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"Kent Street Senior High School"

by Lara Jade Cutting

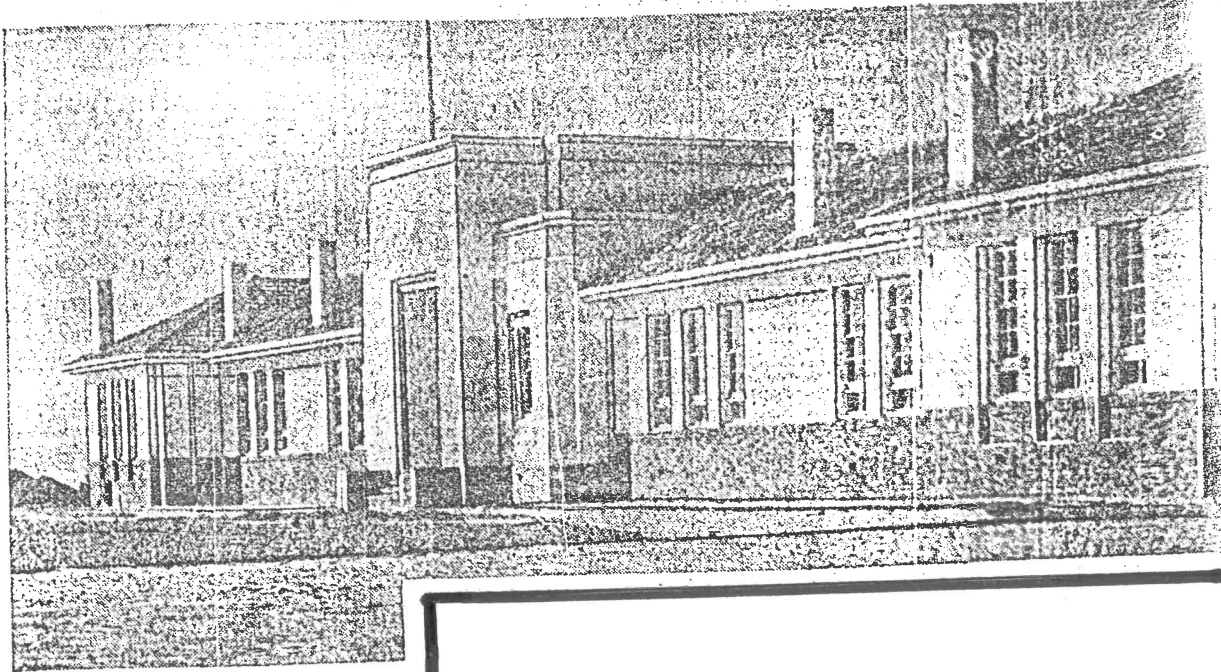
KENT ST SHS

BY LARA CUTTING.



THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1940.

NEW STATE SCHOOL—WEEK-END SPORTING



TO BE OPENED TODAY : The frontage of the new post-primary State school in Kent-street, Victoria Park, which will come into use today, when the State schools will resume after the annual holidays.



recent picture of front

Kent St High School ~ its beginning

Many proposals were put to the WA State Parliament in the late 1920's, but one of them being a post primary school 'South of the River'. But a lack of funds at this time, due to the serious Depression, had cut capital spending. The teachers training Colleges were closed down, to make unemployment relief ie blankets, clothes, food, available. And Teachers salaries were severely cut.

In 1932, Mr Wallace Clubb, the Director of Immigration, ordered a survey which showed 410 post primary students that lived in Victoria Park and South Perth had to travel to Perth to go to school and receive their education.

On June 22nd, 1932 a number of spokespersons representing local groups met Minister of Education, the Honourable T.A.L. Davey, to say they need a post primary school in Victoria Park.

After this meeting negotiations started for place of 15 acre site.

In 1938, the 15 acres was reduced to 10 acres by City Council.

On February 3, 1939, the south suburban central school was approved at cost of 15,000 pounds.

