

## JOHN FRANCIS McINERNEY: HEADMASTER 1968 - 1969



John "Jack" Francis McInerney was born in Wangaratta in April 1915 to Francis William McInerney and Annie Leonora Fraser. The family was of Scottish heritage.

John enlisted for service in the Australia military forces in 1933 at age 18 while he was still a student - his residential address was Glenferrie, Melbourne. He served until June 1936 but the details have not been traced. He settled in Yarra, Richmond Central, and was working as a clerk. He married Alice Mary McAlister in 1940; she was born in Fairfield in June 1914, the daughter of Horace McAlister and Kathleen Beatrice Underwood.

John and Alice McInerney had a son, John Anthony McInerney, who became engaged to Jean Elizabeth Jamieson. By 1943 the McInerneys were in Sale and John snr was working as a teacher. They moved to

Maryborough in 1947 where John was appointed to the staff at the Maryborough school. By the 1950s they had moved to Glen Iris. John's other work history has not been traced, but he ended up as Headmaster at St Albans High School in 1968 and experienced cardiac problems in the following year. John Francis McInerney died of a heart attack at Asburton in September 1970, aged 55 years, and was buried at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery. Alice Mary nee McAlister died in August 1997 at age 83 years, and was buried at the Brighton General Cemetery.

### Principal's Message

We have seen history made this year. Space exploration has been advanced a further stage by the successful landing of man on the moon. Great advances in technology have enabled exploratory probes to the nearer planets, and already further manned flights into space have been planned.

We cannot fail to be impressed by the careful planning made for these undertakings or to admire the courage of those who have carried out the projects.

However, while we applaud the tremendous technical achievements we must be careful not to lose sight of problems closer to home. The spectacular advances in the field of space exploration contrast greatly with the lack of progress in so many other fields. We cannot yet solve the plight of two thirds of the world's people who are hungry and starving. Neither can we be sure that all peoples, black or white, Arab or Jew, catholic or protestant, can live in peace and treat one another with tolerance. We cannot dismiss these examples of man's neglect and intolerance as unimportant and at the same time be proud of man's achievements in technology.

We in the schools have a special ditty to the community in this regard. Our young people are being prepared to take their places in this modern changing world. Stress is made, and rightly so, of the need for higher qualifications to satisfy the increasing demands of commercial interests. We encourage pupils to remain at school longer to achieve these goals.

But if we merely turn out students with higher qualifications, and without a sense ditty to contribute to the community we have failed. Our pupils must be prepared to give as well as to receive. Parents can help the school by co-operating in the training of their children to respect the rights and opinions of others. Together we can help to make a reality of the freedoms of the United Nations charter. In this way we can really be proud of all man's achievements.

**J. F. McInerney, 1969.**  
Extract from Alba, 1969

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Mr McNerney and teaching staff, 1969.



John F. McNerney with senior teachers and prefects, 1970.

## **In Memorium**

It was with deep regret that all who are connected with St. Albans High School learnt of the sudden death of our Principal, Mr. J. F. McNerney on the 30th of September of this year.

Mr. McNerney was appointed to St. Albans High School in January of 1968. He soon became known to pupils, staff and parents for his willingness to listen and discuss and had the rare quality of seeing and treating people as separate individuals. His ability, not only as an administrator, but also as an outstanding teacher became evident. He delighted in seizing every opportunity to teach in the classroom and always managed to find time to speak to students in the playground. It is not surprising that he quickly gained the confidence and respect of all connected with the school.

On the 14th November 1969, Mr. McNerney suffered a heart attack whilst on duty at school and was forced to rest for a period of six months. He returned to duty at the beginning of April and continued until the last day of Term 1. At the beginning of Term II, Mr McNerney was granted a compassionate transfer to

Beaumaris High School in order that his daily travelling time would be shortened. It was whilst returning home from Beaumaris that he suffered a further heart attack which proved fatal.

His work and example in the short time that Mr. McInerney was connected with the school will long be remembered.

The heartfelt sympathy of all is extended to Mrs. McInerney and family.



Extract from Alba, 1970.

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