

Memories of the Yallourn Technical School 1951- 1953

by FR McLeod

10-12-14

The McLeod family arrived in Australia from Glasgow Scotland on the 16th Dec 1950 on the migrant ship SS Cheshire.

On January 12th 1951, after an interview with the Principle Mr W Baker, I enrolled in the Yallourn Technical School. At the tender age of 12, one school looks much like any other, except this one was different – there were no girls, because of this I thought this school had a lot going for it. As I got older I changed my mind about that. The junior schools I attended in Glasgow were co-educational and due to the effects of the economy in Scotland, the outside condition of the buildings had deteriorated during and after the Second World War, the YTS looked very clean, tidy and well organised, I found out later that this was not always the case.

The first problem I encountered was trying to be understood, and the second was, trying to understand what the other students were saying to me. Although Scot's and Aussie's speak English, unfortunately dialects sometimes get in the way, my Glaswegian dialect was causing me trouble. It took a month or so until a compromise was reached and we started understanding each other. If I was having trouble trying to understand an English speaking Aussie, how did the other migrants get on when they spoke a different language! Out of the 800 students at the YTS at this time I would have been the only Scottish student in Form 1, that changed not long after I arrived. 1F was the Form I was appointed to and the majority of the students treated me well. As I was the new kid on the block, and a Scot they would call me "Scotty, Mac, or Jock, I responded to any of those. I am mentioned in the 1951 Current Call school magazine as a "humorist" and in the 1952 edition as Freddie "Scotty McLeod". Life was good at the YTS, now all I had to do was get a pass in all my subjects, and put up with the idiosyncrasies of the teachers, easy said, sometimes hard to do. Some of the other Scots that arrived after me in Form 1 were Bill Carmichael, Tommy McLean and Dan Gemmell.

In Scotland I walked to school. At first, being driven to school in the school bus was a bit of a novelty, this soon wore off. At that time the buses that were used by the Education Department were pre war Ford's, Chev's and the semi trailer Reo which was used exclusively for the YHS students, these buses travelled all over the Latrobe Valley taking students to and from both YTS and YHS. Unfortunately for us they were in poor running condition and regularly broke down. I used to catch the Morwell North bus that picked us up and dropped us off at the Jane St Bridge in Morwell. During my first year at the Tech, and before they were forced to upgrade the buses, we would regularly wait for a bus that would not turn up, or it would be

late due to mechanical problems, it was a good excuse for not going to school. The buses would travel to Morwell Bridge and pick up students, it would then journey on up the hill past the Migrant Hostel on the right hand side and then up the steeper part of the road over the rail track, turn right past the Yallourn Hospital on the left, past the Golf course on the right, number one oval was next on the left, then straight along Railway Avenue to the YTS. On the steeper part of the then Princes Highway the Reo semi trailer moved so slow that the students use to get off the bus and walk up the road in front of it and get back on when it arrived at the top. At one time during the floods, the Morwell river inundated all the land and highway surrounding the town, the only way could get to Yallourn was to come in from Morwell West, get out of the bus and cross the only bridge above the water line by foot and then get into the other bus waiting for us on the other side of the river. We did this and got to school rather late. At 2.30pm that afternoon a message came from the Head Master (Mr Iverson [Spike]), that all students living in Morwell were to make their way to the special bus parked adjacent to the school on Latrobe Avenue, it will take them to Morwell because the river was expected to rise even higher over the next 4 hours. We made our way to the bus and repeated the process at the river that we had carried out in the morning and returned safely to Morwell. The river rose quite considerably over night and the road was impassable for 2 days, giving us an impromptu 2 day holiday. It was in 1953 that the bus service started to improve and that was the end of late arrivals at school and days off due to bus problems.

