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PERTH: JUNE, 1926.

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for 1926-27**

President:
Councillor T. E. Ford, J.P.

Vice-Presidents:
Messrs. A. W. Richardson and
A. S. Green.

Hon. Secretary:
Miss E. Hooton.

Treasurer:
Mrs. H. F. McSorley.

Committee:
Mesdames McLaren, Manners,
Woodman, and Messrs. W. N.
Smith and Wm. Jowett.

Auditor:
Mr. J. B. Bathgate.

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Parents' and Citizens' Broadcaster

Official Organ of The W.A. Federation of Parents' and Citizens' Organisation.

VOL. I.—No. 1

PERTH: JUNE, 1926

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Good Morning to You!

THE obvious need of the present generation, and the mute yet clarion call of the unborn, for a new environment by which to give adequate expression to the new spirit abroad in society; together with the desire for expert and stimulating information, felt by those who desire to help in that all-important work, has brought forth this little paper as the official organ of the Western Australian Federation of Parents' and Citizens' Associations. May it gloriously fulfil its mission.

W.A. Parents' and Citizens' Associations

EXECUTIVE REPORTS.

Meeting Held at James Street State School, April 22, 1926.

A large budget of routine correspondence was read, when it was decided to write and ask the Minister

to receive the executive and discuss with it the decisions of conference.

Resolved: To take out an insurance policy covering all workers employed by our affiliated organisations.

The matter of arranging for a periodical for the Federation was left in the hands of Vice-President, Mr. A. W. Richardson, and Secretary, Miss Hooton.

Owing to the fact that no member of the new executive lives at Fre-

mantle, it was decided to co-opt Mr. T. E. Williamson to act as our representative there.

It was also resolved to co-opt Mrs. Farrelly to lecture on "Wheat as a Basis of Diet," and Mrs. A. E. Joyner to specialise on the subject: "Playgrounds and the Kindergarten Movement," and "Citizenship."

Accounts totalling £11 were passed for payment, and it was resolved to hold the executive meeting on the third Thursday of each month.

Meeting Held May 20, 1926.

A discussion took place on a letter received from Como branch, asking the executive to call a meeting of branches to discuss the subject of placing Australian boys on the land. It was decided to call a meeting for June 17, at 8 o'clock at James-street School, Perth, to which each branch is invited to send two delegates. The executive meeting to take place earlier the same evening.

The Secretary reported re. the official organ, which was proceeding very satisfactorily. She expected to bring out the first issue of the paper on or about June 7.

The matter of holding a Summer School some time during next season, on two separate public holidays, was discussed, and the principle was affirmed, while the details were left over till next meeting.

CONFERENCE

of the

W.A. Federation of Parents' and Citizens' Associations

Held in Government House Ballroom, on April 6 and 7, 1926

President, Councillor T. E. Ford, J.P., in the chair; 45 delegates were present. Addresses were delivered by the Director of Education (who declared the Conference open); Mr. W. E. Thomas, M.A., secretary of the Teachers' Union; Mrs. Rischbieth (representing the Women's Service Guild); and Mr. W. D. Johnson, M.L.A.

The Agenda Committee and Recording Secretary were then appointed, sitting hours and rules of debate agreed on.

It was resolved that in future the financial year should end in February

Item No. 2 on the Agenda, i.e. That it is desirable that officers of the Association should form the School Board, and that the Chairman and Secretary of the Association should be Chairman and Secretary of the Board. The only exception should be where a teacher is an officer of the Association, in such case another member should be elected to the board; that the Department be asked to arrange for the necessary amendments to the Act.

This resolution was amended by deleting the words: "That the Department be asked to arrange for the necessary amendments to the Act," and it was decided to strongly recommend all branches whenever practicable, to appoint the Executive Officers of the Association to the School Board, as such a course ensures a much smoother and simpler working between the Association and the Education Department.

Executive Recommendation:—That every branch should frame rules governing disbursement by the treasurer of the funds of the Association; that an auditor be appointed by each Association; that a properly audited balance sheet be submitted at the annual meeting, and that a copy be sent to the Department; was carried unanimously. On receipt of some rather disquieting information, the Executive placed this item on the Agenda. Treasurers are therefore earnestly persuaded in their own interests to give effect to it.

The disadvantages of detached schools, with special reference to Doodlakine branch, which has been

complaining for four years). That the school leaving age be fifteen years, that children be admitted to State Schools at the age of five years, that no teacher should teach more than thirty children at once, all received endorsement in principle and were referred to the Executive to be placed before the Minister, as also was the proposition that the Scholarship Boarding Grant should be raised from £30 to £52 per annum.

A resolution asking that the Department revise the regulations governing the appointment of monitors and probationers, so that these could be appointed in schools with twenty-five pupils, was carried.

It was resolved to ask that the Department safeguard the water supply from interference by motorists in the summer time, in the country districts. The secretary was instructed to write to the Royal Automobile Association pointing out that young children often had to carry water-bags to school because of the wilful waste of their school supply by tourists.

A long discussion on the cost of school books ensued, and the executive was instructed to ask the Minister to arrange for more uniformity in this matter.

The Executive was also instructed to form a sub-committee of three for the purpose of co-operating with branches who desired to exchange town and country children during school holidays.

Mr. Chandler addressed the Conference on his scheme for placing Australian boys on the land, and conference agreed that some such scheme was absolutely necessary. The question of insuring workers engaged by its affiliated branches was referred to the executive.

Conference discussed the subject of the after-care of adolescents, boys and girls, and regretted that so little was being done. Delegates were urged to ask their branches to agitate and keep on agitating until ground was set aside in all their districts for schools and other educational requirements. The need of a school milk supply, fuller medical (including dental) service was also stressed.

It was decided that district committees should be formed by affiliated branches wherever desired, to work with the central executive. An honorarium of £10 was voted to the secretary.

Enjoyable receptions were tendered to the delegates by the City Council and the Women's Service Guild, and to both bodies the Federation tendered its grateful thanks.

With the usual felicitations, the conference ended at 6 o'clock on the second day. The following executive was elected for the year 1926-27.—

President: Councillor Ford, J.P., (re-elected).

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. W. Richardson and A. S. Green.

Secretary: Miss E. Hooton (re-elected).

Treasurer: Mrs. H. F. McSorley.

Committee: Mesdames McLaren, Woodman, and Manners, and Messrs. W. Jowett and W. N. Smith.

Auditor: Mr. J. P. Bathgate.

T. E. FORD, Pres.

E. HOOTON, Hon. Sec.

27/5/26.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

The executive is considering a proposition to hold two Summer Schools of one day's duration each, for the purpose of meeting groups of its branches and discussing in an open conference the objects and progress of the Association.

It is suggested that one of these meetings should be held at the Zoo and the other at Point Walter, during the early part of next summer.

The idea is to have a big picnic, each family taking its basket of provisions (hot water being provided on the grounds) all to co-operate in entertaining the children. The central executive is to arrange for expert speakers to address members during the afternoon, after which discussion of the subjects treated would be open to all.

The Zoo site is intended as a rendezvous for the branches near by, namely: Como, South Perth, Victoria Park, Carlisle, Maddington, Guildford, Bessendean, Eden Hill, Subiaco, Mt. Hawthorn, Nedlands, etc. While the Fremantle and Cottesloe branches of our Association will be asked to meet the executive at Point Walter, later on, for the same purpose.

The branches concerned are asked to consider this matter, and to form a joint committee if desirous of participating to confer and co-operate with the central executive.

NEWS FOR THE BRANCHES

South Perth Branch held its second annual meeting on April 13, when an engaging story of two years' work and enthusiasm was told to a large and appreciative audience—over three hundred pounds having been raised and spent on behalf of the younger generation. With Mr. A. J. Monger as president, Professor Shann and Mr. Clydesdale, M.L.A., as vice-presidents, and the re-election of the indefatigable secretary, Mr. E. K. Outtrim, South Perth will surely set the pace hotly during the current year.

* * *

Mornington Mills, a newly affiliated branch, has a wonderful record for a half-year-old child. Report shows that in six months this Association collected £35, and spent £30 on books and magazines for the library, plasticine for the babies, sports material for boys and girls, soldering outfits for boys, song books, a children's concert on April 24; and a dance on May 8 was also held with great success. Truly a vigorous infant!

* * *

White Gum Valley was en fete on Saturday afternoon, April 17, when Mr. J. Hickey, M.L.C., representing the Minister for Education, declared the new school open. Some twenty-five years ago the Education Department proposed to build a stone building on the same spot, but the then School Board advised that a two-roomed wooden building would meet the needs of the district; subsequently a galvanised structure was erected in a deep gully, where the kiddies have always been too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer. Now, thanks to the agitation of a lively Parents' Association and an able and sympathetic member for the district, a splendidly modern school stands on a hill. There was a large attendance at the opening, many branches of our Association being represented. A dainty afternoon tea was served to all visitors and children by the lady members of the local branch.

* * *

On April 21 the Guildford Branch held its annual meeting, when the school choir supplied the music, and Mr. Jenkins, one of the teachers, charmed all with his beautiful voice. Regret was expressed that Mr. Liddington, the head teacher, who has been eight years at the school, and is loved by all, would soon be retiring. Miss E. Hooton, secretary of the Federation, and Mrs. McSorley, treasurer, represented the Central Executive, the former delivered an ad-

dress on the recent Conference, and urged those present to insist on having ample grounds set aside in Guildford now for schools and playgrounds.

* * *

Subiaco Association has been thinking about the adolescent problem to some purpose. A society of young folks has been formed, and many social events successfully held. Now attention is being given to more serious subjects, and a class in bookkeeping is being regularly held—of this more anon.

* * *

Carlisle has also been busy of late trying to "raise the wind" with which to buy a piano. A social and dance held on April 9 realised nearly £3. During the same month the girls of the fifth and sixth standard entertained the mothers at afternoon tea, and by a little sale of work and a concert, raised £2/7/3 for the piano fund. Bravo, girls!

* * *

Mrs. Mary Farrelly, who has visited many branches and delivered an address on wheat cookery, is again anxious to take up this work. Write to her, c/o corner of Havelock and Hay-street, if you want a really entertaining syllabus item.

* * *

A progressive branch of the Association carries on at Mt. Hawthorn School, where the head teacher is in entire sympathy with the movement. In Mr. James and Mrs. Allen the society have a popular and enthusiastic president and secretary. Recently the Mt. Hawthorn Progress Association offered prizes for the best essay on the progress of Mt. Hawthorn, and there was a large number of entrants.

* * *

Mr. Hope Robertson, in the absence of the Director of Education, recently journeyed to North Drakesbrook to open the new school. No drawing room could have presented a more inviting appearance than the interior of the school (one of the latest models), which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion by the Parents' and Citizens' Association. Pictures adorned the walls, the windows were daintily curtained, while ferns, flowers, gaily colored streamers, and a number of easy chairs completed the home picture. In declaring the school open, Mr. Hope Robertson, who was accompanied by Mr. McClintock, congratulated those present on the healthy appearance of the children, whom he declared were a credit to their parents and the district in which

they lived. A representative of the Agricultural Society congratulated the children on their exhibits at the recent show, and invited them to exhibit again next year.

* * *

At the request of Como branch, the Federation at its last meeting decided to convene a meeting of affiliated branches in the metropolitan and surrounding districts, for the purpose of discussing the best means of settling Australian boys on the farm lands of this State.

The meeting has been convened at the James Street School, Perth, for June 17, at 8 p.m., twenty-three branches having been circularised. It is hoped that these branches will respond enthusiastically and in large numbers, to the request of one of their number, to discuss a subject which so closely concerns all.

* * *

Mrs. A. E. Joyner, of 13 Rheola-street, West Perth, will be pleased to give an address to any accessible branch of our Association on the subjects: "Citizenship," and "Playgrounds and the Kindergarten Movement." Write to her if you want an inspiring syllabus item.

