

## Nick Szwed

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**From:** Joseph Ribarow <ribarow@melbpc.org.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 December 2024 8:32 PM  
**To:** Nick Szwed  
**Subject:** Do you remember Mr Sacharonok in the early 1960s?

Genadij Sacharonok was a displaced Russian national from Minsk, Belarus. He had USSR teaching qualifications but when settled in Germany he was assigned to farm work. He migrated to Australia in 1950 under the IRO and in 1956 became a naturalised Australian citizen in South Australia, so that was probably his home state at the time.

He moved to Victoria in the late 1950s. His name was a tongue-twister to Melburnians so he became known as Gene Sacahoronok. In 1959 was teaching geography at St Albans High School and was Form Teacher of 1C. He put his bilingual skills to good use.

In 1961 St Albans was the first High School in the State to have full-time counsellors who worked with the Headmaster and Staff to help students in various ways:

"The chief concern was to assist students in improving their work. Then, the School has worked with parents to increase understanding of the education which society demands students to achieve today. In working with St. Albans parents, the School has relied on the help of those teachers who can speak languages other than English. Without them, and especially Mr Sacharonok, the work could not have proceeded."

In 1961 Sacharonok married Aleksandra Chaprowicka, who was of Polish nationality and had migrated to Melbourne in 1949. They had one daughter, Anne.

Sacharonok stayed at St Albans until at least 1962 but later records are not available.

By 1968 the family had adopted the surname Sash and were living in Broadmeadows.

Gene Sash died after a short illness in 2013, aged 89 years. Loved husband of Alex, father of Anne and grandfather of Meredith.





Front: Mr. G. Reid, Miss V. Feneion, Mr. J. Everson, Miss E. S. Taylor (Senior Mistress),  
 Mr. M. H. Wilkinson (Head Master), Mr. G. H. Strauss (Senior Master), Miss G. M. Bowles,  
 Mr. L. E. Burchell, Miss R. Meyer (Physc.).  
 Second row: Mrs. J. Cox (Sec.), Miss H. Eadie, Mrs. E. Sturesteps, Mrs. L. Pavlova, Miss G. E. Coutts,  
 Mrs. J. Fielder, Mrs. L. Cameron, Mrs. Kriksciunas, Mrs. M. Burden, Mrs. S. Hudson (Sec.),  
 Miss R. Bechler (Psych.).  
 Third row: Mr. E. Youd, Mr. J. Morieson, Mr. D. Hill, Mr. F. Schiller, Mr. P. Pavlov, Mr. L. King,  
 Mr. G. Sacharonok, Mr. I. M. Smith, Mr. T. Walsh, Mr. G. G. Gibson.  
 Back: Mr. J. D. Conroy, Mr. N. Bolvari, Mr. J. Mott, Mr. J. Hunt, Mr. T. G. Scarff, Mr. R. Robertson,  
 Mr. K. Chilton, Mr. K. Robertson, Mr. E. Ford. Absent: Miss M. T. O'Connor.

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