

ANME News

Newsletter of

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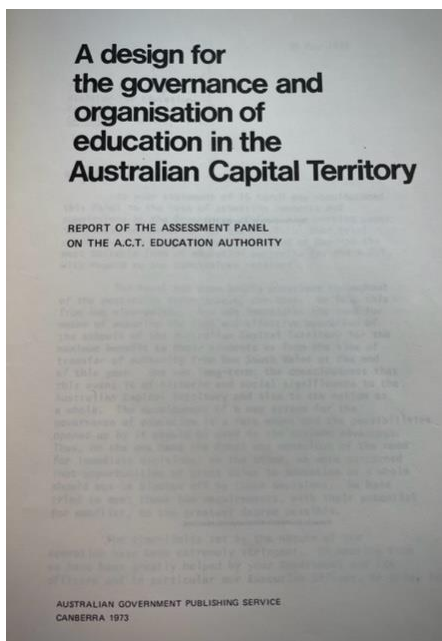
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No. 44

Autumn 2023

Editor: Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt

The Hughes Report and the Establishment of the Interim ACT Schools Authority 1973



This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Interim ACT Schools Authority, following the recommendations of the Report of the Assessment Panel, *A Design for the Governance and Organization of Education in the Australian Capital Territory* (Hughes Report) in May 1973. The effect of these recommendations was the creation of a new education authority for the operation and staffing of government schools in the Australian Capital Territory separating control of schooling in the ACT from the control of the NSW Department of Education. The NSW Department of Education had provided schooling, school teachers and curriculum in Canberra since the establishment of the ACT. A statutory authority (the Interim ACT Schools Authority) was set up in October 1973 under

the chairmanship of Professor Phillip Hughes, Head of the School of Teacher Education at Canberra College of Advanced Education. The recommendations for these changes, which created a new education authority separate from that of NSW, were to take effect from the beginning of 1974.

The Council of the Interim Authority comprised ten members with part time members nominated by the ACT Commonwealth Teachers Federation, the ACT Council of P & C Associations, The Canberra Pre-School Society, the ACT Advisory Council and Minister for Education, and one full time member, the Chief Education Officer of the System. Each primary and secondary school was to have a school board with members nominated by teachers, parents and the Schools Authority. Pre-schools would operate

with a parents' committee working in conjunction with the teacher and the Authority's pre-school staff. The Authority was to operate its own planning, building and staffing programs. The System was later to institute a school-based curriculum design program and progressive evaluation of students replacing the Leaving Certificate external examinations in NSW. Dr Don Anderson described the new ACT Schools Authority thus: "The ACT Schools Authority was one of the most significant innovations in an era of innovation". He goes on to point out that the ACT Schools Authority was the first public education system to be created in the 20th century and "it remains the only one ever to have departed from centralized bureaucratic administrative control under a minister". Professor Phillip Hughes was elected the foundation chair of the Council of the Interim ACT Schools Authority. Dr Hedley Beare was appointed the Chief Education Office of the Authority.

For details of the history and background to the decision of the Commonwealth Government to create a separate education authority for the ACT, refer to the following references:

Foskett, Alan, *ACT Education: The Formative Years 1912-1978*.

Burnett, Clifford, "The Development of the ACT Schools Authority" in W. Mulford, L. Kendal, and G. Burkhardt, eds. *Papers on ACT Education 1975-76*.

Harman, G.S. and Selby-Smith, C. *Designing a New Education Authority*.

Hughes, Phillip and Mulford, William, eds. *The Development of an Independent Education Authority: Retrospect and Prospect in the Australian Capital Territory*. Australian Council for Education Research. (Image supplied by Dennis Flannery)

ANME Welcomes New Representative for Western Australia



With the recent retirement of Dr W. Ian Melville, the inaugural ANME Representative for Western Australia, Professor Thomas (Tom) O'Donoghue kindly agreed to accept an invitation to be the new WA Representative. He is Emeritus Professor of Education in the Graduate School of Education, the University of Western Australia. He is also an elected fellow of both the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and of the Royal Historical Society (UK). He specialises in the history of education in the English-speaking world, with reference to the history of teachers and the process of education in faith-based schools. Another strand in his work is concerned with examining the historical antecedents of various contemporary educational issues. He is also a former President of the Australian and New Zealand History of Education Society, and adjunct professor at The University of the Sunshine Coast, The Australian Catholic University and University College Dublin. In March 2023 he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the 32-county (all-Ireland) Educational Studies Association of Ireland at its annual conference held in Belfast. He is only the fourth individual to receive this award, which is for outstanding contribution by an Irish academic to research and service in the field of education internationally.