* * *

At a conference of the Women's Service Guild held recently, a resolution was carried expressing the urgent necessity of at once "getting together" on the part of interested citizens, and taking in hand the business of arousing the whole State on the subject of having ground set aside in all districts for future educational requirements. It was also decided to arrange a deputation to the Minister for Education, to urge on him the necessity of making the cinematograph a part of every school equipment.

* * *

A charming little "Hard Times" ball for children, was held by the Maddington branch on May 29 in aid of the piano fund; and had the effect of producing a large crop of grotesque, novel and artistic costumes at a minimum of expense; cheapness of material used being one of the points upon which prizes were awarded. There was a large attendance, the hall being much too small for the occasion. Mr. A. W. Richardson (president), Mrs. Hatch (secretary), and a large body of splendid helpers made things merry and sumptuous for the youngsters. Mrs. McSorley, and Miss Hooton, treasurer and secretary of the Federation, respectively, acted as judges, and were presented by two tots with lovely bouquets of rosebuds. Mrs. McSorley very kindly contributed 10/- to the piano fund.

Health Work in Our Schools

A TALK TO PARENTS AND CITIZENS

(By Chief Medical Officer Dr. John Dale)

The Public Health Department which, in collaboration with the Department of Education, is responsible for the health of school children, has recently been able to make some additions to its school medical staff and hopes, therefore, from now onwards in increasing measure, to exert a widespread and beneficent influence upon the health of the children in the schools.

The Department welcomes, therefore, the advent of this journal, and hopes, through its pages, to keep the parents and citizens throughout the State in touch with the work—with its results, its progress, and its needs.

The parents and citizens can do much to help in the work, and it is, in fact, safe to say that with their co-operation and interest, much better results will be achieved than would be possible otherwise.

As the Medical Officer of Health pointed out, in addressing the recent Conference at Easter, the health work in the schools is carried out in part, by medical officers and nurses, and in part, also, by the teachers.

What the medical officers aim to do is to visit each school annually, and examine the entrants and the children in their twelfth year, together with any special cases among children of other ages, which they themselves detect, or which are brought to their notice by the teachers. The doctors, therefore, hope to give each child a careful overhaul at least twice in its school career, and more frequently if there is present any important hindrance to its proper growth and development.

This is all that the medical officers

will personally be able to achieve. It is very important and the results of their work can be discussed in later numbers.

More important than this work of the medical officers, however, is the health work of the teachers.

It is becoming ever clearer that the building up of health and the prevention of disease depends upon personal habits and upon knowledge of the laws of health. These habits must be acquired, and this knowledge gained, chiefly during school life, and mainly through the efforts of the school teachers. Teachers generally, in the past have realised this and have done their best under the circumstances.

The Health Department now feels itself pledged to do its utmost to assist and encourage the teachers in this very important part of their work, and looks forward to an enthusiastic co-operation with them.

If the best results are to be obtained, however, results that the whole community most earnestly desires, namely, a healthier and happier childhood, and a sturdier race in the future—there must be co-operation between the Health Department, the teachers, and the parents and citizens. These three must press forward together towards a common goal. Mistakes will, no doubt, be made and difficulties encountered, but if all parties concerned will think above all things of the end in view, and determine that no personal grievances or feelings shall be allowed to obscure that, then we may be confident we shall soon begin to reap good results from our combined effort.

trees;" and the caretakers will tell you that the ducks, if there is a pond, must not be frightened by children. All these notices are meant for little children. Men and women may develop the higher qualities, but children may not put up goal posts or play organised games, unless a teacher is with them, and obviously, the little ones cannot begin to play until teachers have finished for the day. Is it any wonder that football is played on our streets, and that Madame Suburbia's windows become the goal posts.

We have councillors standing for election periodically. Why not tie them down to a proposition that all reserves shall contain sections set apart and properly equipped for young children? Think about it.

We put it to you straight, that films should be part of every school's equipment. That the Government should make a beginning in this direction by earmarking a small amount so that a specialist may be appointed to gradually produce local nature, and other studies under a joint direction by the University and the Education Department. We feel sure that if the Government will thus set out to build up a film supply, our Associations will come to light with the projectors, as soon as that course is justified.

One of the certainties of the future is that the children now growing up will require cheap timbers for all sorts of purposes, including house-building, furnishing and shops, factories and numerous other institutions. These can be assured if we now begin experimenting with a view to discovering which utility timbers our lands will readily grow, and having made that discovery, proceed to copiously plant them wherever possible throughout the State. It will pay you to follow carefully the articles which will be contributed each month by the Forestry Department to this journal.

There is always a healthy, manly, and humane ring about Dr. Dale's speeches and articles, and we are sure that you will enjoy his monthly contributions to the "Broadcaster."

Mum, when you go to the pictures at night and leave Dad home to mind the house, the baby, the other children, the dog and the magpie, to put out the milk jug and the cat and to take in the door-mat, give him the "Broadcaster" to read, he won't mind a bit.

Dad, when Mum's a bit out of sorts and you want to cheer her up, tell her about the night you minded the whole caravansari and read the "Broadcaster," when you could snatch the time—she'll smile again.

BROAD HINTS FOR MUM AND DAD

What about joining the local Parents' and Citizens' Association? By so doing you will come into direct contact with those who are actually, in great measure, shaping your children's destiny. Frequent intercourse with others on the basis of parenthood and citizenship will clear up a lot of misunderstanding, and create many life-long friendships.

Did it ever strike you that when your children walk high fences, climb trees, etc., they are not only developing nerve and muscular systems, but also the superb qualities of courage, concentration, and endurance. It

takes courage to look down from dangerous heights and an uncertain footing. It takes concentration and balance to walk a fence, and frequent falls develop endurance. All these qualities are necessary when they begin to climb the trees and high fences of life, and to hit the ground frequently without organised rehearsals. Go into any reserve around Perth and what do you see? A man's playground at one end (football or cricket), a women's at the other (tennis, croquet, etc), notices everywhere such as: "Keep off the grass," "Don't pick the flowers," "Don't climb the

