

KELVIN GROVE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

TWENTIETH ANNUAL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

SPEECH NIGHT - 1980

MR. CHAIRMAN, DR. EDWARDS, MR. MULLER, MRS. CHAPMAN,
MISS GREEN, MR. TWEEDIE, OFFICIAL GUESTS, MEMBERS OF STAFF,
LADIES & GENTLEMAN, STUDENTS:-

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR 20TH ANNUAL SPEECH NIGHT.
THANK YOU ESPECIALLY DR. EDWARDS FOR FINDING OCCASION AMIDST
THE TRIENNIAL TRAUMAS OF ELECTIONEERING TO DO US THE HONOUR
OF APPEARING ON WHAT, I TRUST, WILL BE A LESS CONTENTIOUS
PLATFORM.

I COULD NOT PROCEED WITH MY REPORT WITHOUT ADDING MY
PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO THOSE YOU HAVE RIGHTLY HEAPED UPON MY
PREDECESSOR. FOR KEITH PEMBLETON HAS BECOME A LEGEND IN THIS
PROFESSION. IN A WORLD OF RAPID EDUCATIONAL CHANGE, HE NEVER
DEPARTED FROM AN INTUITIVE VISION OF THE IDEAL. WHEN OTHERS
FALTERED, HE STRODE FORWARD; WHERE OTHERS SAW DESPAIR AND GLOOM,
HE SAW ONLY OPTIMISM AND LIGHT. MAY OUR LASTING TRIBUTE TO HIM
BE THE CONTINUED BRIGHTNESS OF THAT LIGHT AMIDST THE NEW
CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD.

THIS YEAR OPENED WITH THE USUALLY HIGH YEAR 11 ENROLMENT BUT A SIGNIFICANT FALL IN THE YEAR 8 INTAKE. THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS SUGGEST A CONTINUATION OF THIS TREND, AT LEAST IN THE SHORT TERM. IT IS NOT A TREND PECULIAR TO KELVIN GROVE AND LIES BEHIND I SUSPECT, A WHOLE HOST OF NEW DEMANDS ON SCHOOLS & ON THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. THESE DEMANDS I BELIEVE CAN ONLY BE EFFECTIVELY MET BY A CLOSER LOOK AT SCHOOL STAFFING AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SUPPORT & ANCILLARY SERVICES. IN AN ATTEMPT TO MEET SOME OF THE PRESSURES, OUR GUIDANCE OFFICER & RESOURCE TEACHER HAVE ABSORBED INTO THEIR ALREADY BUSY SCHEDULES THE TASK OF ORGANIZING WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS FOR A SELECT GROUP OF YEAR 10 STUDENTS. THE EXPERIMENT HAS PROVED SO SUCCESSFUL THAT IT MUST EXPAND NEXT YEAR TO ENCOMPASS NOT ONLY MORE YEAR 10 STUDENTS BUT THOSE IN YEAR 11 WHOSE ASPIRATIONS DO NOT TURN TOWARDS TERTIARY ENTRANCE. TO HELP THESE STUDENTS FURTHER, A SUBMISSION COMPRISING ELEMENTS FROM ALMOST EVERY DEPARTMENT IN THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN MADE FOR COMMONWEALTH FUNDING TO SET UP NEW COURSES AND TO IMPROVE THE PRE-EMPLOYMENT SUBJECTS PRESENTLY ON OFFER. TO DATE THE COMMERICAL, MATHS, MANUAL ARTS & RESOURCE DEPARTMENTS HAVE BENEFITED.

I MUST STRESS THAT THESE ARE EXTENSIONS & IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR PREVAILING CURRICULUM STRUCTURE. THE CHIEF BUSINESS OF THIS SCHOOL IS AND WILL REMAIN EDUCATION IN THE BROADEST SENSE OF THAT TERM. EVERY COURSE WHETHER TRADITIONALLY ACADEMIC OR EMPLOYMENT BIASSED WILL DEMAND OF STUDENTS THE SAME LEARNING DISCIPLINE, THE SAME DEGREE OF COMMITMENT, THE SAME HIGH STANDARD

OF APPEARANCE AND BEHAVIOUR WHICH WE ALWAYS STRIVE TO MAINTAIN. ANYONE LOOKING FOR SOFT OPTIONS OR A FREEDOM FROM TIGHT REGULATION AND PERSISTENT PRESSURE TO ACHIEVE WILL BE SADLY DISAPPOINTED.