1F and 1E had 2 periods of Mathematics first up on a Monday morning, the teacher that took us for this was Mr Beel, his nick name was "chalkie Beel," He would take his shoes off in class and massage chalk powder into his feet. Being a professional runner, he would go training after school and at any time he could, down at number one or two Ovals. He would run at athletic meetings throughout the District at the week end and during the athletic season. He was a moody person and showed this by his actions and body language in class. If he had a successful weekend on the track, he could be normal in his behaviour in class. But if things did not go well at the weekend his actions in class were sometimes catastrophic. On one occasion after the book monitors had retrieved the text books from the cupboard and piled the books up on his desk, which was part of their job prior to him coming into class. When he finally entered the class room, it was obvious by his manner that the weekend had not gone well. He stamped up to the desk at the front of the class stared at the class for a moment looked at the books and then with a wild swoop of both arms knocked the text books up in the air and spread them all over the class room, he then shouted to the book monitors, "pick them up". He was also very liberal at handing out the cuts for any little misdemeanour. Because of his moods, most students were scared of him, including me. He taught other Forms in Mathematics, they had had similar experiences with him. He was also an amateur Photographer and had taken all the Photos in the 1951 & 1952 Current Call School Magazines. The other teachers that we had were, for :- Science – Geoff Fountain - he played for Yallourn FC. The strap that he used to keep us in order was made of thick rubber

insertion that stood vertically by its self, it certainly was a deterrent to misbehaviour, I liked him he was a good teacher and a nice person. English – J. Rochford, I was never keen on English, and I wasn't keen on the teacher. He was a tall guy and would sneak up behind you in class and smack you across the knuckles with his ruler if you were misbehaving.

Woodwork – G. Lynch - we had to make our way down Railway Avenue to the Drill Hall near The Briquette Factory initially for Woodwork, until the Woodwork shop had been finished at the school, I found Linchy, as he was called, helpful and friendly to a young novas at Woodwork. Social Studies – F. Rowe – He was a quiet person but could be aroused if the students played up. We would walk into his class, he had been at the chalk board sometime before we arrived, he had filled two boards with writing, he would not acknowledge that we were there until we had sat down and had our writing books in front of us, then he would say” take this down” and for the rest of the period it would be heads down until the bell went to end the period. I had plenty of practice at writing but had to do a lot of study to pass the exam. He would say very little in class, and seemed to be a nice enough guy, unfortunately with a bad teaching technique. Modeling – J. Christie – I enjoyed modelling, not that I was much good at it, I think it brought out that artistic flair in me! I don't think at the time there was a particular modelling teacher, I think different teachers filled in on that role whenever necessary. Metal Work :- V. Stackpool – he had been a plumber or boilermaker before joining the Education Department and was good at his job.

These are some of the memories of my first year at the YTS where I met some lifelong friends, whom I still keep in touch with and the YOGA gatherings help me, by allowing me to meet them in the flesh both old school friends and work mates each year.

FR McLeod

The YTS was very sports orientated, and winning at whatever sport that was to be played ie; Football, Cricket, Swimming, Athletics, Soccer, Tennis, Tunnel ball etc; against another School or House, was of paramount importance, good sportsmen were highly regarded. There were a number of talented sportsmen that competed for the school, played in the local competitions and then later in life made it in to the State Competitions. Today it is not unusual for a school to send selected pupils on an excursion out of Australia. Each of my 4 sons went to Heron Island for a week on a biology excursion during their High School studies. The only excursion I ever went on while attending the YTS happened every Thursday - it was sports day. On that afternoon we would make our way down Latrobe Avenue to the sports fields, train and play in whatever sports team you were selected in. It was a break from the class room, and very enjoyable. As the date for the Inter house or Inter school competition became closer, the training and practice was put up a notch in readiness for the

clash. We had some wins and some losses in all sports during my years at the YTS. It was always pleasant to win against competing Schools. During 1951 the biggest excursion for the Athletic team was to compete in Melbourne at the Victorian Technical Schools Sports Union where all the Metropolitan Technical Schools attended. We did not have a great deal of success in the individual events, but did well in the Tunnel ball by winning the "B" Section Shield. The Cross Country Run was always something to look forward to. The 1951 Cross Country, the course was run on the 11th of October, it was raining and the track was muddy and slippery. It was run over the hill to the reservoir, via the fire tower lookout, down Coach Road, finishing at the school. The time taken by the winner – Ross Simpson was 17 mins 55 secs, with John Murray and Barry Spurrier coming second and third. I came 108th out of 300. I thought that it was not too bad for by me.

Directly after lunch on Thursday of each week we would make our way down Latrobe Avenue to the swimming pool or sports facilities, on the way we would pass the YHS. If we were seen by any of the YHS students (particular the boys) they would give us heaps, naturally we would return the banter, on some occasions it would get a bit physical. At the next school assembly the boys concerned would be called out in front of the school as an example, given a dressing down and then taken to the Head Master for some extracurricular activity, or if it was serious enough sent to the Principal's office. This was to send a message to any other student that wanted to become involved in this type of activity, there were consequences to bear. This didn't happen very often, but it showed the competitive spirit between the Schools, which is a healthy sign, when kept under control.

