



# HISTORY

OF TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL





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Trinity Grammar School was founded in 1913 by the Rev G A Chambers. Prior to becoming a clergyman, Chambers had himself been a teacher for six years. Chambers' vision was for a church school that would provide leadership for and influence over the community, as well as spiritual witness in the populous area of South West suburbs of Sydney where there was no Anglican Church boys' school.

Trinity Grammar School was established as a parish school for boys, by a committee of parishioners of Holy Trinity Dulwich Hill. This Committee was chaired by Chambers, whom it appointed as 'Warden' of the School.

The School was opened on 13 February 1913 by the Archbishop of Sydney Rt Rev J C Wright. After due inspection by the Education Department, the School was formally registered under the Bursaries Endowment Act, from 1 Jan 1913.

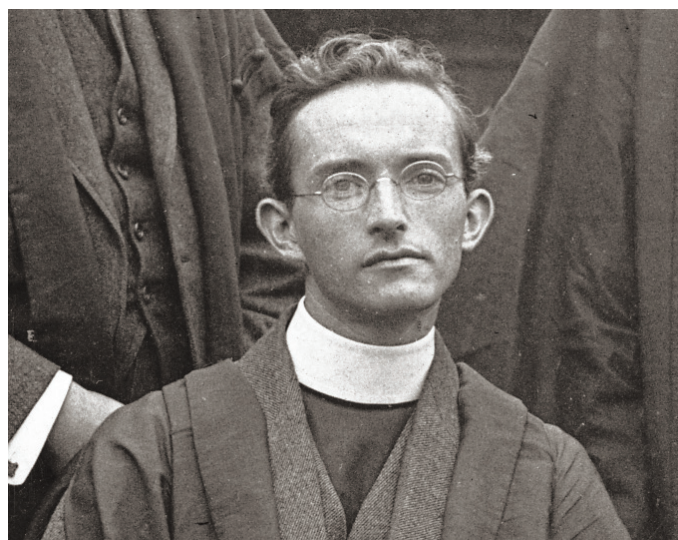
The initial 29 boys were quartered in a house called Hazeldene in the Boulevard, Dulwich Hill, which operated as the school, boarding house and parish Rectory. Later that year they were transferred to the Parish Hall for three months before relocating again, this time to a larger house - The Towers also in the Boulevard, Dulwich Hill, that had been purchased for it. By the end of the year there were 57 students at Trinity.

Mr K T Henderson was appointed the first Head Master. Henderson was a gifted student - Dux of Trinity Grammar, Kew (Melbourne), and a medal winning graduate of the University of Melbourne. There were two appointed Masters G O C Bartlett and S L Dolph, as well as the two parish curates, Rev M G Hinsby and Rev W G Hilliard, assisting with the teaching.

Henderson resigned as Head Master after only six months due to ill health. Rev W G Hilliard, curate and 'visiting master' was appointed the Head Master from 1 Aug 1913. Prior to his ordination Hilliard, like Chambers, had also been a teacher - specialising in English and Modern Languages. He was also a keen sportsman with a passion for Cricket.

His three years as Head were a very significant time for the establishment of the direction of the School in the provision of 'a sound education in a religious climate' (Heath p 39). The Towers buildings were extended in 1915, but the growing number of students continued to put pressure on the facilities. There were over 100 students by the time Hilliard resigned in June 1916 to take up the position of Rector of St John the Baptist, Ashfield.

Mr Arthur Alston was appointed the new Head Master. He had been a teacher at Ballarat Grammar School, Victoria, and Head Master of Colac Grammar School. He resigned after only four months for health reasons.



**left:** The Towers, The Boulevard, Dulwich Hill c. 1915 **above:** Head Master - Rev W G Hilliard, c 1915

## ARCHER

Mr F H J Archer was the next Head Master. He had spent the previous nine years as Modern Languages and Sports Master at Caulfield Grammar School. His time at Trinity, 1917-22, was a period of growth and expansion of the School. The first issue of *The Triangle* appeared in June 1917. Over the years, this has become a very important source of information about School activities.

Further expansion of The Towers facilities occurred with the construction of an open-air dormitory as well as classrooms and a library – opened in Sep 1917, and an addition to the Boarding house, with Masters' Common Room and classrooms opened in Apr 1921.