Celebration Event for the former Dunach School No. 1412, 4 March 2023, Talbot, Victoria



The former Dunach School, built in 1874, has had a varied history which includes use as a rural primary school and hub for local social activities from 1874-1945, general classroom at Maryborough High School from c1947-1974, part of the Talbot Annex of Maryborough Knitting Mills from 1974-1978 and part of the Talbot Museum from 1992 to the present. An extensive restoration project has just been completed and this, together with the building's significance to local communities, was celebrated at a special event on Saturday 4 March. About 120 people attended – these included representatives of early Dunach families, former Maryborough HS students and ladies who worked at “The Mill” as well as State and local government representatives and community members.

Thanks to support from Central Goldfields Shire Council, we were able to develop an exhibition that will remain in the building to continue telling its story. We also ran an activity where a former headmaster helped participants to practise cursive writing on individual blackboards that they could keep and had a professional audiovisual technician onsite to make recordings of personal and family recollections about the building in its different roles. Together with materials donated or copied on the day, the resulting video will become part of the Museum's research collection for future use.

A highlight of the event was the opportunity for former residents and extended family groups to reconnect with the building and each other. There was a wonderful atmosphere as people obviously enjoyed a relaxed time to chat, view the restored school building and visit the other parts of the Museum complex. It was a lovely way to re-open the “old schoolroom” as our dedicated space for educational history.

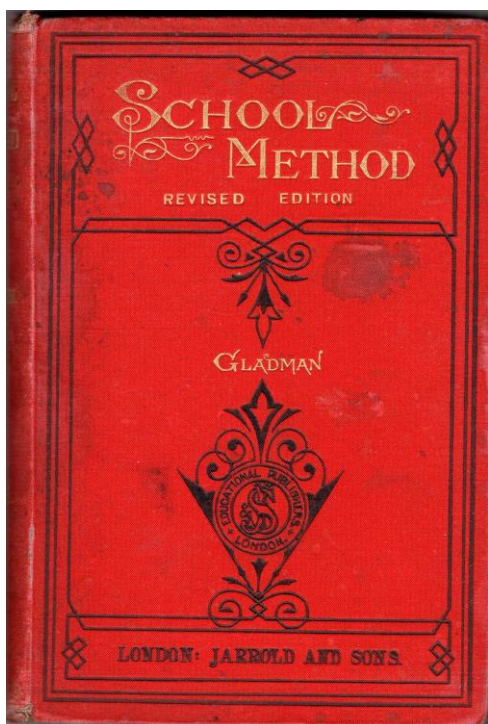
(Contributed by Marion Miller, Secretary, Talbot Arts & Historical Museum Inc.)



Recent Acquisitions

The ANME was delighted to receive as a donation from Dr. Stuart Braga his extensive collection of children's games. This collection will make a most significant addition to ANME's existing collection of children's educational board games. Lyndal Thorburn has added to her collection of course notes and course outlines. We have also received a donation of school pupil exercise books from West Pennant Hills Public School donated by Caryn Beales. Elizabeth Watson has added to her collection and Murray Conole has donated reading charts and Maths Flashcards. Donations of other items have been contributed by Les Gearside and Arthur Edgar. Daphne Nash has added to her collection of Gould League of Bird Lovers some more badges each containing a different bird for 1962-1965. The ANME currently has on display numerous documents published by the Gould League of Bird Lovers dating back to 1912-1919.

Distinguished Educator: F. J. Gladman



Frederick John Gladman, born in London in 1839 and arriving in Melbourne in 1877, is recognised as a distinguished educational administrator in Australian educational history. His comparatively brief, but major contribution to education in the Colony of Victoria was in the field of the administration of pre-service teacher education, most usually referred to as “teacher training”. Following a most distinguished career as a teacher, school headmaster and head of an English teacher training college, he came to Melbourne to take up the position of Superintendent of the Teacher Training Institution operated by the Victorian Department of Public Instruction. His main contribution was to increase the academic and experience standards of entrants to the Victorian teaching profession. He instituted reforms to the courses for teacher training at the Victorian Teacher Training Institute. He is best

known for his book, *School Method*, first published in London in 1877 and later republished by Jarrold & Sons. In the revised edition of 1897, he is introduced as “Late Superintendent, of the Central Training Institution, Melbourne; and formerly Headmaster of the Model and Practice Schools; Master, Borough Road Training College; and Inspector of Schools for the British and Foreign Schools Society”. He died a comparatively young man in Melbourne in 1884. His *School Method* book remained the standard reference in most Victorian and NSW teacher training institutions for decades after his death, and a copy is held in the ANME collection.