



# **Cpl. Wybert Milton Caust Symonds**



**Played with Adelaide University**



**Football Club: 1920 - 1922 A Grade**

(Intervarsity 1920, 1921 & 1922)

**Cricket Club: 1920/21 - 1922/23 A Grade**

(Intervarsity 1920 & 1921)

**Teacher: BSc 1925, Dip Ed 1939**

## ***Background***

***Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind this series of biographical publications is the Adelaide University Football and Cricket Club's desire to honour our players who served in the Great War (1914 - 1918). These brave men put on hold their academic, professional and sporting careers for King and Country in the name of peace and freedom. The AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee is endeavouring to identify every one of our players who served and prepare life stories on all. This is to ensure their sacrifices and further contributions to society will be recognised by future generations.***

***On Anzac Day 2015, the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the Adelaide University Oval Pavilion and this was followed by the erection of a picket fence between the pavilion and the scoreboard with each picket bearing a plaque with the name of an AUFC/AUCC player who served.***

***The following documentation relates to the life of Wybert Milton Caust Symonds. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.***

## Introduction

*As an impressionable boy, not even a teenager yet, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend Adelaide Boys' High School. It was 1962, it was his final year as Principal and in that single year, I learned to respect and appreciate his words of advice; mainly given during our school assemblies. I recall vividly his softly spoken, but mostly serious well chosen words, that demanded our best endeavours and that we always honour the School and what it had stood for.*

*In the beginning, I knew little of the contribution Wybert Milton Caust Symonds had made to secondary education, both in the city and regional South Australia. I knew even less about who he really was.*

*There was a multitude of archival records available from which to research and construct this biographical work. These included his war service records, digitised newspaper articles, genealogy databases, Adelaide University Archives, school magazines and several other sources. From these, it was possible discover a little more about the life of Wybert Milton Caust Symonds, in education, sport and the community. This however, could only provide a relatively superficial picture of the man and his character.*

*With thanks to his grandson, Nicholas Birrell, I have had the privilege to access his memoirs<sup>1</sup> recorded by Wybert on cassette tape when he was in his mid-eighties. In the tape recordings, he thoughtfully reminisces, with articulate sentiment, about his boyhood days through to his last years. This provides his own intimate, but modest, reflections on his life achievements and gives a perspective relating to the importance of his family, particularly in reference to the great support he had from his wife, Jean. It also provided more information relating to his activities after his retirement from Adelaide Boys' High School, which was not readily available in the public domain.*

Robert Martin O'Shannassy (April 2020)  
Adelaide Boy's High School  
1962 - 1966

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<sup>1</sup> Audio biography recorded by W.M.C. Symonds from July 1982 - May 1983.

## RSL Virtual War Memorial

### Wybert Milton Caust SYMONDS



#### SYMONDS, Wybert Milton Caust



19205

##### Personal Details

##### Service History

##### Personal Stories

**Service Number:** 62147

**Enlisted:** 29 April 1818, Adelaide, South Australia

**Last Rank:** Corporal

**Last Unit:** 1st to 6th (SA) Reinforcements

**Born:** Chain of Ponds, South Australia, 7 November 1897

**Home Town:** Chain of Ponds, Adelaide Hills, South Australia

**Schooling:** *Not yet discovered*

**Occupation:** Teacher

**Died:** Natural causes, Flinders, South Australia, 4 August 1984, aged 86 years

**Cemetery:** Centennial Park Cemetery, South Australia

**Memorials:** University of Adelaide WW1 Honour Roll Mitchell Bldg\*

#### World War 1 Service

<sup>1918</sup>  
29 Apr 1818: **Enlisted** AIF WW1, Private, SN 62147, Adelaide, South Australia

6 Aug 1918: **Embarked** AIF WW1, Private, SN 62147, 1st to 6th (SA) Reinforcements, SS Gaika, Adelaide

6 Aug 1918: **Involvement** AIF WW1, Private, SN 62147, 1st to 6th (SA) Reinforcements, Enlistment/Embarkation WW1

7 Nov 1919: **Discharged** AIF WW1, Corporal, SN 62147



Harry, Claude & Wybert Symonds



## War Service Record - National Archives of Australia

Service Record can be accessed through the following link:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8097652>

A 206533		AUSTRALIAN		MILITARY FORCES.	
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.					
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.					
No. 62147	Name (Surname SYMONDS				
	in full (Christian Name WYBERT MILTON CAUST.				
	Unit 4th Gen. Rfts S.U.K.				
	Joined on 1 MAY 1918				
Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.					
You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any question set forth in this Attestation Paper, you will be liable to be tried for the offence.					
1. What is your Name?	...	1. Wybert Milton Caust Symonds			
2. In or near what Town were you born?	...	In or near the Town of Chain of Ponds.			
		In the State or Country of South Australia			
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	...	3. Natural Born.			
4. What is your Age? (Date of birth to be stated)	...	4. 20 5/12 Year. Enlistment Attestation 4th Nov 1897 1897			
5. What is your Trade or Calling?	...	5. Teacher.			
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	...	6. No.			
7. Are you married, single, or widower?	...	7. Single			
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated)	...	8. (Mother) SYMONDS AMELIA			
		CHAIN OF PONDS			
		SOUTH AUSTRALIA			
9. What is your permanent address in Australia?	...	9. CHAIN OF PONDS			
		SOUTH AUSTRALIA			
10. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge	...	10. Senior Cadets 4440, Linn City 7440 50 A.M.C.			
11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	...	11. 4440.			
12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	...	12. No			
13. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach ten shillings per day?	...	13. No			
14. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever?	...	14. 4440.			
3. Wybert Milton Caust Symonds do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.					
And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.					
Date 1 MAY 1918					
Signature of Person Enlisted.					

\* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 16 years of age.  
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

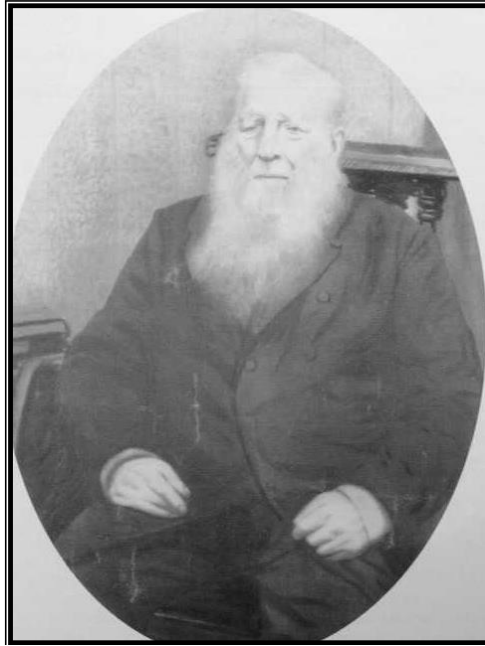
D.349/4.17.—C.251A.—20M.

# Biography

## Family Origins<sup>2</sup> and Early Years

**Wybert Milton Caust Symonds** was born on 7th November 1897 at Chain of Ponds, South Australia. His parents were John Symonds and Amelia (née Caust).

Both John and Amelia's parents were born in Cornwall and emigrated to South Australia. Francis Symonds and Thomasine Symonds (née Crocker) arrived aboard **The Navarino** in 1848 and James Caust and Ann Caust (née Clogg) were aboard **The Recovery** in 1839<sup>3</sup>. They became some of the earliest families to settle and farm in the Chain of Ponds area.



**Francis Symonds**

Born 1796 - Tregolls Farm, St Wenn, Cornwall - Died 1885 "Rosedale" Chain of Ponds

Wybert's father, John Symons was only 5 years old when his parents and their eleven children arrived in Australia. Within six months Francis and his family had taken up land at Chain of Ponds. His mother, Amelia was born in 1854. Her father, James Caust had set up a blacksmiths shop in Pirie St, Adelaide shortly after his arrival in South Australia, but then relocated to Chain of Ponds in 1855 to take up farming. He later set up a blacksmiths and wheelwrights shop to service the local community and travellers. Many other members of the Symonds and Caust families also settled in the same region.

Wybert's parents married in the Chapel of the Bible Christian Church, Young Street, Adelaide on 21st April 1883.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900)

Thursday 24 May 1883, page 4

**MARRIAGES.**

SYMONDS—CAUST.—On the 21st April, at the Bible Christian Church, Adelaide, by licence, by the Rev. R. Lang, John Symonds, J.P., third son of Francis Symonds, J.P., to Amelia, youngest daughter of Mr. J. P. Caust, both of Chain of Ponds.

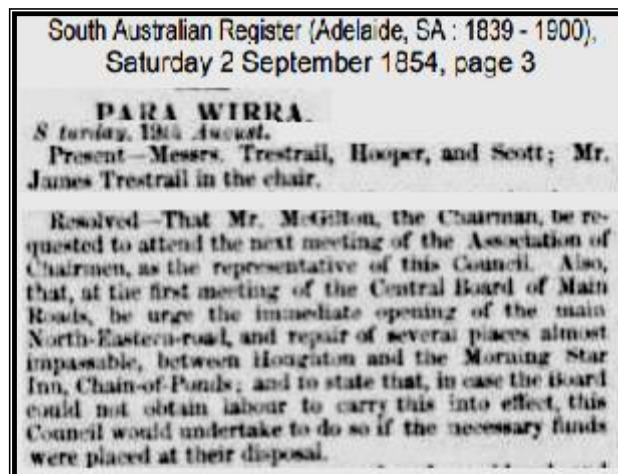
<sup>2</sup> Ancestry.com; *Knight Family Tree* ( See Appendices)

<sup>3</sup> The authors great great grandparents, Thomas and Cordelia Harding also arrived in South Australia on **The Recovery** in 1839



**John and Amelia Symonds c 1883**  
**"After their Wedding"**

A township was laid out in the Chain of Ponds district in the early 1850s and this helped attract more settlers and businesses. Improvements to the North-Eastern Road to Steventon (Tea Tree Gully) followed, but unfortunately the bullock track to the Morning Star Inn at Chain of Ponds, which penetrated through the opening to the gully and then serpentine through the hills, was almost impassable during the winter months.



In 1855 Francis Symonds was one of the Chain of Ponds landowners who signed a "Memorial" (a statement of facts) to petition the Central Board of Main Roads to improve the North-Eastern Road and bullock track through to Chain of Ponds. The township at Chain of Ponds was originally called Philp Town, named after the founding publican of The Morning Star Inn, Oliver Philp.

### **Why Wybert?**

Wybert was named after entertainer Wybert Reeve (1831 - 1906). Apparently with so many names already used up for boys of the Symonds families in the Chain of Ponds area, it was said that his father and mother had difficulty thinking up an original christian name. It was finally decided to name him after Reeve, a popular English actor who came to Adelaide and at the time was managing the Theatre Royal. The year before Wybert's birth, he was the first to demonstrate "moving pictures" in South Australia. The origins of his other christian names are fairly obvious,

being after John Milton the English poet and Caust, his mother's maiden name. Wybert was the youngest of eight children born to John and Amelia. Sadly, two sisters, Anne (1890 - 1893) and Alma (1892 - 1895) died in infancy and a brother, Hedley (1893 -1893) died at birth. Infant and child mortality before the age of 5 was still very common and if you were in the country the risk to life was higher. Wybert had three surviving older brothers, John (1888 - 1966), Claude (1894 - 1988) and Harry (1895 - 1921) and older sister, Bessie (1886 - 1987).