Annual Sports days began 1917, which were held at Petersham Oval. And Trinity played competition matches with Sydney Grammar, St Aloysius, Barker and Randwick Prep. These inter school competitions were the precursors to CAS. The Old Boys Union was also formed in 1917.

Enrolments increased and though they stuttered during the Influenza epidemic of 1919, quickly recovered to their former numbers. During the epidemic, the beginning of school term was delayed until 3 March, then in April, schools were closed by government edict. Sadly, two of the School's students died during the epidemic and School awards were presented in memory of both boys.

The number of School officers was increased in 1921 from four to eight (Captain and seven prefects) and they were given more responsibilities, such as making arrangements for sporting fixtures, organising concerts, managing the library, compiling *The Triangle*, and collecting each forms' missionary giving.

Archer also introduced the House system, sport and merit colours, school concerts, form prizes, and a Christian Union. He resigned in Jun 1922, in order to become Head Master at Caulfield Grammar School.



**top right:** Mr F H J Archer, c 1918 **right:** Annual Sports Day at Petersham Oval, 1921 **below:** TGS Dulwich Hill, c 1921





The new Head Master appointed in 1923 was Rev Dr George E A Weeks - an Englishman, formerly Dean of Nelson Cathedral, New Zealand (1916-1923). A graduate of Cambridge, Durham and Dublin universities, he had held parish appointments in London, and South Africa, been a navy Chaplain and briefly Head Master of Hilton College, Natal, South Africa.

Weeks arrived as the School was beginning to look for a larger site to occupy. Chambers proposed a solution to the Department of Education - the Hurlstone site to be sold to Trinity when the High School moved, and Trinity to sell The Towers to the Department of Education for use as a public school. The outcome of much discussion was that Trinity was able to purchase 17 acres of the Hurlstone site - the other 13 acres were given to the Municipal Council to create Yeo Park. Unfortunately however, Trinity had to vacate The Towers by Feb 1924 and was not able to occupy the Hurlstone site until 1926. In the meantime, they relocated to Holy Trinity Dulwich Hill's parish hall. Boarders were housed at 'Holwood' in Victoria St Ashfield, which was purchased in Dec 1923. Boarders travelled each day by bus to Dulwich Hill for lessons in the parish hall which was partitioned by means of hessian curtains hanging from the ceiling. This was a very difficult time for the school, and enrolments fell.



Trinity was finally opened at the Hurlstone site in April 1926 with the laying of two memorial stones. However the new location did not solve all Trinity's problems. The school struggled to attract and retain quality teaching staff who could find better salaries at other independent schools. The site also needed considerable work with construction of playing fields taking another four years to complete.

Most of the boarders were moved to the rear section of Hurlstone which became the Head Master's house, and Holwood was used to house the Junior School and the overflow of boarders.

Notwithstanding the School's financial difficulties, Chambers instigated the purchase of Strathfield Grammar School (established 1917) as a feeder school for Trinity, in 1927. This was located in a grand house Llandilo, The Boulevard, Strathfield, formerly the family home of Sir Philip Sydney Jones (son of David Jones of Department Store fame). Strathfield Grammar continued to be run as a separate School with its own Head until full amalgamation with Trinity in 1932.



As rector of Dulwich Hill, Chambers continued to be very much involved in the life of the School. However he increasingly spent longer periods of time away from the parish and School undertaking Diocesan duties and serving the Colonial and Continental Church Society (later the Bush Church Aid Society), and the Church Missionary Society (Australia). In 1927 when CMS Australia accepted responsibility for the missionary diocese of Central Tanganyika, Chambers was unanimously elected as its nominee for the Bishopric. After a visit to East Africa he travelled on to England where he was consecrated Bishop of Central Tanganyika, Tanzania. In 1924 Chambers first gave notice that he intended to approach the Synod for a Synodical Constitution and board of management for Trinity. In 1927, the Church of England Evangelical Trust of NSW assumed control of TGS and the Holy Trinity Church School Council was dissolved on 7 May 1927. In April 1927, Chambers departed for UK for the interview which culminated in his enthronement as Bishop of Tanganyika.

In 1928 Weeks resigned and Rev W G Hilliard was appointed Head Master for a second time.



