

GRAEME LARMOUR : COMMERCE TEACHER 1958, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL 1969-1974



Graeme Leslie Larmour did two stints of service at St Albans High School, the first in 1958 as a Commerce teacher in the school's infancy, and the second between 1969 and 1974 when he had more senior responsibilities as Deputy Principal.

Graeme Leslie Larmour was born in 1931 to Robert Leslie Larmour and Vera Francis Hagan. The Larmour ancestry goes back to 1829 in Antrim, Northern Ireland; William and Alice Larmour emigrated prior to 1860 and settled in Steiglitz, Victoria. Vera Francis Hagan was born about 1900 in Heathcote, Victoria.

Graeme Larmour's earliest public recognition and thus claim to fame was in Melbourne as a toddler in 1934:

"At a baby show held at Chelsea on Saturday under the auspices of the Chelsea branch of the Returned Soldiers' League, Graeme

*Leslie Larmour, aged two years and six months, of Chelsea, was adjudged the winner of the section over two years and under three years, and the grand champion of the show."*¹

In the 1950s the family was in Yallourn, where Robert Leslie Larmour was the postmaster. Graeme attended Yallourn High School and became a teacher, starting at Morewell Primary in 1950. In 1953 he received a transfer to Yando Sate School (Boort).² In 1954 he had moved to Carlton and in 1955 received his Bachelor of Commerce degree from Melbourne University.³

In 1958 Graeme Leslie Larmour married Constance Elizabeth Browning. She was born about 1936 to William Andrew Browning and Nina Elise Whitlow. The Browning ancestry goes back to 1795 in Exeter, Devon, England. The Whitlow ancestry goes back to 1832 in Buxton, Derbyshire, England. Nina Elise Whitlow was born in 1906 in Goulburn, New South Wales, Australia, to Frederick Whitlow and Amy Louise Benson. She married William Browning in China in 1934 and had two sons and two daughters. In the 1930s William was a missionary in Salowu, Yunnan Province, China, so undoubtedly Nina Whitlow was also a missionary. Constance Elizabeth Browning was probably born in China in the mid 1930s.



Constance Browning was a teacher. She obtained a matriculation teaching bursary in 1952⁴ and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Melbourne University in 1956.⁵ She became engaged to Graeme Larmour in 1957:

*"Constance Browning, 21, of Campbell's Creek, near Castlemaine, Vic, teaches English and social studies. A B.A., Constance is engaged to Victorian schoolteacher Graeme Larmour and plans to marry in January 1958. Skiing, swimming, tennis, dressmaking, and classes in first-aid and German are among her interests."*⁶

Graeme and Constance settled in Reservoir East, Darebin. Graeme started at St Albans High in 1958 when he was aged 27, with qualifications B.Comm. and Dip.Ed. The school was in its third year of existence; there were 20 staff looking after 560 students from 28 different creeds and cultures. Larmour stayed only one year in this first stint. Did his St Albans students inspire him into better documentation

and publication in his chosen field? In 1960 he wrote and copyrighted a book "A Direct Method to Shorthand & Typing" which would have been based on his teaching experiences.