Growing up on the family farm, Wybert would learn much about the care of the land and crops, rounding up (with the help of Max the cattle dog) and milking the cows and harnessing "Darkie" the horse to the family buggy. He and Brother Harry knew all the spots around the property where the mushrooms were plentiful and the best locations to set the rabbit traps; both a means of making some pocket money. At age twelve he shot his first fox with his own gun, a .22 caliber Winchester, which he had acquired as a 10 year old. At day's end, after all farm duties had been completed; young Wybert would be called into the weatherboard farmhouse "Rosedale" for the evening meal. Afterwards his mother often read adventure stories to him which created an early interest in reading.

The Symonds and Caust families from the Chain of Ponds area were very much involved in local community affairs. They played in a variety of sports and Wybert's father was the President of the Chain of Ponds Cricket Club and a Vice-President of the North East Hills Cricket Association for many years.

Wybert's father, John Symonds, like his father Francis Symonds, was a local Methodist preacher. John was also the Chain of Ponds member on the Para Wirra District Council for 30 years, having taken over that role from Francis, who also had been on the Council for 30 years.

### **Millbrook Primary School**

Wybert started formal schooling at 7 years of age, and walked the 3 miles from "Rosedale" to attend the local Millbrook School.



From 1904 until 1911 he completed his primary education under the watchful eye of headmistress Mrs. Belcher. He participated in a variety of school, church, sporting and other community activities. Wybert showed his musical



attributes by performing a duet with his brother Harry at a church function in 1908 and his athleticism by winning a running race at a sports day in 1910.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954)

Sat 14 Nov 1908 / Page 14

**CHAIN OF PONDS, November 2.**—A meeting for the distribution of Sunday-school rewards was held in the Methodist Church on Friday night. The Rev. F. R. Caust presided. A solo was rendered by Miss F. Allbright and a duet by Masters Harry and Wybert Symonds, Miss Bessie Symonds acting as accompanist. Mr. J. Symonds, who has been associated with the school since its inception in the various offices of teacher, secretary, and superintendent for 46 years, delivered an address. The rewards were distributed by the superintendent, Mr. H. A. Allbright.—Cudlee Creek scored 78 (A. Moore 19, W. Pool 14, E. Kelly five for 14, R. Hannaford five for 11), against Gumeracha 23. Cudlee Creek made 41 (R. Kelly 10, J. Schlien 10, E. Kelly six for 6, R. Hannaford two wickets) against Foresters 25.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931),

Saturday 22 October 1910, page 16

#### DISTRICT COUNCILS.

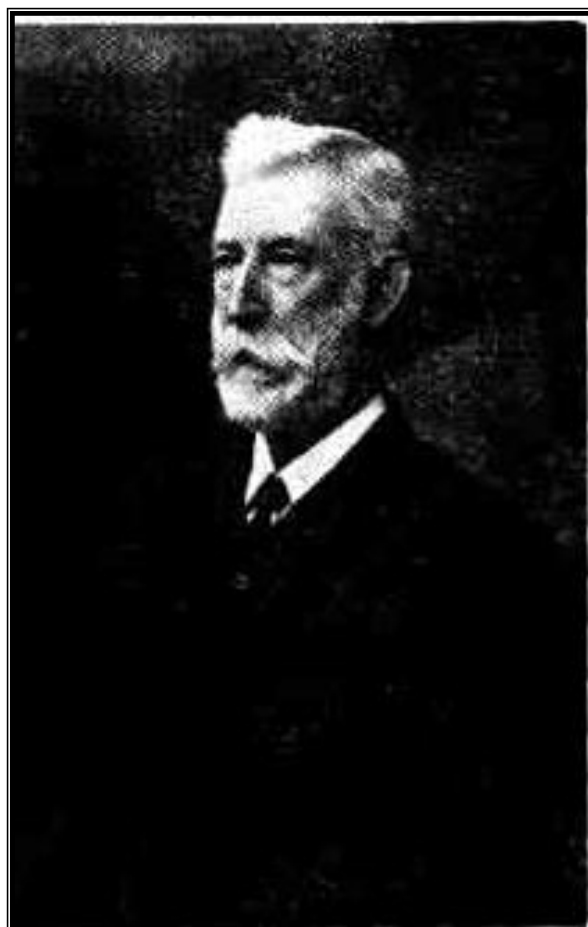
**CHAIN OF PONDS, October 18.**—The rifle match and annual sports in connection with the Millbrook Defence Rifle Club were held on Eight Hours Day. A fair number of people assembled in Mr. Dart's paddock, lent for the occasion. A good programme of shooting and athletic sports was submitted. Results:—Rifle Match (eight shots, two sighters, distance 500 yards)—T. Watkins, jun., 89; L. G. Stephens, 89; C. Boerth, 89; J. Coulter, 89; J. Boerth, 39; G. Lambert, 39; N. J. Dyer, 39. Merchants' Match—A. Watkins, E. Watkins. Teams' Match—Jabothal, Watkins's team, 148; Millbrook, No. 1, 148; Renton Valley, No. 2, 139. Sports.—Boys' Race—W. Symonds. Maiden Race—R. Sanderoock, H. Weyland, A. Watta. Girls' Race—W. Burton, A. Joyner, Sheffield. Handicap—A. Watta, O. Mason, C. H. Blencoe. Hurdle Race—L. Kleinschmidt, W. Crook, O. Mason. Maiden Bicycle Race—Fowell, Wilkey, Tibmouth. Rifemen's Race—F. Schultz, P. Turner, S. L. Folland. Musical Chairs—W. Wilkey, J. Smith. Rope Quoit Match—Zoerner, Patterson, Humphris. Guessing Competition—W. Crook, J. C. Symonds. Bowling Competition—L. Bond, J. G. Symonds.

Sadly for the family his father John passed away on 23rd September 1913 aged 72, leaving his wife, a daughter and four sons.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954),

Saturday 4 October 1913, page 44

The late Mr. John Symonds, whose sudden death from heart failure was recently announced, was for many years a resident of Chain of Ponds. Born in Cornwall 71 years ago, the deceased emigrated to Australia with his parents at the age of five. With his two brothers, he took up land on the Broughton and also at Gum Flat, Minlaton, which they worked in conjunction with the farm at Chain of Ponds. Mr. Symonds filled many leading positions in the district, and on various occasions was asked to stand for Parliamentary honors, but declined. For 30 years he was a member of the Para Wirra District Council, and for most of that period was chairman. He succeeded his father, who for more than 30 years occupied that position. Mr. Symonds was a director of the Gumeracha Butter Factory, and one of the founders; and for 30 years was a trustee of the Gumeracha Oddfellows' Lodge. In the Methodist Church he was a local preacher, circuit steward, Sunday-school superintendent, trustee, and attended the Methodist Conference as a representative from the Gumeracha and Mount Torrens circuit. A widow, four sons, and one daughter (Mrs. E. Bagshaw), one brother (Mr. Charles Symonds), a sister (Mrs. William Caust), both of Chain of Ponds, and a half-sister (Mrs. Jay, of Adelaide), are among the deceased's relatives.



Mr John Symonds

At the time of his death he was the Chairman of the Para Wirra District Council and had just been re-elected President of the Chain of Ponds Cricket Club. Representing the local residents, he had also been involved in the dealings with the State Government over the construction of the new Millbrook Reservoir.

Wybert showed an early interest in becoming a teacher and two years after completing his primary education and having attained the prerequisite age of 15 years, returned in early 1913 to Millbrook School as a Monitor<sup>4</sup>. He then was appointed as a Junior Teacher in December 1913. Under the guidance of headmaster Mr. John F. Davis he gained self-confidence in the classroom. Wybert's older brother, Harry had also been a Monitor and Junior Teacher appointed to the Norwood School.

## Adelaide High School

Older brother John "Gumma" had already spent two years at Prince Alfred College, however with an interest in teaching Harry and Wybert would need to go to Adelaide High School (the former Pupil Teachers School). In January 1913 Harry passed the entrance examinations and in 1914 Wybert also gained entry to Adelaide High School to complete his Junior Public Examinations. He had ridden his second hand bicycle from Chain of Ponds early in the year to enroll. For several years Harry and Wybert boarded together at Miss E. Sprigg's home at St Peters in a house that is now part of St Peter's College. It would take him three years to prepare for entry into Teachers College and University.

In 1914 at Adelaide High School, Wybert passed in five Junior<sup>5</sup> Public Examination subjects (English, History, Geography, Physics and Drawing). He also attended the Adelaide School of Art and achieved a pass in Solid Geometry. Wybert then completed the Senior<sup>6</sup> Public Examinations passing six subjects in 1915 (English, Modern History, Geometry, Trigonometry, Arithmetic and Algebra). That year he again attended the Education Department School of Art achieving a "Good" in 1st and 2nd Grade Freehand Drawing.

At Adelaide High School, Wybert showed athletic skills both on the football and cricket fields. In August 1914 he was amongst the best players in the Premiership match against the University of Adelaide B Team.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931) / Sat 15 Aug 1914

**ADELAIDE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.**  
Premiership.—University B, 5.10, beat High School, 5.5. Best players:—Winners:—Timecke, Stoate, Hall, Dowling, Rayner, Shanasy, Laurie, and Padman. Losers:—Davey, Polden, Mitchell, O'Grady, Saide, Symonds, Jacobs, and Forgan. Goalkickers:—Winners:—Shanasy (3), Neitz, and Meldrum (1). Losers:—Treloar (2), Madigan, Murphy, and Symonds (1).

The Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954) / Sun 13 Sep 1914

**ADELAIDE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
PREMIERSHIP.**  
University B, 6.12, beat High School, 4.2. Best players:—University:—Timecke, Laurie, Rayner, State, Dowling, Beaumont. High School:—O'Grady, Davey, Saide, Mitchell, Symonds, Polden, Treloar, Streich. Goalkickers:—University:—Laurie and Piper (2), Guymer, and Timecke. High School:—Symonds, Treloar, Madigan, and Polden.

Unfortunately Adelaide High School was defeated by 5 points but as they had finished in top position at the end of the regular season they were able to "Challenge" the University team to another match. They lost again by a larger margin but with Wybert again in the best players.

In 1915 and 1916 Wybert captained the 1st XVIII football team. They played in the Students' Competition against all the private colleges. In 1916 the AHS team defeated St Peter's and Prince Alfred College 1st XVIIIs for the first time.

<sup>4</sup> Monitors were students who had completed their primary education and then been appointed by the Education Department to support teaching staff. On meager salaries, the most promising would progress to become Junior Teachers, and then the best of those would proceed to Adelaide High School and to Teachers Training College after passing well in the Public Examinations.

<sup>5</sup> Equivalent to Intermediate or Year 10

<sup>6</sup> Equivalent to Leaving or Year 11



## FOOTBALL.

### ADELAIDE HIGH SCHOOL V. P.A.C.

There was a large and enthusiastic gathering of adult spectators as well as students from the Adelaide High School and Prince Alfred College on the latter's ground on Saturday afternoon, the occasion being the annual football match. Sentiment rose to fever pitch at times, and the war cries, topical songs, composed by the students, and adapted to popular airs to suit the occasion, were a criterion of the great interest taken in these games, and it is probable in the near future these contests will rival in importance the annual college match. The High School students flourished a large black-and-white flag, the colours of the school, and every bit of good play was the signal for an outburst of enthusiasm such as only students can display, and such as one seldom hears, which was crowned with school war cries. The Princes were fully alive to the occasion, but the fact that the red-and-whites had not been beaten by the A.H.S. in any previous contest made their supporters all the more enthusiastic and confident. The game was a fast one from the bounce of the ball, and the way in which both teams worked to secure victory is worthy of the highest commendation. In fact, so fast was the pace made by both teams that the umpire at times was quite out of touch with the game, and, with one or two exceptions, his decisions met with the applause of every one.