**from top:** All aboard for Dulwich Hill, boys with the Head Master and Mr Wynn Jones, 1925 | The Governor General, Lord Stonehaven, setting the School foundation stones at the Hurlstone site, 17 Apr 1926 | His Excellency Sir Dudley de Chair, Governor of NSW 'at the plough' on the new playing fields in course of construction at TGS, 5 Sep 1925 | The Jones family home - Llandilo The Boulevard, Strathfield

## HILLIARD



During this period the School faced significant financial pressures. It had a large debt to sustain at a time of economic depression. Parents felt the economic pressure and enrolments fell - in particular boarder numbers. Staff retention continued to be a challenge. 1929 began with 118 day boys and 45 boarders. The Bosch Appeal which ran from 1928-1930 raised just over £22 000. However, this was easily swallowed up in servicing debts and School running costs.

The depression had a significant effect on the School's income, as parents were affected, paid late and students were withdrawn. Staff salaries were also reduced, and at the time Council members even supplied funds for wages from their own pockets. Strathfield Grammar was more successful than Trinity in maintaining its economic balance. The outcome was the merger of the two schools in 1932, with the Strathfield site being the home of all academic studies, with the Summer Hill site providing the playing fields and Boarders' residence.

In 1929, the Combined Association of Schools (CAS) was formed for the purpose of regular sporting fixtures. Progress was made on developing the grounds at Summer Hill and No 1 Oval was opened by the Governor Sir Philip Game, in Sep 1930 on the occasion of the 14th School Athletic Sports.

Hilliard also introduced other changes – a Chapel area was formed by screening off of one end of 'the Hut' – the building used as a hall when the dividers that transformed it into four classrooms were taken down. Each day began with a short chapel service, usually led by Hilliard. In 1932, the house system was reorganised into sporting groups – necessary because boarder numbers in School House had fallen considerably.

In early 1934, Hilliard accepted the preferment of Bishop of Nelson Diocese, NZ, and left in October of that year.

Senior Master C E Latham was appointed Acting Head Master until the arrival of Rev P W Stephenson in Jan 1935. Finances continued to struggle, and when the School could no longer meet its debts, it was finally forced to approach the Church of England Property Trust for assistance. In 1934 they received £244 to pay interest on mortgages, and the Diocesan Education and Book Society granted an interest free loan of £4000 for the release of the Strathfield site mortgage and repayment of a single other loan. The

Diocese also committed to annual interest payments for three years on the now reduced debt. There was tension between the Diocese and the School Council about implementing further economies, and there was a real possibility that the School might close. In 1936 the School accepted a temporary loan of £700 from C T Taubman and Holt - both members of its Council. Six fires also occurred across both sites during 1936, one of them destroying the gym. One of the students was the suspected arsonist.

Deliberations continued over the location of the School and the best site for the future. The Summer Hill site with its playing fields and aging buildings was finally preferred, and it was planned to return the senior School there in 1938 while maintaining a feeder junior school at Strathfield. However, there was a clear need for additional funds to construct new classrooms and a pool at Summer Hill. An appeal for £7000 for these classrooms was launched in 1936. By 1937, the Parents' and Friends' Association along with their President J A Young had raised £1000. Bishop Chambers, arriving back in Sydney from Tanganyika in mid 1937 for furlough, took up the task of raising further funds and in an extraordinary five days he was able to raise £6000. This was used to construct the first 'Founder's Building' opened in November 1937.

Stephenson resigned in September 1937. He was replaced by the first non-clerical Head Master of Trinity –the former Rhodes Scholar - Vernon Sherren Murphy, who relinquished a teaching role at St Peter's College, Adelaide, to take up the post.

