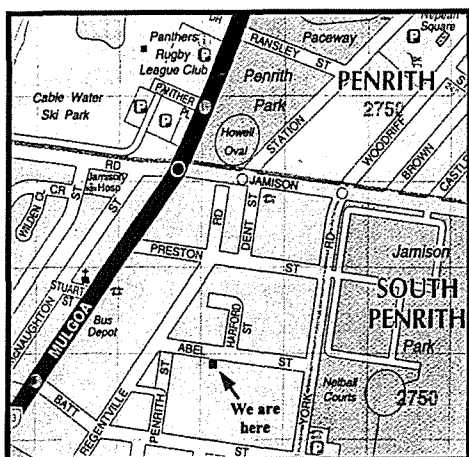
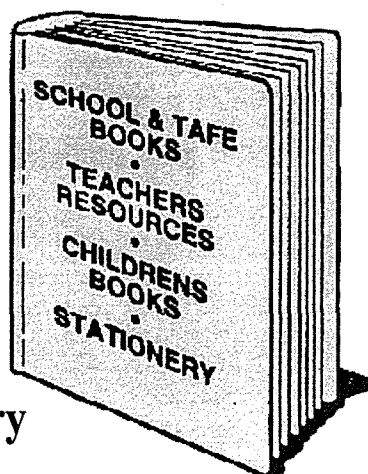
The Fletcher Prizes

The Fletcher Prizes were two annual awards of five guineas to encourage students to remain at school after passing the Intermediate Certificate Examination. One half of the amount was paid in the Fourth Year and the other half in the Fifth Year.

the new school

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on your 50th Anniversary**

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The Towers: remembering the past