

A LETTER OF GREAT INTEREST

FROM

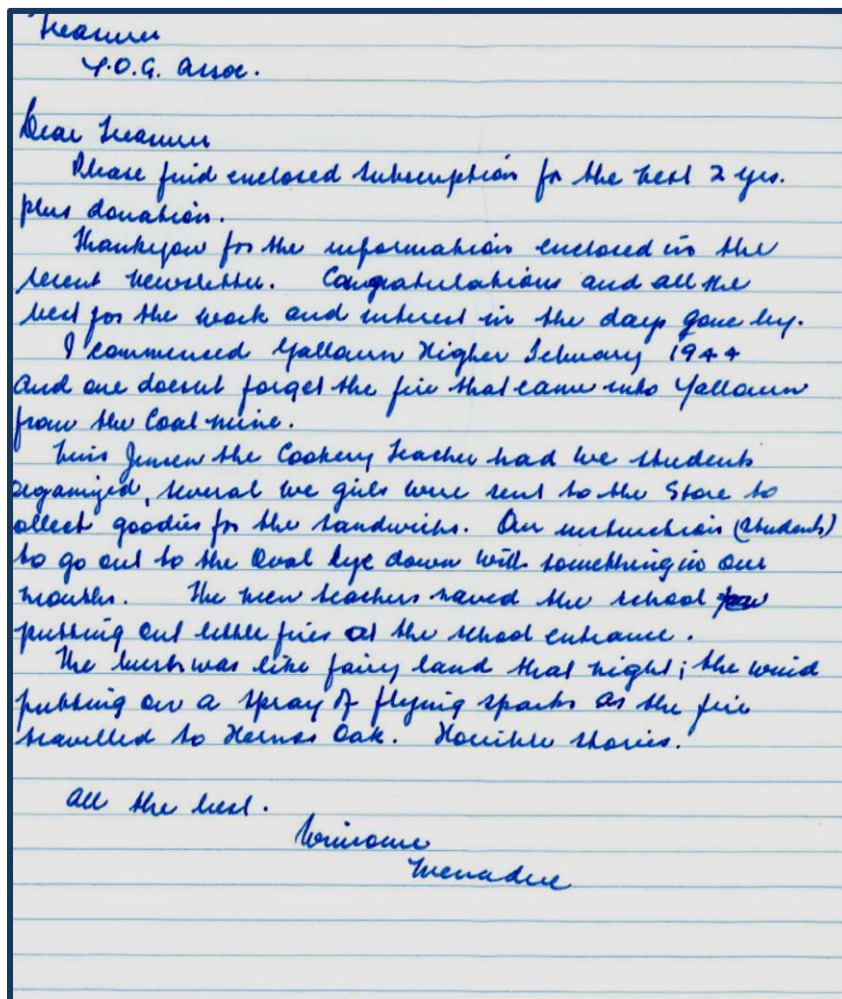
WINSOME MENADUE

The following beautifully hand-written letter, from former Yallourn resident Winsome Menadue, was recently received in the mail. In her correspondence, Winsome makes mention of the bushfires that threatened Yallourn in 1944; and she praised the actions of the teachers in dousing the spot fires which had rapidly advanced towards the school.

Winsome's letter adds to other recollections regarding the bushfires at Yallourn. These articles can be seen at:

<http://www.virtuallyallourn.com/search/node?keys=bushfires>

Many readers will immediately recognise the family name 'Menadue' because Winsome's father, John, was the first Headmaster of the Yallourn High School. Extracts and photographs regarding John Edmund Menadue have been posted (below) in an attempt to give readers some appreciation of his dedicated work at YHS and involvement in community affairs.



Mamma
P.O.G. Assoc.

Dear Mamma

Please find enclosed subscription for the next 2 yrs.
plus donation.

Thankyou for the information enclosed in the
recent newsletter. Congratulations and all the
best for the work and interest in the days gone by.