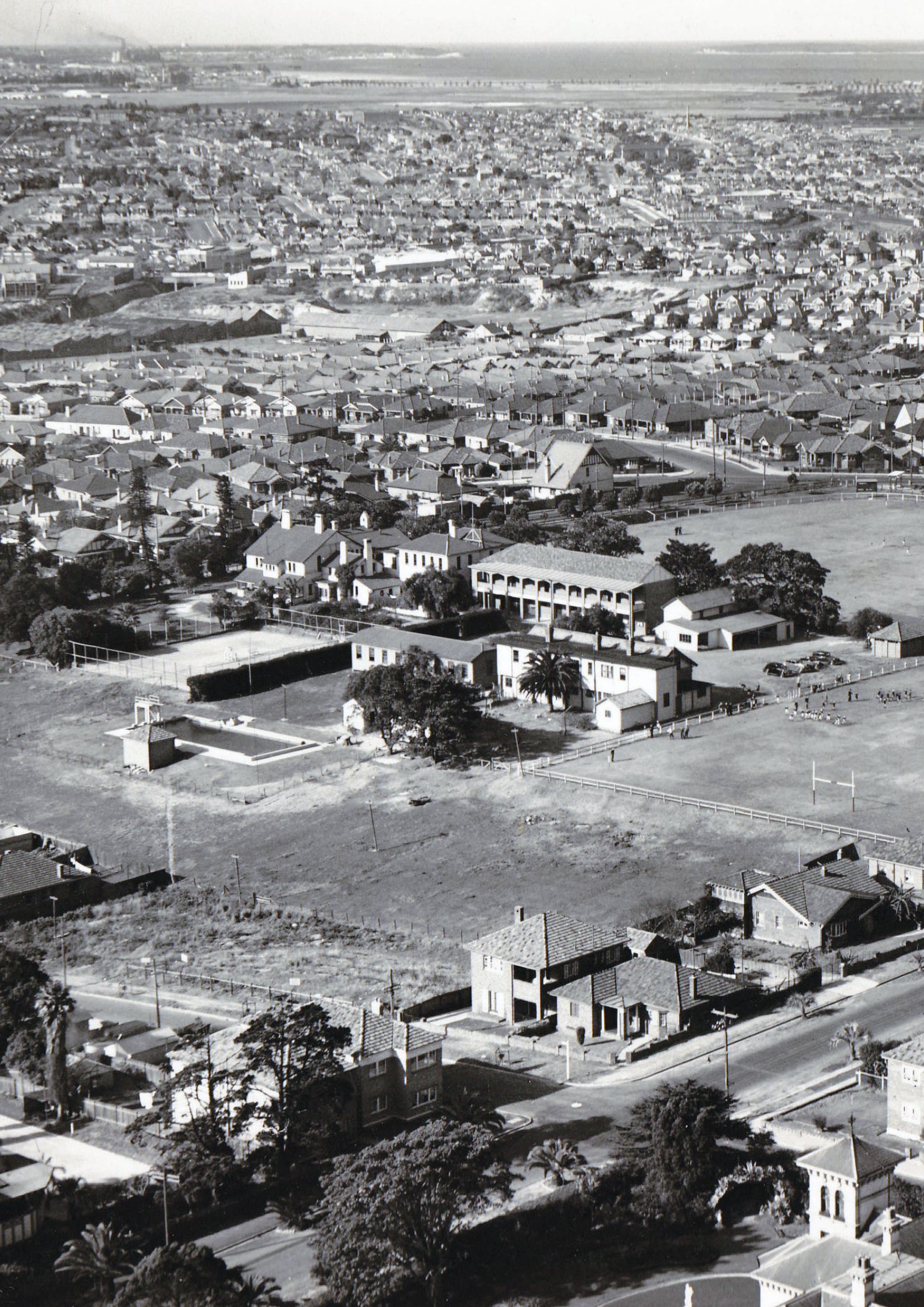
In 1938, the School celebrated its silver jubilee, built a new swimming pool, established its own Cadet Unit, began planning for a new boarding house building, and appointed its first full time School Chaplain. However, it also continued to face economic pressures, and with the onset of WWII followed by Japanese attacks on Australian cities, enrolments were adversely affected, and debts again became pressing.

Again the threat of closure loomed and the Diocesan authorities were reluctant to continue providing financial assistance. The personal guarantee of loans by a number of very loyal Council members delayed this possibility temporarily. In April 1942 Murphy left and Senior Master C E Latham was appointed acting Head Master once again. Bishop Hilliard by this time had returned from NZ, and became Warden of the School. The school endured the privations of war time and restrictions on food, clothing, fuel, paper, and building materials. However, during 1943, the allied successes in the Pacific and the returning national confidence, a recovery in school enrolments began, and by the end of 1943, boarder numbers had doubled, and total numbers reached 214.