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- ACID, Boracic, 1/- lb.; 4oz. Flowers of Boracic, 6d.; Citric, 3/- lb., 3d. oz.; Tartaric, 2/- lb., 2d. oz.
- ARROWROOT, Queensland, 10d. lb.
- ASPARAGUS, 1's 1/6 tin; 2's, A.J.C., 2/2; Sunkist, 2/9; Libby's, 3/3; Asparagus Tips, 1/3.
- ASPROS, 25's, 1/3; 100's, 4/-.
- BACON, Rashers, 1/8 per lb.; by side, local, 1/3; Hutton's, 1/5.
- BAKING POWDER, 1lb. tins, Victory, 1/2 tin; Excelsior, 1's 1/9, 1/2, 1's 9d.; Lion Brand, 1's 1/4.
- BARLEY: Pearl, 3d. lb., 2/6 doz.; Robinson's Patent, 1/6 tin; Parson's, 1/- tin.
- BEANS: Lima, 8d. lb.; Haricot, 3d. lb., 2/8 doz.; tin, 10d. and 11d.
- BISTO, 1/- tin, large 1/9 tin.
- BLACKLEAD and STOVE POLISHES: Excelsior, 7d. doz.; Nixey, 1/6 doz.; Magpie Stove Polish, 6d. tin; Vulcanol, 7d. tin; Zebra Stove Polish, 6d. tin; Zebo Liquid Polish, 1/- tin; Nixey's Black Enamel, 9d. and 1/3.
- BLUE, Reckitt's, bag, 1/4 doz.
- BON AMI, 9d. cake.
- BOOT POLISHES, Nugold, 3d. tin; Nugget, 5d. tin.
- BORAX, powdered, 6d. lb.
- BOVRIL, 1oz., 1/-; 2oz., 1/8; 4oz., 3/-; 8oz., 5/6; 16oz., 9/-.
- BEEF EXTRACT, pure, 4oz. 2/3.
- BRAN, 1/11 bushel.
- BREAKFAST FOODS: Granbits, 10 1/2 packet; Grape Nuts, 1/4 packet; Crispies, 9 1/2 and 1/9; Quaker Puffed Rice, 1/9; Post Toasties, 1/6; Shred Wheat, 1/9; Cerix Fl. Wheat, 10 1/2 d.; Homena, 11d. packet; Wheat Meal, 2 1/2 lb.; Alola Wheat Meal, 7s 1/10, 2's 7 1/2 d. pkt.; Bran Flakes 1/6 packet; Vita Brits, 1/-; Digestive Meal, loose, 3d. lb. or 8d. pkt.; Granola, 4lb. bags, 2/3.
- BUTTER, Best Factory, 2/- lb.
- CAMP PIE: Foggitt Jones, 1/9 and 1/- tin; Darling Downs, 1/6 and 11d.; Imperial, 1/3 tin; "Tea Time" Camp Pie, 11d.
- CANDLES: Exhibition, 11d. packet; Electric, 9 1/2 d. packet; Family, 9 1/2 d. packet; Comet, 8d.; Carriage, 1/- packet; Bedroom, 1/- packet; Piano 1/-.
- CAPERS, Morton's, 11d.
- CAUSTIC SODA: Crossfield's, 1's 6d.; 1's, 11d.; 2's, 1/8 tin; 7lb. tins, 9d. lb.; 10lb. tins, 8 1/2 d. lb.; 28lb. tins, 8d. lb.
- CELERY SALT, 10d. bottle.
- CHICK FOOD, 3d. lb.; Parson's, bags 1/-.
- CHEESE: Best Victorian, 1/3 lb.; Rex Cheese, 10 1/2 d.; Red Feather, 9 1/2 d.
- CHUTNEY: Rosella Fruit, 1/2 bottle; Duthie's Mango, 1/8 bottle; Raynor's Fruit, 1/2 bottle; Raven's Fruit Sliced, 1/- bottle; Sun, 2/9 bottle.
- CINNAMON, Stick, 3/- lb.; Ground, 1/6 lb.
- CLEANSER: Dutch, 7d. tin; Snow-glow, 5 1/2 d. tin; 3 Point, 7d. tin.
- CLEVER MARY, 1/- tin; Joyful Maid 6d. tin; Upton's Pumice and Ammonia Paste, 1/- tin.
- CLOVES, 3d. oz.; 2/6 lb.
- COCOA: Pure, bulk, 8d. lb.; Bournville, 1's, 9d., 1's 1/5, 1's 2/9; Fry's Homeo., 10 1/2 d.; Breakfast, 9d. and 1/5; Plaistowe's Triple Blend, 1/4 lb.
- COCOANUT: Desiccated, packets, 1's 7d., 1's 1/2 lb.; loose, 11d. lb.
- COFFEE: Fresh Ground Coffee with Chicory, 1/4 lb.; W. and Co., Fresh Ground, pure, 2/- lb.; Standard, 1/6 tin; Lion, 1/2 and 2/-.
- COFFEE ESSENCE, small, 10 1/2 d., 8oz. 1/4, 26oz. 3/-; Alola, 26oz. 2/-; Dickenson's, 8oz. 1/4, 26oz. 3/6; Special, 2/6; Pasha, 2/9 tin; Tillock's Soluble Coffee with Chicory, 1/- and 1/9 tin.
- CORNFLOUR: Bulk, 6 1/2 d. lb.; Nurse, 6 1/2 d. lb.; Globe, 7 1/2 d. lb.
- CREAM: Nestle's, 4oz. 11d., 8oz. 1/8; Goodrich, 5oz. 11d. tin.
- CREAM TARTAR, loose, 1/4 lb.; 1oz., 1 1/2 d.
- CURRY POWDER, 1's 6d., 1's 9d.; Best Madras, 1's 8d., 1's 1/3, 1's 2/3; loose, 1/3 lb.; Kistna, 1's 11d.
- CUSTARD POWDER, Alola, 11b. cartons, 1/- each.
- DATES, new season's, 4 1/2 d. lb.
- DAD WASHING TABS., 1/-.
- DRIPPING: Bulk, 8d.; Adams', 9d. pkt.; Globe, 26oz., 1/8 tin; Wyndham, 1/9.
- ESSENCES: Lemon, Vanilla, assorted, 1oz. 6d., 2oz. 9d., 4 oz. 1/3 bottle.
- EPSOM SALTS: Burford's, 7lb boxes, 2/9 box; Morton's, 7's, 3/3 box; loose, 19/- cwt.
- EUCALYPTUS: Allen's, 7 1/2 d. bottle; Faulding's, 9d. bottle; R.G. Bosisto's, 6d. bottle; Bosisto's Parrot, 1/- bottle.
- EXTRACT OF SOAP: Velvet, 5d. pkt.; Burford's, 1/- dozen; Hudson's, 1/6 doz.; "Dad" Washing Tabs., 1/- pkt.; Upton's Extract, 1 1/2 d. pkt.; large, 5d. pkt.
- EZYWURK: Colors, 6d. tin; white, 10d. tin.
- FILLET OF COD, 10d. lb.
- FISH: Sardines, 1-16's, Silds, 2 1/2 d. tin. 2/6 doz.; 1-8's, Silds, 3 1/2 d. tin, 3/3 doz.; 1's, Silds, 5d. tin, 4/9 doz.; 1's, Silds, 8 1/2 d. tin, 8/3 doz. Herrings, Macfisheries, Fresh, 1's, 7 1/2 d.; Morton's or Maconochie's, 1's, Fresh, 9d. tin; Kippers, 1's, 7d. tin; 1's Kippers, 1/- tin; 6oz. Kippers, 6 1/2 d.; 1's, Herrings in Sauce, 7 1/2 d.; 1's, Herrings in Sauce, 11d.; Red Herrings, 2d. each; Pilchards, 1's, 1/1 tin; Mullet, 10/6 doz., 11d. tin; Lobster, 1's, Cape Spring, 1/4 tin; Triton Crabs, 11d. tin; Kip. Snacks, 4d. tin; Oysters, 1/4 tin; Ling Fish, 11d. lb.; Boneless Ling, 1/5; Mac Cod Roe, 1/4 tin; Teal, new season's 2/3 tin; Squabs, new season's, 2/4 tin; Soused Mackerel, 10d. tin; Salmon, 1 1/2 lb. tins, Pink 7 1/2 d. Med. Red 10d., Ally 10 1/2 d.; Libby's 1/1, Scroll
- 1/4, 11b. tins, Pink 1/- tin, Med. Red 1/4 tin, Libby's Flat 1/10 tin, Horseshoe 2/- tin, Hawkeye Salmon, 1's 1/- tin; Queen Salmon, 1's 11d. tin.
- FLOUR POLISHES: Glowax, 10 1/2 d.; Diamond Floor Polish, 9d. and 2/-; Roylat, 10d.; L. & W. 9d.; Selasko, 11d.; Oralia, 10d.; Ronuk, 1/6 and 2/4; Jarrahlac, 1/6 bottle; Lamb's Lino. Polish, 1/-; Floor Oil, quart bottle, 1/-; Shinoleum, 1/-; Johnson's, 1/3 tin; Supreme, 1/-; Supreme Floor Stain, 1/2; Poliflor, small, 6d.; medium 1/-, large 2/9.
- FLOUR: Sacks, 25/-; 50's, 9/3; 25's, 4/9, or 2 1/2 d. lb.; Self-Raising, 7lb for 1/9; 2lb. packets, 6 1/2 d.; Lion's, 2lb. packets, 7 1/2 d.; 7lb. bags, 2/2; Empire, 7lb. bags, 2/2; 25lb. bags S.R., 6/3, 50lb. bags 12/-, 150lb. bags 33/-.
- FRUITS: Dried Apples, 1/- lb.; Apricots, 1/1 lb.; Pears, 2-Crown 1/1 lb., 4-Crown, 1/4 lb.; Figs, Dessert, 10d. lb.; Dark Plums, 8d. lb.; Golden Drop, 9d. lb.; Peaches, 11d. lb.; Prunes, 10d. lb.; Currants, 5 1/2 d. lb.; Lexias, 4-Crown, 4 1/2 d.; Sultanas, 10d. lb.; Figs, 1/3; French Prunes, 1/3 lb.; Pullman's Dried Fruits, 11d. packet.
- FRUIT: Canned, Assorted, 12/6 doz.; Queensland Pines, 2's, 1/1 tin; Singapore Pines, 1 1/2 d. tin; Pie Apricots, 11d. tin; Standard Apricots, 1/2 tin; Apples, 1/1 tin; Peaches, 11d., 1/1; Pears, 1/3; Passion Fruit, 1/2.
- GINGER: Ground, 1/6 lb.; 4oz. pkts. 6d. each; Ginger, Preserved, 1/3 lb.; Whole, Ginger, 1/6 lb.
- GODDARD PLATE POWDER, 9d. and 1/6.
- GOLDEN SYRUP, 2lb. tins 9 1/2 d., 7lb. tins 2/6; Lyle's, 2lb. tins 1/2.
- GROATS: Harper's, 11d.; Parson's, 1/-; Robinson's, 1/6.
- HERBS: Mixed, Sage or Thyme, 1d. packet, 6d. tin; Thyme, bulk, 2/6 lb.; Dried Herbs, 2/6 lb.
- HONEY: 60lb. tin, 25/-; 2lb. screw top jars, 1/6; Champion, 24oz. 1/3 jar; 2lb., full weight, 1/3 tin, 4lb. tins 2/6, 7lb. tins 3/9; Barnes', 2lb. jars 2/4, 28oz. jars 2/2.
- HOPS, 2/6 lb.
- INSECTIBANE, 1/- tin; Mortein, 1/- tin; Mortein Puffers, 1/- each; Mustdie, 11d.
- JAMS: O.K. or I.X.L., 10/6 doz.; Best Assortment, 12/- doz.; Plum, Peach, Quince, 10 1/2 d. tin; Gooseberry, Raspberry and Apple, 1/-; Apricot, 1/2; Marmalade, 1/3; Raspberry, 1/3; Black Currant, 1/3; Duthie's Cape Gooseberry, 1/4; Duthie's Strawberry 1/3; Reindeer, assorted, 11/6 dozen.
- JELLY CRYSTALS: White's, 6d.; Parson's, 4 1/2 d.; Invicta, 4 1/2 d.; Sunkist, 3 1/2 d.; Pioneer, 4 1/2 d., 4/3 doz.; Jellex, 6d. pkt.; good quality Jelly, 3d. pkt., 2/9 doz.; Special Cup Jellies, 10d. pkt.
- KEROSENE, 12/6 case; quart cans, 10d. each; refills, 6d. each.

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Tree Planting by School Children

(Contributed by the Forests Department)

Very gradually are the people of Australia awakening to a realisation of the importance of the forests in the economic welfare of the community. A forest conscience is beginning to stir, and public opinion is now, in a measure, behind the forester in his lifework, the protection and extension of the country's forest resources. Years of patient effort, however, still lie before the forester in the stimulation of that forest conscience to full and active life. He finds the men and women of to-day slow to accept his views, and it is to the children (the citizens of the future) that he looks for support. No lessons impress themselves so thoroughly on the mind as those learnt in the schoolroom, and therefore care must be taken to give the child right impressions regarding his duty to the forests of his country and to the generations who come after him. As some poet has said:—

"He plants the forest's heritage;
The harvest of a coming age;
The joy that unborn eyes shall see,
These things he plants who plants
a tree."

A successful method of impressing these lessons on the child mind is by a scheme of school plantation. Some ground is set apart, and each child is allowed to plant one or more trees, and to tend them for the short period during which they require attention. This personal interest in the plantation engenders in the child a love of trees and an eagerness to prevent their needless destruction.

A great deal has been done in the direction of school plantations in Victoria, under the supervision of Mr. W. W. Gay, formerly an Inspector of Schools and the Supervisor of School Forestry, and now a member of the Victorian Forestry Commission. The movement was inaugurated in 1923, when nine schools definitely established plantations, and 6,000 trees (both hardwood and softwood) were planted. The scheme quickly grew, and during 1924, twenty-five schools fenced their areas (amounting in all to 550 acres) and commenced planting. In that year seventeen other schools secured blocks of land from the Lands Department, and commenced clearing and fencing in preparation for the next year's planting. 25,000 trees were planted during 1924, and at the end of the year, the area set apart for plantations covered 1250 acres. In almost all cases the growth was satisfactory. In addi-

tion, many schools, while not establishing endowment plantations, have made use of unused portions of playgrounds for tree planting, and the scheme has led to considerable home planting by children and their parents.

For the first two years after the inception of the plantations, the Forestry Commission supplies from its nurseries, the necessary plants, both pines and eucalypts; but provision has been made for each school establishing a plantation to establish also its own nursery, in which to raise seedlings for the plantation. The children will take a keener interest in the development of the tree if they raise it themselves from seed.

"Teachers will naturally ask," says Mr. Tate, Director of Education in Victoria, in writing on the subject, "whether the labor involved in making a plantation is not too great for a school, and whether capital costs are not in the first stages prohibitive. The answer is that there is no more difficulty in raising seeding pines than in raising tomato or cauliflower plants; there is actually less spade work in making the pits for the reception of the young pines than in preparing vegetable or garden plots on the school farm; there is less need of attention to the growing stocks than is given to the flower garden. The real difficulty lies in maintaining faith and enthusiasm and effort for many years. The history of the Arbor-day movement is full of instances of plantations made under a fit of temporary enthusiasm and soon neglected. Nothing could be worse for the well-being of the present scheme than that it should be taken up by teachers and school committees who are half-hearted in the proposal, or that the Department should not take adequate measures to make certain that, when a teacher is transferred to another district, the effort he has made shall be continued by his successor. Teachers should be careful to secure the sympathy and co-operation of the school committee and of the leading organisations of the districts before they undertake any of the work.

"Many head teachers in Victorian country schools have reported most enthusiastically on their plantations, and they find that, once the initial difficulties are over, all is plain sailing—just a big Arbor Day each year, and then regular easy attention. The period before returns can be expect-

ed, and the financial results, are set out by Mr. Gay as follows:—"The rotation of the pine is from 25 to 30 years, and our eucalypts, such as sugar-gum, red and white ironbark, mahogany, blue gum, are valuable at that age. A school with a reserve of 50 acres plants up at the rate of two acres per year—a task within the power of even small schools. By this method, when the last compartment of two acres is planted, the first compartment of two acres is ready for cutting. From then on, the school will have by the cut, the annual income from two acres. At a conservative estimate given by our forestry officials, this means a revenue of from £150 to £200 per acre. What a fine endowment for the children of this generation to make possible for the well-being of the next! The progress of society depends on our regard for the interests of the future. This is one way of safeguarding them."

We want the help of all those who appreciate what we are aiming at. You, reader, can give very valuable help at this juncture by getting new subscribers, 1/6 per year, posted to each subscriber. Send names, addresses and cash to Secretary, 26 Bondi-street, Mt. Hawthorn.

* * *

In addressing the recent conference of Parents' and Citizens' Associations, the Director of Education suggested that branches would be doing a valuable service to the children, and helping the Medical Department, if they installed in the schools measuring and weighing machines, so that the doctors (and the children themselves) could ascertain their progress in those particulars, and in the case of stunted growth the doctor could enquire into the cause. The healthy rivalry which would ensue, the Director declared (amongst the children), would be all to the good in building up the physique of Australia.