I commenced Yallourn Higher Schmary 1944
and one doesnt forget the fire that came into Yallourn
from the Coal mine.

Miss Jensen the Cookery Teacher had we students
organised, several we girls were sent to the Store to
collect goodies for the sandwiches. Our instructions (students)
to go out to the Oval eye down with something in our
trousers. The new teachers saved the school from
putting out little fires at the school entrance.

The night was like fairy land that night; the wind
puffing on a spray of flying sparks as the fire
trawled to Herons Oak. How like stories.

All the best.

Winsome
Menadue

Note: Winsome's letter is reprinted below.

*Treasurer
Y.O.G Assoc;*

Dear Treasurer,

Please find enclosed subscription for the next two years plus donation.

Thank you for the information enclosed in the recent newsletter. Congratulations and all the best for the work and interest in the days gone by.

I commenced Yallourn Higher February 1944 and one doesn't forget the fire that came into Yallourn from the Coal Mine.

Miss Jensen, the cookery teacher, had we students organized and several girls were sent to the store for goodies for the sandwiches. Our instructions (students) to go out to the oval ...down with something in our mouths. The male teachers saved the school by putting out little fires at the school entrance.

The bush was like fairy land that night; the wind putting on a spray of flying sparks as the fire travelled on to Hernes Oak. Horrible stories.

All the best.

Winsome Menadue

ARTICLES, EXTRACTS & PHOTOGRAPHS

A SUMMARY OF YHS SPEECH NIGHT REPORTS 1945-1947

BY

**MR J. E. MENADUE (1899 – 1985)
FIRST HEADMASTER - YHS.**

Note: The following article was originally posted on the Virtual Yallourn website on 17.11. 2013. The author is unknown.

“Yallourn State School No 4085 became a High School in 1945. From 1928 to 1944 it was a Higher Elementary School.

Mr Menadue was proud to have been Headmaster of Yallourn High School and is well remembered for his contribution to the school and its students. He always did his utmost to inspire students to strive to attain their best and to prepare well for the future. He had an ardent desire to help all pupils; those who suffered hardship,

those who wished to excel in further studies and those who were unsure of their future direction.

He never condemned his pupils and is well remembered for his 'clear, down to earth' lessons, e.g. geography. Mr Menadue is also remembered well for his forthright, cordial and sincere approach. He was always most appreciative of the care, interest and help that others gave the school at Yallourn.

He was prominent in public life and proud of his country's heritage. During his lifetime, he was:

Director of ANA for 42 years – Federal President

Fellow of Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Mayor of Horsham

Board Member of "The Federal Inland Development of North Australia" organisation

Vice President of Australia Day Council

Author: "History of ANA", 'Three Lost Children', 'Mineral Springs of Australia' and 'A Task for a Nation'.

John and his wife, Helen, had three daughters at Yallourn High School – Winsome, Rosalind and Elizabeth. One of Mr Menadue's greatest pleasures over the years was to hear from or meet former students who thanked him for his guidance and advice that had helped them in their chosen careers. As one student said, "He was keen to help, was quite stern but with a twinkle in his eye".

A SELECTION OF SPEECH NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS AS DELIVERED BY MR J. E. MENADUE 1945 – 1947**

** These notes were formerly published on this website in 2013.

1945

- Teaching Scholarships won by Ruth McGowan and Barbara Baker
- Junior Scholarships: Doreen Robinson, Valerie Trainor

1946

- Accounting Scholarship: Alex Leviston
- Telephonist Examination: Barbara Comber and Nancy Wilkinson
- 1st Year of Central Gippsland Secondary Sports Association
- Two Appeals: "Food for Britain" and "Clothing Appeal for UNRRA"
- Parents' Working Bees erected and paid for garden seats
- No finance available from Department for library shelves
- Matriculation – 1st year. Two students successful – 8 subjects available
- Leaving – 11 subjects available. 9 students.