The method of play adopted by the High School players, who were certainly the faster of the two teams, was suited to the slippery nature of the ground, and the determination with which they played never left the issue in doubt. Every time one of the players got the ball he made sure of his kick, whereas the Princes, by running and fumbling lost their kick, and certainly were beaten in the race for victory. The Princes' kicking for goal, too, was at times erratic, and at times their combination and handball were certainly bad compared with their opponents. E. Seaman was a "shining light" in the Adelaide High School team, and the manner in which he carried the ball almost from one end of the oval, and kicked a goal, was a feature of the afternoon's play. Welch distinguished himself by his creditable marking and passing. He was instrumental in assisting to place 3 goals to the High School's credit. He certainly is more at home forward. Eric Seaman never played better, his fleetness of foot, his marking, passing, and the manner in which he secured the ball were a treat to witness. Sinclair did everything expected of him; he got 4 goals. Symonds (the captain) was always in the running, and to him much of the credit is due for the result. Of the Princes Harvey was the best player, and he stood out head and shoulders above the other players. This is the first occasion on which the Adelaide High School has been successful, and on the play the better team won. The final scores were:—Adelaide High School—8 goals 9 behinds. Prince Alfred College—3 goals 2 behinds.

ADELAIDE HIGH SCHOOL FIRST FOOTBALL TEAM, 1915.



STANDING.—B. NAYLOR, A. HOCKING, P. HILL, C. MICHELL, G. FULLER, E. SEAMAN, W. MAHON, O. ZADOW, C. CHESTERFIELD, H. BURDON, E. STEVENS, W. WALKER, P. SWEENEY, S. KELLET, S. KELLET.  
SITTING.—H. O'NEILL, MR. WARD, F. FORGAN (VICE-CAPT.), WYBERT SYMONDS (CAPT.), MR. ALLEN, L. C. BEECHING, E. WALMSLEY.  
INSET.—PTE. T. O. MITCHELL.

Adelaide High School played in the A Grade Metropolitan Cricket Association in the 1914/1915 season and Wybert was a valuable member of the 1st XI side and was vice-captain in 1915. In one match he took four wickets in four balls and on the following Monday at the School assembly, he was called onto the stage by the headmaster, Mr. Adey. To his surprise, he was presented with a new cap by the cricket captain and head prefect, Eric Kelly, in recognition of the remarkable performance.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931)  
Wed 4 Nov 1914 / Page 10 / CRICKET.

**METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION.**  
A Grade.

Adelaide High School, 110; Symonds 34, Kelly 16, Day 14, Murphy 14, Maddigan 12; Terry two for 2, Bagshaw one for 2, Davis one for 2, Colquhoun three for 30, and Gelston three for 37. Sturt Imperial, one for 96; Davis 35, Gelston 35 n.o., and Terry 16 n.o.; Beeching one for 39.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931)  
Thu 11 Mar 1915 / Page 10 / CRICKET.

**METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION.**  
A Grade.

West Suburban (previously reported, 115); second innings, 156; Rice 46, Musgrave 27, Andrew 17 not out, Curnow 13; Beeching three for 41, Symonds four for 25, White two for 20. Adelaide High School (previously reported, nine for 92), 102; second innings, four for 119; Beeching 44 not out, White 41 not out; Poole three for 26, Givie one for 6.

During the school holidays in December 1915, Wybert was selected to play for the combined Junior Metropolitan Team in an inter-association contest.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954),  
Saturday 25 December 1915, page 5

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR CRICKET UNION.**

The following inter-association matches have been arranged to take place on the Adelaide Oval and Neutral Ground at Christmas time. The admissions will be free, but a collection will be taken up in aid of the Cheer-Up Society:—

December 27—Adelaide and Suburban v. East Torrens (Adelaide Oval); Port Adelaide and Suburban v. Druids (Adelaide Oval); United Church v. Metropolitan (Neutral Ground).

January 1 (Saturday)—United Church v. Port Adelaide and Suburban (Adelaide Oval); Druids v. East Torrens (Adelaide Oval).

The following teams have been selected for December 27:—Adelaide and Suburban Association—W. Buchanan (Kent Town), G. Stock (Prospect), G. Marsh (Bowden), H. Webb (Fulham), C. Whitridge (St. Peters), W. Hutton (Forresters), W. Gaetjens (Wallaby), D. Henry, W. Buchanan (South United), A. Davis (Wattle), R. James (Kensworth), W. Loveridge (Norwood Footballers), 12th man. Port Adelaide and Suburban—J. Stark, P. O'Grady, S. Smith, H. Ennes, A. Gowling, H. Norman, T. Bowden, N. McDonald, C. J. Curtin, D. McKenzie, N. Williams. Emergencies—S. Pyatt, H. Young. Druids—T. M. Beatty, R. S. Beatty, W. Cope, A. Dodsworth, F. Dover, W. Hanley, R. G. Cooper, A. S. Neimann, W. Oliver, J. Page, A. E. Palmer. Emergencies—A. B. Allen and A. Rosevear. Metropolitan—L. Atwell, C. Adams, G. Bennett, G. Beeching, M. Gudge, W. Hocking, J. Kennedy, F. Pavia, W. Symonds, M. Williams.

**National Library of Australia**



By the 1915/1916 season, the Adelaide High School 1st XI team was competing in the Adelaide and Suburban Cricket Association B Grade competition which played against some of the college teams. Wybert had a noteworthy performance against St Peter's College B team in January 1916. Other noteworthy performances followed.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923).  
Tuesday 25 January 1916, page 2

## CRICKET.

**ADELAIDE AND SUBURBAN ASSOCIATION.**  
—B Grade.—

Adelaide High School v. St. Peters B.—St. Peter's B—Klopper, c. Sinclair, b. Walker, 66; Gudge, c. Fuller, b. Raggatt, 5; Willamore, c. and b. Walker, 36; Adams, not out, 39; Pavla, c. Symonds, b. Raggatt, 22; O'Shaughnessy, c. Fuller, b. Naylor, 10; sundries, 7; total for 5 wickets 129. Bowling.—Walker, 1 for 23, Raggatt 3 for 41, Naylor 1 for 22. A.H.S.—G. R. Fuller, b. Willamore, 27; W. M. C. Symonds, b. Gudge, 72; R. Barbour, c. and b. Willamore, 4; A. R. C. Hocking, c. and b. Willamore, 0; T. S. Raggatt, not out, 14; R. J. Coombe, not out, 3; sundries, 13; total for 4 wickets, 129. Bowling.—Gudge 1 for 27, Willamore 3 for 33. Noteworthy Performances.—The match resulted in a draw, Symonds's performance was especially noteworthy. Fuller also batted well.

National Library of Australia

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) / Sat 26 Feb 1916 / Page 15

**ADELAIDE AND SUBURBAN ASSOCIATION.**  
Adelaide High School versus Marlborough.—  
A.H.S., 1st innings, 154; second innings, one for 86—Symonds 31, Coombe 47 n.o., Sinclair 19, Naylor 10, Beeching 18 and 32 n.o., Fuller 27 n.o.; Andrew eight for 41; Beauland, two for 56. Marlborough, 151; Meldrum 35, Beauland 10, S. Andrew 28, G. Andrew 16, Vawser 26; Symonds, four for 33; Raggatt, two for 34; Beeching, two for 23; Hocking, two for 31.

By this time Adelaide High School also had a 2nd XI team that played in a High Schools Association.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931)  
Fri 10 Mar 1916 / Page 10 / CRICKET

Adelaide H.S., 54 and 90; Hocking 24, Raggatt 20 not out, Fuller 10 and 19, Sinclair 11; Doody four for 35 and four for 47, Taylor one for 24 and one for 22, Drewer one for 0, Prospect B, 225; Gillies 32, Drewer 40, Taylor 11, Stockdale 25, Doody 26, Turner 19; Hocking four for 40, Raggatt two for 39, Symonds two for 30, Beeching one for 46.

### HIGH SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION.

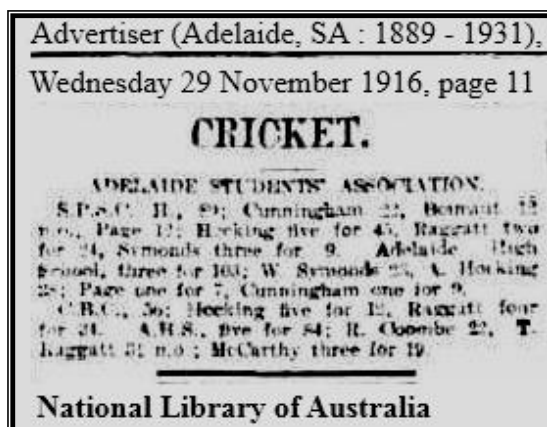
Adelaide High School II., eight for 154; Pitcher 23, Vickers 55 (retired), George 11, Moroney 10 (retired); Grantley three for 41. Woodville High School, 71; Gunn 23, Pratt 17; George seven for 24, Newman two for 14, Brown one for 6.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931)  
Sat 25 Mar 1916 / Page 12 / CRICKET.

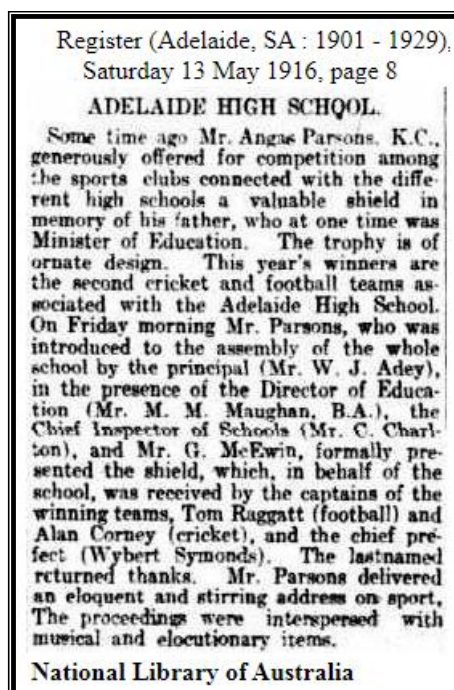
Adelaide High School, 133; Fuller 45, Symonds 23, Coombe 16, Sheppard 15, Bowering 14, Timcke 15, Walsh four for 40, Kelly two for 41, Sandery one for 17, McCarthy one for 0. Christian Brothers, 72; McCarthy 22, Symonds four for 21, Raggatt two for 20, Naylor two for 0, Finney two for 21.

Adelaide High School, three for 36; Symonds 14, Fuller 55 and 12, Hocking 72 n.o., Bischof, sen., seven for 31, McKay, sen., two for 70. Manthorpe Memorial, 96 and three for 106; Hare 15 and 16, Bischof 53, Lewis 55 n.o., Wills 17, Hocking three for 31, Symonds three for 17, Raggatt one for 21 and three for 33.

In the 1916/17 season a separate Adelaide Students' Grade Association was formed with Adelaide High School being "privileged" to play against the private colleges!<sup>7</sup>



Wybert also had the honour to be selected as Head Prefect in 1916. In addition to his sporting responsibilities as captain of cricket and football, he was also editor of the school magazine and President of the Literary Society. Among his other tasks, as Head Prefect he was required to speak at some school assemblies.



In February 1916 Wybert was posted by the Education Department to Norwood Public School as a Junior Teacher (3rd Grade). This was in addition to the task of completing some Higher Year<sup>8</sup> Public Examination subjects at Adelaide High School. He was able to pass two subjects (English and Geometry) in the University Higher Public Examinations.

