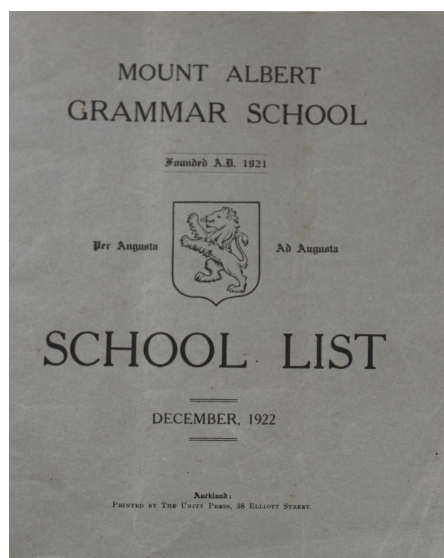


A HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL IN 100 OBJECTS

THE FIRST SCHOOL LIST 1922

Size: 8½in x 6½in / 220mm x 170mm

Description: A 32-page grey booklet dated December 1922 and printed by Unity Press, 38 Elliott Street (they were the School printers until well into the 1970s by which time they were in Dominion Road.) As it contained the Headmaster's Report, it's possible that it didn't appear until early 1923.



Discussion: Page 3 was the first 'real' page with six black letter headings concerning the Board and the Staff.

The Board of Governors had 12 members. Three were elected by the Legislature of the Auckland Province, three elected by the Senate of New Zealand University, three elected by the Auckland Board of Education, two elected by the Parents and the Mayor of Auckland, ex Officio.

The Secretary was Chas. E.G. Tisdall, 19a Safe Deposit Buildings, High Street, and the Supervision of Property was W.A Cumming 322 Victoria Arcade. The rest of the page is taken up with the Headmaster and the 11 Staff Members.

The next four pages have general information for boys and their families. Admission: Including "... must provide a Registrar's Certificate of Birth. They must have passed Standard VI."

Under Terms we learn that "In 1923 terms will run respectively as follows: February 12th to May 11th, May 28th to August 24th, September 17th to December 21st."

The Standing Holiday text states: "Good Friday and Easter Monday, Anzac Day, Dominion Day, Labour Day and the Birthday of His Majesty the King and His

Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, are by resolution of the Board of Governors, standing holidays.”

Fees were: “... at the rate of £4 per term.” This was an enormous sum for some families.

The School Hours are given as: “Monday and Wednesday School is from 9am to 12, and 1pm to 3, with military drill to 3.45.

On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday School is from 9am to 12.20 and 1.20 to 3.20. On these days physical drill is taken at 11.”

There is a long section under Rules. The first is a lengthy piece about attendance ending with: “For continued absence without leave a boy may forfeit his place in the School.”

The second rule, concerning infection is worth quoting in full, given the diseases that racked the district at the start of the year:

“No boy shall attend the School after suffering from an infectious disease, residing in the same house with anyone suffering or in anyway at risk of carrying infection until there has been submitted to the Headmaster a certificate signed by a qualified medical man, to the effect that there is no longer danger from infection.”

Next rule begins: “Failure to prepare homework is excused only on account of illness.”

Rule 4 is succinct: “No boy may leave the School Grounds at any time during the day without the permission of the Headmaster. Boys are not allowed to buy from shops or hawkers during the mid-day recess.”

The next few rules concern uniform and willful or careless damage, a prohibition against bringing “matches or explosive matter into the School premises.”

As well as the £4 mentioned earlier boys were charged three shillings a term for the cost of paper supplied and two shillings a term to the Sports Fund.

Later we find out that: “Boys are not allowed to have any money transactions with one another.” and that: “Boys are not allowed to loiter about any public thoroughfare before or after school hours.”

Prior to the election of the first Labour government in 1935 free entry into a “Secondary School” was not automatic. Under the heading ‘Free Education’ the *School List* has this introduction:

“Free places are provided by the Education Department under the ‘Secondary School Act 1914’.”

Most children would have qualified under clause(c):

“Being not over fifteen years of age on the 1st December preceding the date of admission to a free place, he has obtained a certificate of proficiency as defined by the regulations under the Act.”

'Proficiency' was an examination at the end of Standard 6 [Later Form 2, now Year 8].

This gave a pupil the right to two years 'free' high school education.

A Senior Free Place was available for anyone who had fulfilled certain criteria, the most comprehensive of which was criterion (b):

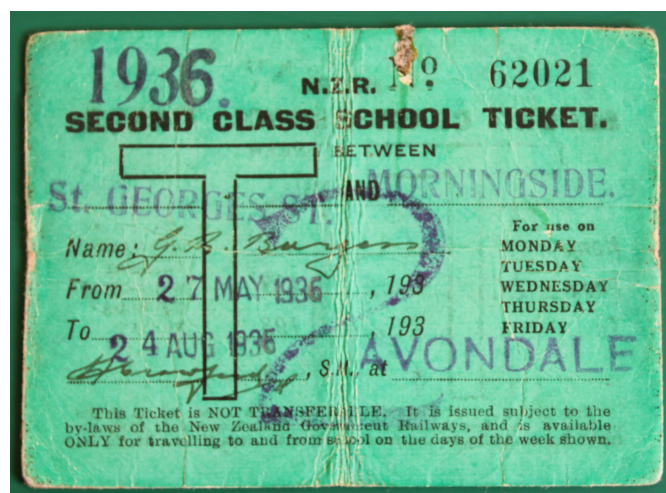
"A senior free place is tenable by any pupil who has passed the matriculation Examination, or the Public Service Entrance Examination, or the special examination for senior free places; or has satisfied the requirement for a Senior National Scholarship or any other scholarship that the Minister shall approve for this purpose."

