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The Move to Morongo

As forecast in the preliminary prospectus issued by the first council, the search for and move to larger premises came soon.

A report of the speech night of 1921 shows that the venture at Roslyn had proved successful.

In his address, Mr Pettitt said that the previous year he had stated that the excellent progress of the college had been beyond expectation, both numerically and scholastically. It was very gratifying to the council that their expectations had been exceeded again this year. The council was looking forward and realizing that the present accommodation was not sufficient for the requirements of such a city as Geelong and they hoped to secure more adequate premises in 1922, so that in 1923, they could give all a surprise by what they had done for the college.

In 1923 came this report:

I am proud to be able to report tonight that only a few weeks ago the council purchased, subject to title, a magnificent area of land in Newtown containing 17½ acres having large frontages to Minerva Road and the new Fyansford Road. From it, magnificent views can be had of the bay and the Barwon and Moorabool Valleys, and as the land overlooked Queen's Park, the river and hills beyond, the view from that aspect is unsurpassed in Geelong. This outlook will be a big factor in school life, and should create vision in the minds of the pupils. Incidentally, the site adjoins a large estate, which in the future will be the finest residential area in Newtown. Trams will ultimately pass the door.

The next public announcement came on 10th March, 1926, in the newspaper, *The Geelong Advertiser*.

PRESBYTERIAN GIRLS' COLLEGE
TO BE TRANSFERRED TO 'MORONGO', BELL POST HILL.
Herne Hill land for Sale by Tender

As forecasted in these columns some time ago, the Council of the Presbyterian Girls' College, Geelong, has purchased 'Morongo', the home of Senator J. F. Guthrie. This property is an historic one and is eminently suited to the purpose for which it has been purchased, containing 103 acres of the finest land.

The Homestead is a massive bluestone structure and contains a large number of lofty well ventilated rooms. It is as sound as the day it was built. The first floor alone as at present constructed is capable of comfortably housing 35 boarders. Plans are already being prepared to provide for the first addition, so that 70 boarders can be accommodated. Possession is to be given on the 1st October next,

and the college will reopen at 'Morongo' for the first term of next year.

The council has received many congratulations on its purchase. The decision has been enthusiastically endorsed by a number of leaders in the educational world, who have assured the council that this forward step will place the college in the forefront of the Girls' Schools in Australia.

Delightful views can be seen from every inch of the property, together with a commanding view of the You Yangs. The property is 3 miles from the Geelong Post Office and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from North Geelong Railway Station. It is 250 feet above sea level. The gardens, plantations, orchards, etc., are a delight and will provide an atmosphere entirely congenial.

The change from Herne Hill to Morongo is discussed more fully under the activities of the school council. The school now had 103 acres at its disposal, and appropriately enough the first event held at the new school was a Sports Day cum Picnic.

While we have the P.G.C. in mind, remember their Sports Day is Saturday, October 23rd. We all migrate to 'Morongo' for the sports. To add the real picnic touch—parents and friends are requested to bring their own hampers, choose a picturesque spot and make themselves quite at home. The council will provide nectar in the shape of tea, and will take under its kindly wing anyone who happens not to be in the know. If the day is good, it will be a happy excuse for an outing. (*Geelong Advertiser*)

and so we gather that:

From every point of view the annual Athletic Sports of the Geelong Presbyterian Girls' College on Saturday were successful. This was largely due to the glorious weather, but a full measure of praise must also be paid to those in charge for the excellent organisation of such an interesting programme.

Throughout the afternoon, selections were provided by Geelong City Bandsmen. Visitors partook of refreshments on the grounds.

For the sports, a temporary track was prepared. Flanked by a large number of motor cars, it admirably served its purpose.

The programme embraced no less than forty events, which were altogether spectacular, exciting and humorous. (*Geelong Advertiser*)

THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF MORONGO

The official opening of Morongo on Thursday 27th October, 1927, was a great occasion for the school. The years of planning and the modest beginning had culminated in this new start in spacious surroundings with new school buildings plus the gracious background that the old homestead offered. One can imagine the organisation for the day, the pleasure at His Excellency The Governor General's consent to open the school, the lines of Guides, the local dignitaries, the sense of importance of the occasion. All this is captured in these newspaper reports which make vivid reading—from the Vice-Regal speech to the social columns' 'amongst the people present'.