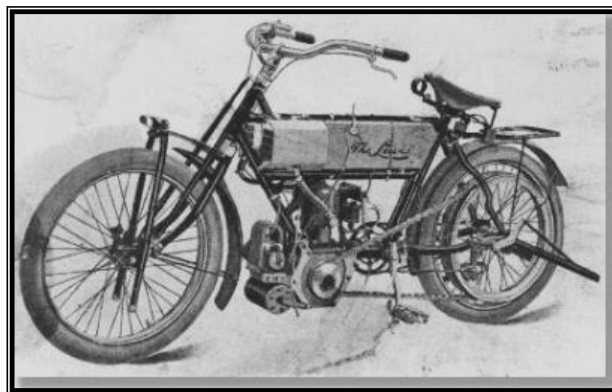
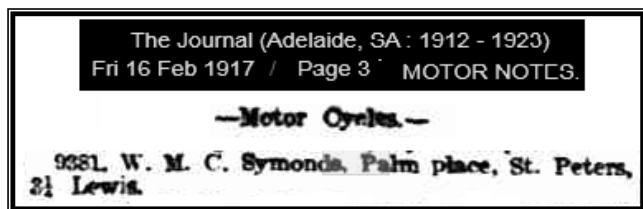
In 1917 he was promoted to a Junior Teacher (4th Grade) at Norwood and in 1918 he gained a place at the Teachers Training College, an indication that he was seen as a teacher of great promise.

Early in 1917, he purchased and registered a Lewis motor cycle as a mode of transport for himself around Adelaide and to visit his family at Chain of Ponds. He was also the Superintendent of the Chain of Ponds Methodist Sunday

<sup>7</sup> It was not until 1955/56 that Adelaide High School was able to play regularly against St Peters and Prince Alfred College's 1st XI cricket sides when an Adelaide Boys' High School (ABHS) team was admitted to the SACA B Grade Competition. A new Students Grade division was set up in the 1965/66 with only ABHS the only non-college school in the competition.

<sup>8</sup> Equivalent to Leaving Honours or Year 12

School and previously before acquiring the motorbike had travelled from Adelaide each weekend on a bicycle. At the time he was still living at Palm Place, St Peters.



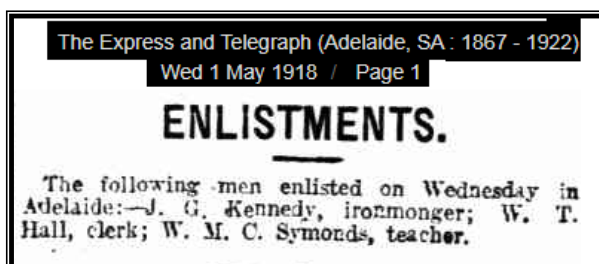
**Lewis Motor Cycle of the period**

As a Teachers College student Wybert also was able to enroll in the Faculty of Arts at Adelaide University, however War service intervened and he did not complete any subjects. In May 1918 he did receive a Pass in Blackboard and Memory Drawing at the SA School of Arts and Crafts.

## World War 1 Service

Wybert had been a member of the Army Cadets for four years and had also joined Lunn's Citizen Force<sup>9</sup> and had spent three years with them and at some stage was attached to the 50th Army Medical Corps. He had wanted to enlist during 1917, but with two brothers already serving overseas his mother refused to give her permission. Being under 21 years of age he required his mother's permission. His oldest brother had attempted to enlist but was rejected, possibly being required to manage the Chain of Ponds Farm. As a member of the Citizen Forces, by Law, he was unable to serve overseas. During his time in the Citizen Forces, Wybert would have to undergo periods of training (usually 24 days a year) and be available for home service when required.

Wybert was among the many who responded to the continued calls for reinforcements for the Australian Imperial Forces in France and Belgium. Even though during 1918, the tide of the War in Europe was starting to turn in favour of the Allies, there was still active recruiting going on and more men enlisting and going into training camps in Adelaide. There was still a need for men to replace the dead, wounded and sick. There was still a job to be done and it was definitely not a time to pull back. Fortunately, for later recruits, they would not have to see the front line hostilities.



<sup>9</sup> In 1914 Samuel Lunn M.B.E., who was a great patriot, organised events supporting the raising of a local Citizens' Force.



Putting his studies on hold and now with his mother's permission, Wybert enlisted on May 1st 1918. He reported to the Mitcham Camp for his medical and at 20 years and 5 months, measuring 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighing 135 lbs, Wybert was assigned to the 4th General Reinforcements. While still in Adelaide, he underwent further rushed training, learning mostly about regimentation and reacting to orders. While in camp he made some new friends and they were allowed to get leave passes to venture out as a group into the city or individually to keep in touch with family.

Prior to being sent overseas he was able to spend some time at home. On Tuesday 30th July 1918 Wybert attended a farewell social in the local Chain of Ponds Hall. He was presented with a safety razor by Mrs. Belcher his former headmistress at the Millbrook School. The following Sunday at a special Sunday School service at the Methodist Church, Wybert was presented with a money belt on behalf of the students.

**Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954),  
Saturday 10 August 1918, page 10**

**CHAIN OF PONDS, August 1.**—In the local hall on Tuesday night a farewell social was tendered to Privates W. J. L. Lambert and W. M. O. Symonds. Private Lambert is the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Lambert, who have given three of their sons who are still serving their country. Private A. N. L. Lambert left in 1915 with the 3rd Light Horse, Private M. L. F. Lambert went with the 43rd Battalion. He received a slight injury through a burning shell, but still remained on duty. Private H. O. Lambert left with the 9th Reinforcements of the 32nd Battalion, and has been wounded. Private Lee Lambert, who is now about to leave, took a keen interest in tennis and was an active member of the literary society at Kenton Valley. Private Wybert Symonds is the youngest son of Mrs. John Symonds, who has two other sons at the front, Private C. J. G. Symonds, who left with the 8th Field Ambulance, and Private H. F. O. Symonds, of the 43rd Battalion. The former has been wounded and the latter has been gassed. The only remaining son volunteered for active service, but has been rejected. Private Wybert Symonds enlisted from the University. When he left the Adelaide High School he was head prefect, captain of the football and cricket teams, editor of the magazine, and president of the literary society. He has passed the Junior, Senior, and Higher Public examinations. His loss will be felt at Chain of Ponds. During the past 19 months he has ridden a bicycle from Adelaide to superintend the Sunday-school here and he has also taken his place in the pulpit. Mrs. Belcher, who was head-mistress for 17½ years of the Millbrook school, presented an electric torch to Private Lambert and a safety razor to Private Symonds from the residents of this district. The contributors to the programme were Messrs I. Tregilgas, E. Hatchard, H. Pascoe, D. Cooke, Gwen Greening, Audrey Belcher, Joan Bommer, Trixie Cooke, Messrs. F. James, S. James, Masters Noel Burton and Shirley Belcher, and Mr. Newman. Speeches were delivered by Messrs. Buchanan, Hartlett, and Pastor Pascoe.

**The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) / Thu 8 Aug 1918**

**CHAIN OF PONDS, August 7.**—On Sunday afternoon, in place of the usual Sunday school, an impressive ceremony was held in the Methodist Church—the first of its kind. The occasion took the form of a "farewell service" by the scholars of the Sunday school to their superintendent, Pte. Wybert M. C. Symonds, who has since left for active service with the 4th general reinforcements. The service was opened by the Rev. E. Hartlett, who spoke appreciatively of the services of the soldier. A children's service was conducted by Miss E. Pascoe, with Miss D. Cooke, who presided at the organ. The children sang hymns, choruses, and gave recitations, after which the youngest scholar, Master Olive Burton, presented Pte. Symonds, in behalf of the scholars, with a money belt, in which were farewell notes written by the children to their teacher. The church was crowded with parents and friends. Pte. Symonds is the youngest son of Mrs. John and the late Mr. Symonds, and two brothers are now invalided in England. The fourth son has also enlisted. At the time of enlisting Pte. Symonds was a student at the University. At the Adelaide High School he had a successful career, having held the positions of head prefect, editor of the school magazine, President of the School Literary Society and captain of the cricket and football teams.

As Wybert departed Chain of Ponds along the new road to Adelaide to head off for active service overseas, he would have looked back and seen the rising water of the new Millbrook Reservoir which had now started to engulf the Chain of Ponds cricket ground, once the pride of the district, where he had spent many hours of his youth. The Sunning Hill Bridge on the old road was now under water as was the site of the former Millbrook Hotel.

Wybert embarked with the 4th General Reinforcements on the HMT "Gaika" on 6th August, departing from Outer Harbour and proceeding to England via Cape Town. At a further stop at Sierra Leone, Private Symonds assisted with the loading of coal needed for the final leg of the journey. Sailing up the Thames and disembarking at the Port of London on 13th October 1918, Wybert was soon transported to the 9th Training Battalion Camp at Fovant in south west Wiltshire, where he would spend three months. He just missed seeing his brother Claude who had been at the Fovant Camp after recovering from a gunshot wound to the thigh sustained the previous month. Unfortunately he

had only just returned to France on 1st October 1918 with the 15th Australian Field Ambulance. Brother Harry, who had been gassed in France in November 1917, had already been repatriated to Australia in September 1918 after spending time in hospital and convalescence.



**Fovant Training Camp Wiltshire England**

With the Armistice signed on 11th November 1918, thankfully there would be no dreaded posting to the front lines. The level of training (and discipline) at Fovant Camp diminished and there were opportunities to get leave and visit some of the nearby towns on bicycles and see the sights on the Salisbury Plains which included a hiking visit to Stonehenge some 20 miles away. For Wybert there was little hope of returning to Australia quickly as those who had served the longest ("Last in Last Off" directive by Lieutenant General Sir John Monash) or had been ill or wounded were given priority. It was not all fun as there were still jobs to be done and on 28th January 1919 Wybert was sent to France to assist with the post-Armistice campaign. His duties were mainly ordinance in nature, covering the movement of goods returned from the front lines and the difficult task of supervising the stocks of cigarettes and liquor. He also had guard duties overseeing Chinese workers who were performing some of the laboring tasks. He was disillusioned somewhat, seeing a lot of wastage of food and equipment, but saw it as a good lesson all the same, learning much about tolerance and compromise. Wybert had lived a fairly sheltered life before the War and rarely had his values been tested as they were during his term in the A.I.F. The experience however, broadened his outlook on life and this would serve him well in later as a teacher and headmaster.

On 20th April 1919 he was promoted to the rank of Temporary Corporal; probably on merit and in some measure replacing superiors who were fortunate to get their orders to return home. Along with a variety of postings including one to the POW camp near Calais in the north-east of France, there was also time available to visit nearby French towns. He spent time down at Port-Vendres on the Mediterranean coast near the Spanish border and at Condrieu, in the wine region in the south-east on the Rhône River.

The A.I.F. and Y.M.C.A also arranged social and a variety of sporting activities to help pass the time and assist with fitness. He remained in France until early June 1919 and on returning to England, a Private again, he was now essentially a tourist in uniform until getting notice for his own return home.

This was a great opportunity for Wybert to see more of the United Kingdom, although he did consider entering University in England and delay his return to Australia. The Australian servicemen were free to travel anywhere in the UK. Sightseeing was far better than staying in the Camps and wearing the A.I.F. uniform opened many doors.

It was a great chance to visit Cornwall, the County where his family had 70 years earlier departed from to seek a new life in South Australia. After a visit to Land's End, Wybert and his friend Lorne Cameron travelled north to Inverness, Scotland and after some time in Edinburgh, headed further north to Dundee. Wybert had met friendly locals along the way, some of whom offered accommodation. In Dundee, he stayed with Charlie Ilse, a friend of the family and was introduced to the game of golf. He also played in a game of cricket. Wybert and Lorne also made a ferry trip from Holyhead to Dublin. This was a few years after the opportunistic 1916 Easter Rising and only months after the 1919 Declaration of Independence by the Irish Republicans. Ireland was still very much on edge which would see the outbreak of civil war in 1922.