Murray Loble and I got on well right from the start and we would travel down to the Oval on his bike. He would give me a dink on his bike, (I was sitting on the bar of the bike while he peddled along). Sometimes he would leave his bike at his home which was close to the swimming pool, and walk the rest of the way to the pool. One day on our way down to the pool he asked me to hold the handle bars and steer the bike as we travelled along Latrobe Avenue, while he adjusted his bag on his back. I grabbed hold of the handle bars and off we went. As we approached Strazelecki Rd, at great speed, a car was also approaching the same intersection! I yelled to Murray to stop, nothing seemed happen straight away, so I took the necessary action, I turned the wheel into the footpath, we both went over the handle bars and landed on the nature strip, the whole incident took milliseconds. No one was hurt, only our egos; unfortunately I could not say that for the bike, it had a very badly buckled front wheel. We carried the bike the rest of the way to his house at 1 Meadow Lane, not far away from where the accident occurred. Murray would not have been very popular with his parents that night. Needless to say it took a while before we went by bike again.

During the normal school hours we were not allowed to go into the Yallourn Town Centre, unless we had a note indicating an appointment with the Doctor, Dentist or some other personal reason, and it had to be ratified by our Form Teacher. The

School Prefects were on the watch, especially on Sports day, so it was straight down Latrobe Avenue away from the town centre, to the Sports fields.

The actual Technical School Building on the corner of Railway and Latrobe Avenue's, was a very attractive and functional building. They should never have been allowed to demolish it. If it had been suggested today the Victorian Heritage and the Greens would never have allowed it. As it happens, the block of land that the building stood on is still there. It would have been great to visit, to bring back old memories. I am sure it could have been used for the administration of The Yallourn Heritage Society and Museum. As it was in those days the Latrobe Valley and the SECV was growing at a fare rate of knots. People were coming to the area in there hundreds for work, as we did. More kids, bigger schools, "The YTS" had growing pains, like most schools in the area. To overcome this problem and before I arrived, huts were erected on the other side of Railway Avenue, adjacent to the school, used as classrooms.

These were to be a temporary measure until more permanent prefabricated modern buildings became available. These buildings (two of them) didn't arrive until late in 1951 and were erected on the Quadrangle adjacent to Mount Street, beside the Sheet metal shop. They were the latest in classrooms, they were airy with large windows and filled with new furniture for the students and teachers. Until these classrooms arrived, we had to put up with the huts. These were most unpleasant for everyone concerned, freezing in the winter and red hot in the summer, and when the wind blew, the coal dust came in from the corrugated roof and the corrugated side panels covering the paper work on your desk, you could not keep anything clean. I think everyone in the school was pleased when the new buildings arrived and we stopped using the huts.

The YTS did not promote YTS students fraternising with the YHS students during the normal course of the school week. This only occurred when there was Inter schools official activities or sporting events, or if they both travelled on the same school bus. There was both YTS and YHS (girls only) students travelling on the bus, I travelled on - Morwell North bus. These girls were Meryl Pyle, Joe (Helen) Scares, Val Wilson and Dagnia Vilnis, they lived near me. There were other girls that lived on farms around the Morwell North - Derhams Hill area that travelled on the bus, I cannot remember their names. Typical farm girls, they were as tough and as rough as the boys. You didn't want to cross them, as they would take any one on. Their behaviour usually was good, but if antagonised, look out! Meryl Pyle was the appointed bus monitor on our bus for both YTS and YHS. She kept us all in line. There was the occasional report from the bus monitors of fighting, bad behaviour, smoking, swearing and other misdemeanours. This was usually taken care of at the bus stop at the school. Where the head master would hold the bus up from leaving, then give the students a lecture on how, if the misbehaviour was to continue, they would have to find their own way to school at their own expense. This went over like a lead balloon and usually the bad behaviour stopped.