'MORONGO' OFFICIALLY OPENED
 Governor General stresses value of Education
 Large Crowd in ideal setting.

Morongong, the new home of the Presbyterian Girls' College, was the scene of a brilliant ceremony yesterday afternoon when His Excellency, the Governor General (Lord Stonehaven) officially opened a pretentious pile of recently erected buildings. Some thousands of people were present including distinguished visitors, Church dignitaries, representatives of various schools, parents, scholars and friends.

In the warm sunshine with evidence of spring on every hand, the picturesque school looked at its best. The magnificent view over Corio Bay, Geelong and surrounding country evoked admiration from all sections and the council was the recipient of many happy compliments upon the choice of site which is considered second to none in Australia.

The ceremony of unlocking, with a gold presentation key, the door of a handsome school building, which was performed by Lord Stonehaven, was preceded by addresses by His Excellency, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (Rt. Rev. D. Millar) and the President of the College Council (Hon. Sir Harry Lawson, M.L.A.). Prayer was offered by the acting Chaplain of the school, the Rev. T. J. Riddle.

Amongst those seated with His Excellency, who was attended by Flight Lieutenant E. P. Davidson, were Senator W. Plain, the Headmistress (Miss G. Pratt), the Mayor and Mayoress (Cr. and Mrs. J. Solomon), Hon. Howard Hitchcock, M.L.C., Mr. J. H. McPhillimy (Chairman of the school council), the Mayor and Mayoress of Newtown (Cr. and Mrs. J. F. S. Shannon). The Principal of the P.L.C. Melbourne (Mr W. Gray) who was accompanied by his wife, the Revs. J. McKenzie and C. Neville, Mrs. J. H. Lister, Dr T. J. M. Kennedy, Alderman and Mrs J. Pettitt, Cr L. Hirst and Messrs M. Y. Venters, T. J. Buchan and W. C. Robertson. Also present were Senator J. F. Guthrie, the Principal of Geelong College (Rev. F. W. Rolland), Mr S. B. Hamilton Calvert (Chairman of the Geelong College Council) and the Headmistress of the Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Geelong (Miss E. Morres).

The Chairman was Sir Harry Lawson.

Upon the arrival of His Excellency, the band played the National Anthem. Proceedings opened with the singing of 'The Old Hundredth' which was followed by Prayer. Subsequent to the speeches the buildings and site generally were inspected, and afternoon tea was served.

Sixty Girl Guides and a troop of Boy Scouts from Geelong College were inspected by Lord Stonehaven. Pupils of the school also made an impressive appearance.

Sir Harry Lawson said that, as President of the Council, it was his privilege to extend on behalf of the pupils of the school, the staff, the council, friends of the school and the large assemblage of citizens, a very hearty welcome to His Excellency. They felt highly honoured to know that, despite the many calls on His Excellency's time in various parts of the huge Commonwealth of Australia, he had yet found it possible to be present with them for the occasion, and that he had consented to open the school in its new quarters.

They knew that His Excellency in his exalted position and high place had to be very cosmopolitan and had to take an interest in everything that concerned the

well-being of the Commonwealth and of the Empire, but they would fain believe, knowing his origin, that he might feel an especial and lively interest in their institution. They took his presence as an indication to show that he appreciated and applauded the efforts that had been made to build the school and college and that he wished to give it his benediction. At the school, there was transplanted a little bit of Scotland (applause). While the school was not sectional or exclusive, it did derive its traditions from that old land that had sent out so many men of character and resolution; and, at the school, in the same manner, they hoped to keep alive those traditions and to be true to the traditions and love of education for which that country which he had mentioned was famous. So, from their hearts they gave His Excellency the warmest of welcomes. Sir Harry concluded with the remarks that he found great pleasure in inviting His Excellency to open the school.