The school comprised of single story brick building of eight classrooms, administration area, and Toilets.

While they had started work approval was given in November, for construction of

Kent St Senior High School - It's beginnings cont.

domestic science and manual training centres at a cost of 3,550 pounds, plus caretaker quarters, 600 pounds, installation of school equipment and furniture, 746 pounds.

Kent St Central school, being the 9th metropolitan public secondary school, started on February 1940. It had 8 classrooms and 354 children. Domestic science & manual arts centre were completed on March 20th.



COPY OF THE FIRST PAGE OF THE ADMISSION REGISTER 5th February 1940

ADMISSION

REGISTER.

Date 5th February, 1940 From 5th Feb 1940 to 5th February, 1940

From No.

Number on Register	Date of Admission	NAME		Residence	Date of Birth	Where Born	School last attended
		Surname	Christian Name				
1	5 th Feb 40	Bottrell	Herbert	111 Murch St. Victoria Park	17 May 1926	Vict. Park. W.A.	Victoria Park
2	"	Connam	Edward	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	27 Nov 27	"	East Victoria Park
3	"	Butler	Barrie	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	"	South Perth
4	"	Bradshaw	Norman Allan	81 D'Arcy St. S. Perth	10 Jan 27	Vict. Park	Remington
5	"	Rich	Donald	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	"	South Perth
6	"	Cox	John	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	"	Vict. Park
7	"	Fisher	Robert Lewis	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Northam, W.A.	East Victoria Park
8	"	Fox	Charles	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth	East Victoria Park
9	"	Fuller	Edward	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth	East Victoria Park
10	"	Grant	Donald	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth	East Victoria Park
11	"	Green	Arthur	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth	Remington
12	"	Griffin	George	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth	East Victoria Park
13	"	Hanson	William	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth	East Victoria Park
14	"	Hart	Thomas	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth	East Victoria Park
15	"	Hay	Arthur Ernest	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	27 Jan 1927	Perth W.A.	South Perth
16	"	Hay	Ronald	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth W.A.	East Victoria Park
17	"	Houston	William	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth W.A.	East Victoria Park
18	"	Humphries	Thomas	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth W.A.	East Victoria Park
19	"	Itzstein	Sam Edward	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth W.A.	East Victoria Park
20	"	Johnstone	William John	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth W.A.	East Victoria Park
21	"	Jones	Charles Lloyd	111 Murch St. Vic. Park	17 Dec 27	Perth W.A.	East Victoria Park

Students' names were entered in the register and crossed out on leaving.

Inspector's Report.

1940

GENERAL REPORT ON SCHOOL.

Kent Street is a new school commenced this year with eight excellent class rooms to carry std VII from the South suburban area. It has the thru course system, viz. professional, commercial, and technical. The two former courses have made definite and creditable progress, and a very good tone and working spirit have developed in the school. The technical course is not so satisfactory for two reasons:- (1) Metal work has not been available for the boys (2) a number of these children came from opportunity classes, especially in VII Junior Tech (Girls) and they have not responded very well to the 'lock-step' system. Project work, activity, and full recognition of individual differences are essential for this type of child. Thorough inspection was made in five classes and with the other three the organisation was checked and just sufficient oral work to get the tone and working spirit, which was good in each case. The organisation was not ideal, but this was due in the main to the fact that classes had to be made reasonably equal in size. I recommend careful attention to the Primary Cumulative Cards, especially where I.Q. is shown. Where this is in doubt, or not shown, the Otis Test might be used to check and supply I.Q.

I wish to record appreciation of the skilful and enthusiastic efforts of the staff of this school to launch a new unit in our educational system. To the H.T. credit is due for the splendid tone and happy friendly atmosphere, and to the staff for skill and zeal.

Splendid progress has been made with the school grounds, sport is well organized (The boys won the Meritorious Pennant), patriotic efforts are commendable, a P & C Association has been formed, Careful attention is given to P.T. for which Mr. Yates and Mr. Elliott deserve special credit; school equipment is growing; the First Assistants are capable and enthusiastic; and with attention to points indicated above this should develop into a splendid school.