Following this section is a section on 'Leaving Certificates and Bursaries.' The first entry is:

"Lower Leaving Certificates are issued by the Department of Education to boys who have satisfactorily completed a three-year's course provided that the standard of work during the year is at least that of corresponding subjects for Matriculation."

There was something else 'free' and that was train travel to and from school:

"Free second-class quarterly tickets may be issued to School pupils not over 19 years of age from stations north of Avondale and South of Wayby."



Courses of Instruction follow:

COURSE 1 was defined: "This includes the usual English subject, Latin (optional), French, Mathematics, Science and Drawing."

COURSE 2 was defined: "Commercial subjects and subjects such of the above as are required to qualify for Matriculation and Accountants' Preliminary."

There is then some greater detail about Science:

"SCIENCE. – The general course is: - for Third and Fourth Forms, Physical Measurements; for Fifth Forms, Heat, Light and Sound, as for Matriculation. Upper Forms of each year take Chemistry in addition, in preparation for Sixth Form work."

There is more information about Drawing, too.

“DRAWING. –

Third Forms – Freehand and Plane Geometry.

Fourth Forms – Geometrical, Freehand and Model as for P.S.E. [Public Service Examination.]

Fifth Forms – Geometrical and Freehand as for Matriculation.

Encouragement is given to individual boys to develop noticeable gifts in any direction.”

“WORKSHOP. – Instruction in Carpentering and Joinery will be given next year. Boys will be charged only the actual cost of the timber used.”

“DRILL. – All boys who are physically fit are obliged to join the School Cadet Corps.”

After this it was onto School Games, where we are told:

“Athletic and Swimming Sports are annual fixtures. Football and Cricket are the organized games, and Boxing Classes are available to all who wish instruction. The Board of Governors assist liberally by a subsidy to the Sports Fund. A Swimming and Life-Saving Club has been formed.”

A brief Notice of Removal asks that, if possible, notice should be given before the last term of attendance. Then it was on to the officers of the School Cadet Corps.

“Officer Commanding – Capt. A.R. Gatland.

Adjutant – Lieut. W. Caradus.

No.9 Company – Lieuts. H.F. Brock and G.S Coldham.

No.10 Company – Lieuts. R.B. Hardy and H.L. Towers.

No.11 Company – Lieuts. R.O. Buchanan and W.J.C. Perry.

Unattached Capt. C.P. Worley.”

(Caradus had served on the Western Front in the Great War and had been wounded twice. Worley had been wounded at the Battle of the Somme and lay, for some days, in no-mans land before being taken by the enemy and treated by a German Surgeon. Buchanan was also an NZEF man.)

Pages 8 and 9 deal with the names of boys who were holders of scholarships, winners of Drawing, Reading Prizes, School Champions and School Officer holders.

Pages 10-27 were the real school lists of the title. Each of the 10 classes had the names of boys ranked in order of marks for every subject (such lists were published from 1922 to 1930 and then abandoned).

In the top class, ‘Fifth Form Division A’, Form Master A.R. Gatland, there were 11 boys. While Angell, E.R. was first in English, Latin and French he missed out on aggregate to Salmon, H.W. who was the School’s first Dux. Everyone did English, Latin, French, Mathematics and Science, seven boys did History and four Chemistry.

There were two other Fifth Forms, Divisions B and C. Likewise the Fourth Forms were in Divisions A, B and C. Four Third Forms were recorded, Division A, where every boy did English, History and Geography, French, Mathematics and Science,

20 did Latin and nine did Commercial Work. In Division A (Junior) the alternative subjects were Latin (20 boys) and Bookkeeping (14 boys). In Division B (Commercial) everyone did Bookkeeping and in Division B (Latin) everyone did Latin.

The last five pages were taken up with the Headmaster's Report. Some highlights were: "The establishment of Secondary Schools in the suburbs of New Zealand is a comparatively new phase in our education system."

"Professor A.P.W. Thomas has been tireless in his energies and to him the school must always stand as a testimony to leisure freely devoted."

"With no past history with which to point the needful lessons of modesty and humility ... a new school must find inspiration within itself."

"Outside the classroom a lively response was received to every invitation to organized games ... it is certain that outdoors work contributes to better work in class."

"The small ground on the south side of the building was cleared of gorse and roughly patched up by the boys themselves for use as a kick about ground."

"To me it has been one of the most pleasing features of the year to see the boys cheerfully giving up much of their own time to work around the school."

"Reform is already knocking at our door, and shortly we shall have to admit pupils of the new order from the first Junior High School."

"The great event of the year was the official opening of the School by His Excellency the Governor General, Lord Jellicoe. On that occasion Professor A.P.W. Thomas presented to the School a fine picture of the old 'Victory' a fitting reminder of the visit of the great admiral."

"A start must be made in providing books for the Library; may I remind boys who are leaving ... that the library is the peculiar object of an old boy's bounty."

"To the whole Staff I am deeply indebted for ready assistance in all the tasks incidental to organising a new school."

"The work of the prefects has been uniformly good; ... as leaders of the working squads they promise to become relentless captains of industry."

"The School heartily welcomes the projected enterprise of putting our grounds in order by voluntary efforts."

Given the difficulty of the first year, this is a remarkable document. No doubt it came out in early 1923 (given the inclusion of the Headmaster's Report). Also the first year saw the production of three pocket-sized Calendars (one per term) as well as the first annual *The Albertian*.

All of these publications would have set by letterpress; a laborious process.

Brian Murphy