**top left:** Hilliard, 1913 **below:** Cadets 1938

**opposite:** Aerial photo of Trinity looking across to Botany Bay c. 1939





## JAMES WILSON HOGG

James Wilson Hogg arrived as the new Head Master in January 1944. Wilson Hogg was to become the longest serving Head Master of Trinity to date – 1944 -1974.

Enrolments continued to grow and by 1945 had reached a new high of 347. Strathfield enrolments continued strongly, and boarder numbers grew to over one hundred. This growth continued and the School had more than doubled by the mid 1950s. While this reflected in some degree an increased national optimism, rising birth rate, economic growth and renewed interest in education, it was also the product of the tone of Wilson Hogg's leadership and planning. He emphasised the education of the whole person – spirit, mind, and body – in that order.

Increased enrolments meant that more facilities were required. An era of building commenced.

At Summer Hill, the second stage of the building of the Boarding house was finally completed in 1948. During the 1950s, eight new classrooms were constructed on the North West corner of the quad, and the Tower block (west side) was later joined to this, as was the Head Master's study on the North side of the Quad – completed in 1959.

As early as 1943 the idea of a war memorial chapel was being discussed. Though long in planning, the actual construction of the Memorial Chapel was completed within twelve months. On Remembrance Day - 11 Nov 1956, the School Founder- Bishop Chambers - set the foundation stone, and it was dedicated on 10 Nov 1957 by the Archbishop of Sydney. It was designed by a former student – Alan Nangle (Budden, Nangle and Michael) assisted by the School architect, also an old boy Fredrick Rice.

At Strathfield the Prep School also underwent changes. In 1952, Lauriston - a large house on The Boulevard, Strathfield, was purchased for the Junior School, housing the Junior boarders.

In 1952, an oval was constructed in front of Llandilo, followed in 1956 by a new classroom wing and a swimming pool. In 1960, facilities were further expanded with the acquisition of a longer term lease for playing fields at Bressington Park, Homebush.

Coinciding with the growth of the physical buildings was a development of the School in the area of the Arts. This began with the appointment of the first Music master in 1945, followed by the institution of an Orchestral Scholarship in 1946, the expansion of the annual Carol Service and a performance of Papagena in 1951. The Society of Arts was formed in 1951. In 1965, the School purchased the house at 175 Victoria St Ashfield, from Mrs Delmar. In August 1966 it became the location of Trinity's first exhibition of student art work, and later as venue of further exhibitions as part of the Society of the Arts Annual Festival. In 1969 it opened as the Delmar Weekend Gallery.

In 1962 over 900 students together with the wider School community celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of Trinity's foundation. The first Jubilee event was the opening of four new science laboratories next to Number 2 Oval. In June of that year, the Founder G A Chambers was present as the Guest of Honour at a week of celebratory events. The new gymnasium was opened the same year.

The 1960s was an era of great change and development in Australian education. The Wyndham Scheme introduced an additional year of senior school in 1969, and the Higher School Certificate (HSC) replaced the Leaving Certificate.

This decade was also an era of change at the Strathfield campus. Enrolments had declined somewhat, and the junior boarding was discontinued. Lauriston was converted from junior boarding to a sub-primary school (years K-2), and those remaining younger boarders moved over to accommodation at Summer Hill. In 1965 a new Master of the Prep School was appointed – Rev K L Sandars, Old Boy, 1945 School Captain and Chaplain at Summer Hill campus since 1951. Lauriston was