31 / X / 1940.

(signed) T. EDMONDSON. Inspector.

GENERAL REPORT ON SCHOOL

1941

DURING the year many difficulties in organisation occurred but the zeal and thought of the H.T. and staff willingly faced changes necessary and with energy and skill overcame the problem. All this work is characterized by persistent effort and they have succeeded in developing a very fine tone in their school. The pupils as a whole show a very pleasing attitude to their school and its studies. A valuable and much appreciated influence is the interest of Mr. Yates in all school activities.

EXTRA-curricula activities have been very mixed and include splendid patriotic efforts, excellently organised sport and social functions. A well organised and enthusiastic P & C is also a valued help in school affairs.

LACK of a science room is sadly felt as under present conditions no really satisfactory work can be done, while art will undoubtedly improve when proper facilities are given.

SOCIAL studies are generally well taken and cover ample scope. There is often a tendency in the children to speak before giving due thought and teachers must insist on children saying what they mean - partly right is not sufficient. This also applies in expression both oral and written for while children are very fluent in both sections and generally show good technique they often are indefinite and at times lacking in confidence in themselves. In drill work such as formal English and Arithmetic in several classes a more definite method of attack and more definite knowledge of process is necessary. Here also varied methods of practice and teaching would increase confidence and establish methods. In such a school we must keep the three "R's" - right attitude; right thinking; right methods; - as our aims. The first here is excellent, the second and third are at times at fault.

STILL the school is a very good one. The H.T. has set high ideals; the First Assistants are influences in the school and the staff efficient and zealous. They have co-operated splendidly and are developing a worthy esprit de corps.

11/12/41.

(signed) VICTOR E. BOY Inspector.

Inspectors Report 1941

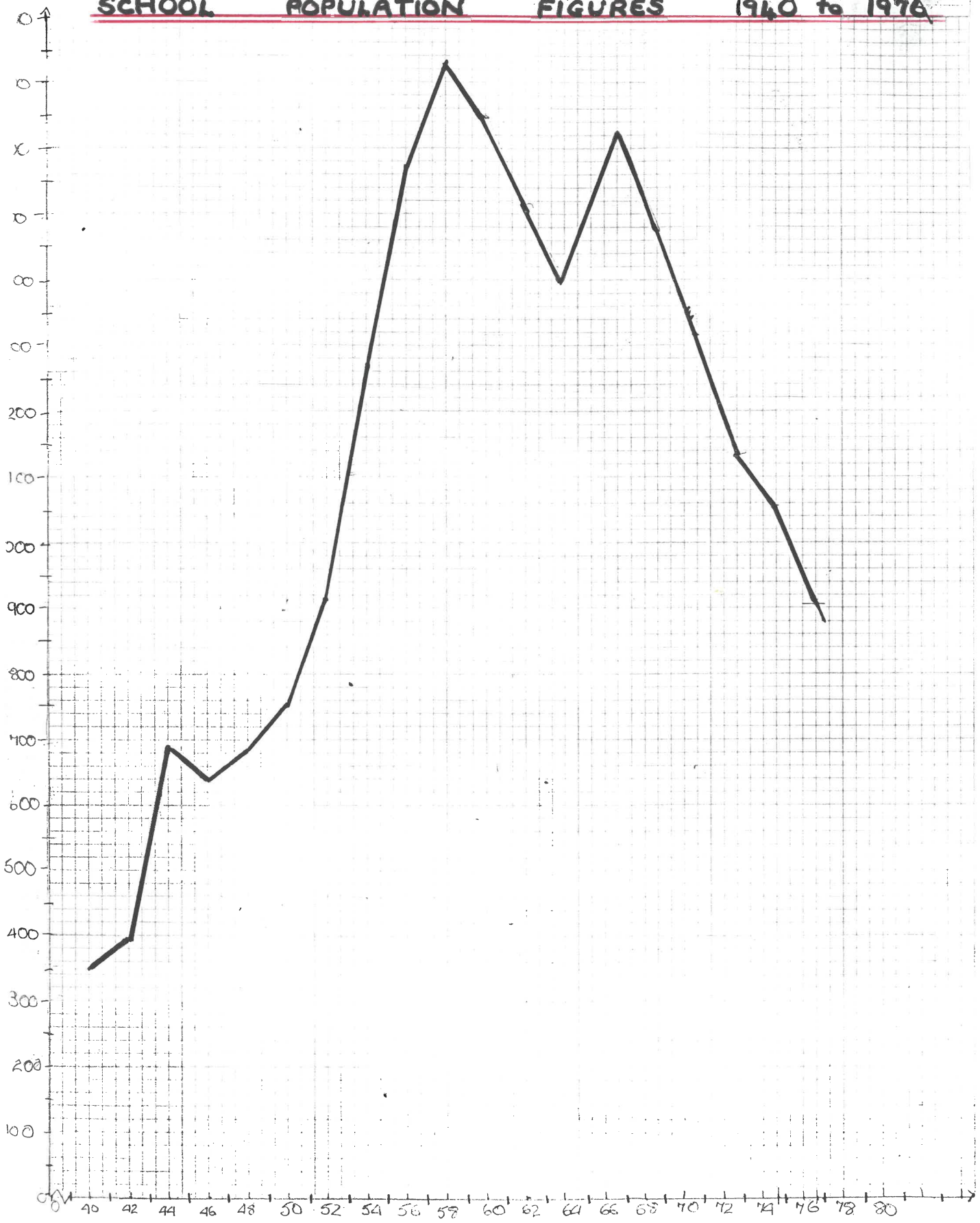
Heads and Principals of Kent St Senior High School