1947

- Enrolment 424 (97 boys, 260 girls) – bus travellers – 200. Some cycle 5 miles to the bus from Trafalgar, Erica, Moe, Morwell, Traralgon and Yinnar
- Domestic Science and Needlework commenced (only High School in Gippsland). 59 students passed
- Junior Scholarships: Norah Byrne, Stanley Warren Shears and Lucy Robinson

- Teaching Scholarships: Jill Botterill and Robert Selby-Hele
- SEC Scholarships £6 value per annum: Donald Chisholm and Patricia Herriman
- APM: Barbara Smith and Stanley Ostlund
- Lord Gowri Scholarship: Andrew Fowler
- Herald Learn to Swim Certificates – 20. Students who learnt to swim – 50
- Egg Day Appeal for Yallourn Hospital collected 165 dozen.
- State Savings A/C £3 weekly
- Working Bees to increase the school's wood supply.
- £187 spent in 1947 for school improvements
- 1st Edition of School Magazine – Mr Mee as Editor
- Thanks to Mr Priestley for his untiring efforts to rehabilitate the school garden; Mr Verey of Yallourn Theatre for assistance to school entertainment; Mr Clarke of Yallourn Passenger Service and his drivers for the courteous and efficient attention given to bus travellers
- School commences at 8.46am; ends 3.30pm, as a result of introduction of 40-hour week at SEC. ...”

EXTRACTS FROM MR MENADUE'S ORATION AT THE 1947 SPEECH NIGHT OF YALLOURN HIGH SCHOOL

A FAREWELL TO THE PEOPLE OF YALLOURN

The following highlights are taken from John Menadue's address at the Yallourn High School Speech Night in 1947.

“.... The staffing for the school for 1948 will, therefore, be:- Head Master : Mr H H Champion, Senior Master : Mr G Findlay, Senior Mistress : Miss A Callinan. Miss Jensen, Miss Barclay, Miss Stephens, Miss Dawson, Miss Hewitt, Miss Always, Miss Mason, Mrs Guatta, Mr Graham, Mr Price, Mr Young, Mrs Mee, Mr Farrelly and Mr Wynd. Miss Gillard, Mr Priestley and myself will be relinquishing our positions on the staff. Miss Gillard will be transferring to Maffra and Mr Priestly possibly to Kooyong. My new position will be to the Head Mastership of the Kerang High School.

...I must say that it is with great regret that I leave this school. I have been very happy in carrying out my school duties at the Yallourn High School. I have been very interested in watching and directing its growth during the past three years. I have been favoured with two excellent parents' organisations – High School Advisory Council and the Ladies' Auxiliary which have responded willingly to every appeal I have put to them and who have, at all times, been thoroughly interested in the work and aims of the school.

I have, likewise, been favoured with an excellent staff throughout my stay at Yallourn and have been very ably assisted by Miss Callinan as Senior Mistress and Mr Graham as Senior Master.

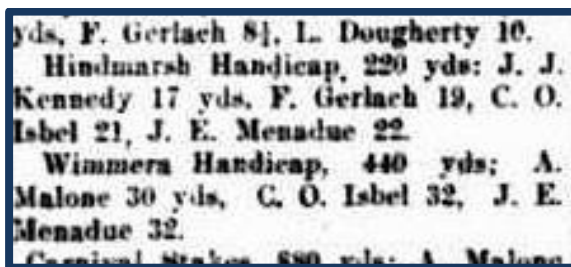
I have always found the students at the Yallourn High School very responsive and well mannered, full of energy and capable of rising to the occasion. The school possesses some brilliant students and I feel sure that in years to come, many of them will make their mark in life.

In concluding my remarks this evening and in bidding you farewell, I wish to convey to you all, parents, friends, teachers and students, my very best wishes for your future success and happiness.

I wish to remind all students and ex-students that this school has a motto on its badge which should strengthen you in time of difficulty and inspire you at all times to try and attain to the highest that life can give –

“CONSILIO ET ANIMIS” ...LET US BY WISDOM AND BY COURAGE STRIVE TO EXCEL IN ALL THAT IS GOOD AND GREAT.”