IN OUR MIGRANT EDUCATION SECTION SIMILAR PRESSURES EXIST TO COPE WITH EXPANDING AND MORE DIVERSE POPULATIONS. OUR TWO MIGRANT TEACHERS ARE STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT NOT ONLY IN THEIR OVERT WORK OF TEACHING THE COMMUNICATION SKILLS NECESSARY TO ATTAIN EDUCATIONAL GOALS; BUT ALSO IN PROVIDING CAMPS & SOCIAL OCCASIONS TO CLOSE THE CULTURAL GAP BETWEEN THEIR CHARGES AND THEIR NEW COUNTRY. THEIR SUCCESS IS APPARENT IN THE NUMBER OF MIGRANT STUDENTS VENTURING INTO WIDER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND UNDERTAKING RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THE SCHOOL. THIS YEAR WE ARE PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL TO PITTSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR PROVIDING A CONTACT WITH QUEENSLAND RURAL LIFE FOR THOSE MIGRANT STUDENTS WHO HAVE LITTLE EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE THE METROPOLITAN AREA.

OUR MODERN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT CLEARLY RECOGNIZES THIS LANGUAGE-CULTURAL LINK. ITS EFFORTS THIS YEAR TO RAISE FUNDS TO UPDATE ITS PROGRAM HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL BEYOND EXPECTATIONS. OUR SENIOR FRENCH STUDENTS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF MAKING UP A GROUP WITH MITCHELTON HIGH TO SAMPLE THE LANGUAGE AND LIFE STYLE OF FRENCH NEW CALEDONIA; THE GOETHE SOCIETY COMPETITION BROUGHT A FIRST AND SECOND PRIZE AT GRADE 8 LEVEL AND THIRTEEN HONOURABLE MENTIONS TO OTHER STUDENTS; AND AS USUAL THE BASTILLE DAY AND OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATIONS BROUGHT A TOUCH OF FRANCE & GERMANY TO THIS VERY HALL.

CO-CURRICULAR AND EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS ARE USED EXTENSIVELY IN THIS SCHOOL BOTH AS A MEDIUM FOR CORPORATE AND SOCIAL ENRICHMENT AND AS INVALUABLE TEACHING AIDS. THEY ARE MADE POSSIBLE WITHOUT EXTENSIVE LOSS OF CLASSROOM TIME BY THE VILLAINOUSLY SUBTLE TIMETABLING OF MR. TWEEDIE & MRS. CHAPMAN AND BY THE WILLINGNESS OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS TO SACRIFICE PRIVATE TIME OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS. FROM THE XXXX FACTORY TO STRADBROKE ISLAND; FROM THE RURAL AIR OF WITTA AND STORM KING DAM TO THE GALLERIES, OFFICES & THEATRES OF THE CENTRAL CITY, YOU WILL FIND OUR STUDENTS PAINTING, FOSSICKING, OBSERVING AND APPRECIATING AND THEN LATER LUMBERED WITH A LIBERAL LASHING OF HOMEWORK AND ASSIGNMENTS. BEHIND SUCH ACTIVITIES, THE SERVICES OF OUR TEACHER-LIBRARIANS AND A.V. CO-ORDINATOR ARE VITAL AS THEY ARE INDEED IN SO MANY ASPECTS OF LEARNING.

THE LONG EXCURSION - TO THE SNOWY THIS YEAR - PROVED AN EXCELLENT EXERCISE IN LEADERSHIP, TOLERANCE, AND SELF-RELIANCE. I CANNOT THANK MRS. FARMER ENOUGH FOR HER IMMACULATE PREPARATIONS AND UNLIMITED ENERGY, NOR MR. WRETHAM FOR PROVIDING THE PILOT VEHICLE AND HIS INVALUABLE FORWARD SERVICES. ONCE MORE, FRIGMOBILE VOLUNTEERED GRATIS TRANSPORT OF FROZEN PROVISIONS TO ENSURE OUR HEALTHY DIET. IN COOMA, A TOURIST OFFICER AND A LOCAL BUSINESS MAN COMMENTED TO ME ON THE BEARING AND GOOD MANNERS OF OUR STUDENTS. I AM HAPPY TO CONFIRM THOSE GOOD OPINIONS TO-NIGHT AND TO CONGRATULATE THEIR PARENTS ON 16 TO 18 YEARS OF WONDERFUL NURTURE AND UPBRINGING.