1940-1942	Woods, James
1943-1956	Mc Grath, Eric
1957-1964	Lambert, George
1965-1972	Callahan, G.
1973	Nolan, J. (Relieving)
1974-1980	Gibbney, W
1981	Dunham, Mollie (Acting)
1982	Dunham, Mollie (Relieving)
1983	Eboral, William
1984	Dunham Mollie (Relieving)
1985-1987	Eboral, William
1988	Garden, Charles (acting)
1989	Taylor, Gail
1989	O'Neil, Catherine (Relieving)
1990-98	Taylor, Gail

First Staff at Kent Street Senior High School

Head Teacher - James Woods
1st Male Assistant - Robert Elliott
1st Female Assistant - Chrystal Malliday, BA
Assistant - Arthur Culligan
Assistant - Alan Anderson MA, Dip. Ed.
Assistant - Lila Mitchell
Assistant - Mary Smithy BA, Dip. Ed.
Assistant - Ethel Redfern
Temporary Assistant - Gwenyth Williams
Temporary Assistant - Dorothy Hately BA A. Mus. A.
Monitress - Faith Henderson BA.

SCHOOL POPULATION FIGURES 1940 to 1976



THE YEARS

1940's

Kent st Senior High School

On December 1941, Treasury had approved expenditure of 1,160 pounds for an extra four classrooms.

But these extensions had to wait until middle of 1943, due again to war.

By the time they were completed on September 1944 the cost increased to 13,500 pounds.

In 1942 Mr Eric Mc Grath, a world war I member of the A.I.F., was to become the new Head master (Head teacher) of Kent street and would go on to stay for 19 years.

On 1st July 1946, central schools eg Fremantle, Perth boys etc now were changing names and becoming "High Schools".
Kent street also received 3yr High school status.

Enrolments increasing to 668 pupils in 1947, the school wasn't functioning properly as classes were spilling out into corridors and lunch shelter.

Temporary relief, 2 classrooms were accommodated at Vic Park state school.



Western Australian Amateur Athletic
Association



Fifth Annual . .

**SCHOOLBOYS'
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

of Western Australia.