A CHEER FOR SCOTLAND

Lord Stonehaven upon rising to address the gathering was accorded three cheers and, at the instance of one elderly Scot, a cheer was given for Scotland. Opening his remarks, His Excellency said that he knew Geelong was famous for the important part it played in a great many aspects of the life of Australia and the life of the Empire, but it so happened that his connection with it had been almost entirely an educational one.

He was glad of that for two reasons. First of all, he did not think there was any part of national activity more important than education and, secondly, he deemed it a privilege to be identified with that important branch of national activity. The school was a tremendous tribute to the realization of the importance of education by the country at large and the great meeting that he saw in front of him was indeed a most welcome sight for anyone who realized all the important work that remained to be done in this great country.

. . . Taking another reason, Australia had an immense area, being nearly as big as Europe with a population of two to the square mile. In the Old Country, there was a population of 640 odd to the square mile. The two people to the square mile in Australia had to do a great deal more hard thinking than the 640 odd in proportion because there were fewer of them and therefore they had the bigger responsibility. From whatever angle one chose to look at it, he thought he was bound to admit that the success of a democratic institution depended more on education than on anything else that human beings could do for it. This particular school had a characteristic which he thought was particularly valuable.

It was a right and universal principle throughout the Empire that a great part of the time of the State and the funds of the State should be devoted to a general scheme of education, but, nowhere were we completely satisfied by what the State alone did. It was right that each section should take advantage of the complete freedom we enjoyed to set up colleges such as the P.G.C., in which instruction would be received in the religion which we happened to believe and to practise. That was a right and a privilege, and a very great one, that was open to every form of religion under our constitution. He was glad to know that his own particular form of it played its part so well, as was shown by the school at which they were gathered.

. . . The history of the school during the few years of its existence was a very splendid one. They knew how each day had extended the support that it was receiv-

ing. It was an institution worthy of occupying the splendid site which the authorities in their wisdom had chosen for it. He could not help thinking that the young people who spent some very impressionable years of their lives in the delightful surroundings before them would absorb a sense of grandeur, of the spaciousness and the greatness of Australia and a sense of their responsibilities, their rights and their great good fortune in being able to play a part in this great land.

It was quite obvious that the school authorities realized that education was not merely a matter of transferring knowledge out of the book into the child's head. Environment, sport, games and religion all played their part, an invaluable part in education. The place that had been chosen for the school afforded such splendid facilities and such splendid opportunities for that side of education that he was quite certain that the support the college had received so far would not only be maintained but increased.

In conclusion, His Excellency wished the school the greatest possible success and added that he had the greatest pleasure in declaring the new buildings open.

Following the address, Mr T. J. Buchan on behalf of the Architects (Messrs. Laird and Buchan) presented to Lord Stonehaven a gold key and paper knife combined with which to open the door of the new premises. The key which had for a centre piece a college crest, with motto, was engraved with the words: "Presented to the Rt. Hon. Lord Stonehaven, P.C., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., Governor General of Australia, on opening the Presbyterian Girls' College, Geelong, on October 27th, 1927.

In handing over the gift, Mr Buchan said that it was with great pleasure that he asked His Excellency to accept a memento to mark the official opening of the building.

The building was thereupon opened.

THE MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

. . . The Moderator said that the main purport of a Church school, indeed one might say almost the only justification for its existence was that it might mix with general secular education the principles of religion, and that they might be able to give their own children the religion of their fathers and the training of that religion. The Presbyterian Church throughout its history had always stood for the religious education of its people. It had always believed that religion was not merely a matter of experience but also of knowledge. The Presbyterian Church had always stood side by side with the school, and together they had lifted up with their influence, the young life of the community to a far greater level and a higher plane of living. He considered that a school like the particular one before them, existed for the purpose, of course, for giving general education, but, essentially, upon the great truth that religion was a stimulant and a restraint for the young life of the community.