SPORT CONTINUES TO PROVIDE HEALTHY COMPETITIVE AND SOCIAL OUTLETS FOR STUDENTS AND PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN GOOD. ZONE PREMIERSHIPS CAME TO THE SCHOOL IN BASEBALL A, VIGORO, BOYS & GIRLS TENNIS A; BOYS HOCKEY IN TWO GRADES, GIRLS BASKETBALL B; & NETBALL D. THE BOYS TENNIS TEAM WENT ON TO BECOME METROPOLITAN CHAMPIONS AND WON IN THE PROCESS PLAUDITS FOR DEDICATION AND CHARACTER THAT EPITOMIZE THE UNIVERSAL AIMS OF SPORT. THE YEAR 9 BOYS WON THEIR ZONE RUGBY LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP AND REACHED THE FINAL OF THE BRISBANE KNOCK OUT COMPETITION IN AUSTRALIAN RULES. SWIMMING & ATHLETICS SHOWED GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN LEAD UP AND ZONE COMPETITION AND AS USUAL PROVIDED ENJOYABLE INTERHOUSE CARNIVALS. AT STATE LEVEL, TWO SECOND PLACES CAME TO THE SCHOOL IN SWIMMING AND THREE FIRSTS AND A SECOND IN ATHLETICS. SIXTEEN STUDENTS WERE SELECTED IN BRISBANE REPRESENTATIVE SIDES COVERING SEVEN SPORTS. THE FOLLOWING HAVE MADE STATE TEAMS:-

SAMANTHA LEWERS (GIRLS HOCKEY); JIM MCKAY & RUSSELL DUNNING (BOYS HOCKEY); KRISTINE TRACEY (ORIENTEERING); VIENNA CHURCH & ROBIN LUNDIN (ATHLETICS); AND DES MCCONNELL (RUGBY LEAGUE).

IN QUIETER VEIN, THERE HAS BEEN MUCH ACTIVITY IN DEBATING AT INTERSCHOOL & INTERCLASS LEVEL. PARENTS WOULD BE AMAZED AT THE SOPHISTICATED UTTERANCE OF MANY STUDENTS OF TENDER YEARS IN THIS ENTERTAINING AND DIFFICULT ART.

THE PERFORMING ARTS CONTINUE TO PERMEATE SCHOOL LIFE. THE ORCHESTRAS, BANDS & ENSEMBLES HAVE PROVIDED FINE CONCERTS, HAVE DONE WELL IN COMPETITION, AND THIS YEAR HAVE CUT THEIR FIRST TAPE, "ETUDE". THE JUNIOR GROUPS HAVE INDICATED THEIR POTENTIAL IN CONCERT TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS IN THE FUTURE. HOWEVER IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE SEEK RECURRENT GRANTS OF MONEY TO REPLACE INSTRUMENTS AS THEIR USEFUL LIFE, LIKE MINE PERHAPS, DETERIORATES. THE KEITH PEMBLETON PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE HAS PROVED AN EXCELLENT VENUE FOR INTIMATE CONCERT AND THEATRE WORK. "MOTHER GOOSE" AND "MACAVITY" HAD EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES IN THE CENTRE BEFORE ATTRACTING THE ACCLAIM OF THE WARANA JUDGES. THE NEW BOARD SUBJECT "DANCE" HAS BEEN TRIALLING SUCCESSFULLY AND SEEMS DESTINED TO ATTRACT MORE STUDENTS IN THE FUTURE. THE MAJOR MUSICAL, "SUNNY" WAS ALL THAT ITS NAME IMPLIED AND AS USUAL BROUGHT TOGETHER THE MANY DIVERSE DEPARTMENTS OF THE SCHOOL. MRS. CHAPMAN'S CAPACITY FOR GENERATING THIS CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT OVER SEVERAL YEARS IS A TRIBUTE TO HER VIBRANT AND GENEROUS NATURE AND HER UNIQUE GIFT FOR RADIATING JOY AND AFFECTION WHEREVER SHE GOES.

ALTHOUGH OURS IS A SECULAR SCHOOL, IT RECOGNIZES THE PLACE OF THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION IN OUR WAY OF LIFE. I THANK OUR VISITING CLERGY FOR THEIR WORK IN THIS AREA. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THEIR WORK IS SUPPLEMENTED BY THE INTERSCHOOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP WHICH MEETS WEEKLY TO PROVIDE A MEANS WHEREBY INTERESTED STUDENTS CAN DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURES AND CHRISTIAN VALUES.

THIS YEAR SEVERAL I.S.C.F. MEMBERS ATTENDED WEEK-END AND VACATION CAMPS WHICH OFFERED THEM THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INTER-ACTION WITH OTHER I.S.C.F. GROUPS AND VISITS BY CHRISTIAN ROCK GROUPS, DRAMA GROUPS AND GUEST SPEAKERS HAVE ATTRACTED WIDER THAN USUAL AUDIENCES.