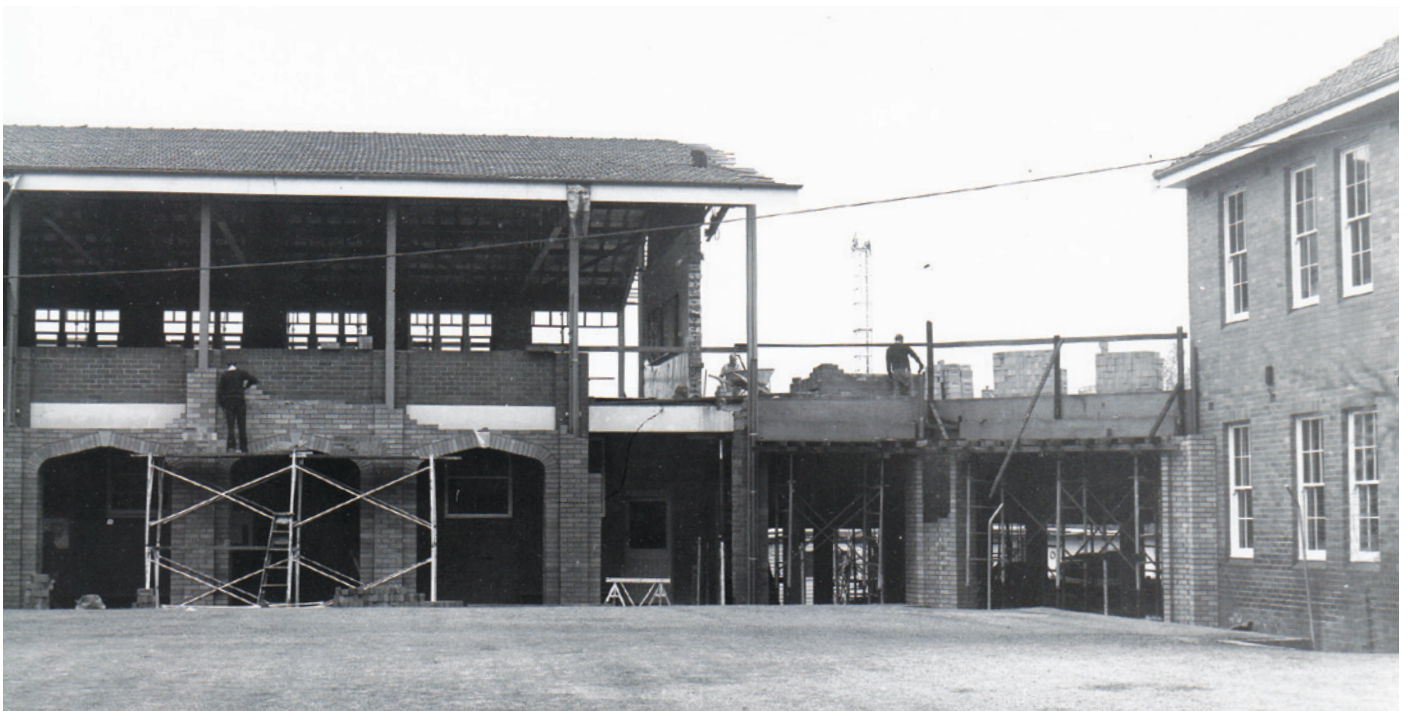
sold in 1967, and Milverton, a house adjacent to the main Prep School campus, was purchased to house the infants school. In 1968, state aid for independent schools was introduced, and Trinity accepted this financial contribution, as it was still largely depended on fee income alone.

Trinity had begun the decade with an overall enrolment of just over 1000. This dropped to 866 in 1966, but then picked up again to reach 1123 at the time of Wilson Hogg's retirement in 1974 – after 31 years as Headmaster. That year was also marked by the opening of the James Wilson Hogg Assembly Hall with seating for over 1000. At the same time, the Founder's Building had been extended and remodelled to house the School library.

**below:** The Archbishop of Sydney, Sir Marcus Loane and Mrs J Wilson Hogg opening of the Arts and Crafts Centre, 1969 **bottom:** The School's founder Bishop G A Chambers and Chaplain K L Sandars 'treading the way' through the newly dedicated Jubilee Gates, 19 June 1962 **top right:** The Trinity Grammar School Memorial Chapel **bottom right:** Remodelling of the First Founder's Building and construction of the James Wilson Hogg Assembly Hall, 1974







## WEST

Following Mr Hogg's retirement, Mr Roderick West was appointed as Head Master, and changes were necessarily introduced. Administration of the School underwent some restructuring with the appointment of a Director of Studies, a Registrar, Senior Residential Master and a Careers Advisor. The Boarding House was divided into two – Founders' and School. Saturday sport and extra-curricular activities became compulsory and at the same time the variety of sports and clubs available was increased. The Cadets began using an outdoor site - Mt White on the Hawkesbury River.