LEEDERVILLE OVAL

SATURDAY - - 11th NOVEMBER, 1944.

ENTRIES CLOSE

Tuesday - 31st October, at 5 p.m.

F. T. TREACY, Hon. Sec.

Phone B 2065

Norman F. Treadrea (Interview)

Mr Treadrea first went to Kent St High school in 1940, when it first opened.

He said people came from Kensington, Como, South Perth and Carlisle to go to the school.

He said there were eight rooms along a veranda at first and James Wood was the headmaster. The deputy head was R.M.B. Elliot and deputy mistress was Christie Helliiday.

Mr Treadrea said him and the other children used to play chazey up and down the pine trees. And in front of the office there was a lot of sand and a small piece of bitumen they used to play on.

Boys and Girls were separated in playground and so would play in separate areas.

He mentioned that at the end of Braden St there was a tip (rubbish dump) and at this time most houses did not have sewage and instead had pans, that would be collected and emptied into the tip. Mr Treadrea said the school smelled horribly as the smell would drift up to the school and the flies would follow the smell. He said it was awful.

Mr Treadrea said the school had many good athletes and always went in the inter-school sports carnivals and it was a big thing.

They did ballroom dancing Friday nights in the manual arts buildings and they would have to move all the benches to make room to dance. The Manual arts teacher 10

Norman F. Treadrea ~ cont ~

danced well, and other female teachers would come along and help. He said that everyone looked forward to these dances.

He said they (boys) had to protect the girls and would walk them home after the dance classes were over. The funny thing was ... they used to have to put weaties on the floor to make it slippery.

And the poor boys at 7⁰⁰ Monday mornings would have to come back and change the benches back.

I asked about the trenches, and Mr Treadrea said as they were worried about the Japanese they had to build (dig) trenches.

He told me they had two girls, sent here from Singapore and dad was in Army or something. Their names were Edwina Fowler and Laura Austin.

When they dug the trenches they zig-zagged them through the pine trees and had many air raid drills.

Mr Treadrea said on one particular time they had to go to the trenches and planes were flying over, so principal asked the girls if it was a zero. (Japanese fighter plane) They listened and replied yes as they thought it was one. As they used to hear them in Singapore. So they stayed in there.

One time also, he said that they had to jump in and there was about 10 inches of water (mud) in the trenches and said they all just about sunk!

Mr Treadea

1941

Mr Treadea was head boy in 1941.

28th October to end of 3rd year.

The head girl was Mary Thorniley

And prefects were nominated in 1941.

Mr Treadea stayed and finished his
Junior Certificate.



RE

The University of Western Australia.

Public Examinations Board.

Junior Certificate.

This is to certify that

passed the Junior Certificate Examination, held in
November, 19____, having satisfied the Examiners in
the following _____ subjects:

January, 19____

Registrar.

Vice-Chancellor.



Manual arts & training
facilities

1950's

Kent street Senior High School

In 1950's Kent St took on year 11 students and arrangements were made for 5 prefabricated Bristol units of 2 classrooms each. These buildings came to be known as silver city.

Mr Eric McGrath, headmaster retired after 36 years of service to WA Education and 14 yrs at Kent St Senior High School. Mr McGrath had a very large impact on the school, through some very large changes of growth. It is said "those who came into his orbit still refer to him as omnipresent."

In 1957, Kent St recorded an enrolment of 1,733 children. Accommodation fell upon headmaster George Lambert.

- In 1959, 5yr high schools were now called "senior" high schools.
- instead of headmaster it was "principal"
- acceptance of word "student" instead of "scholars".



1960's Kent St Senior High School

In 1960's many other buildings were built, this included; administration facilities - 3 stores, four more classrooms, canteen, typing room, new staffroom, manual arts and Training facilities and language laboratory.

In 1960's Kent St Senior High School, produced some great Drama performances, these were: 'MIKADO' on September 1961 and 'THE KING AND I'. This was performed in 1963 at Capitol Theatre in Perth to hold an audience on 3 consecutive nights.