I had to swot for exams, I found that the information in some classes was hard to retain, especially Mathematics, Science and English, particularly when there are outside social distractions. The Midyear exam was basically to see how you were going. I did quite well and the result was up to expectations. We had been told by our Maths teacher earlier in the year (Mr Beel), to always show the working on the exam paper when attempting mathematical problems, so that he could see where you went wrong if that was the case, and give you some marks for your effort. The usual programme for the exams was; we completed all the exams in the first week and would receive the results and review the Examination paper the following week. One of my classmates Bob Quigg's, result for Midterm Mathematics was zero out of one hundred. The reason for this, Mr Beel told the class, was that Bob had only put down the answer without showing any working, and the teacher questioned where he got his answers from? I asked Bob later he told me he had done the workings on a piece of paper and put the answers directly on the exam paper and then tore up the piece of paper. He had no evidence of this so the mark stood. It is needless to say that he remembered this at the Final year exam and received a pass.

I had mainly good experiences at the school during that first year at the YTS, these will remain in my memory forever; the people I befriended, the good and not so good teachers, the school activities that I was involved in and above all, being a Yallourn Technical School student, of which I was proud to be then, as I am to this day. Little did I know that this relationship was to last for 20 years, with 3 years Junior school, 5 years Trade school, 5 years night school - Senior School and Diploma Entrance, 1 year – Industrial Electronics, 6 years Diploma studies and Certificate of Technology.

If it hadn't been for the YTS I wouldn't be where I am today – a retired successful Business man.

Yallourn Technical School 2

15/12/14

1951 at the YTS, had been a successful year for me, in a number of ways - I had done well in my studies ensuring my promotion to Form 2C for the 1952 year; I had made friends with many other students at the school and was street wise regarding the day to day activities at the school. The last being important, as it kept me out of trouble with the teachers, prefects, Senior and Junior school bullies.

There were six members of staff that had moved on to bigger and better things since 1951, these were -: The Principal Mr Baker, Mr Waterson, Mr Jenkins, Mr Marshall, Mr Hanson and Mr Jones. The new starters were :- The Principal Mr EL Scott, Mrs Land, Mr Armstrong, Mr Broughton, Mr Cooke, Mr Franzi, Mr Goddard, Mr Johnson, Mr Surman, Mr IG Scott, and Mr Seymore. The Junior school Prefects were:- G

Ellis, D Burrage, B Edwards, H Rowe, J McGregor, J Dyer, M Parkin, A Orr, and P Hegarty.

Being street wise at school, the strategy was to try to be as inconspicuous as possible, and never to volunteer for anything. This was very hard to do sometimes, as they use to select the volunteers – you, you and you.

Form 2C was a happy and well behaved bunch of lads (most of the time). Our Form Captain was Barry Lane and Vice Captain Stan Gardiner. Both of them and Bill Wood were our top sportsmen. It also included 3 Scottish migrants - Myself, Bill Carmicheal and Tommy McLean, our Form Master was Mr Rowe.

The Social Services Group managed by a committee - Mr Seymour, George Ellis and Pat Hegarty was part of the student's citizenship training. This was where all the Form's took part in collecting money, through any means possible ie; raffles, donations etc, which was then donated to local Charities. 4A and 2E came first and 2C came second out of all the Form's, not a bad effort.

There were 4 School Houses :- Latrobe, McMillan, Strezlecki, and Power, I was in Latrobe. The Inter house sports Captains were :- Latrobe – Peter Morris, McMillan – “ Jock “ McGregor, Strezlecki – Alister Orr, and Power –“ Garney” Guy. Latrobe did well in Football with a first in the A and B groups, Soccer second, Softball first in the A group, third in the B group and second in the C group. We didn't do so well in the Cricket, fourth in A group, and third in B group.

The Cross Country run was divided into age groups this year :- under 13, under 15 and over 15. It was run over the same course as last year, the winners were :- Under 13 - R. Turner, 18mins, 55secs, Under 15 - M. Maxwell 19mins 7 secs, and J. Murray 19 mins 9 secs, and the overall fastest time was, B. Simpson 16 mins, clipping 2 minutes off last year's record time, a worthy performance. I came 120th out of 350.

The Annual inter House Athletic meeting was held in September, the champions for each age group were :- under 13 - Bill Wood (Strezlecki), under 14 – Terry Hogg (Strezlecki), under 15 - Doug Boulton (Strezlecki), & Chas Rasmus (McMillan) and the Over 15 – B Dahlberg (Power).

