

MORONGO

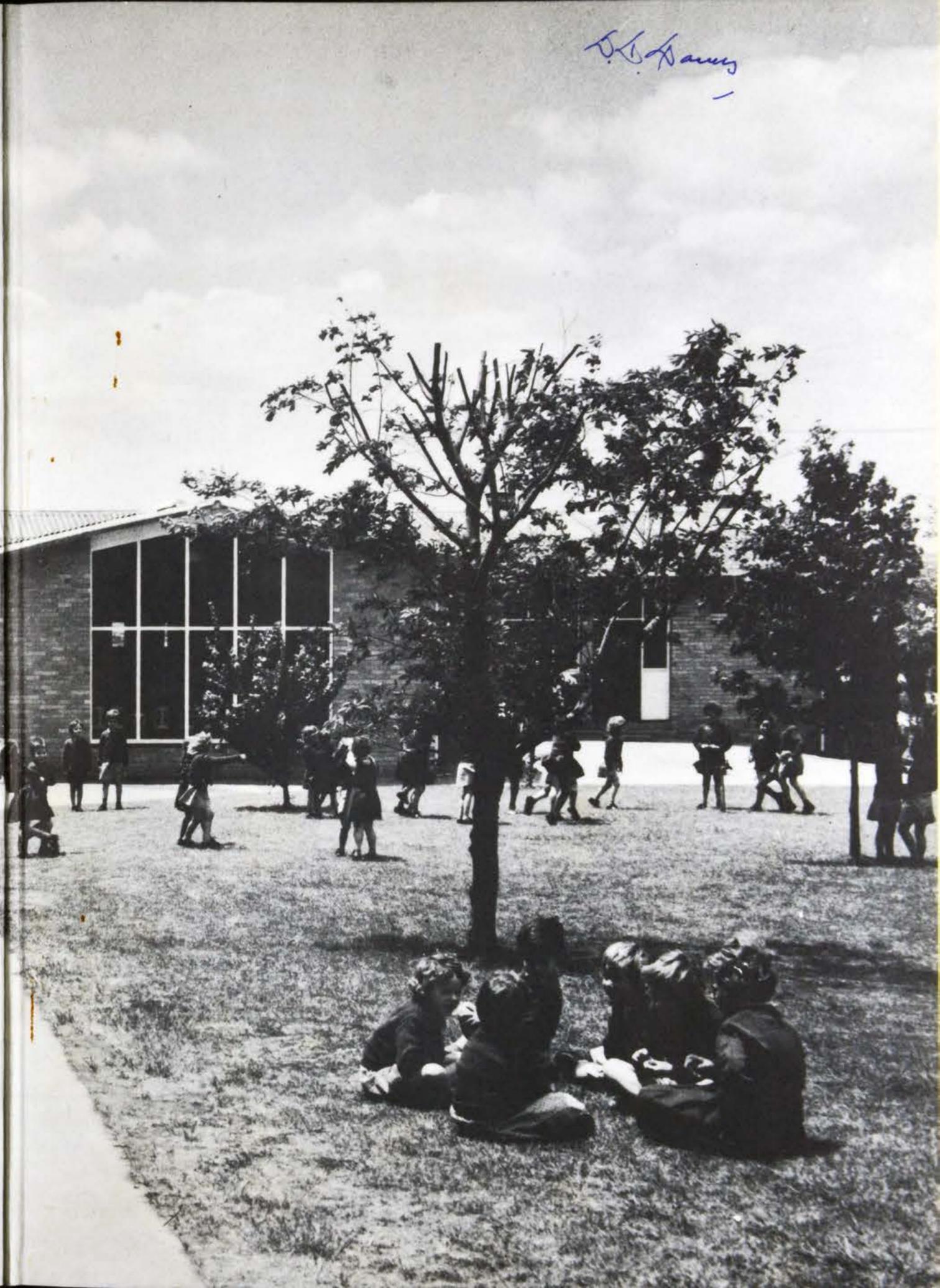
