

The Principal

Agricultural High School  
Harvey.

Dear Brian,

I was Principal of Harvey Agricultural Junior High School 1958-59. The death of Mr John Clifton on 2nd July and a telephone call to Mr Kingsley Waterhouse prompt me to write to you as Principal and Chairman of the Advisory Council. It is a little bit of history of which you may not be aware but I think worth recalling. It will be known to Mr Iren Manning, to whom I send my kind regards.

Under pressure from the Director General and Minister, I accepted the position as Principal in mid 1957. I was at York intending to move to Perth, but there was grave concern in the Department about the Ag. School.

The Ag. School in 1958 was simply the Army Camp first occupied by Mr Harry Baiston in 1952. No farm, no machinery, no bus, no truck, only an Army International utility. (By the way, the boys called the place "Baiston's Mill".)

The students were hard to occupy. The utility took them out to district farms for the day and collected them in the afternoon. It was traditional to play up at night. There was smoking, drinking (they could easily obtain 'plonk' at 1/- a bottle) and barbecuing of crooks. They gave the local picture show misery hell, and so on. It was some job!

But the Advisory Committee was tremendous. I doubt I would have survived without their support. Jack Johnson, Bill Crows, Jack Clifton, all deceased. Syd Byrd, Iren Manning

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nd Brian Swan (Ag Dept.)

First term I lost a lot of sleep patrolling after midnight. I sought a near league footballer as a housemaster and got a beauty in Rod Pether, now Perth's City Planner. We made a gym from an empty building and Rod had the boys circuit training at 6am. A few months later we cleaned up Nansgarn School of Ag. at football and never looked back. The boys now slept at night; they needed all the sleep they could get.

We never gained the adjacent 23 acre Larrie Clifton farm. Jack Clifton owned no a horse and one furrow plough. We were able to appoint a Farm Supervisor, Angus James, who produced our first crop - magnificent tomatoes.

We discovered in Rupert Weller, who the Dept. thought was an ordinary tramal arts type, a genius motor mechanic. He could make anything go (and later did at Cumberdon, now Cumberdon museum). On 28<sup>th</sup> June we were told we could buy a tractor provided the account was at Head Office by 30<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately the local dealer had a suitable Ford. Then we got a little bus, too small, but better than the utility.

Every time we ordered food etc we asked for a few lengths of pipe. One day we had a shed without the boss (Harry Barson) knowing. (Rupert Weller again)

One day the P.W.D. District Architect informed me that the proposed High School would have to be at the Junior High School site. They had not been able to acquire a suitable site. I rang Jack Clifton who was a Shine

Councillor. As a result the Government <sup>was</sup> offered the Daleyards which were going to shift sometime anyway, and so the new High School was built.

Then came the day I was instructed to consult with architect, Marshall Cleton (Jack's cousin) to build a Kitchen - Dining Room complex, Dining Room to be multipurpose. And what an architectural gem he produced.

For ease anybody remembers them, some of the staff were:

Rupert Miller (now S.H.A. Geraldton), Malcolm Shelders (Acting Pd Pest Technical College) had Peter (City Planner) Claude Bogg, Malcolm Ross (ACER), Joan Stanbury (missAustralia) Marg. Waddingham (Mrs John Lowe) Shirley Mulpford (Mrs Stanbury), Betsy Bunt (Dr Killeen's wife), Mrs Dyer (Sec.) Alex Bergl, Ron Campbell (Cook), Joe Hitting (Cleaner) Keith Philmore, John Harbister, Con Keogh - all retired. Brian O'zanne and Ron Goodson were at Jack's funeral.

I hope you will pardon an old bloke reminiscing, but it seemed appropriate to do so.

My kind regards to you and maybe I will make it to a Field Day. Kingsley is always on my back.

All the best,

Jim West.