The YTS performed well in the Inter School Sports competition, against the Traralgon High School, Warragul High School, and Yallourn High School. The sports comprised of Cricket, Football, Soccer, Softball, Tennis and Athletics. The results were :-

Cricket :- YTS v YHS, YTS was defeated in both matches. YTS v THS, YTS won both matches. YTS v WHS, YTS was defeated in both matches. **Tennis** :- YTS v THS, YTS won. YTS v YHS, YTS won, and YTS v WHS, YTS was defeated.

Football :- YTS v THS. YTS won both games, YTS v WHS, YTS lost both games. YTS v YHS, YTS won both games.

Soccer :- YTS v YHS, YTS won one and drew one.

Soft ball :- YTS v WHS, YTS lost.

Athletics :- This was in the form as The Central Gippsland Secondary School sports; this was where all the secondary schools in the Gippsland area competed. Some of the lads competing for YTS were:- Bill Wood, Doug Boulton, Chas Rasmus, J Dahlberg and Peter Lovison. In the individual events :- Bill Wood won the 75yds dash, Doug Boulton won the 220yds and Peter Lovison won both the long and high jumps. Team events :- Under 13 Flag race – YTS first. Under 15 Circular relay-YTS first. Under 16 Circular relay-YTS first and tunnel ball-YTS first. The YTS marching team came first, Mr Franzi had been working with the team constantly for some time right up to the competition date, and believed we had a good chance. It cost him 30/- in milk shakes for the team after the win.

The Staff versus the students football match was rather interesting, to say the least. The Captains Mr Taylor and Alister Orr, with the umpire Mr Veitch giving final instructions in the centre of the field prior the commencement of the game. The first quarter open with no holds barred, with the Staff ploughing through the students defence, a number of students were seen flying through the air. However the umpire kept control, with a great deal of whistle blowing. The student had a slight advantage at quarter time. In the second quarter this margin was increased mainly due to the accurate kicking of John Johnston. After a long interval where the Staff retired to rest their weary legs, the game continued and improved as a spectacle and the students found it hard to contain Messrs:- Taylor, Hunt, Fountain and Stephens. At three quarter time all the spectators raced on to the ground to encourage the Staff as they appeared to be making a game of it. But alas this was not to be, age began to tell, and although Mr Scott had cunningly reduced the playing time of each quarter, the Staff faded out of the picture without adding to their score. Students 10-11, Staff 5-2.

The extensions to the school was completed by the end of 1951. Giving us a room where we could establish a Library. The shelves were constructed and the tables and chairs provided during 1952. There was one hundred pounds worth of books, provided and another one hundred and twenty pounds of books for general reading provided by the Education Department. An electric stilus for numbering the books and a cataloguing cabinet and book- covering system was provided by the Mothers Club. The benefit to the students that the Library provides will become apparent as time goes by. Mrs Land has already been holding regular Library classes.

As the first part of the school year went by, my Midyear Exam results looked good and were up to expectations, although there were other outside distractions. It looked like I would hold my own with higher marks than the Form average, and possibly be promoted into 3B or 3C at the end of the year. One should not count

your chickens before they are hatched. Unfortunate for me one evening in October, I was involved in a car accident, I was hit by an out of control car in Buckley St, Morwell; when walking home from the Picture Theatre, it was a hit and run! I received a fractured skull and damage to my spine, I was lucky to be alive. The Yallourn Hospital was my home for the next 3 weeks. This absence from school for a month, affected the final outcome of my scholastic year. Although I tried to pick up what I had missed in class, the legacy of the accident and the lack of teacher contact in the key subjects let me down. I passed all subjects in the final exam and was promoted to Form 3E for the 1953 year.

Yallourn Technical School 3

18/12/14.

The 1953 school year started with the realisation that I had to make the best of a bad situation. This was the last year of my Junior School Education. My aim now was to gain my Junior Technical Certificate, this would then allow me to progress to Form 4. The Intermediate year.

Some of the staff members had moved on to bigger and better things, they were :- The head Master Mr Iverson, Mr Beel, Mr Cooke, Mr Rowe, Mr Read, and Mr Rasmussen. The new Teachers were:- The Head Master – Mr Duke, Mr Green, Mr Luxton, Mr McKenzie, Mr Pace, Mr Pearson, and Mr Thomas.