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The Children's Corner

A BUSH FAIRY TALE

A little brown gumleaf lay dried and battered on the ground, murmuring to itself: "After all, is it worth while to be useful to make life easier and brighter for others, by doing lowly work and trying to have patience all the time? I have been used by everyone, and left to decay down here in the dust, now there's no one to say, 'Well done,' or 'Good cheer.'"

"Ah!" the little leaf went on, "when I look at this beautiful gum tree overhead, with its lovely blossoms, its ever-green leaves, and the sparkling creek that runs over its roots, I think of my own dear mother tree, from whom I was torn—yes, cruelly torn—so long ago. That day was full of sorrow for me. Early in the morning the little gum blossom next door, whom I had learnt to love, turned aside to listen to the wheezing and sneezing of a designing old bee, who later on sucked her sweet heart away. While I was blazing with jealousy some two-legged creatures called 'men' came along, cut down the big branch on which I had grown, and took us far away to build a mia-mia for their dusky wives and little piccaninies. I hung over the doorway for a long, long time, parching for a drink and watching these people laugh, talk and fight over things that didn't matter, like food, clothes, children, women, and dogs.

"One day a little girl climbed up and knocked me off the bough. Away I flew, and flew, until the wind dropped me near an ant's nest.

"Those little busy bodies, who had built a regular city of streets and storehouses under the ground, soon got me, and fastened me down for a wall around the entrance to their homes. There I stayed until a big hob-nailed boot kicked me against a fence, and a spider pasted me over his snowy cradle like a verandah. How that old spider did work catching flies to feed the little spiders in that downy nest!

"One day the spider and another big insect had a fight, and the baby spiders and me fell to the ground, where we separated. A little boy picked me up with something else, and put me in his pocket, where I came face to face with my little gum blossom, who,



faded and bronzed, had lost all her beautiful hair. She cried, and I forgave her all. She had just begun to tell me how she had been nailed to the arm of an old gentleman's garden chair, when the little boy's mother felt his pocket, and, declaring it was full of rubbish, emptied us all out.

"So I lost my little love again, and here I am all alone in the world. All things great and small seem to despise me: just now a lizard flashed across me, a porcupine crawled over me, and a jackass stopped in the midst of his silly laugh to peck at me. How I wish my dear mother tree was near, and—Oh!" gasped the little leaf, as a lovely pale green fairy arose out of a dead gum tree near, with shining wings of green and gold, shaped like big gum leaves. She was crowned with pink gum blossoms, which threw a halo like the dawn around her, and made her face as radiant as the sunny smiles of good children.

"Fret not, little leaf," said the fairy,

"I am the spirit of your mother tree, come to reward you for being helpful to others and for trying to be patient." When the mother fairy stooped down to kiss the little leaf, it turned into a beautiful fairy like herself, and together they spread their wings and soared for Eternal Joyland—just beneath the Southern Cross.

Literary Competition for School Children

It has been decided to hold a literary competition to celebrate the advent of this journal, which will be open to all children attending Government Schools in the State.

1. A prize of £ 1/1/- will be paid for the best story written by a child ten years of age and under.
2. £ 1/1/- will be paid for the best story written by a child over ten and under fifteen years.
3. For the best set of four verses on any Australian subject, 10/6, children any age.
4. For the best essay on the subject "What is good citizenship?" children any age.

The stories may be written on any subject, but those dealing with Farm Life, School Holidays, Athletic Sports, Nature, or Social Service in an Australian setting are preferred.

All competing matter will be retained by the Parents' and Citizens' Federation.

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prize winners 2/6 each will be paid; small amounts will also be paid for any poems and essays which we publish, in addition to the prize items.

RULES.

1. Write on one side of the paper only.
2. Write plainly.
3. Not more than 500 words in each story; not more than 150 words in each poem; not more than 350 words in each essay.
4. Write your name, age, and address on a piece of paper by itself and pin it to your MS. Names will not be given to the judge.
5. All children who accept help from adults will be disqualified.
6. Each competitor's age must be certified to by his or her teacher.
7. The judge's decision will be absolutely final.

The competition will open on June 7 and close on October 31, 1926. All MSS. to be addressed to Miss E. Hooton, 26 Bondi-street, Mt. Hawthorn.

The prize items in each section will be published in the Christmas Number of this paper about December 7.

Each entry must be accompanied by the following coupon from this paper:

Literary Competition

COUPON

*"Parents' and Citizens' Broad-
caster"*

Dr. J. S. Battye, of the Public Library, Perth, who will contribute a helpful article for children to next issue of this paper, on the subject of story writing, etc., has kindly consented to act as judge of the competition.

It is pleasing to know that the East Kirup Parents' and Citizens' Association has successfully given 73 children, five attendants, the school staff, and four lady members of the branch, a fortnight's holiday trip to Bunbury, at a total cost of £119/8/1, a little over one pound per head, All Bunbury appears to have taken a hand in making the affair a success. Assuredly the same thing will happen in every district visited by school children in the same way.

PLAYGROUNDS and PLAYLEADERS

Land! Leadership! Effective Planning! We claim to be the three great essentials in developing the playground movement.

The West Australian Press has done the community a service in giving publicity to the need that exists in the State for reserving land for this purpose.

This is essentially a work that could be effectually carried out by the various branches of the Parents' and Citizens' Associations, by conferring with the particular local authorities in ascertaining what land has been set aside for present or future playground purposes. By this we mean for the use of children attending school (not for adults) and for little children below school age attending free kindergarten.

No time should be lost to ascertain just what the position is in a particular district. Such good work should in many cases bear immediate results and certainly will prove an immense blessing to posterity. While it is not too late, let us lose no time in setting aside such lands for our children's playgrounds.

The question of leadership plays a very important part in any successful playground movement—play systematically organised is the thing.

His Worship, the Mayor of Perth, in a recent interview on this subject, said: "That to achieve success with children's playgrounds it is a sine qua non that a supervisor shall be in charge of the grounds."

The Kindergarten Union is doing a service to the community in this direction as far as younger boys and girls are concerned. The Kindergarten Training College provides a course of training calculated to prepare young women for such positions and a visit

to the Lake Street Children's Playground, Perth, is an example of the immense value of a properly trained supervisor.

The New South Wales Kindergarten Training College (the oldest in the States) has recently inaugurated courses of training in play and physical education which will go far in extending the gospel of self-expression and self-control in the life of the people of Australia.

In delivering a splendid address at the graduating exercises of the Sydney Kindergarten Training College, Mr. G. V. Portus (President of the Workers' Education Association) stressed the world's great need for a larger kindergarten faith, the same principles that we believe in for the little tots, applied to the bigger ones and their affairs in life.

He stressed the importance of this movement to the community, and said that the new course opened up wide opportunities which present a wonderful field of service.

Sydney is leading the way for Kindergarten Training Colleges for all the other States to follow, and Perth we hope, will not be far behind in inaugurating such a course, which will help to supply suitable play-leaders for adolescent boys and girls.

Effective planning! The best way to demonstrate the value of a well thought out plan is for the citizens to create a model playground, and then it will not be long before others will follow.

To return to the first essential, members of the Parents' and Citizens' Association would be rendering an everlasting service in helping to secure land in their various districts without delay.—BESSIE M. RISCH-BIETH.

A Talk with the Minister for Education about Conference Decisions

It can be said that the seven married members of the executive of the Federation, who recently waited on the Minister for Education to discuss Conference decisions, truly represented the parents of the State who have large families, aggregating between them over fifty children.

The Minister (Mr. J. Drew), and with him the Acting-Director of Education (Mr. Hope Robertson) received the executive with courteous sympathy, and for over two hours discussed in a heart-to-heart manner the various difficulties, etc., which were

brought before the Easter Conference of the branches.

Mr. W. D. Johnson, M.L.A., who has been a member of the Central Executive for several years, introduced the deputation, and materially assisted in putting its views before the Minister.

Mr. Drew appreciated the fact that great difficulty was experienced in placing boys in suitable and congenial work when they left school; this applied to all avenues of possible employment, and he realised that if a percentage of these

could be settled comfortably and permanently on the land, the position would be eased greatly. He sympathised with the request that land should be allotted for Australian boys, although there were difficulties, and he would consult the Cabinet.

The Minister also agreed with the deputation that the Government was justified in using the means at its disposal to cheapen, and render more uniform, school books.

Both the Minister and the Acting-Director appeared to be quite aware that motorists were in the habit of camping in school yards, using the school water supply, not only for cooking, washing and drinking, but for washing their cars, and that frequently taps were left running by them. Mr. Drew promised to consider a suggestion to turn the taps into the School-house.

With regard to extending the school age to 15 years, the Minister stated that the Government's policy was to hold the Continuation Classes and Technical Classes in the daytime, and children who were at work would attend during the employer's time. This policy would be put into operation.

He did not agree that the State was justified in admitting children of five years of age to school, and thought that the expense would far outweigh any possible benefits that might accrue.

It was urged by members of the deputation that a fuller medical and dental service would be a good investment for the Government, and that the splendid work which is being done by Dr. Dale should not be hampered in any way by lack of money, but that he should be backed up by the Government.

The question of playgrounds was also brought up, and it was stated that the James Street school grounds

were a disgrace to every man and woman in the country. That whereas there were three or four thousand scholars at the school, the school-ground was not large enough for 100 children to play without knocking each other about. James Street school provides a keyhole picture of the inadequacy of practically all the school grounds of the State, and the position as population increases would go from bad to worse, because the more the school was enlarged the more the playground would decrease unless some action were taken as a security against such a possibility now. It was suggested to the Minister that he should have a stocktaking of all the school grounds in the State, also of all separate playgrounds developed and undeveloped, as well as the Crown and Municipal lands in the vicinity.

The matter of popularising tree testing experiments in accordance with the Conservator of Forests' scheme for endowment plantations was also touched upon. It was stated that the Victorian Government had made ground available to schools throughout Victoria wherever requested, and the Minister was asked whether Crown lands would be granted for the same purpose in this State. The Minister agreed about the playgrounds, and promised to give his best thought to the solution of the problem. He had opened 64 new schools, and each of these had been built on five acres of ground.

The question of raising the Scholarship grant from £30 to £52, would be considered. He was in favor of making a room in some Government building available for the use of the Central Executive of the Parents' and Citizens' Federation, and would use his best endeavours to that end.

country out of use for a few years, but is it not a fact that any areas of land set aside for this purpose will have already been "out of use" for over a century at the least, and five years more would be like five minutes from the standpoint of loss to the State—unless one argues that Australian boys should be the losers while others are entitled to the pick of the country.

The proposal that the boys should be trained on the experimental farms of the State, and then drafted on to group areas under more advanced students and one capable head, seems to be the best scheme yet advanced in connection with the matter.

For the last two or three years Mr. T. C. Chandler, of the James Street School, has been enthusiastically advocating a system by which boys will be retained at school for three years after the leaving age, when a thorough theoretical training would be given them, including book-keeping. Mr. Chandler has outlined his scheme to many public bodies, including the Conference of Parents' and Citizens' Associations, held recently, at most of which his idea or "some such scheme" was endorsed.

Some time ago the Mayor of Perth called a meeting in the Town Hall to discuss the scheme, and a number of farmers who were present criticised it on the ground that farmers could not be made in a city school, and also because no guarantee could be given as to how many boys would survive the city training and be available at the finish to go on the land. Some of the farmers were in favor of the boys being placed out with individual farmers, but this proposal met with a lot of opposition from those who wanted some guarantee that the youths would have comfortable and happy homes, and that the conditions surrounding them would not be such as to drive them back to town for good and all.

The Mayor expressed his sympathy with the scheme, and promised to help Mr. Chandler, and the meeting carried a resolution endorsing it or some such scheme.

