

NEVILLE PAUL DAYNES: PRINCIPAL, 1980 - 1983



Neville Paul Daynes was appointed as Principal at St Albans High School in 1980 and stayed until 1983.

His parents were Norman Frank Daynes (1910-1989) and Florence Caroline Reeder (1903-1989). Norman was born in Camberwell, London, and emigrated to Australia with his parents, Frank Percy Daynes and Lizzie Popejoy, in 1912.

Florence Reeder was born in 1903 in Carlton, Victoria; her parents were Aubrey Middleton Reeder and Trina Rosevear. Aubrey's family heritage goes back to 1729 in Barwick Norfolk, England, but he was born in New Zealand in 1880, and his family came to Australia by 1884. Trina was born in Adelaide in 1880 and her parents (William and Sarah Rosevear) were from Cornwall,

England, and emigrated about 1869; they had four daughters.

Norman Daynes and Florence Reeder married in Victoria in 1932 and appear to have had only one child, Neville Paul Daynes. Neville attended the Canterbury State Primary School in the 1940s and then the Camberwell High School and passed his Intermediate Certificate in 1953. He was in the schools' boys' tennis squad in the 1950s.



Neville Daynes (on left in middle row) with tennis team Camberwell High School 1953.

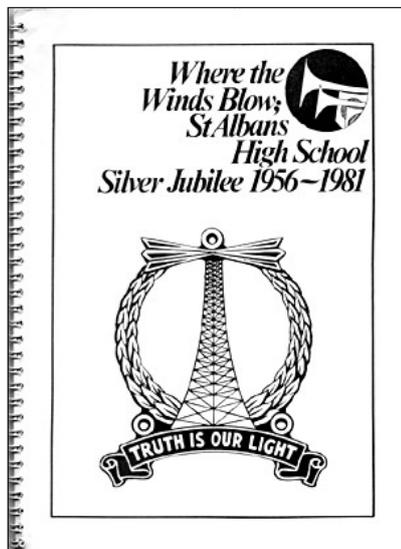
Neville obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Melbourne University in 1960 and started his teaching career soon after at the Maribyrnong High School. He worked his way up to principal class by 1979 and was appointed Principal at St Albans in 1980.



(L-R) M Dobes, J Trcka, G Kulbys, N Daynes, R Martin, M Polachek, F Azer, 1980.

It was the school's 25th year of existence and there was a lot of change occurring. The challenge for the school was articulated by Daynes when he said:

"For too long we have seen ourselves as 'poor old St Albans' and as being not quite as good as other schools. I doubt that this had ever been true - it certainly is not true now. I want to see us re-building our reputation as the premier school of the west - in every way."



To help celebrate the school's Silver Jubilee, Senior teacher Mr Bruce Alcorn prepared an overview of the school's development in his "Where the Wind Blows" booklet.

Mr Alcorn reported that in 1980 the school had 1060 students which was less than its peak of 1250 in 1978. There was major upgrading of the school grounds including lawns and landscaped gardens with native vegetation, an upgrading of the oval to include an athletics track and areas for soccer, cricket, hockey and football. An outstanding International Display featured cultural activities of the diverse ethnic groups in the community. The library and resource centre that was damaged by fire in July 1979 was finally reopened and a ceremony to mark the three-story building's return to full service was held in November 1980. Sir Henry Winneke - the Governor of Victoria - and Lady Winneke attended to officially open the Jubilee celebrations. To close such an eventful year, Neville Daynes introduced an interesting

innovation with an end-of-year luncheon for Year 12 students.



St Albans Secondary College ethnic dancers.

Principal's Message

St. Albans was the first school to which I was appointed after promotion to the Principal Class. I succeeded John Brooke as Principal. By coincidence I had taught with both John and Deputy Principal, Roger Martin, at Maribyrnong High School in the 1960s; my friendship with the latter continuing from that period. Having taught in western suburban schools I knew their features but still St. Albans was unique.

Here I found, in the main, a committed young staff, active in curriculum issues, industrial relations and school council governance. Their approach had been influenced by the Commonwealth Supplementary Grants processes. In fact a number of the teachers had an enviable record in successful submission writing for funding of curriculum projects, equipment and other facilities.

In this situation I was to find that the school administration could be challenged from time to time but any conflict that might ensue was short term, never personal and driven always by an overwhelming desire to work together for the good of the school for which these teachers had such a commitment. (I note the number of staff from that period still at the school but now in leadership positions).

1980, of course began the trend of ministerial statements associated with Green and White Papers and a constant restructuring of the Education Department that still continues unabated. More positively, in March 1981 we celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the school. This included the coup of having the then State Governor, Sir Henry Winneke formally attend and unveil a plaque recognizing the oval development.. In 1981 there was the re-opening of the fire-reinstated three storey building that accommodated the library.

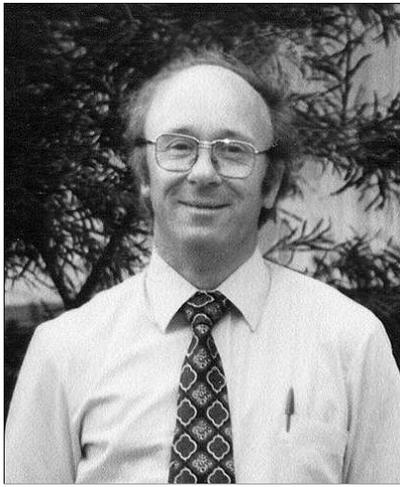
Having more direct bearing on curriculum outcomes in 1982 there was the formal School Review with external facilitators such as the educationalist, John McLaren and a tireless executive officer in Ruth Radke. One of its outcomes was to see more efficient processes in school decision-making. The staff, during my period, researched vertical structuring, implemented an integration studies program in the junior forms and in 1980 introduced a semester system for curriculum and assessment.

I remember with pleasure the creativity revealed in the MAC productions, including especially the Flake Failure production that 'went on the road.' There were the international festivals organized by the creative Languages Faculty. More specifically ethnic was the Maltese Social Night attended by more than 500 parents and friends.

Finally I should pay tribute to three senior teachers who worked so closely with Roger Martin and myself: Nick Thornton, Doug Smith and John Cowl. Our task was made so much easier because, led by Nick, they were so often able to achieve consensus between those of contending views.

I congratulate the school on its 50 Years and the present high standards it maintains in serving its community.

Menu
People
Photos
History
Albas
Top of Page
Home Page



Neville Daynes, 2006.

Principal's Message by Neville Daynes 2006.

Family background researched and written by Joseph Ribarow.

Photo reproduction by Nick Szwed.