On 5th September 1919, after his five weeks of travel and soon after returning to the Salisbury Plains, Wybert received his orders to return home. After embarking in England aboard the *HM Plassy* on 13th September 1919, he headed to Australia via the Suez Canal. There were some opportunities for shore leave along the way. A stop at the port of Colombo (Ceylon/Sri Lanka) and a trip inland to the capital Kandy, left Wybert with less than pleasant memories when some men were subjected to harsh disciplinary measures, referred to as "sandbagging". He finally disembarked at Outer Harbor on 23rd October 1919 and was formally discharged on the 7th November 1919 almost a year after the Armistice.



**Troopship HM Plassy returning home with repatriated soldiers**

## **Post War Family Tragedy**

In December 1919 only a month after being discharged, Wybert was soon back at Adelaide High School, not yet resuming as a teacher, but helping out officiating as a timekeeper at an athletics meeting.

### **Harry Francis Clifford Symonds (1895 - 1921)**

Wybert's older brother Harry returned home early after being exposed to mustard gas during the War. Soon after he resumed his study at the Teachers Training College and later was appointed to the staff at Adelaide High School. In December 1919 Harry passed two subjects (Latin and English Language and Literature) towards an Arts Degree at Adelaide University and the following year in November 1920 he passed 2nd year Latin. Sadly for the Symonds family Harry, weakened by his wartime experience, died in early 1921 from an associated illness.



**Harry F.C. Symonds (1895 - 1921)**  
**Memorial Headstone - Chain of Ponds Cemetery**



# **HARRY CLIFFORD SYMONDS.**

One of the most winsome and radiant of God's children. Harry Clifford Symonds, was called, very suddenly, to the Higher Service, on Sunday, March 13. He was only twenty-five years and gave promise of a life of rich usefulness and distinguished service for Christ and His church. His open face revealed a soul of rare purity and sincerity, and instinctively, in conversation with him, one was reminded of the pure in heart who see God. At Kent Town he gave himself with great devotion to his class of boys, and at the Hackney Mission on Sunday evenings he was one of a small band of enthusiasts in a difficult work. With his brother, Wybert, he went to the war, and returned unscathed in soul, and with a more ardent passion for Christ. Brief though were the years of service here, they were full, and very rich in influence, and many, especially his boys, will thank God for his beautiful and manly life. Of him may be said very truly, "An Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile."

The Rev. E. W. Caust writes:—"The death of Harry Symonds at the early age of twenty-five years has ended a valuable life of special charm and purity."

As a teacher in the Adelaide High School, his gifts and influence had attracted the attention of his superior officers, whose intention it was to promote him to important work in the future. He expected to complete his arts course at the University this year. He was a prominent worker in connection with the University Students' Union.

Born at Chain of Ponds, he early identified himself with the Sunday school and church there. Prior to going to the war and after his return he used to bike from Adelaide to take charge of the little Sunday school in his native village every week end; his brother, Wybert doing likewise until he also went to the war; and in this connection it may be interesting to note that Harry's grandfather was the first superintendent of that school, then followed his father, and his cousins, the late Arnold and Ray Caust, with the writer were also scholars and teachers in the same school.

Before going to the war and since his return he frequently conducted services in various churches. Harry belongs to that fine type of Christian young men to whom the war experiences only intensified the value of the spiritual side of one's nature. Possessed of intellectual gifts above the average, the years had strengthened his belief that, "The soul of all improvement is the improvement of the soul," the culture of which gave tone and force to all he said and did.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931),

Saturday 19 March 1921, page 31

## **Mr. Harry F. C. Symonds.**

The death occurred on Sunday afternoon, at a private hospital in Adelaide, of Mr. Harry F. C. Symonds, a son of the late Mr. John Symonds and of Mrs. Symonds, Chain of Ponds. The family is an old one, well and favourably known in that part of the hills district, as its first members arrived many years ago. Mr. Symonds received his early education at the local school and the Norwood School, and entered the Adelaide High School in 1912. After three years at that institution, he taught at the Norwood School for a year. While at the University Training College, he enlisted in the 43rd Battalion. As the result of mustard gas poisoning he was sent back to South Australia, and continued his studies at the Training College. At the beginning of the year he was appointed to the staff of the Adelaide High School. Mr. Symonds was held in the highest regard for his ability and personal qualities.

## **Re-enrolment at Adelaide University and Teachers College**

At the beginning of 1920, after two lost years of study, Wybert re-enrolled at Adelaide University to complete some Arts subjects, however in 1923 he switched from Arts to Science, for reasons that will become apparent, and proceeded to study for a BSc degree in Forestry. In 1922, now 25 years of age, Wybert also returned to Teachers College to complete his two years of training. At this time, Teachers College had just become independent of Adelaide University.

He continued to get around on a motor cycle, however by now had purchased a "Red Indian" with sidecar. Unfortunately he met the ire of the police on a couple of occasions for not having an effective muffler. One of the offences happened when he was riding down Rundle Street.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)

Tuesday 30 November 1920.

### **POLICE.**

**ADELAIDE:** Monday, November 29.

[Before Messrs. T. Hewison, S.M., H. J. McConville, and H. V. Moyle.]

Wybert Symonds was ordered to pay £1 15/ in all for having driven a motor cycle without an effective silencer along Rundle street, on November 19. For a similar offence in King William street on November 20 Douglas Carter, who pleaded guilty, was fined £1 15/ in all. F.C. Fleet gave evidence. Otto Frantschy (in Rundle street; on November 19) and Frederick Thiele (in King William street on November 20) were also proceeded against on similar charges. A fine of £1 15/ in all was inflicted in each case.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923)

Thursday 12 July 1923, page 1

## **MOTORISTS FINED.**

The following were fined by Mr. S. D. Ronald, S.M., at the Adelaide Police Court on Thursday morning on charges of having made breaches of the Motor Vehicles Act for having exceeded the speed limit:—Richard John Legoe (28 m.p.h., motor chassis, Frome road, North Adelaide, £1 15/; John Winter (28 m.p.h., car, Rundle road, city, July 10), £1 10/; Abraham C. Harrison (35 m.p.h., cycle, Frome road, city, June 30), £2 15/; Francis J. Mitchell (26 m.p.h., car, Glen Osmond road, Adelaide, June 28, £1 15/; Harold Hittman (25 m.p.h., car, Kensington road, June 30), £2; Leonard Jeffries (28 m.p.h., chassis, Magill road, Norwood, June 28), £1 15/; Joseph Patrick (25 m.p.h., car, Montefiore road, North Adelaide, June 30), £1 15/. For having ridden motor cycles which were not effectively silenced—Wybert Symonds (Payreham road, St. Peters, 5.15 p.m., June 27), £2; and Harold K. C. Palm (O'Connell street, North Adelaide, June 30), £2. Inspector Horseman prosecuted.

National Library of Australia

## W.M.C. Symonds - Adelaide University Examination Results

### **1920 Passed**

- *History of the United Kingdom*
- *Education*
- *Pure Mathematics*

### **1921 Passed**

- *English Language & Literature*
- *Modern History*
- *Applied Mathematics*
- *Physics*

### **1922 Passed**

- *Biology*

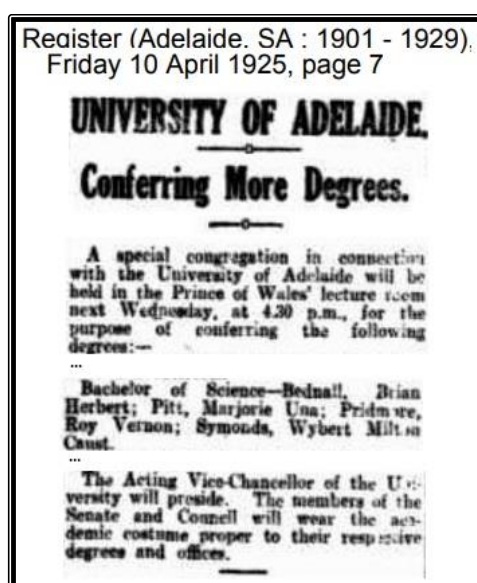
### **1923 Passed**

- *Physical Chemistry*
- *Geology I*
- *Plant Physiology*

### **1924 Passed**

- *Forrest Botany*
- *French (Matriculation Level)*
- *Surveying (Short Course)*
- *Geology II*
- *Forest Entomology*
- *Organic Chemistry*
- *Agricultural & Forrest Geology*
- *Forestry A & B*

Wybert had completed his course of subjects by the end of 1924 and had his Bachelor of Science Degree conferred in April 1925.



While enrolled at University, Wybert played football and cricket. He also expanded his social links by joining the Student Christian Movement and was President for one year. He was also a keen old scholar of Adelaide High School



and continued to assist at athletics carnivals and play in the old scholars football matches. By 1922 he was back on the staff at Adelaide High School.

In addition to his teaching duties, attending Teachers College, studying Biology at Adelaide University, he was also assisting in the running of the Adelaide High School Cadet Unit.

### **Kuitpo Forest School - Change of Direction**

From early 1922, during the warmer months (November - March), Wybert was spending time teaching groups of high school lads forestry and basic surveying at the new innovative Kuitpo Forest School. Originally the Director of Education, Mr. W.J. Adey (the founding headmaster at Adelaide High School from 1908 - 1919), had offered the position to his older brother Harry. After his sudden death however a replacement was needed. Wybert was then asked to take on this pioneering role and this was the reason for the radical change in his course of study from Arts to Forestry Science. Having grown up at Chain of Ponds, Harry and Wybert would both have been ideally suited to teaching the lads about the practical skills needed in a forest environment. Mr. Adey had come from the same area of the Hills and knew the Symonds family well.

In 1912, Adelaide University had been the first tertiary institution in Australia to offer subjects proceeding to a BSc degree in forestry within the Science Faculty. One difficulty Wybert faced was that he had not studied chemistry or the biological sciences at Adelaide High School. This deficiency was later evident in his desire to see changes to high school curriculum which would provide a broader base of subjects prior to matriculation.