TO ELABORATE AS ONE OUGHT ON ALL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IS IMPOSSIBLE IN A SINGLE REPORT. THE REGULAR STUDENT PUBLICATIONS OF PRISM AND THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE "AD SIDERA" ADMIRABLY PLUG THE GAPS I MUST LEAVE TO-NIGHT; BUT THEY ADD YET ANOTHER DIMENSION TO SCHOOL LIFE AS WELL, WHICH THOSE WHO READ THEM WILL DISCOVER MORE ADEQUATELY THAN I CAN EXPLAIN.

YOU WILL ALL BE AWARE NOW THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OF THE SCHOOL LIE IN MUCH MORE APPROPRIATE SURROUNDINGS BELOW THEIR OLD POSITION WHICH HAS BEEN CONVERTED TO A STAFF COMMON ROOM. A LONG CAMPAIGN BY A SUCCESSION OF P. & C.'S HAS NOW BEEN WON AND I WOULD ASK DR. EDWARDS TO CONVEY OUR THANKS TO THE MINISTER FOR WORKS.

MORE MODEST, BUT NO LESS PRAISEWORTHY HAS BEEN THE WORK OF THE SENIOR MANUAL ARTS CLASSES UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THEIR TEACHERS IN CONSTRUCTION JOBS ABOUT THE SCHOOL. THE NEW PARADE DAIS, THE PARTITIONING OF THE AREA UNDER THE SCIENCE BLOCK AND THE LETTERING ON THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE ARE ALL WORK FOR WHICH WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL.

I BELIEVE OUR CONTACTS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL ARE CONTINUALLY ENLARGING. AS USUAL I EXPRESS MY THANKS TO THE C.A.E. AND TO THE PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR THEIR WONDERFUL CO-OPERATION AND SHARING OF FACILITIES, AND TO ORGANIZATIONS LIKE T.O.S.A. AND S.G.A.P. FOR THEIR MUTUALLY VALUABLE ASSOCIATION. OUR WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM HAS PRODUCED A SPLENDID RESPONSE FROM THE SURROUNDING BUSINESS AND SERVICE COMMUNITY AND OUR EMPLOYER DAY IN APRIL BROUGHT A FRANK AND VITAL INPUT INTO OUR THINKING ON CURRICULUM. THE ART EXHIBITION ATTRACTED AN EXCELLENT AUDIENCE AS WELL AS PROVIDING AN EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS AND OUR FASHION PARADES AND OTHER FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN MOST GENEROUSLY SPONSORED.

THE P. & C. HOWEVER REMAINS FOR PARENTS THE MAJOR LINK WITH THE SCHOOL. THERE IS A PLACE ON IT FOR NEWER PARENTS AS WELL AS THOSE WHO, IN SOME CASES WITH FAMILIES LONG FINISHED SCHOOL, CONTINUE TO WORK HARD FOR US. THANK YOU DEREK FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP THIS YEAR, ESPECIALLY IN BRINGING US MIDWAY TOWARDS THE SWIMMING POOL PHASE OF THE INDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX. MRS NASH AND THE LADIES AUXILIARY HAVE AT TIMES SENT ME SCRAMBLING FOR COVER; BUT INVARIABLY I EMERGE TO FIND A NEW VENTURE UNDER WAY, A NEW INCENTIVE FOR MOTHERS TO COME TO SCHOOL, A NEW GOAL, LIKE THOSE CANTEEN REFRIGERATORS, TO WORK TOWARDS. WHEN OSCAR WILDE SAID "MOTHERS ARE DARLINGS", HE WAS PERFECTLY RIGHT. MRS GOSTELOW AND THE TUCK SHOP LADIES ARE PRIME EXAMPLES. I COULD NOT BE MORE CONVINCED THAT A VITAL PART OF ANY YOUNG PERSON'S EDUCATION

IS THE DIRECT EXAMPLE OF GOOD ADULT PEOPLE ENGAGED IN CO-OPERATIVE SERVICE FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS. SUCH AN EXAMPLE DO OUR TUCK SHOP HELPERS AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS PROVIDE IN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CANNOT POSSIBLY ESCAPE THE NOTICE OF STUDENTS.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE STAFF, I EXTEND MY THANKS FOR YOUR LOYALTY, ENCOURAGEMENT AND HELP IN FINDING MY WAY IN THIS FINE SCHOOL.

TO PARENTS AND GUESTS I COMMEND YOUR CHILDREN TO THE CARE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY OF THIS STAFF. THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THIS YEAR ARE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS. IF THIS REPORT IS WORTHY OF YOUR APPROBATION THEN I ASK YOU TO DIRECT YOUR ACCLAIM NOT TO ME, BUT TO THEM.