\$190,000 SCIENCE BLOCK

The Kent Street High School's new science block was the most modern in Australia, the Director General of Education, Mr H. W. Dettman, said.

The three-storey \$190,000 building, which was financed by a Commonwealth grant, had eight classrooms and \$7,500-worth of the latest scientific equipment and electronic devices.

The building, which is on a sloping site, was finished at the beginning of this year. It had been designed originally for physical science students but was now catering for biology students also.

One-sixth of the school's 1,500 students could be taught in the block at one time. 12/7/67

There were physics and chemistry laboratories, a general lecture theatre and seminar room, composite laboratories for biology students, laboratory technicians' rooms, staff rooms and store rooms.

LECTURE THEATRE

The lecture theatre had 16mm. and overhead projectors and provision for 35mm. film strips.

A deep-freeze refrigerator had been installed for

the preservation of specimens.

Mr Dettman said all students at the school would use the new science block at some stage of their education.

"The school received the Commonwealth grant to improve science facilities, particularly up to matriculation. The block is now catering for all the sciences at the school," he said.

\$50 Donation

The Canning Shire Council has decided to donate \$50 to the \$20,000 Playhouse Theatre appeal.

Hellen Cobb (Doney)
(interview)

Hellen Doney went to Kent St from 1960-64.

Mrs Doney said there was 2 brick buildings the home science and manual arts and you would then go down steps to two long pre-fab blocks of classrooms.

Mrs Doney said that at first they didn't have a swimming pool so they would walk down the drive way and just across the road was a private swimming pool, very small and they would do their swimming in there.

She really remembers the sports days (carnivals) and float parades. Each faction would have to have a float and it would go on parade around school.

Mrs Doney said school sports was a huge thing and everyone got into them. A real school spirit.

"We had cheer squads, parades of floats, and we would all practise every lunchtime."

THE WORLD OF FASHION
INVADES SCHOOL SPORT



These three Kent-street schoolgirls discarded their staid school hats for more exotic creations at the school's annual sports day yesterday. In the humid conditions a coloured paper hat gave Lyn French (left) some protection from the sun, but Anna Smith (centre) sacrificed comfort for style with her snug cabbage-leaf cloche. Anne Barraclough's streamer-smothered straw hat was both stylish and practical and provided a maximum of shade.

SPORTS DAY 1960's
Kent St SHS

1970's Kent St Senior High School

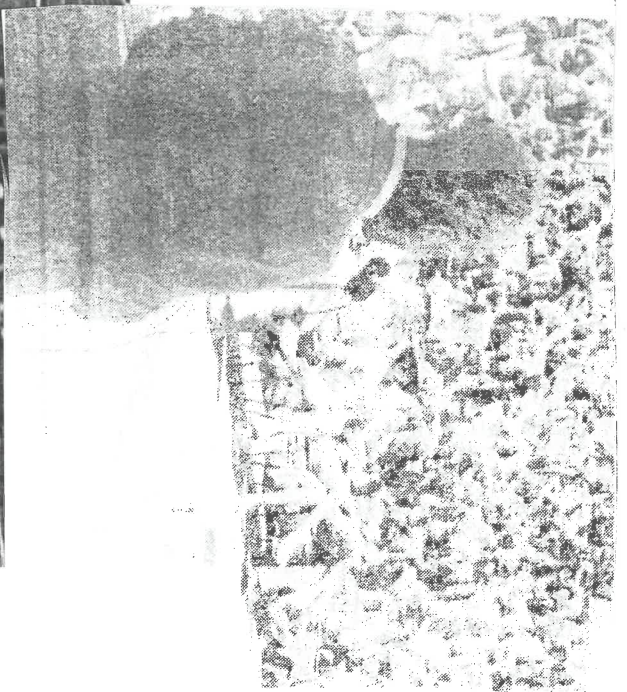
In 1970's there was also big developement with a pool, a library, Change rooms, hall/gym, that would hold 1,000 people, a pre-vocational centre and a further eight room Facility building. The Hall was named after Eric McGrath who in 1943, pleaded for it.