The Chamber of Commerce also has a scheme, with the details of which we are not reliably familiar.

It would interest a lot of people to know exactly what are the obstacles which prevent the Government from taking decisive action in the matter.

Is there, for example, any condition surrounding the loans made to us by the British Government which prevents the advance of such monies to Australians as settlers on the land? If there is, we should know of these conditions without delay.

Australian Boys as Farmers

"Back to the land!" is the vibrating cry of most people who are interested in human stability and progress; and whereas in times past the man on the land could be well set down as conservative, and therefore stodgy in his outlook, to-day the serious student finds that his or her only hope for clarity of thought and expression is in the restful realms of Nature, where with decent opportunities one may work, and feel secure, notwithstanding the foam-crested waves and deep, dark hollows which sweep over the seas of our surface civilisation.

It seems strange that, although we have been a number of years enthusing about forming group settlements of folks who come thirteen thousand miles across to become a charge

on the people of our State (against whom we have nothing to say), and yet it is only now dawning upon us that our own boys, bred and born in the country, should have at least equal chances.

Anyone who doubts that the Australian youth wants to go on the land has only to interview a few of the senior boys at James Street and some of the other schools to find that there is no question about it, and, what's more, quite a number of fathers of boys already marked out for professions have said to the writer, recently, "Well, if this land scheme for boys comes off, my boy goes on the land," or words to that effect.

Some of our members of Parliament seem to be afraid of leaving tracts of

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PARENT & CITIZEN



Vol. 1.—No. 1.

MAY, 1956

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL of
The Western Australian Federation of Parents & Citizens' Associations



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INTRODUCING . . .

"The West Australian Parent & Citizen"

It is with pleasure that we introduce to you, the members of the Parents and Citizens' Association of your district, this, your new magazine. It is intended that it bring direct to you news of interest to those whose common cause is the P. & C. movement.

Its initial circulation is 20,000 copies. That it has been possible to produce it and in such quantities is largely due to the support it has received from advertisers. At present it is a very modest effort but with the continued support of advertisers, helped by your encouraging patronage of their wares and services, it is possible to envisage the magazine's growth in size and in circulation. Indeed it is one of its hopes that it will attract members to the P. & C. movement.

The Editor is anxious to make it the means whereby affiliated Associations may exchange news, views and ideas for mutual benefit and for the ultimate good of the movement. To that end correspondence on matters of common interest is invited. Because of very marked limitations of space, letters forwarded for publication must be kept very brief. Of course the Editor is, at all times, vested with the right to wield a blue pencil in an effort to condense correspondence.

This then is **your** magazine! How it shapes and what its future will be are largely in **your** hands. The Editor will welcome contributions, advice and assistance.

When you have finished with your copy pass the magazine to a non-member of your Association — perhaps it will stimulate his interest to join.

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EDITORIAL:

Wider Horizons

It may be that some day a Government will find itself so affluent that, from its own resources, it will be able to provide all of those school amenities which today are provided, in whole or in part, by P. & C. Associations. But should that day ever arrive it will not see the ending of the P. & C. movement. Far from it! There are fields of activity beyond the material in which the P. & C. movement can and should find useful work.

The earlier years of a P. & C. Association are largely occupied in providing material aids for its school and it bends its energies to the acquisition of library books, pianos, radios and other equipment and to improving playing and sporting fields. All of such work is of inestimable value — value far beyond the monetary worth of the provisions so made. Whence comes this greater value? It derives from the active co-operation of two of the main agencies of education — the home and the school.

There are many agencies which operate in the educating of an individual. There is the home in which are learned the foundations of character and of social habits, there is the Church to give the lead in spiritual education and there is the school which provides the more formal education, originally of the 3 Rs and more lately of other subjects, social, aesthetic, etc. In addition to these readily-recognised agents of education there are a host of others — the streets, the sporting fields, the Clubs, the movies, the radio, etc., etc. The educational efforts

of some of these may be of doubtful value but it must be obvious that any movement which brings together two or more of the good agents so that each can support and reinforce the other cannot but be of ultimate good for the individual child. That is just what the P. & C. movement achieves. It brings the home into close touch with the school so that each gains a better appreciation of the other. The parents find that the members of the school staff are not strange beings from another planet and the teachers find that the parents — or many of them — are intensely interested in, if a little puzzled by, what goes on in the school. And so, should that day ever come when P. & C. Associations will not be called upon to provide school amenities, there will still exist vital reasons for their continuance.

It is very gratifying to note the ways in which P. & C. Associations are extending their endeavours beyond their parochial boundaries. Thus we note with considerable pride the generous support which they have given to the Medical School Appeal Fund. Many Associations have promised it their support for five years. That's getting away from a narrow, parochial outlook! Support has been generous too for many outside appeals to help handicapped children, and to assist in the rehabilitation of flood-devastated schools.

In recent weeks a very healthy and wide-spread interest in polio immunisation has manifested itself in P. & C. circles and several Associations have been responsible for organising in their districts, monster public meetings at which are given expert explanations of polio, and of its effects, of the Salk Vaccine and of the Public Health Department's

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plans in respect of immunisation. Such mass audiences enable available experts to expend their energies most effectively and economically.

Such work by P. & C. Associations is of untold value and transcends in worth any number of school picnics which, in the main, are designed to fill youngsters with ice-cream and lolly water. There lie before our P. & C. Associations many worth-while objectives — some in their close neighbourhoods, others on wider planes. It is of the utmost importance that each P. & C. Association do all it can to keep its members informed of up-to-date trends so that its influence may be felt in and beyond its own district.

—THE EDITOR.

Notes For P. & C. Officers

1. JUNE will be INSURANCE month! By permission of the Director and with the kind co-operation of Education Stores, supplies of insurance stationery to be used for the year 1956-57 will be despatched late in May. That will give ample time for insurances to be effected before June 30.



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2. Despatches will be made only to those schools whose P. & C. Associations have paid their current affiliation fees.

3. Existing stocks of stationery, with the exception of claim forms, are now out-of-date and should be destroyed forthwith.

4. The ONLY insurance cards to be used this year are coloured yellow.

5. Please consult your Headmaster early in order to devise local arrangements for insuring children.

6. Insurances are NOT to be restricted to children of P. & C. members but are to be freely available to all parents.

The Schoolchildren's Insurance Scheme

The Federation's insurances in the above-named scheme will expire on June 30, before which date interested parents of affiliated P. & C. Associations will be given the opportunity of effecting accident insurance on children enrolled at Government schools. Supplies of new insurance forms, yellow in colour, to be used in effecting such insurance, will be forwarded to schools in ample time to allow of their use before current policies expire.

P. & C. Associations are asked to seek the co-operation of Headmasters in the distribution of the insurance forms and in the collection of premiums, etc. Where such co-operation is received — and past experience shows that school staffs have done the bulk of the work in connection with schoolchildren's insurance — the Association's officials should endeavour to make as light as possible the work falling on other shoulders and they should concern themselves actively in the scheme. In their turn parents can do much to make insurance operations smooth-running by reading carefully and following the directions given and by making remittances promptly on the dates set by local arrangements.

In order that insuring in any district be not unduly protracted it is suggested that a definite closing date be fixed after which it will be the responsibility of late-coming parents to make direct approaches to the State Government Insurance Office for insurance. In a scheme of such magnitude it is essential that each step be made in accordance with the directions laid down. Departures from standard procedures cause delays, irritation and unending confusion. Therefore, you are asked to read all directions carefully and to follow them exactly!

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A Brief History Of The Federation

PART I.

Parents and Citizens' Associations were first formed in W.A. between 1914 and 1916. In 1921 the then Director of Education, Dr. Cecil Andrews, who have given much encouragement to the movement, suggested the formation of a central body which could provide liaison between the P. & C. movement and the Education Department.

In August of that year a conference of representatives of 34 P. & C. Associations was held in the James Street School. That Conference founded the W.A. Federation of Parents & Citizens' Associations and appointed Miss E. H. Hooton as its Hon. Secretary. Miss Hooton occupied that position until August, 1954, a period of 33 years, when advancing years and her medical adviser impressed upon her the necessity to relinquish office. On her retirement, Miss Hooton was made an Honorary Life Member of the Federation, an honour accorded her for the very inspiring work she had done for so long.

Recognition of the worth of the movement has been accorded it by successive State Governments. Ministers for Education and Department Directors, as well as authorities in other government Departments have appreciated the motives of the movement and, when approached, many have given it their assistance, advice, and support. P. & C. Associations are officially recognised and their scope and functions are defined in the Education Department's regulations. The Federation receives considerable financial assistance from the Education Department and it is pleasing to record the fact that no other State offers commensurate assistance to its comparable organisation. It is solely because of the Department's generosity that the W.A. Federation is unique in Australia in-so-far as it is the only one employing a full-time Secretary.

Last financial year nearly 400 P. & C. Associations were affiliated in the Federation and those which, for reasons known only to themselves, remained out of the Federation could be counted on one's fingers. At the rate current affiliation fees are being received it is evident that this year's strength will be even greater.

An Annual Conference is held at which principles are established and at which an Executive body is elected. Elsewhere in this issue is given the list of names of those ladies and gentlemen who comprise the present Executive.

(To be continued.)

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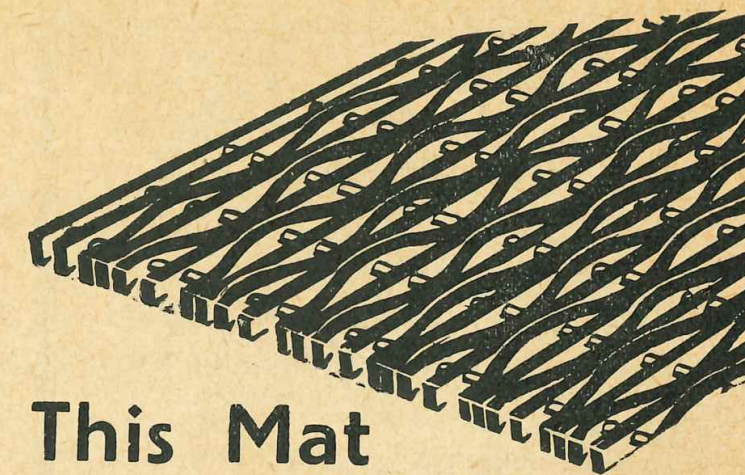
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18in.

Bairds

Medical School Appeal Fund

Originating in a 1955 Conference resolution, affiliated P. & C. Associations were invited to forward donations to Federation office for transmission to the Medical School Appeal Fund. Acknowledgments of all such sums received have been made in monthly circulars. Many Associations made direct contributions to the Fund and many others contributed through local arrangements. As at the end of April the sum of £620 had been transmitted by P. & C. Associations through Federation office while, as far as can be ascertained from the Fund's press acknowledgements, a sum in excess of £687 was received directly from P. & C. Associations. Therefore the P. & C. movement to date has made contributions to this most important Fund of something in excess of £1,300. Is there more to come?

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For Young Citizens

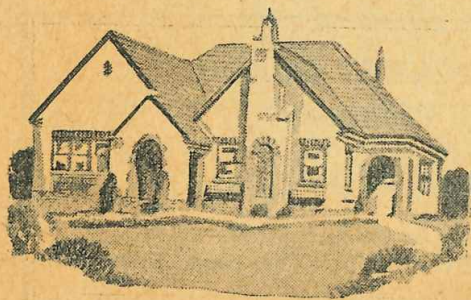
Hello Girls & Boys!

There's a place for you in our magazine! Each issue of the "Parent & Citizen" will include a competition for you. From month to month a different age group of girls and boys will be invited to compete for two half-guinea prizes, one for the girls and one for the boys. Prizes will be book tokens which winners may use to purchase books of their own choice. Should the price of a desired book exceed the value of the prize then, by making cash payment of the difference, the winner will be able to get the book he wants. Details of this month's competition are given below.