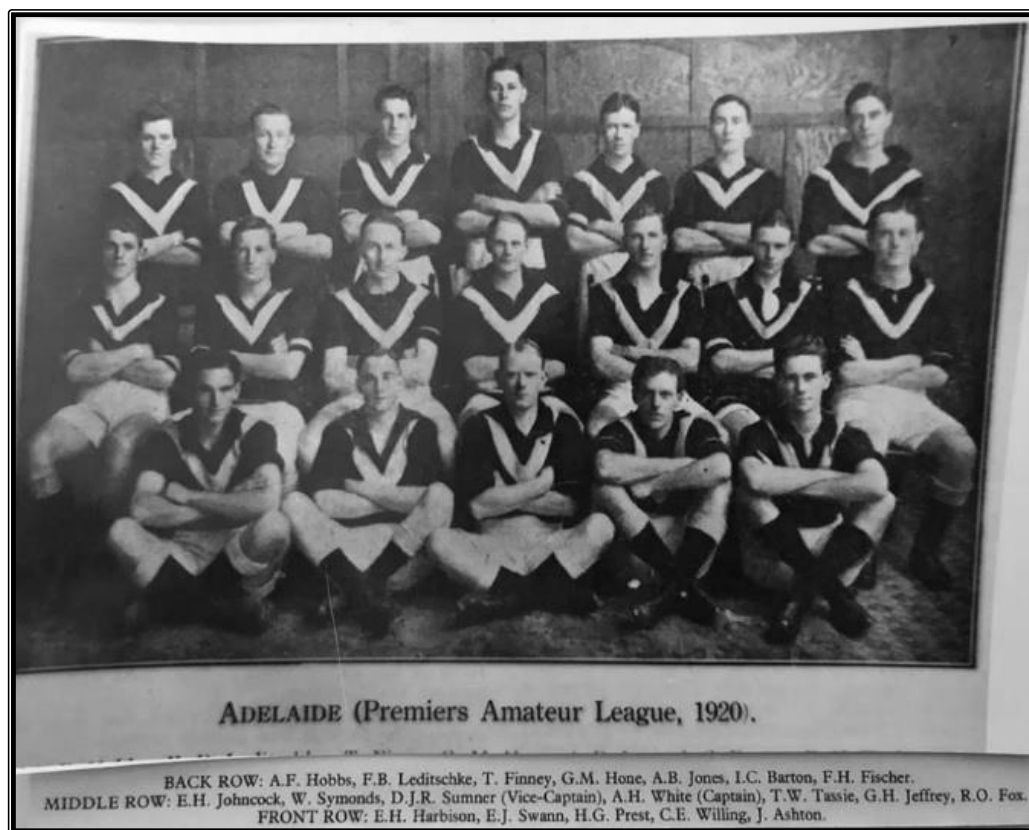
Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931)  
Saturday 11 February 1922. page 28

#### **KUITPO FOREST SCHOOL.**

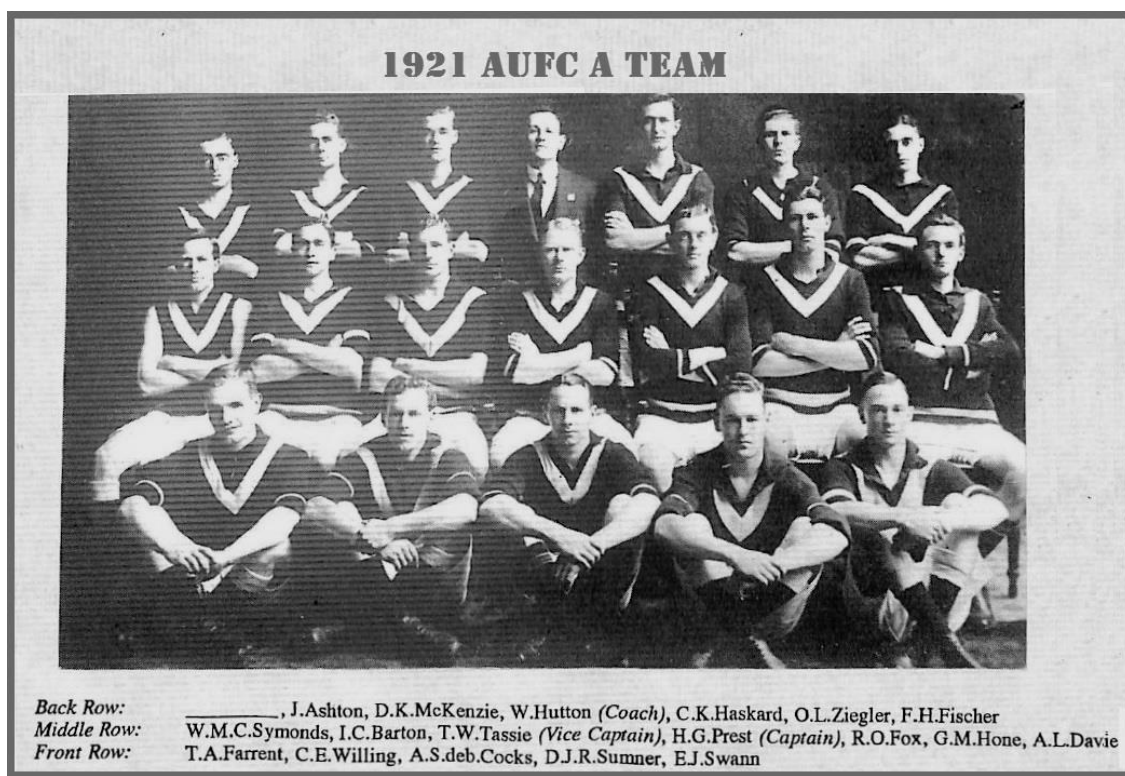
The Minister of Education (Mr. Ritchie), accompanied by the Under Treasurer and the Superintendent of Secondary Education, visited Kuitpo Forest on Tuesday, where a forest school of 25 high school lads is being conducted by Mr. H. H. Corbin, B.Sc. (Consulting Forester), of the Adelaide University, and Mr. W. M. Symonds, a teacher on the staff of the Adelaide High School. The first school of the kind was opened on December 1 and continued until December 10, and 25 lads from the Adelaide High School were selected to attend. The present school is made up of 25 Unley High School pupils, and began on February 2. It will be closed on Saturday next. The camp is a large structure, erected about five years ago, made of timber from the forest, and is divided into a dormitory which accommodates with ease 30 stretchers, a master's room and office, and a large dining room. Adjacent to this building are the kitchen, cook's room, and storehouse. The whole has been equipped for the school purposes by the Government, and it is intended to arrange for classes from high schools in the city and country, Teachers' College, and other institutions. The course of study includes botany, physiography, mensuration, mapping and plane table work, meteorology and forestry. The pupils pay £1 towards the expenses, and the remainder is paid from a special vote of £100 by the Government. After the inspection of the camp arrangements, and the organization of the school, the Minister addressed the lads. He hoped that the lessons learnt would fit them for a more complete life of usefulness to themselves and the community, and that in many a desire for the outdoor life of farmers and foresters would be created, so that the development of the resources of the State would be assured, and the proportion of primary producers increased. Mr. Ritchie was thanked for his visit and address, and in reply asked that the rest of the afternoon should be given to the lads for a swimming parade in a large pond set apart for the purpose in a neighbouring paddock.

## Adelaide University Sport - Football

While at Adelaide University, Wybert continued with his sport and played for both the cricket and football clubs. He played football from 1920 to 1922 taking out the A1 Premiership each year. They were very successful times both for the team and personally. The following season reviews are from Adelaide University Football Club History booklet<sup>10</sup>.



Seated alongside Wybert are Ernest Johncock and Donald Sumner also old scholars of AHS



<sup>10</sup> Written History of the Adelaide University Football Club by Frederick Archibald Block

## 1920

1920 saw the re-formation of the Amateur League with University fielding an 'A' team in this League and a 'B' team in the Adelaide Students' Association. Under the leadership of A.H. White (captain) and D.J.R. Sumner (vice-captain) the A's lost only two matches for the season — to Semaphore Central and to Kingswood — and thus finished Minor Premiers. The Premiership match was a relatively tame affair with University defeating Henley and Grange 10.18 to 2.11 with the best players being H.G. Prest, T.D. Finney, Symonds, G.M. Hone, A.H. White, G.H. Jeffrey and F.B. Leditschke. R.O. Fox kicked three goals.

The outstanding player for the year was A.H. White who won the Club's Best and Fairest Award (this was prior to the Gunning Medal for the best and fairest in 'A' grade), with others to play consistently well being H.G. Prest, G.H. Jeffrey, E.H. Johncock, T.D. Finney and E.J.K. Harbison. The main goal kickers for the year were W.M.C. Symonds, R.O. Fox and E.J. Swann.

It is interesting to note that the team played North Adelaide, the ultimate State Premiers, in a pre-season match and although beaten put up a very creditable showing.

## 1921

1921 was again a successful year for the Club with the A's going through the season with only one loss and taking out the Premiership for the second year in a row and with the 'B' team performing creditably in the Adelaide Students' Association.

The teams competing in Amateur League were University, Glenferrie, SPSC, PAC, Henley and Grange, Kingswood and Prospect, the latter being in place of East Adelaide who had competed in the previous year.

Under the leadership of H.G. Prest (captain) and T.W. Tassie (vice-captain) the A's won nearly all their matches by convincing margins, except for their one loss, and a two point victory over Kingswood (10.3 to 7.19). If it were not for poor kicking by the latter, this could easily have been another defeat.

It is not known who 'Varsity played in the final as records from this period are sketchy, but from results appearing in *The Register* it is likely to have been either Glenferrie or Henley and Grange.

Players who consistently appeared in the best player lists during the season were H.G. Prest, G.M. Hone, T.W. Tassie, A.S. de B. Cocks, I.C. Barton, H.L. Davie, W.M.C. Symonds, D. Le R. Boucaut and E.H. Johncock with the prolific goal scorers being Tassie, L.T. Gun and E.J. Swann.

## 1922

The Premiership match against Semaphore Central was very close with 'Varsity winning by eleven points, 9.9 to 8.4. Best players in this game were W.M.C. Symonds, A.S. de B. Cocks, H.G. Prest, D.J.R. Sumner, C.K. Haskard, T.D. Finney and E.H. Johncock, with goals being scored by D.J.R. Sumner, N.S. Gunning, W.M.C. Symonds, C. Koerner and Hone. It was noted in the *Adelaide University Magazine* that this match was poorly patronised by the students in general.

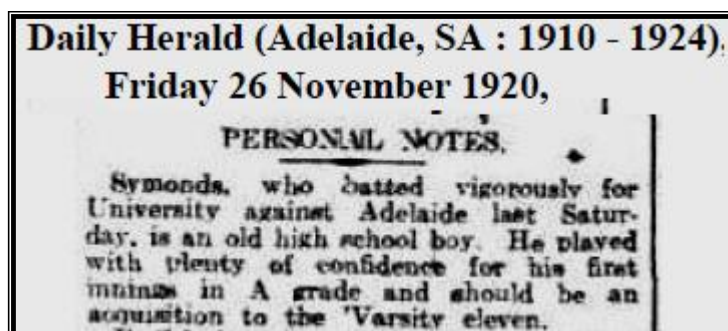
H.G. Prest had an outstanding season and won the Naylor Medal which was awarded to the fairest and best player in Amateur League. Other players who performed consistently well were H.L. Davie, D.J.R. Sumner, W.M.C. Symonds, C.E. Willing, G.M. Hone, T.D. Finney and A.S. de B. Cocks, with the most prolific goal scorer being D.J.R. Sumner.





## Adelaide University Sport - Cricket

Wybert played for the Adelaide University Cricket Club from 1920/21 until 1922/23. A genuine all rounder he was a fine medium pace/off spin bowler and hard hitting batsman who could fill in any position in the batting order.