In 1974, "The Boyfriend", a musical production was performed at Kent St SHS McGrath Hall.

In June 1974 a luncheon was held for
past staff members.



Opening of Kent St SHS
Swimming Pool.
PTO's



1970s

In 1979 Kent St SHS was first government school to teach Aviation Studies (AERONAUTICS) YEAR 11-12.

FOCUS REVIEW

Students fly high

breaking away from the old routine

One of Perth's oldest and most traditional State High Schools is leading the way in the Eighties with a career-orientated course in aeronautics.

The Kent St High School in East Victoria Park, which this month celebrates its fortieth birthday, still offers students 'traditional' academic subjects; but those with a genuine interest in aviation are offered "Aeronautics" as an additional subject.

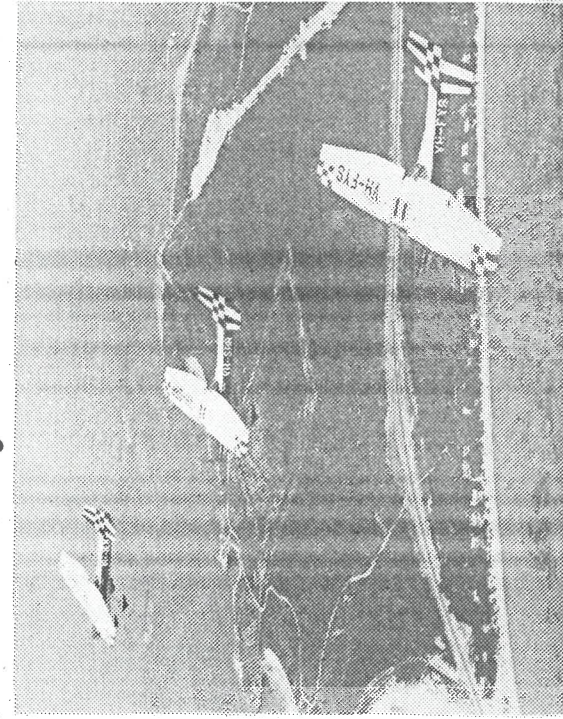
Although, it is not an essential part of the course, two students already have their private pilot's license, and a third is qualified apart from his age.

Aeronautics is designed for year 11 and 12 students of both sexes, and has been approved by the Board of Secondary Education as a Certificate of Secondary Education subject.

It occupies the same amount of the student's class time as other CSE subjects; however, variety is maintained with the use of guest lecturers and practical sessions.

The objectives of the course are to provide the students with a basic knowledge of aircraft and their role in the world; to involve them in the practical aspects of aviation; to enable them to achieve the level of knowledge required for a private pilot's license; and to provide an awareness of the vocational opportunities in the field of aviation.

The course is the brain-child of Mr Malcolm Yeo, a senior master in Physical Sciences at Kent St,



ships in aircraft engineering offered by Ansett Airlines last year were successful from a field of 300 applicants.

The course is the only one of its kind offered in Australia and applications for enrolment are received from all over the state.

Steve Cribb investigates an innovative course in aeronautics being taught at Perth's Kent Street High School. The course is already attracting a lot of interest both from hopeful future pilots and from employers in the aviation industry.

Mr Yeo estimated that about one quarter of the course's students were originally from



Picture by Jill Donaldson.
Describing the days when he was a member of the Number One Flying Squadron of the Australian Flying Corps is Wing Commander Eric Roberts. Pictured with the Wing Commander are four students of the aeronautics course. From left to right, Rory Elston, Debbie Gee, Kelvin Turner and Ron Townley.
In the future the students may be flying planes like these, and become aviators.

Kent St. The remainder commute daily from suburbs as far away as Greenwood, City Beach and Fremantle. They also include students from the country and overseas who board with nearby families.