I have been asked by the Editor to thank you many girls and boys who, by delivering this new magazine to your homes, are helping the work of your Parents and Citizens' Associations. And it is quite right that you should help because your P. & C. Association exists to help you. Do you know that your Parent and Citizens' Association, by co-operating with the Education Department and with your teachers, is helping you to have a richer, better education? Do you know that its members have worked and have given money to assist in the purchase of many of the library books, the radios, the projectors, the piano and much of the sports material in your school? In addition, P. & C. Associations often organise picnics, parties and other happy functions for their schoolchildren. By helping your P. & C. Association, you really help yourselves.

Here are the details of this month's competition:

1. It is open to girls and boys who have not yet had their 12th birthday.
2. This competition will close on June 30, 1956.
3. Post entries to: "Tommerloch," C/- W.A. Fed-



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eration of P. & C. Associations, 509 Hay St., Perth.

4. See that your name, age, address, and school are given.
5. The following points are important: neatness, cleanliness and accuracy.
6. Prize winners will be announced in the July number of "The Parent and Citizen."

COMPETITION

You are required to draw, in colour, the emblem of the Olympic Games.

Next month's competition will be open to boys and girls of a different age group.

Cheerio, young Citizens, I hope to see some very good entries.

Yours faithfully,

"TOMMERLOCH."

Book Review

It is intended, in each issue of this magazine, to present a review of a book which should prove of interest to parents. Sometimes it will concern a book designed for parents — sometimes a book for children.

"THE INTELLIGENT PARENTS' MANUAL"

Powdermaker & Grimes

The authors of this work (one a psychiatrist and the other an educationist) have avoided the presentation of rigid rules in respect of any of the aspects of parent-child relationship. Instead, and much to be preferred, they provide guiding principles and this is the reason why their work is directed to INTELLIGENT parents. The work throughout is designed for the parent who wants to work things out intelligently, not merely to follow instructions unthinkingly. The authors combine a deep scientific knowledge of child development with a warm human understanding of the daily difficulties of the ordinary parents. Most of the problems of parenthood — how to deal with the new baby; how to see it safely through infancy to childhood; how to guide it through the somewhat troubled waters of adolescence — all of these are discussed with unusual wisdom.

It is very refreshing to find a modern book on child management which recommends, in certain circumstances, the application of a slipper to a certain spot in a certain manner.

I recommend this Penguin Handbook which is priced at 4/-. Our copy came from Alberts Bookshop. —"BOOKWORM."

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Peepshow

The following appeared in Kirwan Ward's "Peepshow" on May 7. K.W. gets our heartfelt thanks for spot-lighting one of the handicaps under which we labour. The hills schoolmaster gets our highest award of merit for his co-operation and for his cunning.

"Organisations like Parents & Citizens' Associations have all the trouble in the world spreading their messages among the community because people just won't read circulars.

"They throw them away, they leave them on sideboards and in letterboxes; they tuck them behind the clock on the mantelpiece, cherishing them for years. But they just won't read them.

"Knowing all this, a hills schoolmaster resorted to cunning.

"For homework one night he dictated a P. & C. notice, told the kids they must write out two neat, accurate copies of it at home, and bring them back to him signed by Mum and Dad. It worked!"

Conference, 1956

The 1956 Conference of P. & C. Associations will be held in Perth from July 31 to August 3 inclusive. Day sessions will be held in Boan's Fashion Hall and evening sessions will meet at the Perth Central Methodist Mission Hall in Murray Street. Each

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affiliated P. & C. Association is entitled to send 2 delegates and, in addition, as many observers as desired.

After repeated requests for concession fares for delegates, Federation has at last achieved a measure of success. Provided that 6 or more country delegates will travel to and from the Conference by train, concession fares (single plus one-third for return journey) will be available. This concession applies to rail travel only and is not valid on Railway Road Bus Services. Application for concession fare vouchers must reach Federation office by May 31.

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Correspondence

The Editor,

I would like to offer my hearty congratulations to the Western Australian Parents & Citizens' Federation on its enterprise in launching this periodical for distribution amongst members of Parents' Associations throughout the State. This venture is but one token, a tangible piece of evidence of the spirit which permeates the whole Federation from its smallest group right through to its big Annual Conference. It is evidence, too, of the growth which has taken place in recent years in the movement because in all movements which are as widespread as this one there comes a stage when it is essential that a newspaper or magazine must be developed in order to convey to the members news of happenings within the movement in other parts of the State. The Federation shows, by this innovation, that it is rapidly maturing.

I foresee that this magazine in itself will result in a great stimulation, both in interest and in effort, amongst Associations because more information will be available about each other's plans and achievements. As Director of Education I welcome this because we are all labouring in the one field, namely, the education of the youth of our State with the common aim of making an even greater Australian citizenry.

The achievements of the Federation in the past have been mighty, particularly when it is remembered that it is only a little more than thirty years ago since the first Association was established in this State. As I go round amongst the schools and

see the splendid equipment, the fine playground facilities, the provision of Oslo lunches, etc., I am proud that parents and citizens have, in conjunction with the Department and its teachers, achieved these things. But I am prouder still of the splendid spirit of co-operation which exists now between the parents, the Department and its teachers. This is not merely empty praise. Quite a number of educational experts from overseas have visited our system in recent months and have remarked on this splendid parent-teacher relationship and praised it.

Good luck to your magazine. May it, too, expand and serve also in our common cause.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) T. L. ROBERTSON,
Director of Education

● Thank you, Dr. Robertson, for your good wishes and your encouragement.—Ed.

Great help to Parents & Citizens Associations and schools in general, is given by Coca-Cola Bottlers (Perth) Pty. Ltd. in various forms. Their Special Events Service is available for all fetes and functions where fund-raising is the prime motive. Their Film Evening, which is well known to many, is a delightful way of bringing parents together and building interest in Association activities. Some Parents & Citizens' Associations find that selling Coca-Cola at the school provides refreshment to the children as well as income to the Association, and all must be aware of their generosity last year in providing free "Coke" to all school children in the Perth metropolitan area.



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P & C VOICE



Vol 1 No 1

WACSSO - KEEPING PARENTS IN TOUCH

October 1995

NEW START

3644

NEW PRESIDENT - NEW EXECUTIVE

At the first State Council meeting after annual Conference as per the Constitution WACSSO State Council elected a new Executive Committee.

Dianne Guise is the WACSSO President for the next two years. She has been the Joondalup State Councillor since July 1993. For further information on the new President see the first Councillor Profile in our new publication - on page 5 .

Stephen Bohan (Peel) was re-elected and Kevin Hipfner (Geraldton South) and Sue Prince (Willetton) were elected to the Vice President positions.

The incoming Executive also comprises Gracie Rodgers (Bayswater) who was re-elected; Carmel Gaskin (Cockburn) and Shelley Norrish (Northam) newly elected.

Mrs Anne Spencer who has served two terms as President was nominated and elected as Immediate Past President for up to twelve months.

PASS IT ON

Name	Tick
Pres.....	
Sec.....	
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VP.....	
VP.....	
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NEW PUBLICATION

This is the first edition of our new publication - the P&C Voice. The P&C Voice will replace both the Parent & Citizen Journal and the WACSSO News.

WACSSO has become aware that the previous publications were not user friendly. Feedback indicated that the WACSSO news format was more popular so we decided that our publications would follow this format to encourage affiliates to read and have input.

The name P&C Voice was chosen from a selection surveyed at Conference. We agree with this choice as we believe that the publication should be the voice for both individual P&Cs and for P&Cs as a joint organisation (WACSSO). We would like affiliates to see this as their publication and relevant to all members. Affiliates are encouraged to have their say and to submit items for publication either in the form of "letters to the Editor", articles or notices for the Noticeboard etc.

The Editorial Portfolio which looks after WACSSO publications would appreciate feedback from affiliates as to how the P&C Voice is received by their members. We would also like to know how many copies should be distributed to each P&C. In the past, five copies of the Parent & Citizen journal and one copy of the WACSSO News were sent to P&Cs. We would like to know what happened to the five journals - were they distributed amongst members and the staff or were they left unread! Whilst we want to reach all members we need to be responsible both with affiliates money and our resources. Your ideas on numbers and distribution would be welcome

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P&C VOICE

P&C Voice is the official publication of the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc (WACSSO).

There are 660 P&C Associations affiliated with WACSSO

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Voluntary Contributions

One of the most emotive and vexing issues facing school community and parent organisations today is the pressure being applied to the concept of a free education by the creeping blight of school fees or voluntary contributions which parents are finding themselves under ever more pressure to pay.

Many of the 11 state and territory parent and community organisations affiliated with the National body ACSSO, the Australian Council of State School Organisations, have policies which support the collection of voluntary contributions where they are used to enhance educational offerings in schools. I am not aware of an organisation which goes further and supports such fees being made compulsory or which supports the use of coercion against either parents or students over the non-payment of such fees.

Nonetheless examples of coercion, ranging from the mild to the frankly outrageous, can be found at almost any school but particularly in schools where there is a substantial level of non-payment of these "fees".

Some of the "sanctions" seem, on the surface, to be relatively mild but when examined closely turn out to be quite offensive. Examples include students not being issued with cards which entitle them to a variety of concessions; students prevented from borrowing books from the school library or having their access to particular elective courses restricted.

Decisions to take punitive action are usually justified by reference to the importance of such fees to the school's budget, an argument that is being heard more frequently as state and territory governments around Australia put the squeeze on funding to their education departments and, by extension, to schools.

At the same time the move to one-line budgeting - sold as a way of giving school communities a much greater say in what happens educationally at their schools - is making it harder for those schools to identify the services the funds are allocated against and those where they might be short-changed.

Faced with the new tasks of economic management within their schools it is easy for school councils, boards or other advisory bodies to focus their attention on those they perceive as "not pulling their weight". In such a climate it is possible to understand, though not condone, the advice of the South Australian Minister for Education this year to schools that the recovery of school fees by debt collection agencies was permissible when all previous avenues and strategies had been exhausted and where it is considered reasonable that the parent has the capacity to pay.

Such recovery action must be legally questionable, given that the fees are not compulsory and court action is not allowed, but more; it is a significant breach of the principle of state responsibility to make available a free and universal public education and it strikes at the heart of the principle of equity.

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- School Fees by the Back Door?

Writing on “access to, and participation in, education” in the journal *New Education* last year, John Eggleston of the University of Warwick talked of the availability of resources, particularly financial, as one of the problems facing governments as they tried to come to terms with the needs of society and the needs of individuals.

He said “expansion of access and of participation in learning is an open tap; it can absorb unlimited quantities of national income” and went to discuss ways governments were seeking to augment what he called their scarce financial resources.

One is to seek fees from students. Eggleston noted this was becoming common but observed there was a need for highly effective systems for ensuring that students of modest economic status are not excluded. He also noted such fee paying systems are likely to work against the very students who are the targets of expansion of access and provision, that is those who most need an education.

Of course fees for students are different from voluntary contributions. Or are they? If there are no constraints on the levels of voluntary contributions being sought by schools and if, as was shaping to be the case in South Australia, a legal right of recovery is set in place, then it is not too big a step to anticipate sanctions for non-payment which could include exclusion of a student from a school for non-payment. But it would make an interesting legal test case.

The principle of universal right to a free education is one worth continuing to fight for. As we have seen from correspondence in those states or territories where the issue of voluntary levies has been canvassed, there is no shortage of parents who are prepared to support and espouse the arguments that parents should be prepared to make a financial contribution to the cost of their child’s education (or whatever other arguments are used to justify the pressure for payment).