¹ Argus 4 June 1934 p4

² Sun News-Pictorial 22 December 1953 p11

³ Argus 10 March 1955 p12

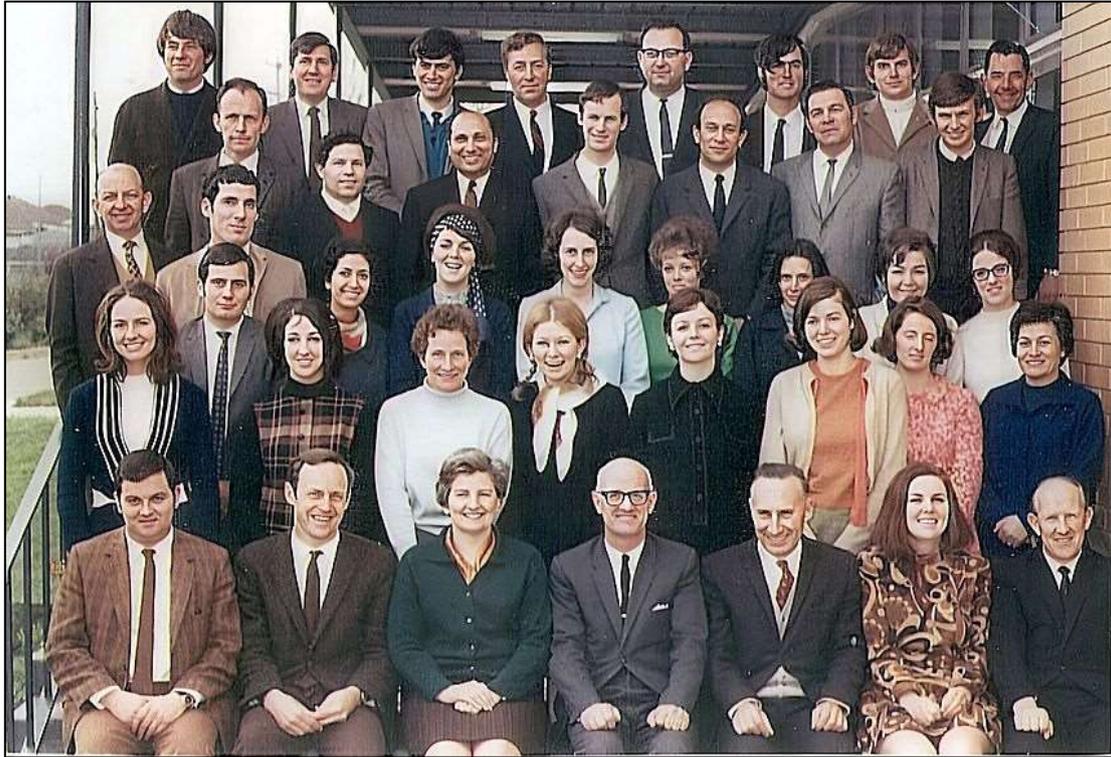
⁴ Age 9 February 1952 p6

⁵ Argus 7 August 1956 p11

⁶ Australian Women's Weekly 27 March 1957 p13

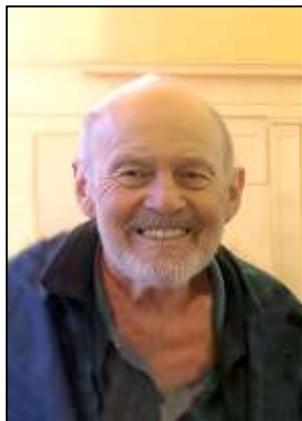
The Larmours were living and working in Murtoa, Wimmera, by 1960. In 1967 they were at Corio, Geelong. They moved to Keilor by 1968 – Graeme was working as a teacher and Constance was attending to ‘home duties’ and no doubt looking after their children Brenda, Wendy, and John.

Graeme Larmour returned to St Albans High School in 1969, a decade after his first appointment, and was again teaching commerce. The staff had increased from 20 to about 60 teachers and the St Albans population was about 20,000 – it was the most multicultural suburb in Melbourne. In 1971 Larmour added to his B.Comm. and Dip.Ed. qualifications with a TPTC. He was aged 40 and this re-appointment to St Albans would have been a promotion as he was Deputy Principal in 1974.



St Albans High School Staff 1969

In the late 1970s Graeme and Constance Larmour had moved to the County of Fraser in the Australian Capital Territory. Graeme Leslie was a teacher and Constance Elizabeth was a journalist. Graeme was listed as Assistant Principal Primary and Secondary Education, South Canberra, and later transferred to Assistant Principal Students, Band 3 Secondary, Lyneham High School, Canberra, ACT.⁷ His later career has not been traced.



Graeme Leslie Larmour died in Canberra in 2019 at age 88:

“Graeme Leslie Larmour (Larry) 29 November 1931 - 7 May 2019. Loved husband of Consie, wonderful father of Brenda, Wendy and John, father-in-law of Grant, Dan and Helen, and loving Poppa of Sam, Natalie, Tara, Alyse, Jaslyn and Jack. Special and much loved uncle. ... Special thanks to the wonderful caring staff at Goodwin House, Ainslie. Thanks for the adventures Larry, we will treasure our memories of you.”⁸

“Larmour, Graeme Leslie (Larry) 29.11.31-7.5.19 Much loved brother in law of Peter and Elise (Dec) Padreny and treasured Uncle of Michael, Joanne, Kerrie, Christine and their families. Sadly missed but forever in our hearts.”⁹

⁷ Commonwealth of Australia Gazette. 7 Nov 1981 [Issue No.G46] Page 27

⁸ Canberra Times May 11, 2019

⁹ Canberra Times on May 15, 2019

THE ADVANTAGES OF DIVERSITY by Graeme Larmour 1974

Australian, Maltese, Yugoslav, Greek, English, Italian, Dutch, Ukrainian ...