"Enquiries are received from all over the metropolitan area; however, many who are interested in the course are unable to participate because of the distance involved," he said.

He said the demand for this course justified its introduction into schools in other areas and he is willing to assist any school interested in adding it to its program.

To date the course has been funded by a grant of over \$13,000 from the Australian Schools Commission, and the money has been spent on the purchase of equipment and films, and in providing practical flying experience for the students.

It is essential to give each student at least a couple of hours of actual flying experience and this costs at least \$1000 a year.

He hopes the Education Department will finance the course when his current funds are exhausted, and he is optimistic that because of the course's success, they will.

1980's Kent St Senior High School.

In 1980's with the phasing out of Bentley Senior High School, many students were re-directed to Kent St. S.H.S. in 1982. And there were also others coming in as new school boundaries had been drawn.

Again Kent St S.H.S got in transportables (classrooms) in an attempt to overcome cluttering.

A Home Economics upgrade, a new commerce centre and a Medical centre conversion followed soon after.

In 1940 enrollments were numbered at 354 students. And in 1990 they were 786. The largest intake recorded was in 1957. it was 1,733. From 1955 to 1974 each years attendance was over 1,000.



1988 first person to receive a aeronautics scholarship



Debra Gee and her aeronautics teacher, Mr. Malcolm Yeo, at the controls of a Cessna Aerobat plane.

Award gives a flying start

The first flying scholarship to be offered to aviation students at Kent Street Senior High School has been awarded to Debra Gee (17), of Applecross.

The scholarship,

valued at \$1500, will allow Debra to take flying lessons for a restricted private pilot's licence.

Debra, who is the school's head girl, won the scholarship from a

field of more than 20 boys in her Year-12 aeronautics class.

Her aeronautics teacher, Mr. Malcolm Yeo, said that Debra had carried off the scholarship because of her academic record and her natural ability as a pilot, which was assessed in two flights with instructors from the Royal Aero Club.

Debra said yesterday that she hoped to continue her flying career and become a commercial pilot.

The flying scholarship was donated by Perth business man Robert Holmes a Court.

Kent Street Senior High School is the first school in Australia to offer an aeronautics course which includes practical flying experience.

More than 60 students—including 11 girls—

Kent Street's "Firsts" in Aviation Education

- 1979 - first Government school to teach Aviation Studies (AERONAUTICS)
Year 11 and 12
- 1982 - First Government school to own an aeroplane (Cessna 152, VH-WIF)
- 1983 - First Government school to employ a teacher as a flying instructor (part-time)
- 1988 - First school to employ a female flight instructor (Ms Jenny Houghton)
- 1988 - First school to introduce a course of subjects sponsored by private enterprise
(Ansett Flight Scholarship Program)
- 1988 - First school to be an exhibitor at an international airshow
(Bi-centennial Air Show, Richmond NSW.)
- 1989 - First school to own two aeroplanes (Cessna 152s VH-WIF & VH-LB1)
- 1992 - First school to have an Aviation Studies Program spanning years 8 to 12
- 1992 - First school to complete construction and flight of an aircraft
(NSW design with a Western Australian engine)
- 1992 - First school to own three aircraft (VH-WIF, VH-LB1, VH-REB)
- 1994 - Paul Terry International donates Hangar (which was used to house
the Late Paul Terry's Business jet). Now houses all three of Kent
Street's aircraft at Jandakot.
- 1994 - Commonwealth funded Aeronautics Building specifically designed for
use in teaching the Aeronautics program to high school students opens at
Kent Street High (first in an Australian High School - perhaps in the World)



The photos of these classrooms ie roof work and old windows shows the age of the buildings.



"References"

Book: Kent St Senior High School
1940 - 1990 "the first fifty years"

Hellen Doney & Mr Treadrea for interviews
and help of (and time) archives committee,
'Kentian Society'.



This used to be the back of the school. it is now in the middle of the school quadrangle the centre of the two quads upper + lower.