The Head Master's Bulletin was introduced in 1977, becoming a weekly issue during 1980.

This was also an era of building in the life of the School. It began with Hurlstone Court in 1977 which replaced a number of wooden buildings on the south side of Hurlstone, and then a much larger building project – the New School building which would provide facilities for Music, Science, Languages, Economics, Geography and History, as well as office, change rooms, lecture theatre, ablutions and locker areas. New School cost approximately \$2.5 million, and was opened in 1982 by the Governor of NSW Sir James Rowland. It included the Latham Theatre, located on the site of Mr Latham's old Geology laboratory, and funded by the Parents' and Friends' Association. New School continued the tradition of the Quadrangle in being built around two courtyards – the Greek amphitheatre, and Compass Courtyard.

Construction of new buildings also took place at the Prep School with the School Community and Gymnasium Centre opened in 1982, and a Music Centre in 1984. At the Senior School another new building to house the administration staff, sick bay and house master, adjoining Hurlstone and extending towards No 1 Oval was completed in 1984. The original swimming pool was replaced by an enlarged pool in an enclosed complex and along with new gym facilities was opened in 1985.

The first computers were introduced for student use in 1983 at both campuses for the development of students' computer literacy. The Arts and Crafts block was expanded with the construction of a new Design Centre opened in 1989. Costly upkeep of the dilapidated 'Delmar' the house in Victoria St used by Society of Arts led to its sale in 1987 and the construction of a new Delmar Gallery next to the Design Centre began soon after.

The Trinity Foundation was established 1986 to form an endowment fund with the aim of increasing the School's financial independence, financing buildings, facilities and specialist staff, as well as increasing the number of scholarships and bursaries.

In 1988, the School celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Six years in development - Pine Bluff - the School's outdoor activity campus adjacent to the Abercrombie River near Bigga in the NSW Central Tablelands, was opened on 23 Oct 1993. The land itself was a generous donation of an Old Boy, Mr Reginald Marsh.

The 80th anniversary of the School's foundation was celebrated with a whole School photograph and a Gala Concert at the Sydney Opera House, 1 Jun 1993.

October 1995 saw the opening of the School of Science which in turn enabled the construction of the new School of Music.



**top right:** Outdoor Education at Pine Bluff **right:** An exhibition at the Delmar Gallery



Mr West Retired in 1996, and was succeeded by Mr Milton Cujes, himself a former Trinity pupil and School Captain. October of the same year saw the opening of the Roderick West School of Music.

In 1997 enrolment was 1709 students. In 1997 the School gained authorisation as an International Baccalaureate World School, offering the Diploma Programme to Senior School boys. The first cohort began in Term 4 1998.

The year 2000 saw the complete demolition of the Old Founder's Block. In this year Chesalon House, a property in Summer Hill, was purchased and renamed Bishop Chambers House to enable boarding for senior students. The Founder's Building, designed by Architect Peter Cook, was officially opened on 24th October 2002 and incorporated the Arthur Holt Library and the James Mills Drama Centre.

In recent years the School Council has overseen the continual upgrade of School facilities. Developments include the building of a bus shelter in Chapel Way in 2003, the new Gymnasium and Music Centre at the Preparatory School in 2005 and the opening of an Infants department on the Lewisham site in 2006.

In early 2009 the School began the redevelopment of Number 2 Oval to create an all weather running track, football field, two basketball courts, a fitness centre, storage facilities and a 250 space car park. The facilities were officially opened on the 29th of January 2010.

In 2010 Trinity became a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), enabling the School to provide a vocational education programme that caters to the diverse needs and interests of students.

The Multi-purpose Hall at the Preparatory School was completed in 2011, as well as a new Library underneath the existing staff room on the north side of 'Llandilo'.

The School's Masterplan continues with the construction of the new Junior School, which is well under way, and other significant projects planned for the future. These will see the School well placed with state of the art facilities as we commemorate our 100th year providing quality education for boys in Sydney's Inner West.

**clockwise from top:** Preparatory School Music Centre with Gym beneath | Number 2 Oval | Preparatory School Multi-purpose Pavilion | Founder's Building | Entrance to the Preparatory School Library