At St Albans we have rich and diverse cultural resources and backgrounds upon which to build and draw.

Are we using or exploiting these resources enough? Are we sufficiently aware of our various heritages so that we can use them to our advantage. Perhaps our curriculum could be more adapted to building on all of our heritages so that we can develop attitudes, skills and specialized qualifications that will be in demand in the NEW AUSTRALIA of the twenty first century.

Considerable progress has already been made. Our co-curricular days and our creative arts programme encourage diversity and draw upon the interests and strengths of teachers and students, and to some extent utilizes community resources. In fact all of our teachers, who often have rich and diverse backgrounds themselves draw on students' experiences and ideas.



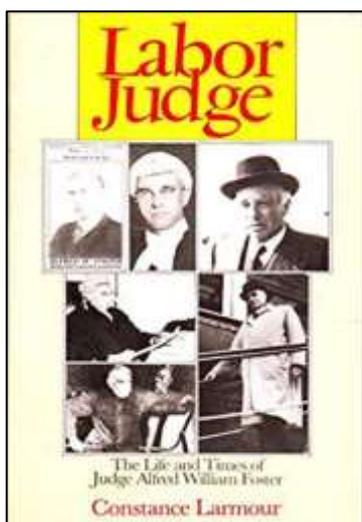
Our M.A.C. productions have been great successes. "Hero" was a hit not only with the students and parents but all over Australia. It struck a common chord because it dealt with the problems of a young lad from a family who came from Europe to a materialistic jungle which can be found very easily in Melbourne. The success of the show did not come only from the universal nature of the theme, but from the hard work and co-operation which went into the writing, producing and performing.

Diversity and steady hard work can be our strengths. Sometimes we are tempted to think and dwell on our difficulties and our problems and then use these as an excuse for inaction and low standards. A few may allow frustrations and problems to get them down to such an extent that they destructively lash out or just drop out. We must learn to know ourselves better so that we may work and build on our rich variety of resources with pride.

G. L. Larmour, Deputy Principal
Alba 1974

Constance Larmour

Constance (aka Connie, Consie, Cosie) Larmour became an author. She had furthered her academic endeavors in the late 1960s. When working on her thesis over 1967-69 she ended up interviewing Bob Hawke who became Australia's 23rd prime minister:



"When in 1967 I sought to interview Bob Hawke for my thesis on Judge Alfred Foster of the then Arbitration Court, he was quite tetchy. Hawke, the ACTU's research officer curtly offered me only a short, half-hour time slot on a specific date. I meekly agreed to travel from Geelong to the Melbourne ACTU office for that limited appointment."¹⁰

Her publications include:

- Labor Judge : The Life and Times of Judge Alfred William Foster. 1985.
- 'Women's wages and the WEB', in Curthoys, Eade and Spearritt (eds), pp. 47-58.
- Absenteeism and the Australian Public Service. 1990.
- Affirmative action : the U.S. experience and Australian proposals to combat sex discrimination. 1984,
- Women at Work.
- Sex discrimination legislation in Australia, 1983

