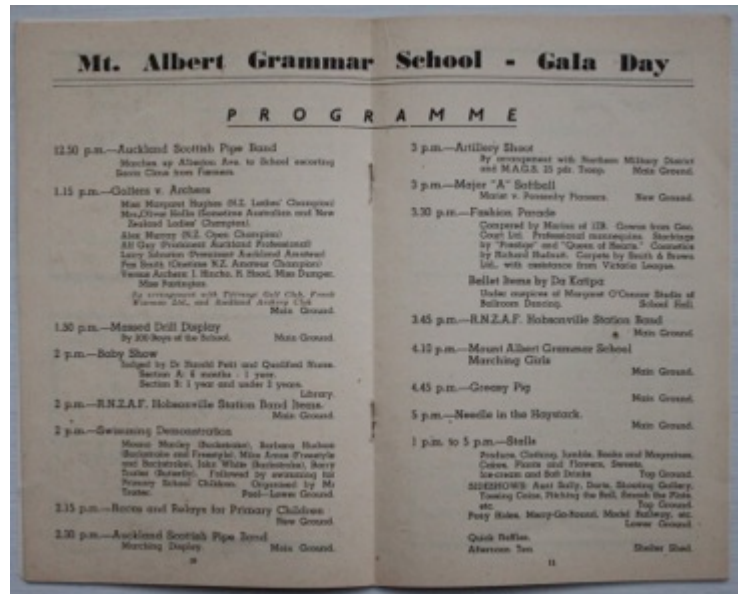
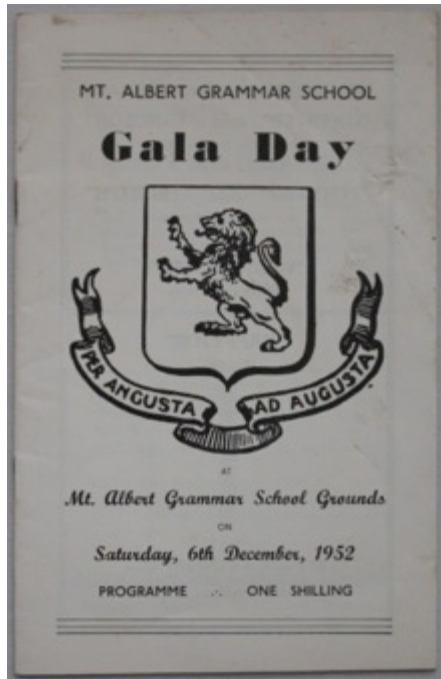


A HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL IN 100 OBJECTS

THE PROGRAMME OF THE 1952 GALA

Size: 5½ in x 8¼ in / 140mm x 210mm

Description: A 20-page booklet plus covers. Counting the covers 14 pages were given over to advertising.



For the rest there was a potted history of the school, a centre spread of the day's programme and an expansion of it entitled "All the Fun of the Fair". Photographs of the Headmasters past and present completed the programme.

Discussion: The gala of 6 December 1952 was an outright success. It was for an afternoon only but the programme was jam-packed. It began at 12.50pm with the Auckland Scottish Pipe Band marching up Alberton Avenue escorting Santa Claus. This was followed by an event called Golfers and Archers. The six golfers included Miss Margaret Hughes (N.Z. Ladies Champion) and Alex Murray (N.Z. Open Champion), while the four archers included the Misses Dumper and Partington. How they competed without putting people in danger is not described. This event was followed immediately by a Massed Drill Display by 200 boys of the School. While in the library (the present staffroom) there was a Baby Show, "Judged by Dr Harold Petit and Qualified Nurse."

At the same time the "R.N.Z.A.F. Hobsonville Station Band Items" were performing on the Main Ground. Also at the same time there was a "Swimming Demonstration by people executing various strokes." This was followed by "Swimming for Primary School Children." The swimming event was organised by a Mr Trotter.

(The pool site is now covered by the E Block.)

There was Races and Relays for Primary Children on the New Ground (lower fields) and on the Main Ground the Auckland Scottish Pipe Band appeared again, with a Marching Display.