In his first season Wybert scored a fifty in the match against Adelaide in November 1920 and in the December Intervarsity match in Melbourne he took 6 wickets with his medium pace bowling. His highest score was 56 not out in 1921/22.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954)	
Saturday 20 November 1920, page 3	
<b>UNIVERSITY V. ADELAIDE.</b>	
University easily succeeded in reaching Adelaide's total of 226. The most pleasing feature of the students' batting was the success of the colt Jose. This young player has not had the best of luck for some time past, and his fine score of 60 should be an aid to greater efforts. There are few more pleasing batsmen than the young 'Varsity player when in form. He unfolds beautiful on-side strokes and can hit that ball over cover's head to the boundary on the first hop—a really very fine shot, undertaken only by accomplished batsmen. Don Steele made 37 in his usual accomplished style. I should not be surprised to see the young South Australian captain amass one or two centuries during the trip east. His form is very fine this season. Another young player in Symonds made 32. He is to be congratulated on his best performance to date in these matches. Pain, with 4 for 33, bowled best for the city team, and he was well supported by keen fielding. The city men went to the wickets for a second try and notched 37 without loss. University won by 39 runs.	
<b>UNIVERSITY.</b>	
First Innings.	
W. B. Shanasy, c. and b. Pain .. .. .	39
W. White, b. Whiting .. .. .	1
J. E. Jose, b. Whiting .. .. .	60
L. V. Pellew, c. Lee, b. Pain .. .. .	12
D. M. Steele, b. Pain .. .. .	37
H. Frost, b. McCarron .. .. .	13
H. Treloar, st. Winnet, b. Hodder .. .. .	39
F. D. Finney, c. and b. Pain .. .. .	1
W. Symonds, c. Pain, b. Ardill .. .. .	33
H. M. Fisher, n.o. .. .. .	3
J. Willing, c. and b. Ardill .. .. .	6
Sundries .. .. .	15
Total .. .. .	265
Bowling—McCarron 1/45, Whiting 2/65, Pain 4/66, Gurr 0/21, Hodder 0/8, Ardill 1/32, Lee 2/16.	

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 17 December 1920, page 7	
<b>INTER 'VARSITY CRICKET.</b>	
<b>SUCCESS OF ADELAIDE TEAM.</b>	
<b>MELBOURNE, December 16.</b>	
The cricket match between the Adelaide and Melbourne University teams was continued to-day, when the home side resumed its innings. The bowling of Symonds and Fisher was too good for the Melbourne men, and the innings closed for 148. Symonds, a medium-paced off-break bowler, secured the good average of 6 for 67. With a lead of nearly 100 runs, the Adelaide men went for the bowling in their second innings, and when Dr. D. M. Steele declared, the score stood at 227 for the loss of only three wickets. L. V. Pellew, the cashing young interstate player, who celebrated his twenty-first birthday on Wednesday, marked the event with an attractive innings of 84. The match will be resumed to-morrow, when the Adelaide men will leave on their return home. Scores:—	
<b>ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.</b>	
First Innings .. .. .	261
—Second Innings—	
Pellew, st. Hall, b. Freemantle .. .. .	84
White, b. Eltham .. .. .	9
Willing, c. Bailey, b. Jorgensen .. .. .	74
Jose, not out .. .. .	60
Don, not out .. .. .	8
Sundries .. .. .	12
Total for 3 wickets (innings declared) 226	
Bowling.—Freemantle, 1 for 64; Eltham, 1 for 32; Jorgensen, 1 for 37.	
<b>MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.</b>	
—First Innings—	
Bailey, l.b.w., b. Symonds .. .. .	16
L. Freemantle, c. White, b. Symonds .. .. .	9
Stewart, run out .. .. .	22
N. Freemantle, l.b.w., b. Symonds .. .. .	29
May, b. Symonds .. .. .	3
Jorgensen, st. Willing, b. Symonds .. .. .	28
Geddes, c. White, b. Fisher .. .. .	11
Mitchell, not out .. .. .	16
Eltham, c. Gore, b. Fisher .. .. .	15
Freeman, b. Symonds .. .. .	0
Hall, b. Fisher .. .. .	0
Sundries .. .. .	4
Total .. .. .	144
Bowling.—Symonds, 6 for 67; Fisher, 3 for 58.	

One of Wybert's good friends was George Rayner Fuller who had also attended Adelaide High School before WW1 and was a team mate both at AHS and in the University cricket team. Fuller, after gaining an Honours BSc degree (majoring in Physics), became a demonstrator (1921 - 1926), lecturer (1927 - 1949) and senior lecturer (1950 - 63) in the physics department and would spend over forty years (1921 - 1963) at the University of Adelaide. Fuller would later play a mentoring role for a member of the Symonds family.

Wybert played both A and B Grade for the cricket Club. His most successful season was in the 1921/22 season when he averaged 27.6 runs per innings with the bat and headed the bowling averages with 7 wickets at 19.7 runs per wicket. He was a member of the 1920 and 1921 Intervarsity Teams playing against Melbourne and Sydney Universities respectively.

The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA)

Thu 14 Apr 1921

UNIVERSITY.

Batting.				
	Inn.	N.O.	H.S.	Runs.
G. E. Jose .. ..	7	—	251	397
L. T. Gun .. ..	5	2	214*	393
H. G. Prest .. ..	7	—	129	164
W. G. Fuller .. ..	5	1	64	107
W. R. Coleman ..	5	—	67	98
J. H. Edwards ..	5	1	28*	70
H. Treloar .. ..	8	1	29	122
W. B. Shanasy ..	8	—	33	129
G. C. Evans .. ..	6	1	31	65
W. Symonds .. ..	6	—	53	77
T. Finney .. ..	6	1	96	51
W. White .. ..	4	—	17	95

Also Batted.—D. M. Steele, 68, 57; L. V. Pellew, 49, 12; J. Willing, 0, 29; H. M. Fisher, 15\*, 3\*; J. Astley, 8\*, 0; A. White, 6, 0; J. Gilman, 12; P. Ohlstrom, 11.

Bowling.				
	O.	M.	Runs.	Wkts.
Colman .. ..	17	—	95	5
Fisher .. ..	44	4	326	15
White .. ..	14	1	118	5
Jose .. ..	32	1	232	9
Symonds .. ..	13	1	129	5
Evans .. ..	24	—	228	7
Gun .. ..	34	1	205	6
Finney .. ..	48	2	344	5

Also Batted.—L. V. Pellew, one for 139; P. Ohlstrom, one for 16; W. B. Shanasy, one for 61; J. H. Edwards, none for 85; H. G. Prest, none for 29; W. White, none for 22.

The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922)

Mon 3 Apr 1922 Page 3

UNIVERSITY.

Batting.

	Inn.	H.S.	Td.	N.O.	Avg.
L. V. Pellew .. ..	14	111	505	1	33.3
H. G. Prest .. ..	4	55*	113	1	37.6
T. D. Finney .. ..	10	91	356	1	35.1
G. E. Jose .. ..	11	90	384	0	34.9
L. T. Gun .. ..	13	119*	323	3	32.5
W. W. Symonds ..	8	56*	168	2	27.6
B. H. Bednall ..	6	51	165	0	27.5
C. E. Willing ..	5	45	82	1	23.5
W. R. Coleman ..	3	30	55	0	18.3
M. W. Bednall ..	6	43	104	0	17.3
A. B. Barker ..	12	52	174	0	14.2
H. V. Pridmore ..	5	50	58	1	14.5
H. M. Fisher ..	7	25	92	0	13.1
R. T. Smith ..	6	25*	61	2	12.2
E. J. Harbison ..	4	13*	32	1	10.6
J. F. Astley ..	13	31	91	4	10.1
E. J. Swann ..	5	17	42	0	8.4

\* Not out.

Also batted—L. S. Walsh, 81\*; P. A. Ohlstrom, 14\* and 18; O. L. Ziegler, 15; C. B. Culross, 7; C. Evans, 0.

Bowling.

	Runs.	Wkts.	Avg.
W. M. Symonds ..	138	7	19.7
E. J. Harbison ..	90	4	22.2
H. M. Fisher ..	311	8	25.3
J. F. Astley ..	552	18	30.6
R. V. Pridmore ..	279	7	39.8
L. T. Gun ..	372	8	46.5
B. H. Bednall ..	154	3	51.3

Also bowled—W. R. Coleman, one for 14; E. J. Swann, one for 57; L. V. Pellew, two for 220; T. D. Finney, one for 113; C. E. Willing, none for 36; A. B. Barker, none for 33; O. L. Ziegler, none for 21; G. E. Jose, none for 103; N. A. Walsh, none for 29; H. G. Prest, none for 10.

## 1921 Intervarsity Team



By the 1922/1923 season he was finding it harder to find spare time for his beloved summer sport and only managed to play a couple of matches in the A Grade side.

UNIVERSITY.					
Batting.					
	Inn.	N.O.	R.S.	Agg.	Avg.
Pellew, L. V. . . . .	11	—	158	490	44.54
Gun . . . . .	14	1	73	415	31.92
Barker . . . . .	11	1	54	230	23
Ohlstrom . . . . .	7	—	90	158	22.57
Bednall, M. W. . . . .	4	—	31	90	22.50
Pridmore . . . . .	5	1	71*	88	22
Bednall, B. H. . . . .	4	—	35	81	20.25
Krantz, S. . . . .	4	1	26	53	18
Fisher . . . . .	13	—	46	231	17.76
Piney . . . . .	13	1	44	208	17.33
Jones . . . . .	4	—	60	67	16.75
Prest . . . . .	8	1	61*	108	15.42
Treloar . . . . .	5	2	22*	39	13
Astley . . . . .	12	2	24	191	10.1
Matthews . . . . .	4	—	15	37	9.25
Harbison . . . . .	6	2	19	21	7.75
Smith . . . . .	5	2	12*	21	7
Also batted.—Krantz, R., 1, 0, 45; Fuller, 11, 1 0; Symonds, 25, 2*; Ingleby, 0, 12; Boucaut, 1, 0*; Willing, 0.					
Bowling.					
	O.	M.	R.	W.	Avg.
Pridmore . . . . .	87.1	2	155	14	11.07
Harbison . . . . .	79.7	7	251	16	15.68
Fisher . . . . .	170.7	10	728	45	16.17
Ohlstrom . . . . .	81.6	12	312	14	22.28
Pellew . . . . .	38.1	5	118	5	23.60
Gun . . . . .	62.4	1	210	7	30
Astley . . . . .	99.6	8	440	12	36.66
Piney . . . . .	45	2	187	5	27.20
Also bowled.—Jones, 2 for 10; Prest, 1 for 41; Symonds, 1 for 44; S. Krantz, 0 for 6; R. Krantz, 0 for 9; Fuller, 0 for 9; M. W. Bednall, 0 for 18; Matthews, 0 for 15; Barker, 0 for 20; B. H. Bednall, 0 for 29.					

1922/23 Season Statistics

## Marriage

Wybert first met Daphne Jean White (Jean was her preferred name) at Adelaide High School in 1914 where she had also attended as a pupil/teacher. She was the daughter of Joseph Hills White, a carpenter and Mary White (née Lloyd).



Joseph Hills White (1869 - 1937) and Mary White (1866 - 1949)

In 1914, 15 year old Jean was a Junior Teacher at the Hindmarsh School. In 1916, she was the girls head prefect and Wybert, the boys head prefect. There had been very little chance for interaction between the girls and boys during school hours as walls separated them. Some lads however, would meet and walk with the girls and perhaps offer to carry their school bag after school. Some early friendships started this way, however Wybert was apparently a shy individual and was not game enough to approach any of the girls.