Those who see a strong public education system as a community right, have to be prepared to counter the uncritical acceptance of such arguments as:

- ◆ the government doesn’t have a bottomless pit of money;
- ◆ people don’t value what they don’t pay for; or
- ◆ we can’t have a first class education system without parent contributions.

We have to continue to point out that a quality public education system doesn’t just benefit the individual, it benefits society; we have to stress the importance to a democratic country of an informed, aware and educated citizenry as a defence against prejudice, tyranny and all forms of totalitarianism. That it is the right of every child, as enunciated in the policies of most parent and community organisations, to have access to a high quality public education regardless of their class, culture, gender, level of ability, capacity to pay or where they live.

We need to continue to point out that if Governments aren’t spending enough on public education then it isn’t all right for those same governments to promote an expectation that school communities, and particularly principals, will feel able to demand that parents help make up the shortfall.

We need to point out to school communities - and particularly to principals - that no matter how difficult it is, their demands for more money should be directed at those who are really more responsible: the politicians who levy and then allocate our tax dollars. We need to ensure the politicians are told that since it is they who determine spending priorities, if they are not levying enough in taxes to allow the communities expectations of the public education system to be fulfilled, then they must make the hard decisions.

After all we can point to a number of surveys, including one conducted by the Australian National University only a couple of years ago, which showed a majority of people would willingly pay more tax if it would improve education and health services.

Clearly Australians do value high quality, fully-funded, well-resourced public education systems and they are prepared to pay for them. They will not stand by and watch the public education systems privatised by stealth and compulsory school fees would be the thin end of that wedge.

Richard Creswick
President
Australian Council of State School Organisations

From the President's Desk

As the newly elected WACSSO President I will endeavour to keep messages from my desk to yours as short as possible, concentrating on one or two issues if possible.

The Quality of Education Campaign and ensuing industrial dispute between the Government and SSTUWA has obviously been one of our priorities. I wish to acknowledge and thank everyone who has written, faxed or phoned the office offering their support and sharing their views with us. The lines of communication are vital and we really appreciate you input, whether direct or via your State Councillor.

The situation changes almost daily, so anything I say here will be "old hat" by the time you read this; suffice to say any new developments may signal that attempts are being made to resolve the current impasse. For the latest information, please contact your local school. In these difficult times it is worth



remembering that we all rely on each other to ensure the school environment is a happy and productive one for the children.

This month I will be attending the Australian Council of State School Organisations' Annual Conference in Sydney. This will provide an opportunity to put things in perspective as regards the relationship between WA and the nation as a whole.

State Council will hold it's final meeting for the year in November, at which time our strategic plan will be reviewed and updated as required. This meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for the new team to consolidate. Like any new committee, everyone is encouraged to share information, offer support and value each other's contribution.

Remember... together we can make a difference and influence the direction of education for the benefit of all students!

DIANNE GUISE

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Councillor Profile

The new WACSSO President **DIANNE GUISE** is the subject of our first Councillor Profile.

Dianne is married to Stuart who encourages and supports her WACSSO involvement. They have two children Daniel and Carly both of whom attend a local State Government High School.

Dianne has personal experience of Victorian country schools and a brief experience in New South Wales, as well as having viewed systems in South Australia, New Zealand and Western Australia.

Her involvement in P&Cs includes ten years in various positions with the Poseidon Primary School and Ocean Reef High School P&Cs.

Dianne has represented these schools on the North West Metropolitan and Joondalup District Councils before being elected as Joondalup State Councillor at a by-election in 1993 and re-elected in 1994.

Dianne has served WACSSO in many capacities. She has completed two terms as Vice President and throughout 1995 was the media spokesperson assisting the President. Dianne has been a member of Portfolios 2, 6, 7 and 8 and was the convener of Portfolio 7 for the 1995 Conference. She was also responsible for obtaining sponsorship for Annual Conference for the last two years.

Dianne chaired the ad hoc committee set up in response to the 1993 Conference Resolution regarding a 40kmh speed limit around schools and is pleased to see this initiative is being trialed at a number of schools in Western Australia.

In 1994 she was a member of the working party responsible for WACSSO response to the Report from the Ministerial Independent Assessment Group on Devolution. Dianne has also produced a Discussion Paper entitled



“Lobbying Government and other Agencies.”

On the role of WACSSO Dianne says:

“I believe WACSSO has an important role to play in education in WA and that it is imperative we live up to our mission statement, values and objectives.”

“Parents are the major influence on their children’s education, our challenge is to meet the greater role we play in their formal schooling both directly and through our parent organisation.”

“We must be committed to the education not just of our own, but of all children in Government schools. I’ve always believed that an organisation of parents, acting on behalf of the children, with their best interest at heart can make a difference and achieve a better education system for all students.”

Portfolios

WACSSO provides representation on a number of external committees. To enable maximum representation on these committees, the portfolio system was implemented.

There are eight Portfolio groups, five of which relate to specific sections of WACSSO Policy and contain those external committees relevant to that policy section. The remaining three Portfolios do not contain external committees but have specific tasks relating to Strategy, Position Papers, Annual Conference, Editorial and Finance.

State Councillors are able to nominate to any portfolio where they have a particular interest or expertise. Elections to Portfolios generally occur at the first State Council meeting following Annual Conference (except where vacancies exist). Membership of each Portfolio is comprised of not less than 5 members and not more than 10 members, including the President and Executive Office.

Each Portfolio is managed by a convener, elected by the portfolio members. The convener is responsible for ensuring that a WACSSO representative attends meetings of external committees (where applicable), and reporting on the activities of the portfolio to State Council or the Executive Committee.

Portfolios meet as required, but it is recommended that each portfolio meet at least once prior to each State Council meeting.

For further information on portfolios contact your State Councillor, the Convener or WACSSO office.

The President and Executive Officer are ex-officio members of all Portfolios. Councillors have nominated for the following Portfolios: (* indicates Convener)

PORTFOLIO 1

Parents Rights & Responsibilities in Education

Terry Brown (Thornlie)
Carmel Gaskin (Cockburn) *
Kevin Lawton (Kimberley)
Sue Prince (Willetton)
Gracie Rodgers (Bayswater)
Willow Warren (Perth [South])

PORTFOLIO 2 Funding, Staffing & Environment

Carmel Gaskin (Cockburn)
Kevin Lawton (Kimberley)
Helen Smart (Goldfields)
Willow Warren (Perth [South]) *
Iain Williams (Swanbourne)

PORTFOLIO 3 Curriculum, Assessment of Students

Terry Brown (Thornlie)
Robert Fry (Hedland)
Kevin Hipfner (Geraldton [South]) *
Sandra Molloy (Whitfords)
Gracie Rodgers (Bayswater)
Helen Smart (Goldfields)
Paulina Slivkoff (Melville)
Kay Vinton (Geraldton [North])

PORTFOLIO 4 Health, Safety & Welfare

Stephen Bohan (Peel)
Terry Brown (Thornlie)
Sandra Molloy (Whitfords)
Tracy Moore (Alexander)
Sue Prince (Willetton) *
Gracie Rodgers (Bayswater)
Helen Smart (Goldfields)
Iain Williams (Swanbourne)

PORTFOLIO 5 Editorial

Stephen Bohan (Peel)
Kevin Hipfner (Geraldton [South])
Sandra Molloy (Whitfords) *
Tracy Moore (Alexander)
Sue Prince (Willetton)
Paulina Slivkoff (Melville)
Willow Warren (Perth [South])

PORTFOLIO 6 Strategy

Stephen Bohan (Peel)
Terry Brown (Thornlie)
Carmel Gaskin (Cockburn)
Kevin Hipfner (Geraldton [South])
Sue Prince (Willetton)
Gracie Rodgers (Bayswater) *
Paulina Slivkoff (Melville)
Willow Warren (Perth [South])

PORTFOLIO 7

Annual Conference Agenda, Resolutions, Organisation

Stephen Bohan (Peel) *
Tony Cuccaro (Darling Range)
Carmel Gaskin (Cockburn)
Tracy Moore (Alexander)
Paulina Slivkoff (Melville)

PORTFOLIO 8 Finance

Stephen Bohan (Peel)
Terry Brown (Thornlie)
Lora Lowe (Esperance)
Shelley Norrish (Northam) *
Willow Warren (Perth)

Reporting to Parents Project

by *Anne Oliver*
State Councillor, Karratha Electorate

WACSSO is involved in the Reporting to Parents project in Western Australian. The aim of this project is to develop and implement a system wide K-12 policy and guidelines for reporting on student performance.

WACSSO has also been involved in the National Project on Assessment and Reporting being carried out by ACSSO and the Australian Parents Council. This project has been funded by the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training under the Quality Schooling Program. The aim of this project was to draft a set of Key Principles with respect to Assessment and Reporting. Delegates from across Australia (both state and private systems) met in Canberra in August to develop these principles. The draft principles are listed below:

- 1 Parents are the first educators of their children; as such they are entitled to continuing, quality education regarding their children's learning. All such information should be intended to be principally for the benefit of students.
- 2 Parents must be accorded an active role in developing and implementing assessment and reporting policies and processes at the school, system, state and national levels.
- 3 Assessment and reporting processes should make provision for parent and student input about teaching and learning.
- 4 It is the responsibility of the school, the system and the nation, through inclusive consultation processes, to make explicit and public the purposes for which assessment data is to be collected.
- 5 Parents must be informed by the data gatherers of the uses of all student assessment information at the school, the system and the national level.
- 6 Data collected from students in schools should be used in accordance with its stated uses. Any other uses should be specifically negotiated.
- 7 Results of assessments of individual students are confidential to the student, his/her parents and appropriate school staff.
- 8 Any form of assessment should be integrated to the curriculum and designed to inform, support and improve learning outcomes.
- 9 Parents must be consulted about assessment procedures and purposes and have the right to withdraw their child from specific system, statewide and national testing.
- 10 Assessment data must not be used for the purpose of establishing comparative judgements between schools/systems/states or territories.
- 11 Assessment data for state wide or national purposes should be collected by statistically valid, light sampling procedures only.
- 12 Appropriate appeal mechanisms should be established to protect the rights of students and parents in matters of student assessment and reporting at the school, state and national levels.

South Australia and New South Wales Ministers' of Education have demanded Basic Skill testing of all students across both systems and there was much opposition from these delegates for state-wide testing and reporting. In Western Australia students are involved in Monitoring Standards in Education across years 3, 7 & 10. Results of these tests are not released publicly in our state although we do still have our "league: table with the publication of TEE results. Parents should know that Monitoring Standards in Education will be reviewed this year.

With regard to the Western Australian Education Department's Project of Reporting to Parents; parents will be asked to respond to an Education Department of WA discussion paper shortly to be released by John Gougoulis, Project Officer. All P&C affiliates are requested to respond to the discussion paper and the accompanying survey to ensure an effective policy on Reporting to Parents.

Minister's Column

One goal of the Government in the 1990's is to provide the highest quality education for all Western Australian students attending our 750 schools.

'Quality' education means all students having equal access to relevant, interesting and well-rounded curriculum in safe, comfortable buildings that contain adequate resources.

Providing the buildings and resources to fulfil this charter is a costly exercise. The Education Department received an extra \$61.5 M in this year's budget taking its annual total budget to approximately \$1.2 B.

The desired result of the outlay is comfortable buildings, adequately resourced to create positive learning and working environments for students and staff alike. Since becoming the Minister in 1993, and visiting a wide range of schools, I have found the condition and quality of facilities in many schools of great concern.

To remedy the perceived inadequacies, the government has progressively increased the maintenance budget to \$41M and the capital works budget to \$87M. A further additional \$25M has been allocated to accelerate building of undercover assembly areas in schools.

Each successive year that I have been Minister for Education, our Government has increased the funding to education and this trend will continue. However, despite the increased levels of spending both on new buildings and the backlog of maintenance there is still an inequity in standards between school buildings and this needs to be addressed.