At 3pm on the New Ground there was a Major 'A' Softball game between Marist and Ponsonby Pioneers. In the Hall the mood was different - there was a Fashion Parade "Compered by Marina of 1ZB. Gowns from Geo Courts Ltd. Professional mannequins ...". This was followed, in the same venue, by Ballet Items by Da Kapita "Under auspices of Margaret O'Connor Studio of Ballroom Dancing." Seven years after the end of World War II it is not reported how 'Da Kapita' - or anything 'German' - would have gone down with many families. However order was restored with a re-appearance of the RNZAF band. Then there was the Mount Albert Grammar School Marching Girls, Greasy Pig and finally Needle in the Haystack. All the while, from 1pm to 5pm, there were stalls: On the top ground there were "Produce, Clothing, Jumble, Books and Magazines, Cakes, Plants and Flowers, Sweets, Ice-Cream, Soft Drinks and Sideshows: Aunt Sally, Darts, Shooting Gallery, Tossing Coins, Pitching the Ball, Smash the Plates etc."

On the Lower Ground there were "Pony Rides, Merry-Go-round, Model Railway, etc." There were Quick Raffles and after all this break-neck speed guests could be revived with Afternoon Tea in the Shelter Shed (the Shelter Shed was demolished to make room for the Library buildings).

Four days after the event there was a special meeting of the staff. "Mr C.P Worley in the chair and about 30 other members" considered allocating the money raised. The first resolution was, "that a present of nylon stockings be made to Mrs Foggarty in consideration of her help."

Other resolutions included the guaranteeing of costs for the provision of a tea kitchen to School House and the purchase of a new tractor for £425. It was felt that the Department of Education would subsidise these projects and that the Auckland Grammar Schools' Board would provide funds. It was also resolved "that a plumber be engaged to proceed with the installation of [a] water pipe to the new ground."

Other claims were made but it was decided that they were to be submitted to a meeting in 1953. Then: "It was decided that boys be asked to accumulate bottles and old paper in the meantime to raise funds later." Another suggestion was that [the] Drama evening and [the] Concert be run for two or more nights in future years.

The final item: "The Chairman then expressed our appreciation of the work done by Mr Hardy in this sphere not only in the fair but also through many years in like manner. His motion was carried with acclamation."

Four months later at the second meeting of 1953 "The following resolutions were passed after discussion in each case.

- (a) Tea room. That Mr Piper the [Board] architect be invited to meet Mr Hardy, Mr Perkin and Mr Jenkin to discuss construction in the Tearoom with power to act - involving no more than £250.

- (b) Boundary Fence. That material for the fence involving no more than £150 be purchased and that the labour be organized by staff within the School.
- (c) That the paved area beside the metalwork shop be fenced off for use as a multi-recreational area, such work to involve not more than £250.
- (d) That Messrs. Hardy Patterson and Kelly be appointed as a Committee to consider Notice Boards for the school with power to act.
- (e) That the following expenditure be authorized:

(i) Power Roller	£300
(ii) Loud Speaker-System	£100
(iii) Projector Stand	£25
(iv) Softball Screens	£25
Total	£1100"

Along with the money already guaranteed for the tractor and the School House tea kitchen, to say nothing of the gift to Mrs Foggarty, this was a considerable sum of money from a school gala. There was more to come.

At a meeting a year later "The meeting then considered further disposal from the Fair ... Mr Hardy spoke of the expenditure to date. Three proposals were put before the meeting.

- (a) Hay knife for use on tractor. It was resolved that £50 for hay knife be approved.
- (b) Oars for School Rowing Club. After submissions by Mr Jenkin and others it was resolved that purchase of oars involving £80 to be approved.
- (c) Old Boys' Memorial Fund – donations to from Fair Fund. A series of motions and amendments failed to find enough supporters to be adopted."

These decisions were taken by the staff alone. The Headmaster did not attend Common Room meetings.

The proceedings (from which the above notes are taken) are in three hard-backed science notebooks (which will be a later Object). While always polite and rather formal, the discussions they record were not necessarily anodyne.

Brian Murphy