The 3E lads were usually a well behaved lot, The Form Master Mr Peel, the Form Captain – Don Rodgers and Vice Captain – Pat McGee, kept us in line, with a number of students, having outstanding sporting achievements. Don Rodgers, Max Rickman, Russell Monkton, and Greg Rodda had made the Junior football team and Tommy McLean and Graham Morris in the Junior Soccer team. My age was the reason I was not in the soccer team, my birth date had something to do with it, and I missed out. As the year progressed I was aware of my goal and made an effort in class. With the extra effort, hopefully, it would improve my midterm results, and if that trend continued, a good pass the final exam.

Some the activities that the 3E Students became involved in during the year were:-

The Yallourn School's Orchestral Concert. The Victorian Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Joseph Post, presented a special matinee in the Yallourn Theatre for the senior forms of the local Schools. Mr Post spent some time before the performance explaining the function of each instrument, this was much appreciated by the audience. The whole performance was an unqualified success and enjoyed by all.

Social Service Activities :-

During the year each student contributes to The Social Service Fund by, contributions, special efforts and this year we had; the Ear Bashers Competition, the Ugly Boy Competition and the Egg Appeal. By the end of October it had a progressive total of 340 pounds (\$700). Mr Seymour the Director of the Fund was extremely satisfied by the effort of the students. Some of the Charities that benefited from this remarkable effort were :- The Lord Mayor's Annual Hospital Appeal, Save The Children Fund, Traralgon and District Hospital Trust, The Tally Ho Boys Village, The Latrobe Valley Community Hospital, The Morwell Hospital, The Moe Hospital and The Warragul Hospital.

The Ear - bashers Competition :- The Radio Station 3UL, Warragul called for nominations for an Earbashers Competition, to raise funds in aid of the local District Hospitals. Mr Allan Ford was the selected as the candidate from the YTS. The whole school had a personal interest in the competition. Every penny collected, was a vote, with this enthusiasm and contributions from Competitions, stalls and lunch - hour picture shows in room 31, the money came flowing in. The result was a credit to the school. Our candidate had been placed a close third. He had polled 52,000 votes, benefiting the local Hospitals by the sum of 217 pounds (\$500).

The Ugly Boy Competition :- With the success of the Ear – bashers Competition, it was decided to hold an Ugly Boy Competition to raise money for the Social Service Funds. Each Section in the school nominated a candidate who was selected by popular vote. The candidates were then duly declared an elected. To be honest, any of the voters could have easily been selected as a candidate. With the elections over, each section got down to raising money, some of the methods used were quite ingenious. By a process of elimination 4 candidates were left to battle for final place. Form 4 :- W. Bray, Form 3 :- B. Bailey, Form 2 T. Haley and Form 1 G. Haycox. The final was won by W. Bray of Form 4, well done by the students.

The yearly “ Egg appeal “ was conducted, benefiting “The Latrobe Valley District Hospital. It always initiates a House competition, stimulating interest and swells the total. The results were :-

Latrobe House: 83 dozen and 2 eggs

Power House: 83 dozen eggs

Strezlecki House: 45 dozen eggs

McMillan House: 25 dozen and 3 eggs

Latrobe House won, “The Yallourn Technical School Egg Cup” for 1953.

Final Total: 236 dozen and 5 eggs

It's another big well done to the lads.

Sporting Activities :-

Cross Country Run:- Was run over the same 3 mile course as last year. 350 students participated with Dickey Lakeman taking the honours equalling the record set last year, with Ian Jeffries winning the under 13, and John Murray winning the under 15, I came in 151st.

The annual Staff V Students Football match :- The Staff could not field a full team so 3 students were selected to play for them. It was a fairly even game in each half, with the Staff having the edge in the last quarter, unfortunately they left their rally to late and ran out points behind. The final scores were:-

Students: 7 goals 8 behinds

Staff: 6 goals 6 behinds

The Inter House:- Athletics, Swimming, Cricket, Softball, Football and Soccer

House Captains

Latrobe House: G Regan

Strezlecki House: D Boulton

McMillan House: D Jones

Power House: J Jenkins

The School Sports (athletics)

They were held on the number 2 Oval, on a fine day in April. The track was in perfect condition, this was capably arranged by Mr Taylor. For the first time, Shott putt and Sling ball was introduced. Individual Championships were distributed among the Houses. The Results were :-

Under 13: M Somerville (Power) 10 points

Under 14: J Wood (Strezlecki) 13 points

Under 15: B Williams (McMillian) 11 points

Open: D Matheson (Strezlecki) 10 points

The Principal – Mr E. Scott presented the aggregate shield to Doug Boulton Captain of Strezlecki House.