It should impart the great truth that religion was the greatest stimulant they could have in the world today for lifting lives to a higher plane. We did not want our young people to regard religion as the opiate of the people and he hoped that the school would always teach that religion was one of the greatest



Miss Pratt by William Dargie



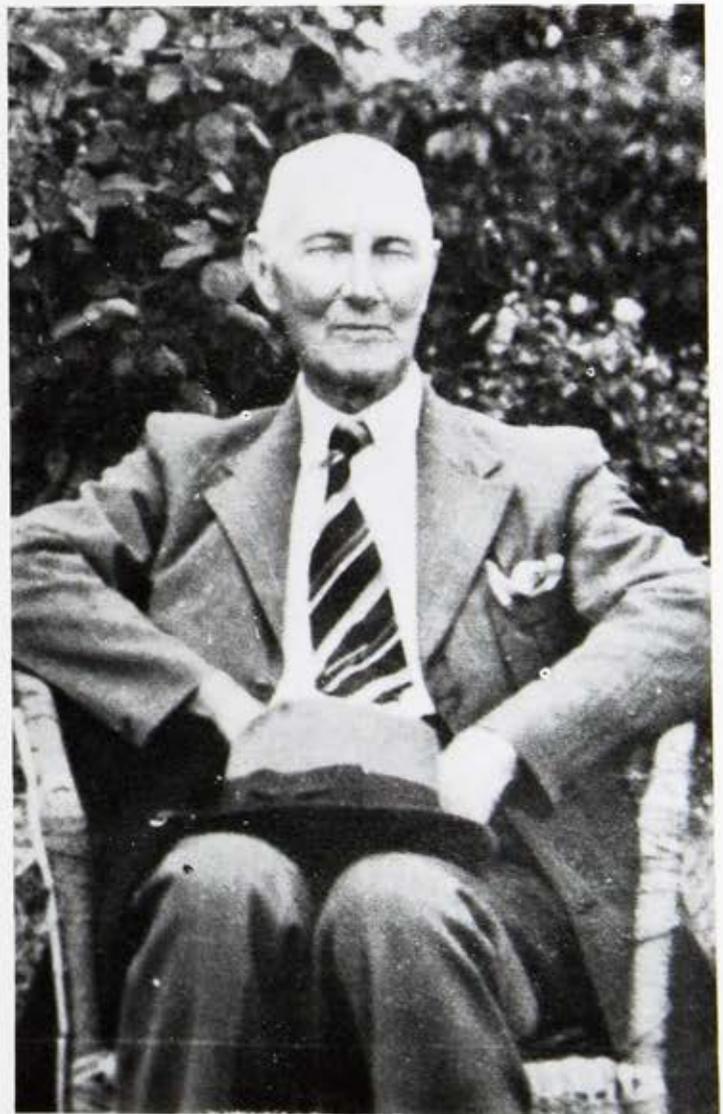
Miss Pratt and Timmy

COUNCIL
PRESIDENTS

Mr J. Pettitt



Mr J. H. McPhillmy



Mr M. Y. Venters



Dr R. G. McPhee



Mr J. N. David



Mr C. L. Hirst



Mr E. W. McCann

stimulants that could be given. The school, however, should not merely teach religion as a stimulant but also as a restraint. In these democratic days, it did seem that our young people should be taught the difference between freedom and licence. They wanted to get the leaven of moral restraint put in. Each new generation brought in its own new conditions and gave a shock to the older generation. He was not afraid for the new generation as long as schools like the one before them taught religion. He wished all success to 'Morongo' school. It had behind it already a fine history, but, as His Excellency had said, with such a fine promise, he was sure the school was going to eclipse all glories of the past.

The ceremony over, His Excellency made an inspection of the building and before afternoon tea, officials and their wives, with others long connected with the school, were presented to Lord Stonehaven.

Tea was served in several of the large rooms of the main building, all of them being decorated with sweet peas, roses and other seasonable blooms.

It is hoped that these extracts of the opening of the Morongo we know today are of general interest. Many of the people mentioned as being present at the function are still active friends of the school and, no doubt, they will recall the day with pleasure. For those of a younger generation, the report serves well to remind them of the pride and promise of the young school in October, 1927.