

Minutes of Knox Grammar School Council Meeting, 20th September, 1990

At Wahroonga and within the Main School the Council of Knox Grammar School met pursuant to Notice. The meeting was duly Constituted with prayer by the Reverend A. L. Finlay.

Sederunt :

There were present Mr. M. D. Ireland in the Chair, the Reverends A. L. Finlay and A. F. Smart, Dr. C. Ferguson, Mrs. H. Jones and Mrs. P. Walker, Messrs. J. L. Cameron, C. W. Love, E. Craig Miller and R. B. Perkins, Dr. James A. White and Mr. Brooks C. Wilson; Dr. I. W. Paterson, Headmaster, and Mr. J. L. Kyle, Secretary to the Council.

Apologies :

An apology for non-attendance was recorded on behalf of Mr. P. J. Roach and Mr. D. R. Somerville.

Confirmation of Minutes :

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th August, 1990, as circulated to Members of Council, were taken as Read and Confirmed subject to the amendment of the second paragraph under "Correspondence" to read "...and it was Agreed that Knox and Pymble Ladies' College School Councils operated under differing circumstances from M.L.C. and Ravenswood."

Business Arising from the Minutes :

Barker Centenary Gift

The Headmaster advised that the Bible Society was endeavouring to locate a suitable leather-bound Bible. He will inform the Headmaster of Barker that we intend making this gift.

Mr. Perkins advised that the O.K.G.A. had purchased a set of Australian prose works as their gift for the centenary.

Chapel Windows

The agreement as circulated to Members of Council was Adopted.

Railway Underpass

The Headmaster felt it was appropriate that we first obtain Ku-ring-gai Council's permission, and a firm estimate of the cost, before approaching the donor.

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Correspondence : Nil

Headmaster's Report : The Headmaster spoke to his report which had been circulated to Members of Council.

Staff - Appointments - John Lodge (General Duties Master) as from 10/9/90 and Craig Seawright (Science) as from 1/1/91 - Confirmed.

It was felt that the role of the Staff Committee in regard to appointments should be clarified at a meeting of the Chairman, the Staff Committee and the Headmaster.

Camp Knox - Headstart - It was Agreed that this programme be re-introduced for 1991. It was noted that at this stage acceptances have been received from only eight boys and it was hoped that with further promotion this number could be increased.

Musical Spectacular - This production had been a great success and the Council offered congratulations to the Headmaster, Mr. Buggy and all others involved.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 September, 1990.

STAFF John Lodge (OKG 1975) to be Confirmed as General Duties Master. Single 32 yrs old. Police Constable after working in parents catering firm for nine years. Ten-pin bowling champion. Tennis. Rugby. Has begun very well indeed.

Craig Seawright to be confirmed as Science Teacher (replacing Carolyn Blanden - pregnant). 30 yrs old. Single. B.Sc. (Honours). James Cook University Dip.Ed. (1983) Sydney. Continuous teaching experience at S.C.E.G.G.S. (Redlands) since 1984. Schooling at Toowoomba Grammar School.

DISCIPLINE A series of minor incidents reveal worrying trends as Knox boys reflect society around them:

- 1) the Chapel Affair continues to be used by Knox boys on others here - reflecting a "fear" and hatred of homosexuals.
- 2) teasing which becomes prolonged and persistent (rarely intending hurt) - reflecting Comedy Company type humour.
- 3) fascination with knives, cigarette lighters, "weapons" - reflecting the rambo images and need for protection and security today.
- 4) bullying to hurt; anger to hurt - reflecting the violence within our media and movies, and in society.
- 5) "softer" boys readily succumbing to headaches and colds - reflecting a cocooned upbringing.
- 6) a reduction in idealism as boys search for material success - obvious!
- 7) a continual need to "satisfy the peer group" - reflecting a desperate need to have acceptance and friends - a real fear of "aloneness".
- 8) buckling under the many pressures upon adolescents - where can they raid an orchard anymore? Life is too regimented with the "free" spaces closed off in the cities - hence anger and angst builds.

In a nutshell, Knox boys remain basically decent, honourable and sensible but they usually, now, need to be reminded to exhibit those qualities. Initiative is less obvious. The peer group gang leads the way unless we (adults) attempt to thwart it.

For your interest and note.

CAMP KNOX We had to remove canoe racks and ropes course from waterside flat area to get Building Certificate from Hornsby Council. BHP Management School in September - General fee \$1000; canoe hire \$260; ferry \$85; use of Knox Staff \$220 each day - food in addition.

18 "outside" camps scheduled for 1991 generating \$20,000 net income.

ANNUAL CAMP Being held in the Newnes & Capertee State Forests and conducted on an operational basis - that is, constant movement with no settled Headquarters. The area has been infiltrated by agents from Kamaria and these have to be discovered by clearing through suspected areas. The aims are:

- a) exercise the unit as a whole in deploying to an unfamiliar area and conducting operations in it;
- b) exercise commanders at all levels in the planning and execution of field operations under pressure;
- c) exercise all members in the gathering, interpretation and passage of information;
- d) exercise all members in the conduct of operational procedure;

- e) exercise the administrative elements in providing support and maintenance to a unit conducting operations over long distances in difficult conditions;
- f) provide challenging and demanding activities to develop fieldcraft skills, leadership and initiative at all levels; and
- g) exercise the Unit Headquarters in commanding and controlling field operations.

MUSICAL SPECTACULAR performed superbly in its Six nights, especially the final three. It was a great job by Mr. Buggy (arrangements of music), Kerrie Woods (creative choreographer), Howard West (cleverly simple "costumes") using my script and overall production!

CAS CAS lost to GPS rugby in a tight game 7-10 after an historic win over CHS 9-6.

John Turner selected for NSW Firsts Schoolboys.

BROADENING CURRICULUM I attach copy of our Form Five Subject Choice Form for this year. Next year we have added "Business Studies". In a non-selective school it is difficult to omit new subjects which tend to cater for the less able. On the margin now is "Legal Studies". Each new subject means another teacher and classroom - rarely does the introduction of a new subject come in conjunction with the loss of another.

HEADSTART 1991 This program has been in limbo since 1988 through lack of availability of appropriate teacher. I now have the teacher - but barely the numbers - some 8 boys definitely only. Teacher will cost \$38,000 + all the boys are currently at School - boarding fee is \$4500 each.

Headmaster