¹⁰ <https://citynews.com.au/2019/hawke-the-judge-and-ambition-gone-awry/>



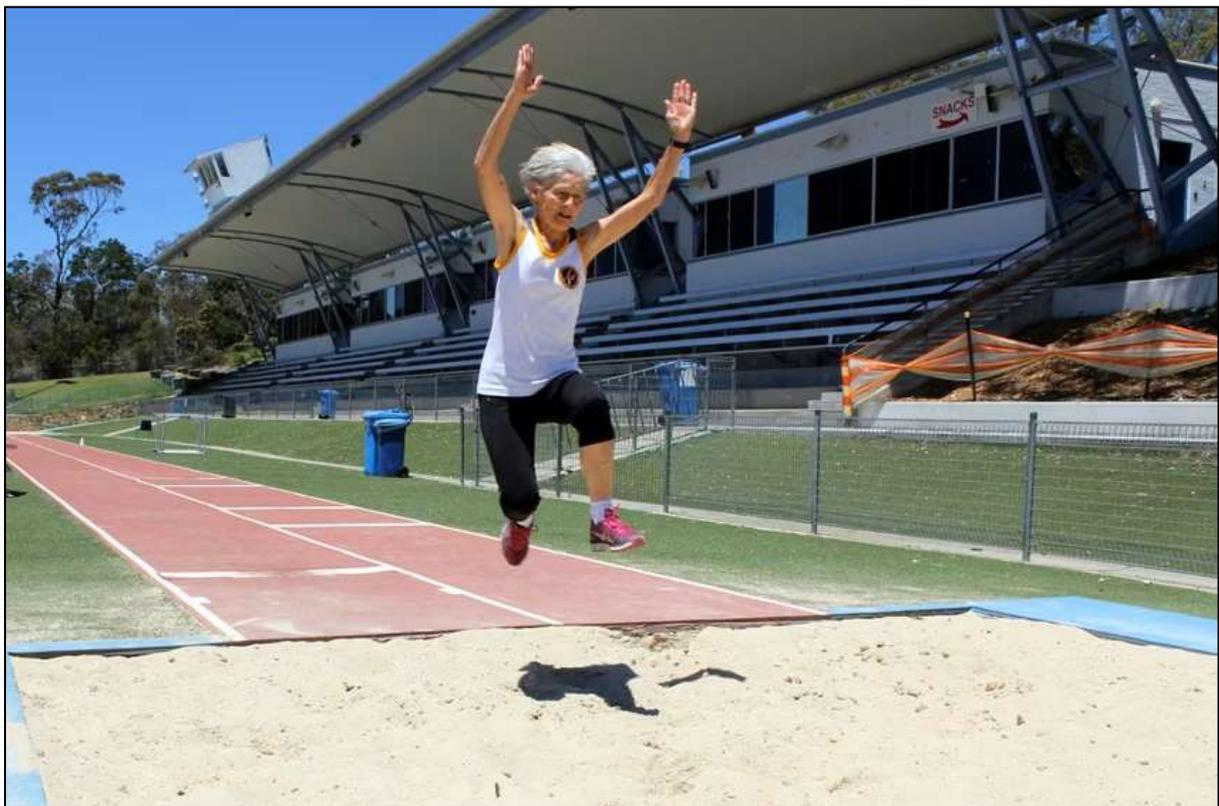
Constance Larmour has been very active and athletic in her retirement in Canberra, including running, jumping, and such combinations for the pentathlon etc. She took part in the Victorian Masters Athletics competitions in the 2000s. In 2006 she was competing in the 5km Fun Run, the 4x400m relay, the 100m and 200m run. In 2008 she was running with the Mothers Day Classic in Canberra.

In 2013 she was involved in the Australia Masters Athletics Championships in Canberra and the breadth of her entry ambitions sounds almost poetic: The Tradies 60 Metre Sprint, Centenary of Canberra 100 Metre Sprint, Rolfe Renault 200 Metres, Rolfe Renault 400 Metres, Cool n Soothe Long Jump, Capital Hotels Triple Jump, and the ACT Mixed 'A'.¹¹

As for other activities, Cosie (Constance) Larmour was involved with the North Canberra Community Council in 2015.¹²

In 2015, at age 80, she was training for the long jump as part of the pentathlon challenge. In 2017 she ran two races with Race Walk Australia, completing 3000 metres. In 2019 she was a member of the ACT Masters Athletics Club.

In 2021 Consie Larmour with teammates Jo Klemke, Anne Young and Corry Collins set a world record for the W80 4x800metre relay.¹³



Consie Larmour, 80, working on her long jump technique. (ABC Canberra: Hannah Walmsley)

¹¹ Australia Masters Athletics Championships Canberra 2013 Results
https://www.mastersathleticswa.org/data/track/ama-champs/AMA_Champs-2013.pdf

¹² <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Browning-6006>

¹³ Penny Travers, ABC News