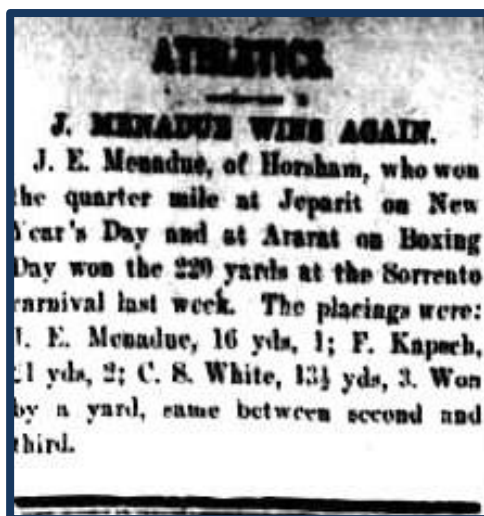
PHOTOS & EXTRACTS RE: JOHN EDMUND MENADUE



yds, F. Gerlach 8½, L. Dougherty 10.
Hindmarsh Handicap, 220 yds: J. J. Kennedy 17 yds, F. Gerlach 19, C. O. Isbel 21, J. E. Menadue 22.
Wimmera Handicap, 440 yds: A. Malone 30 yds, C. O. Isbel 32, J. E. Menadue 32.
Carnival Stakes, 880 yds: A. Malone

John Menadue was an athlete of some standing; and he competed in the Hindmarsh Handicap and the Wimmera Handicap at the Jeparit Athletic Carnival in December 1928.

Source: 'Horsham Times' December 21st, 1928. Page: 3.



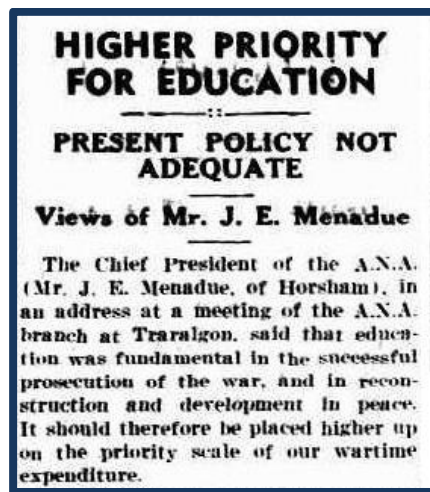
ATHLETICS
J. MENADUE WINS AGAIN.
J. E. Menadue, of Horsham, who won the quarter mile at Jeparit on New Year's Day and at Ararat on Boxing Day won the 220 yards at the Sorrento carnival last week. The placings were: J. E. Menadue, 16 yds, 1; F. Kapsch, 21 yds, 2; C. S. White, 13½ yds, 3. Won by a yard, same between second and third.

In January 1929, John hit the news when he won the 220 yards race at the Sorrento Carnival.

Source: 'Horsham Times' January 18th, 1929. Page: 3.

According to Winsome ...

“Sports were always important to my Father. Throughout his teaching training and appointments to country school, he was involved in football and tennis clubs. During his time at Melbourne University he won selection in the University Blacks teams...”



In an address, at Traralgon in 1943, John Menadue spoke about the importance of education in the years that would follow the war.

Source: 'Horsham Times' 26th January 1943. Page: 3.



'Horsham Times' 28th May 1943. Page: 3.



Source: 'Horsham Times' July 1943.

The above extract and photograph were unearthed in a search of newspaper articles related to John Menadue standing as the endorsed candidate for the United Australia Party, for the Federal Electorate of Wannon in 1943.

Yallourn Gets High School.

In conformity with the policy of the State Government, to extend secondary education throughout the State of Victoria, six new high schools are to be established in the new year at Upwey, Yallourn, Camperdown, Dimboola, Portland and Nhill. Of these new schools the Yallourn High School will have the second largest attendance. Mr. J. E. Menadue, B.A., Dip.