The Government has tried new and innovative approaches to solve maintenance problems and the provision of facilities, joining in many ventures with Local Governments to achieve results for the community. We have implemented successful strategies which have had demonstrable outcomes such as the joining with the city of Rockingham to build a school/community library at the new \$13.6M Warnbro Community High School. By entering

this joint venture both the Council and the school win because they will have the funds to build a larger and better stocked library. This type of venture also assists the school establish strong and purposeful links with the community.

We continue to explore avenues to ensure that more effusive management of school buildings and facilities will result in savings which can be redirected to the backlog of maintenance and building improvements.

With the growing patterns of housing developments in Perth and larger country areas, there is a constant need for schools in new suburbs. Inevitably, these new schools are only fully utilised for short periods. Yet the building of such schools consumes a large percentage of the education building budget, making it difficult to find funds for upgrading and maintaining existing school buildings and facilities.

With our Government committed to responsible economic management, the days of large borrowings are long gone. Within that financial environment, it is the major aim of the government to provide educational opportunities of excellence and equity to all of our Western Australian students. Achieving such an outcome is our ideal.

Hon Norman Moore MLC

4 September 1995

Letters to the Editor

Do you have something to say that you believe other P&Cs should hear?

This space is available to you - either P&Cs or individuals - to reach other affiliates

Address Correspondence to: The Editor PO Box 6295 East Perth 6892.

I retired from the position of Principal, Karratha Senior High School, at the end of 1993. During the TV report on your State Conference, which I saw last night, one of the delegates said she was only waiting for a vacancy to send her child to a private school. I wonder if your delegate realizes that this course of action will play right into the hands of our premier: will help him, in fact, to consummate his political agenda.

The present government would dearly love to run the state education system down to a level so low that any parents who can possibly afford the extra expense and have some regard for the future of their children will transfer them to the private system. This, though the government would never enunciate it publicly, is part of its policy. It has three advantages.

If a number of children desert the public system for private schools the drain on the state coffers will be less. Advantage number one.

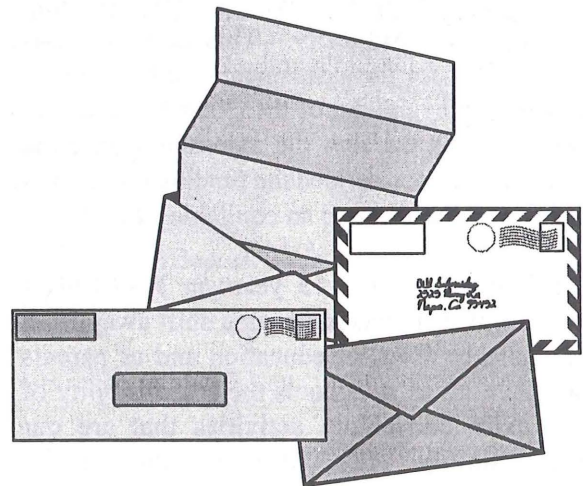
The Commonwealth Government subsidizes private schools on an enrollment basis. The more the enrollments of private schools swell at the expense of state schools the greater is the drain on the Commonwealth purse. Begging the Commonwealth is a pursuit dear to the heart of our premier. Advantage number two.

And well has our esteemed premier learned from his mentor, Joh Bielke Petersen, that their brand of politics flourishes best where, throughout the electorate, there is a high standard of ignorance. He works hard to achieve it. Thereby he may perpetuate his reign. Advantage number three. Well does he merit the names "Tricky Little Dicky".

Am I being biased? Am I being over-emotional? When I look back on the system of which we, as teachers, were moderately proud; on a cohort of teachers who went about their duties with high professionalism; of the reasonably pleasant ambience in which we worked; of the respect for themselves and others which most of the young people entrusted to us picked up along the way, I think not. My sympathies are with the teachers who see their schools falling apart around them, who see resources being cut, who see their profession -- the most important, paid job in the world -- being, as part of government policy, deliberately degraded.

I urge the parents whom you represent not to desert the public system for, by doing so, they will further the policy of our present rulers and deny their own, and other parents', children what is theirs by right: a decent, publicly-funded education.

Spencer Parsons
address supplied



Retiring President's Address

Welcome to the first edition of "P&C Voice".

Congratulations to those people who have been involved in the change in WACSSO communications to parents across Western Australia. As in the past I hope parents will read, make comment and feel free to contribute articles to P&C Voice. It is your paper please use it!

History tells those who have been involved in the education system that change occurs and P&Cs find they have invested their well earned funds into projects that do not have long term benefits for students.

One area that P&Cs have in the past funded is providing computer hardware to schools. However, on many occasions the hardware is purchased with little or no consideration being given to issues such as: Should equipment be bought or leased? Will computer literacy be part of the curriculum? Does computer literacy include key board skills? Will parents be expected to pay fees for computer education? P&Cs may like to discuss these issues when next they are considering such a purchase.

On the topic of resources WACSSO welcomed news of the Government's allocation of \$765m to clear the backlog in maintenance, build undercover areas and build new schools over a five year program. It is my understanding that the \$765m will be given to the Building Management Authority. This authority was responsible for the assessment of all schools in WA at the beginning of the Court Government term. It was through the assessment that the Government determined the funding required to bring all schools up to an equitable standard.

As I reflect on my 15 years in WACSSO I wonder if there has not been a shift away from the core business of education and as parents we have given to schools the responsibility of the extra curriculum activities that are our responsibility. For example the Health

curriculum contains information on issues such as HIV/AIDS, Drug Abuse, Sex Education, Food & Nutrition to name but a few.

I believe these are important in a students learning but I issue a challenge to you as parents - is this the province of schools or home. There is no doubt that the method and delivery of education is changing and this could have an impact on teachers' role in the classroom. Similarly, technology curriculum and happy well-adjusted teachers will go a long way to preparing students for the competitive business world.

I would like to congratulate Dianne Guise on her appointment as WACSSO State President. I know that with Dianne's enthusiasm and knowledge of education she will make a great leader and accept any challenge with great assurance.

In closing I would like to thank all those people who made my task as President a pleasure. I found my position challenging and I hope that my commitment to equity in education for all students has supported the common goal of achieving a quality education for all students. I firmly believe that all students have a right to a quality education and as a community it is our responsibility to ensure that this is provided.

Finally thanks to WACSSO State Council and many thanks to Rae Durham, Executive Officer; Carol Kooymans, Administrative Officer; Lesley Westall, Liaison Officer; Jody Quinn and Kirsty Friesema clerical staff for their support over the past four years.

To you all I say - "Keep up the good work!"

ANNE SPENCER



VOLUNTEERS AND THE SCHOOL CANTEEN

Attracting volunteers to help in the canteen is an issue often raised by P&Cs and Canteen Committees. There is a perception that there are fewer people available.

Following are some suggestions on attracting and keeping volunteers.

- ☺ Send out letters requesting help at the beginning of the first semester
- ☺ Make parents welcome at the canteen at any time for a cuppa and a chat
- ☺ Make sure you know your volunteers correct name.
- ☺ Treat new volunteers as special; appoint an experienced hand to take care of them on their first day.
- ☺ Keep a card file on each of your volunteers (ie what days they are available, phone number, child's class etc.)
- ☺ Display posters of tasks required
- ☺ Distribute a contact sheet of names and phone numbers (with permission) so volunteers can arrange a replacement if they can't do their roster.
- ☺ Don't force volunteers to do a to a particular task if they are uncomfortable with it.
- ☺ Get involved in parent events at the school to reach new volunteers - ie open the canteen on Parent Nights or Orientation days for coffee or morning tea. Be especially aware of new arrivals to the school or district.

Don't forget to let WACSSO know of any hints that work for your school and could help other schools.

Does your P&C have a copy of
Canteen Guidelines?

Copies are available from
WACSSO Office

WACSSO recently surveyed affiliates on Parent Fundraising & Government Schools, whilst the survey is still being compiled one of the items that has resulted is a list of fundraising events that P&Cs are running. We include this list for your information, please let us and other P&Cs know of any other activities your P&C uses.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| apple drive | Japanese school |
| auction | labels |
| Baileys Bakery | lapathon |
| balls | lolly drive |
| BMA contracts | maintenance |
| booklists | Maltesers |
| bush dance | marine Dealing |
| busy bees | Melbourne Cup lunches |
| cakestall | mother's group |
| carwash | pantomime |
| catering | photographs |
| chocolate drive | plays |
| clothing pool | quiz night |
| Coles docketts | raffle |
| community events | recycling - cans/chemical |
| cricket matches | drums |
| crutching | sausage sizzle |
| CWA | school hall hire |
| dinners | show & farm sales |
| disco | show bags |
| donate a book | socials |
| Easter bun drive | spellathon |
| family fun night | sports day |
| Fathers/Mothers day | sports equipment |
| stall | swap meet |
| fete/fair | swimming pool hire |
| film nights | telephone book delivery |
| free dress day | tree growing/nursery |
| fun run | uniform stall |
| gravel/sand carting | winetasting |
| Interest fixed deposit | |

Noticeboard

TUART HILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ELIGIBILITY

This scholarship is available to a student commencing Year 11 at a Government Senior High School of his or her choice and living within the postal districts of Tuart Hill, Yokine, Joondanna or Osborne Park. The student will be selected on scholastic achievement and qualities of citizenship. This scholarship is for one year only and is not available in Year 12.

VALUE

The value of this scholarship is \$300 and is awarded in one grant.

APPLICATIONS

Application forms and further information are available from

Western Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc
(WACSSO)

PO Box 6295 EAST PERTH 6892

Telephone (09) 264 4000

Applications close Friday 24 November 1995



KALGOORLIE (CENTRAL) PRIMARY SCHOOL CENTENARY

Former staff, students and other interested persons are notified that the Schools Centenary Celebrations will take place on May 18 1996.

Information is requested regarding former staff and students and any photographs, anecdotes, history or memorabilia would be appreciated.

Please contact the Centenary Coordinator, Kalgoorlie Primary School,
PO Box 5473 (Dugan Street) KALGOORLIE 6430.

phone: (090) 21 2513, Fax (090) 91 4292, after hours (090) 21 1116

If your P&C would like to have a function advertised on the Noticeboard please send the information addressed to:
The Editor P&C Voice PO Box 6295, EAST PERTH 6892

WACSSO State Councillors

PRESIDENT:	Dianne Guise (09) 401 1112
ELECTORATE	COUNCILLOR
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ALBANY	VACANT
ARMADALE	By-Election in Progress
BAYSWATER	Gracie Rodgers (09) 271 5116 (H)
BUNBURY (NORTH)	Roy Scaife (097) 97 2551 (H)
BUNBURY (SOUTH)	VACANT
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DARLING RANGE	Tony Cuccaro (09) 294 2821 (H)
ESPERANCE	Lora Lowe (090) 71 5241 (H)
GERALDTON (NTH)	Kay Vinton (099) 64 1151 (H)
GERALDTON (STH)	Kevin Hipfner (099) 71 1209 (H)
HEDLAND	Robert Fry (091) 72 2270 (H)
JOONDALUP	By-election in Progress
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KARRATHA	Vacant
KIMBERLEY	Kevin Lawton (091) 93 5212
MANJIMUP	By-Election in Progress
MELVILLE	Paulina Slivkoff (09)364 6265
MERREDIN	Vacant
MOORA	Dexter Davies (096) 38 1075 (H)
NARROGIN	Michael Page (098) 81 1525 (H)
NORTHAM	Shelley Norrish (096) 22 5592 (H)
PEEL	Stephen Bohan (09) 5817971
PERTH (SOUTH)	Willow Warren (09) 362 6627 (H)
SCARBOROUGH	Vacant
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WILLETTON	Susan Prince (09) 458 8460 (H)