

I have been asked to recall on my memories of those inaugural years at Harvey Ag and write of my recollection of Barry Gatti and the role he played in determining the realization of Dr Robertson's vision in the creation of such an education medium.

Nearly forty years hence, it is acutely apparent to me the trials and tribulations Barry and his fellow staff associates faced and endured in achieving the aims and ultimate success of the project.

My fellow students and I came from varying social and educative backgrounds as well as differing parts of our State. It was the role of Barry and other staff members to not only utilize and develop what unseen qualities we may have possessed, but also to prepare us to go out into a world which offered challenges and seemingly unlimited potential and to encourage us to positively participate in, and contribute to, the well being of our country and it's future.

In hindsight I can now appreciate the degree of difficulties and frustrations the staff experienced in those days. Immaturity and a natural, though insensitive, "boys will be boys" attitude, surely on our part, made the task difficult, however the staff's ability to appreciate and accept these factors, and respond positively to them, is today evident in the school's success and acceptance.

An example of the positive response I refer to involved Barry and myself. During my time at the school I was "sprung" smoking on more than one occasion by Barry. His response to this was not to front me and off to the Headmaster, "dob me in", but instead he would "invite" me to arise before dawn the following day and to do a "Robert De Castella" with him over the hills for an hour as a pacemaker for his football training runs. When the football season was in recess then the "response" would be to "accompany and assist" Barry on his rabbit trapping rounds (many of us trapped and sold rabbits as a means of earning a few extra bob). Carrying heavy bundles of traps and rabbits for somebody else's benefit and not making a bob out of it was severe punishment for any young trapper. However, unbeknown to Barry, these enforced "excursions" had their benefits in that I was privileged to being afforded knowledge of better trapping spots as well as being presented with the "good oil" on the whereabouts of a reliable supply of traps should I need to ever supplement that of mine!

The foregoing reflections demonstrate Barry's qualities as an educator and his preparedness to accept the challenge and responsibility he was entrusted with rather than passing the buck!

Bruce White

Student 1953/54