Swimming.

The swimming sports were keenly contested. The Champions for the respective groups were:-

Under 13: L Morris (Strezlecki House) 8 points

Under 14: AVickery (Latrobe House) 10 points

Under 15: G Morris (McMillan House) 14 points

Over 15: W Davey (Latrobe House) 12 points

Final Scores:-

Latrobe House: 75 points

Power House: 56.5 points

Strezlecki House: 55.5 points

McMillan House: 51 points

Cricket

These matches were played over two days, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and were hotly contested. Points awarded were:-

Power House: 40 points

Latrobe House: 32 points

Strezlecki House: 31 points

McMillan House: 21 points

Softball

Softball was played during both cricket and football seasons giving students another sport to play if they were not selected in the football or Cricket teams. Results were:-

Strezlecki House: 20 points

McMillan House: 20 points

Latrobe House: 16 points

Power House: 12 points

Football

Football again turned out to be the main sporting attraction of the House sporting competitions, with both first grade and second grade matches being played on Tuesday & Thursday. The total results for the season were:-

Latrobe House: 234 points

Strezlecki House: 152 points

McMillian House: 108 points

Power House: 66 points

Soccer

The influx of English and New Australians students has given a boost to Soccer at the YTS, Final Results:-

Strezlecki House: 64 points

Latrobe House: 56 points

McMillan House: 20 points

Power House: 4 points

Inter School Competitions

The annual Football and Cricket matches against The Yallourn High School were disappointing for us as the Yallourn High School avenged their last year defeat and took honours in both. In Tennis we had more success, by winning all our matches. Our athletes once again proved themselves champions, in the Gippsland and District Schools competition and were unlucky to be defeated in their section of the Inter Technical Schools Sports.

Sporting activities at the Yallourn Technical School was a large part of the Curriculum for each student, giving them a more rounded education and preparing them for life after school. This was promoted by the senior Staff members and supported by the teachers.

The first week in July was when the Midterm exams usually began, going through into the second week. The papers being marked by the teacher in the third week and the results given to us students, in the fourth. Knowing full well, the importance of the outcome of my examinations, I had put some study time in and hoped for the best. Fortunately for me my study had helped in some of the subjects, but not in the subjects I needed to obtain my certificate. The subjects I needed to lift my game in were - English, Mathematics, and Science, all the others were above, or at the Form average. I recall my Father saying to me after he read my midterm results, "it's like this son, if you don't get your Junior Technical Certificate this year, you will be staying in Form 3 until you are 25 until you get it ". This was a frightening thought and was instrumental in a more determined effort by me at the final examinations.

As the school year drew to a close and the final examinations were getting uncomfortably close, I began to prepare myself for the exams with a different approach to study, firmly ingrained was the knowledge that this was my last chance; to redeem

myself after the setbacks of last year and this. After the hours of study on the lead up to the exams, it was the first time, for some time that I walked into the exams confident! I felt that I had done the hard yards and I deserved a good outcome. This was to be the case, with Mathematics 80%, English 60% and Science 71%, all the other marks similar to the Midterm results. The most up lifting sight was the comment on my report card by the Principal Mr EL Scott ie; “Fred has shown improvement in all subjects and has gained his Junior Technical Certificate” – this was music to my ears.

This had reinforced my thoughts of staying at school and progressing to Form 4. Unfortunately that was not to be; with 6 members of the family to feed and a house mortgage to service, all funds were necessary to keep the family viable. It was later that I returned to night school to gain my Intermediate certificate, Diploma Entrance and the finally my Certificate of Technology. The Certificate of Technology– Electrical Engineering was presented to me at the Trades and Technology Awards night by The Hawthorn Football Club CEO John Kennedy at The College Hall on Monday 3rd May 1976.

These 3 years at the Yallourn Technical School was the start of my growing from a boy to a young man and was the basis of my Technical education. It was where I met and befriended lifelong friends and colleagues. These 3 years had been essential to my future success in my many enterprises, within and without the Australian Electricity Industry.

FR McLeod