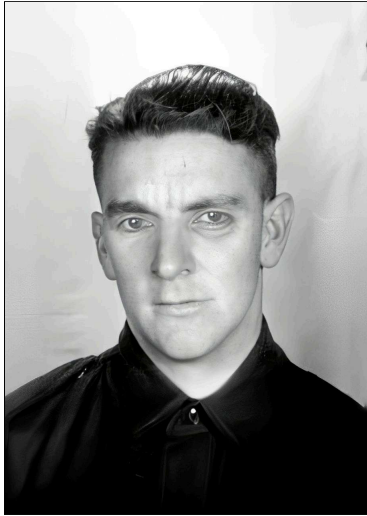


TERENCE MICHAEL O'BRIEN: ACTING HEADMASTER, 1970

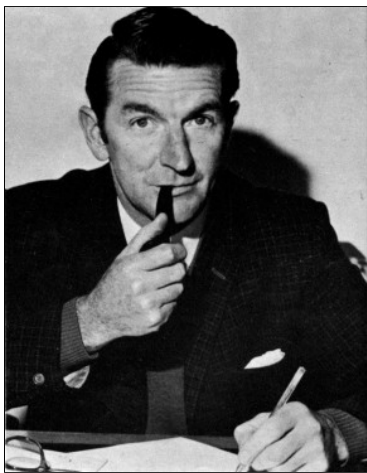


Terence Michael O'Brien was born in 1926 in Windsor, Victoria. His father was Michael John O'Brien whose earlier history has not been traced. Terence enlisted in the A.I.F. in 1946 at age 19 for a period of two years; he was single and working as a teacher. His service records are not very extensive - he is listed as a sapper with rank of Private and may have volunteered to join troops in Japan but his posting only extended to New South Wales. He was discharged in 1947 on demobilisation. In 1952 he married Carmel Johanna Doherty with a Nuptial Mass at St Joseph's Church in South Yarra, an event worthy enough to be published in both the Age and the Argus. In 1963 they were living in Morewell where he was teaching. They soon came back to Melbourne as in 1968 O'Brien was one of the part-time academics at the Swinburne Technical College, Hawthorn, with qualifications B.A. and

T.P.T.C.; in 1969 his qualifications were B.A. and Dip.Ed. At this stage the family were living in Syndal, Mount Waverley.

In 1970 he was appointed to St Albans High School as Acting-Principal after John McInerney withdrew due to major cardiac problems. At St Albans, O'Brien was informally known as 'Tom' or 'Terry'. He didn't stay long in the temporary position and in 1971 was appointed Principal of Sunshine West High School. In 1977 the O'Briens were still living in Mt Waverley - they had at least three children as the family now included Christine Anne (student), Michael James (bank officer), and Peter Mark (student). Terence Michael O'Brien died in August 2017 at age 91 years and was buried at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

Principal's Message



This has been a challenging year. Many of us have grappled with problems that we never dreamt would come our way so suddenly. I recall how nervously I called on the staff at the beginning of the year to answer the challenge with enthusiasm. The challenge, of course, was to cope with the situation of being without the Principal who was then recovering from a serious illness. None of us, I think, realised just how serious that illness was. We know now because Mr. McInerney died in September. His death shocked and saddened all of us. His influence, however, did not die; that part of him lives on in the school today in the firm organisational basis that he laid, and in that unique practical-idealistic approach to education in general that he possessed.

If Mr. McInerney pointed the way, it is up to each of us to follow the signs. Some students are distracted by signs that are planted by people in no way connected with school life. These lures e.g. 'Give study away: let's go, man, go' or 'Why worry? You'll get a pass' will yield at best only the shadow of an education but not the substance. The student today appears to have many distractions. There is the constant inducement of television; there is the almost irresistible car that his friend owns and who is ever ready to take him places; there is the ever-present sense of

having to get "with it". But the student who is to succeed must take these socializing activities in moderation and learn to discipline his time so that his studies are kept in true perspective.

The school today is not the repressive institution of ages past. It is more truly today the "Alma Mater" than it could ever have claimed to have been in the past. Indeed the teacher today acts so often "in loco parentis" that there is a danger that the parent may opt right out of the situation. But if a student is to receive a sound education all three parties, i.e. the parent, the student and the teacher must work together in mutual harmony.

T. M. O'Brien
Acting Principal
1970



Mrs Wright and Mr O'Brien, 1970.

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