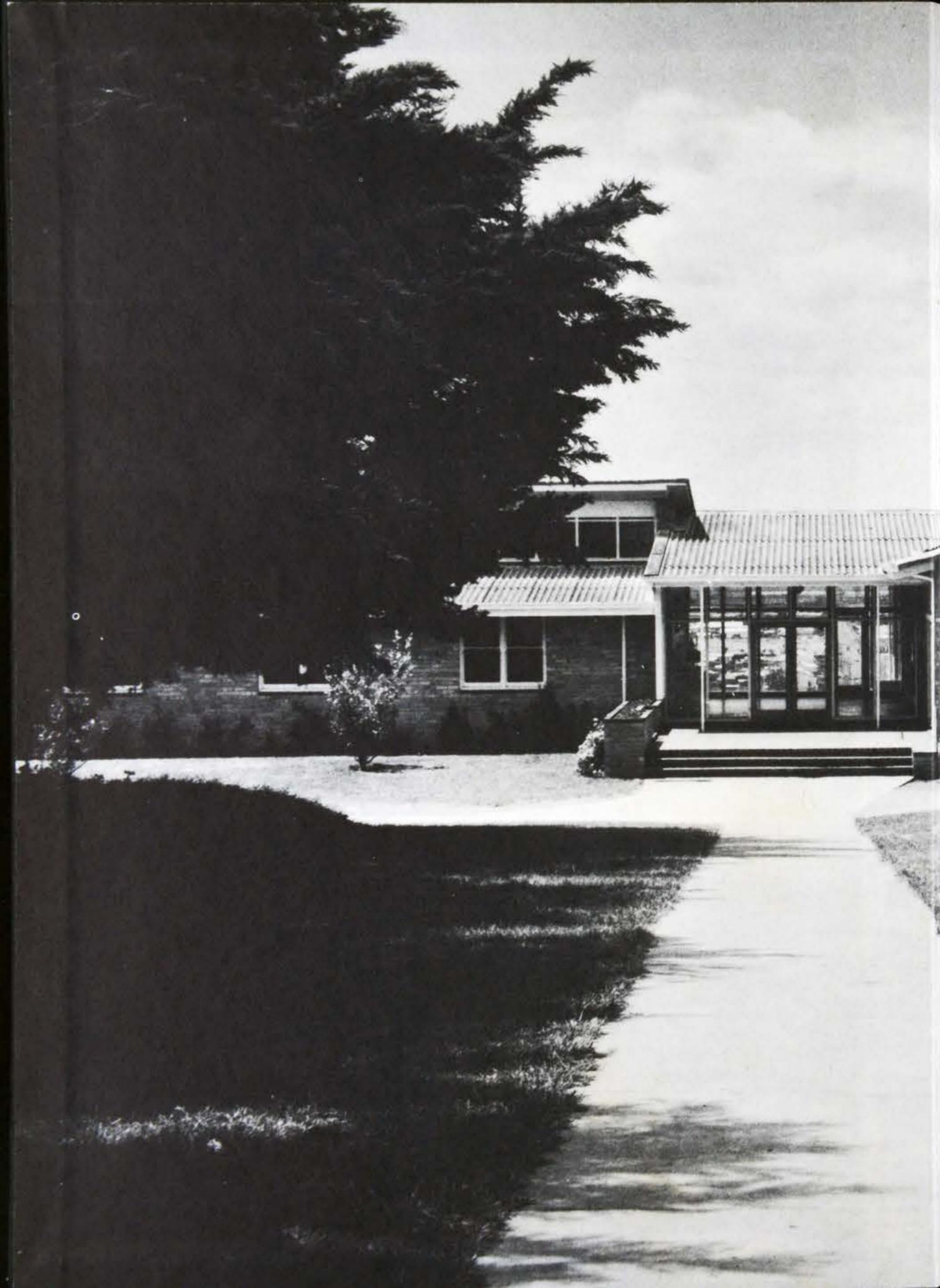
THE FIRST