The above article mentions the appointment of John Menadue to the position of Headmaster at the newly established Yallourn High School in 1945

Source: 'Morwell Advertiser' January 4th, 1945. Page 8



The Yallourn High School Staff and Students in 1947

YALLOURN GOVERNMENT

Local Authority Urged

For some weeks before Judge Stretton brought the matter to a head, a movement has been on foot to improve general conditions in Yallourn. A special public meeting was convened by Messrs. R. Edmondson, J. E. Menadue and Dr. J. Cohan.

The Yallourn Methodist Church was full to overflowing on Wednesday, April 5th, when the chairman (Mr. Edmond-

John Menadue was an active and enthusiastic resident of Yallourn.

Source: 'Gippsland Times' April 27th, 1944. Page: 3.

Football.

CENTRAL GIPPSLAND LEAGUE

THE annual meeting of the league elected the following office-bearers for 1946:—

President, Mr. M. Johnstone (Trafalgar); secretary and treasurer, Mr. H. C. Beulke (Yallourn); vice-presidents, Messrs A. L. Hare (Morwell), L. A. Kaepfel (Moe), T. C. Wright (Traralgon), J. H. E. Loveland (Warragul); hon. auditors, Messrs P. J. Harry and L. C. Gunn; Independent Tribunal, Messrs E. G. Chisholm, J. E. Menadue and P. Watson; umpire and permit committee, Messrs J. A. Collins and P. J. Harry.

The past president (Mr. W. J. Tuck) was elected a life member.

The resignation of Drouin from the league was accepted, while that of the Yallourn Golds was deferred for twelve months.

Permission was granted Yallourn to field one team, the position to be reviewed at the end of the year.

League match umpires from Melbourne will be used for all games.

In 1946, John Menadue was a member of the Central Gippsland Football League's Independent Tribunal. The above extract also lists several other well-known Yallourn FC identities of that era such as H. C. Beulke, E. G. Chisholm, J.A. Collins and P.J. Harry.

Source: 'Morwell Advertiser' April 11th, 1946. Page: 7.

**FORMER MAYOR
FOR LIB. C.P.
PRE-SELECTION**

Mr. J. E. Menadue, headmaster of Kerang High School and a former Mayor of Horsham, has offered himself for pre-selection as a Liberal and Country Party candidate for Wimmera.

Speaking from Kerang by telephone yesterday, Mr. Menadue said he had taken a great interest in country affairs and in the past 23 years had been teaching in the Wimmera, Mallee and northern Victoria.

He felt that he



Mr. Menadue

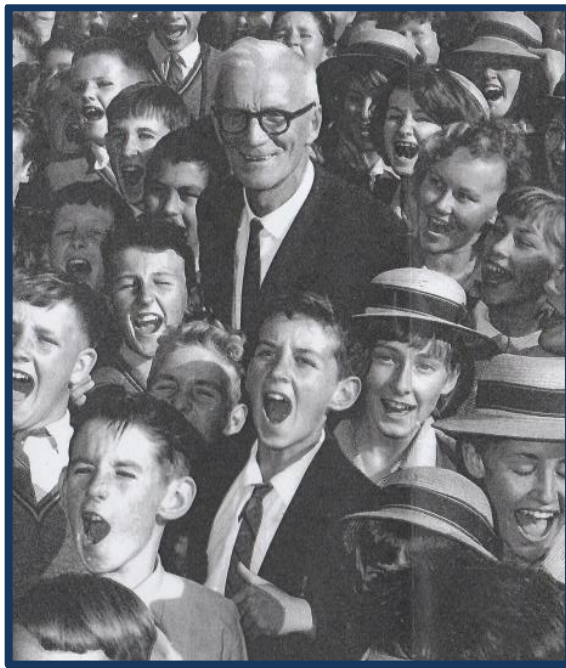
On another occasion, in 1949, when John Menadue sought a seat in the Victorian Parliament.

Source: 'Horsham Times' Friday 24 June 1949. Page 2.

RAINBOW. — Dodgshun, Keith, Hopetoun, farmer (CP). Menadue, John Edmund, Kerang, teacher (LCP). **LAST ELECTION:** Absolute majority of 16635 for Dodgshun (UCP) over Peake (Lab.).

In 1950, John Menadue was a candidate for the Legislative Assembly seat of Rainbow. Keith Dodgshun (Country Party) won the poll and, in June that year, became the Deputy Premier of Victoria.

Source: 'Weekly Times' Wednesday 26 April 1950. Page 4.



The end of a remarkable career in teaching
John's retirement day - Springvale High School in April 1964.



John Menadue died in Ballarat on June 2nd, 1985. This is John's headstone at the Eganstown General Cemetery.

JOHN MENADUE

A LIFE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE



A TABULATED HISTORICAL TIMELINE - JOHN MENADUE

1899	Born at Eganstown. Victoria.
1900's	Attended Eganstown State School: 185 ...Daylesford Higher Elementary School.
1915	Awarded Merit & Leaving Certificates
1917	Education Department teaching appointments in Victorian rural schools at Turriff East and at Prairie East State School (Loddon Shire). During these years, John also studied at night school.
1919-20	Melbourne Teachers' College.
1924	Melbourne University for Studies in a Degree (B.A.).
1925	Diploma of Education. Appointed to Lillimur State School, Eltham and Seymour High Schools.
1926	Appointed to Horsham High School.
1937	Elected to the Horsham City Council (7 years).
1941-43	State President of the Australian Natives Association. Air Raid Warden for Horsham during the years of World War:II
1943	Mayor of Horsham.
1944	Headmaster at Yallourn Higher Elementary School.
1945	Headmaster at Yallourn High School.
1961	Federal President of the Australian Natives Association. Active involvement in the Good Neighbour Council.
1946-63	Headmaster Beaumaris High School and also Headmaster Springvale High School.
1964	Last year at Springvale High School. John retired in April.
1967	Councillor & Fellow of the Royal Victorian Historical Society. John's story: 'The three Lost Children- Daylesford' was published.
1971	'A Centenary History of the ANA' (written by John) was published.
1972	John wrote 'The Mineral Springs of Australia'
1975	John completed: 'Report of Federal Inland Development Organization.' (1960-67)
1985	John Menadue passed away on the 2 nd June, 1985.

FURTHER COMMENTS FROM WINSOME

In a later letter (from Eganstown, dated 24.5.2020) Winsome wrote...

"Living in Yallourn was a new experience ...We soon got to meet others in the community...As children, we didn't have much as the War was still raging....

Regarding the 1947 photo (see above), It was an amazing number of students. My sister, Rosalind, is second from the right in the front row...I was in the fourth row, but I couldn't find my other sister, Elizabeth in the photograph..."

Further on in the letter, Winsome briefly discussed the origins of the Yallourn High School badge; and added some information about her sisters who also attended YHS...

*“...Rosalind and Elizabeth became Infant Teachers ...they both married, and each have three children; of course, Rosalind and Elizabeth they have retired from teaching now...
Julie, I once again thank you for the information...kind regards and best wishes Winsome.”*

FURTHER READING ABOUT JOHN MENADUE:

Other articles, about John Menadue’s time as the Headmaster of the Yallourn High School, can be found on this website by following these links:

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/node/28262>

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/node/30427>

John Menadue’s: ‘The Story of the Three Lost Children’ is available via the Daylesford Public Library. (Call No: HIST 994.35)

THANK YOU

Sincere thanks are expressed to Winsome Menadue for her permission to publish the above letter, the provision of photographs and her enlightening comments regarding the bushfires at Yallourn in 1944.

Winsome’s continued interest in the history of Yallourn and her wholehearted assistance in recording her father’s remarkable life for this website are greatly appreciated.

This article was prepared and presented for the Virtual Yallourn website by Roger Spaul and Julie George in June 2020.