FIFTY

YEARS



MEMOIR OF THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS



MORONGO

MORONGO

History of  
Presbyterian Board College  
Morongo, California, Australia

1940-1970



Authorized  
by Council of the Board

# MORONGO

*A History of the  
Presbyterian Girls' College  
Geelong, Victoria, Australia*

*1920-1970*



*Authorised  
By the Council of the College*

Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne  
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**' M O R O N G O O '**

The word 'MORONGOO' is thought to be Aboriginal for an edible plant which flourished in the district, particularly near the You Yangs, at the time of the first settlement. The plant was known in English as 'native bread'.

# Foreword

It is a great privilege to have the honour of writing a foreword to this, 'The History of *Morongo*' from its foundation in 1920 to its Jubilee in 1970. This book contains the History of Morongo over this period, but perhaps more important, it tells the story of those men, the founders of the school and the members of the Council, who had sufficient vision and confidence to lay the foundation of the school and carry it on through difficult years with inadequate finance and limited support. From this period came a heritage that is probably one of the strong points of Morongo today. Full credit must be given to the early Council Members, for after establishing the school in temporary quarters, they immediately looked for a permanent site and, in choosing Morongo, they made a decision that has earned them the gratitude of all friends of the school. Our founders had one great asset and that was obtaining the services of Gertrude Pratt as the first Headmistress. She was an amazing personality, who unhesitatingly shouldered the responsibilities of those early difficult years and seemed to be quite unaware of the tremendous handicap. When Miss Pratt retired, the Council again had the very good fortune of obtaining Lucy Shaw to carry on the work started by Miss Pratt. These two wonderful women, though different in many ways, both possessed the ability and dignity, together with the numerous other qualities so necessary for a successful headmistress. Morongo owes a great debt of gratitude to its two headmistresses who have carried the school over its first fifty years.

I would like to express my appreciation and the gratitude of the School Council to Mrs Cowperthwaite for her untiring work in obtaining the facts and presenting to us the story of Morongo. The work of Mrs Cowperthwaite is an example of the assistance that has been given to Morongo by so many people during the last fifty years. It is of course, impossible to mention them all individually but I would ask them all to accept the grateful thanks of the School.

E. W. McCANN  
*Chairman of School Council*

## *Preface*

I am pleased and honoured to have the opportunity to send a greeting to the Parents and many Old Collegians and Friends of Morongo who will read this book, the history of the first fifty years of our school. Some of the information may be new to you, some will be familiar, but all that you read will serve to recall memories of your schooldays spent either at Roslyn or at Bell Post Hill.

With me you will rejoice in the development recorded in these pages. I realize it has been a great honour to be associated with Morongo over the years and I thank the Council of Morongo for their confidence in granting to me the privilege of guiding the school over the last twenty-eight years.

I am fully aware of the time-consuming research and tremendous thought required in the preparation of this brief history. Many, many months have been devoted to the gathering and sorting of data and then to deciding how much of this can be used—what must be included and how much can be omitted without loss to the narrative. I have come more and more to realize how fortunate we were when Mrs Cowperthwaite graciously agreed to undertake the writing of this history. Known to many of you as Miss Doreen Phillips, she has seen the school from the inside, has known staff and girls, has worked within its walls from term to term, and in doing so has absorbed its atmosphere and learned something of its ideals. Then later she was able to view it from the sidelines, as it were. And so she has brought a sympathetic understanding, wide experience and knowledge to the production of 'Morongo'. I feel sure that you will all join with me in a message of sincere appreciation to Mrs Cowperthwaite.

LUCY SHAW  
*Principal*

# Introduction

This brief history of Morongo was commissioned by the school council to commemorate the Jubilee of the School in February, 1970.

It is intended to arouse memories for the school's early pupils, to offer some account of the early history of the school to present pupils, and to give a general impression of the school to those who do not know Morongo well.

The research into the material describing the early settlement of Geelong, the building of the homestead and the start of the school proved most interesting. I hope that the reader will share this interest as many extracts from the original documents have been quoted.

The records section acknowledges those of special merit, and my thanks are due to past editresses of *The Lucernian* for most of the material. Records of sport were not printed in early magazines and it is unfortunate that some lists cannot be more comprehensive. Of course, there are many hundreds of past pupils whose names are not mentioned in this book. A school history must be limited to mention of those who are outstanding in work, sport or leadership, yet we all know that 'the average pupils' are the very stuff of a school. It is to these girls, 'The Followers', that I dedicate this book.

Many people have helped with preparation and publication. I would like to thank those Old Collegians who have provided photographs and material for perusal; Mr A. W. Hedley for his invaluable advice on manuscript preparation; the council sub-committee, Mr D. G. Neilson, Mr A. Lucas, Mr R. W. Munro, and Mr A. W. Hedley who have dealt with publication; Miss E. Leigh, the School Bursar, who has helped with records; Miss J. Rentoul, the House Manageress, who has typed the manuscript, and Miss L. Shaw, the School Principal, for her help and co-operation in discussing the book in its early stages of preparation and, later, in reading the text.

Finally, it might interest the girls of Form 3 (Sub-Inter) of 1966, to know that the book was written with the pen that they gave me when I left the school.