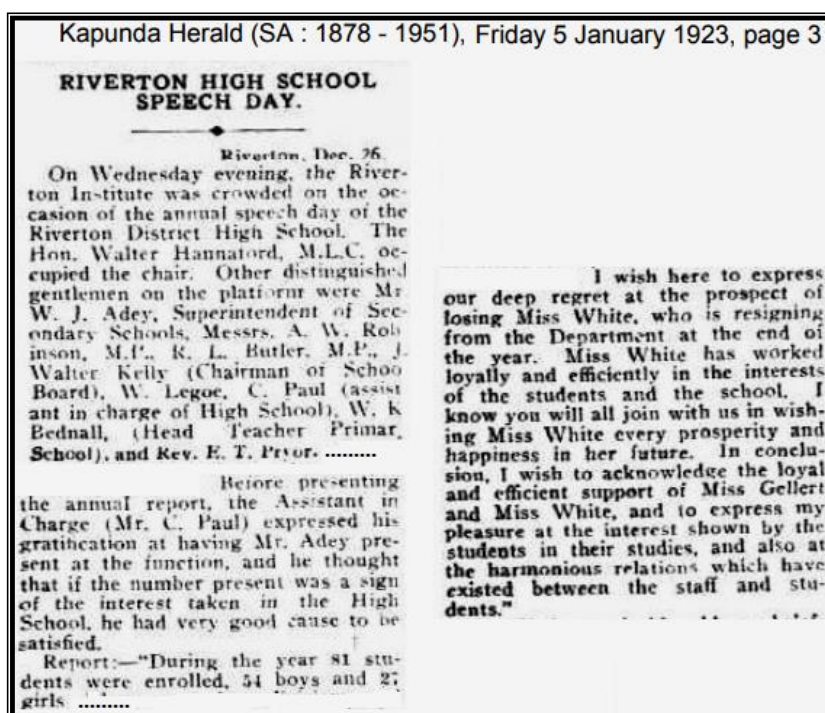


Finally, after an Old Scholars social in the School Hall, they were waiting at the tram stop and Wybert finally plucked up the courage to approach Jean and asked if he could accompany her home. The answer was YES; despite the fact that another lad had also been keen on Jean that evening. That single question and positive response changed the course of both their lives and so began a wonderful lifelong relationship.

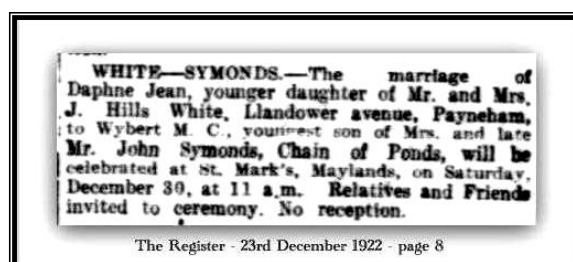
In 1917, while attending Teachers College and on the staff at Adelaide High School, Jean also studied music (singing). She attended Adelaide University in 1918 and 1919 passing some subjects in the Faculty of Arts. This all became too demanding for her and eventually Jean discontinued her study towards a degree. A period of separation from Wybert followed when he enlisted and embarked for overseas service. It was a testing time for both.

After Wybert returned from WW1, the relationship blossomed further and they became engaged in 1921. During the courtship he often took Jean in the sidecar of the Red Indian motor cycle up the North East Road to the family home at Chain of Ponds.

Jean and Wybert were separated again for a while in 1922 when she was posted to Riverton High School, however at the end of the year she resigned her position and returned to Adelaide. She had been a highly regarded member of the staff.



On the 30th December 1922 Wybert and Jean married at St Mark's Church, Maylands.



## Kuipto Forest School

The years 1923 and 1924 were extremely busy for Wybert. Jean, having resigned from the Education Department to get married was able to provide him with invaluable support. In addition to teaching duties at Adelaide High School

and University studies, during the summer he continued running the courses at the Kuitpo Forestry School. He also was often away from home having to spend a lot of time as part of his practical work in forestry. This experience added to his expertise in conducting the 10 day forest school courses for High School students.

The Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923)  
Wed 14 Feb 1923 / Page 3

## FORESTRY STUDENTS.

### Ministerial Visit to Kuitpo.

The Minister of Education (Hon. T. Pascoe), accompanied by the Director of Education and the Superintendent of Secondary Education, visited Kuitpo Forest on Tuesday to inspect a forest school of 25 lads from the Norwood High School, which is being conducted by Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, a trained teacher specially qualified for this work. The camp is a large structure made from the timber of the forest, and is divided into a dormitory to accommodate 30 students, two masters' rooms, and a large dining room. Adjacent to this building are a kitchen, cook's quarters, and a storehouse. It was constructed in 1916, but it was not put into use until late in 1921. The building has been equipped by the Government, and classes have been arranged from various high schools to attend a 10 days' course. The course of instruction, which was drawn up by Mr. H. H. Corbin, B.Sc., Consulting Forester, includes botany, mensuration, mapping and plane table work, elementary meteorology, and forestry. The pupils pay £1 towards the expenses, and the Government makes up the deficiency.

The Symonds welcomed a son (John Lloyd Symonds), born at Maylands, South Australia prior to Christmas in 1923.

SYMONDS	John	23-Dec-1923	M	Wybert	Daphne	Maylands	Norwood	127A/576
	Lloyd			Milton	Jean			
				Caust	WHITE			
				SYMONDS				

genealogysa.org.au

Wybert continued in his role at Kuitpo for several years and in 1925 wrote an article for the *Register* Newspaper.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)  
Tue 21 Jul 1925 / Page 3

## FORESTRY CAMPS.

### VALUABLE WORK AMONG SCHOOL-BOYS.

By W. M. C. Symonds, B.Sc., in The Education Gazette, July 15.

The Kuitpo Forestry Camps were inaugurated with a view of stimulating a deeper interest in forestry among the secondary schoolboys in South Australia. It has been customary with us to destroy the natural forests, which are our heritage, without due consideration for the needs of posterity. In the atmosphere of the forest the boys learn to appreciate it in all its relations to the State—economically—for its direct and indirect value, and aesthetically for the pleasure it gives. It is thus that they desire to protect it against the vandalism of those who indiscriminately fell or burn large areas annually. It is hoped that the camps of 300 boys yearly will exert such an influence on a large section of our people as will show to them the real value of our forests, and the consequent need for adequate protection and extension of our timber resources.

The following is a list of schools and the numbers who have attended the Kuitpo Forestry School:—Woodville High School, 26 attended; Adelaide High School, 24; Unley High School, 25; St. Peter's College, 22; Norwood High School, 24; Gawler High School, 20; Port Pirie High School, 30; Mount Gambier High School, 27; total, 198.



## Norwood Football Club

After having been an outstanding footballer playing for University from 1920 - 1922, it was not surprising that a league club would be after his services. In 1923, after playing in the Norwood B team early in the season, he was promoted to the league team after only a few matches.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 21 September 1923, page 11

### COMING CHAMPION

#### Symonds' Fine Play

### HIS FIRST YEAR

W. Symonds, who played a brilliant game for Norwood last Saturday, impressed critics in no small measure. He started football in 1914, when he played for the Adelaide High School. In the two ensuing years he captained the team, and played well.

Born at Chain of Ponds, he received his early education at the local school and came to the Adelaide High School. Symonds went through the student classes there. Returning from the front, he figured as a rover for the University in 1920 until 1922.

At the beginning of this year Symonds began to play with the Norwood B's in a few test matches, and then stepped into the A's, where he has shown wonderful form.

Owing to the redlegs having many players fitted for the position of rover, Symonds has been used as a wingman, in which capacity Norwood have been weak.

He is a sure mark, a fast and clever ground player, and many consider him the most accurate stab kick in the team. Occasionally Symonds makes trips in connection with his teaching profession to Kiunto Forest to receive instruction in forestry. He is confident in his team.



**W. Symonds**

Best man on the ground for Norwood last Saturday.

National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article129845512>

Remarkably he played in a premiership in his first season when Norwood defeated North Adelaide in the Grand Final. Wybert was in the best players on the wing for the Redlegs.

In 1923 Norwood again finished top but with a slightly inferior record to the previous year, 11 wins 2 losses and 1 draw. Again the defence came to the fore; in 1923 they conceded an average of 57.2 points

#### GRAND FINAL 1923

Venue: Adelaide Oval

Umpire: A A Raven

Crowd: 37,000

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts
Norwood	4-3	6-8	7-9	9-12	66
North	2-1	4-1	5-1	6-4	40

Date: 29 September 1923 Win by 26 points

Best: B Schumacher, A Lill, W Potts, W Symonds, P Lee, E Wadham, W.Scott, G Stephens.

Goalkickers : P Lee 3 E Wadham 2 W Burns 2 L Mutton C Hepburn

Coach: T Leahy

F E.Wadham B.Scott (vc) W.Burns  
 HF S.Sibley P.Lee W.Heinrich  
 C C.Hepburn A.Lill W.Symonds  
 HB S.White (c) W.Scott G.Stephens  
 B L.Mutton S.Ackland R.Plunkett  
 Followers W.Potts H.Grantley B.Schumacher

In all Wybert played 98 games for Norwood including two premierships (1923 and 1925) and was awarded a Player Long Service Certificate in 1927.

## REDLEGS MUSEUM

HISTORY OF THE NORWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB

**Wybert SYMONDS**

**STATISTICS**

Guernsey Number: 6, 22  
 Career: 1923 to 1929  
 NFC Games: 98  
 NFC Goals: 12  
 Debut: v Sturt (Norwood) 5th May 1923  
 Finale: v West Adelaide (Wayville) 25th May 1929

Premierships: 1923, 1925


Wybert Symonds was an outstanding player in a period when the Norwood teams of the day included some of the club's all-time greats. Players such as Syd Ackland, Alec Bent, Alick Lill, Tiger Potts, Wacka Scott, Ern Wadham and Sid White, were just some of the star he played with; Symonds making his League debut on the same day as Lill.

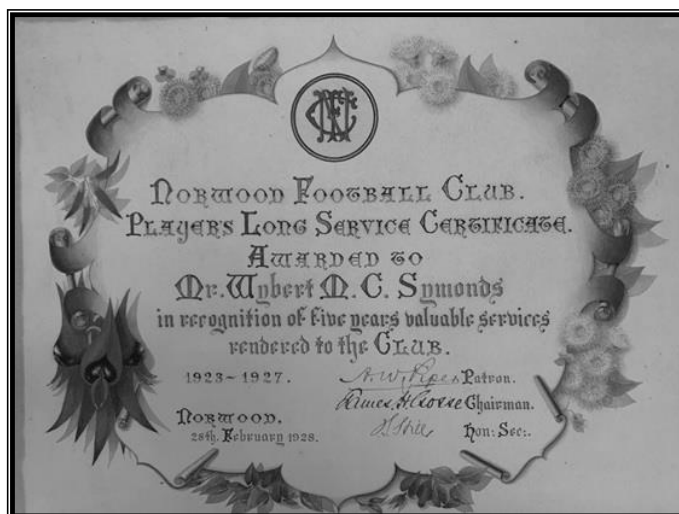
In his time at the club, Norwood won three Premierships and were in the finals on three other occasions. One of the state's best wingmen throughout his career, Symonds was high in Norwood's best players in both the 1923 and 1925 Grand Final wins.

Noted for his pace and dash, "Will" as he was known, was selected to play on a wing for the South Australian second team that travelled to Broken Hill in 1925. The game, which South Australia lost, was played against the Barrier Ranges Football Association on the Jubilee Oval.

A teacher at Adelaide High School, Symonds retired from league footy when he was appointed headmaster of Kapunda High School in 1929. He was the first old scholar of Adelaide Boys High School to become its Principal. He retired in 1962.

R Cialini Dec 2013





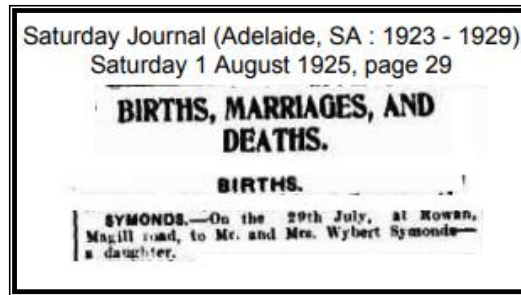
After finishing playing cricket with Adelaide University, Wybert resumed playing for the Spicer Memorial Church team in the Churches Competition. In the 1924/25 Season, He made 490 runs at an average of 49.

News (Adelaide, SA: 1923 - 1954)

Thu 13 Aug 1925 / Page 5 / CHURCH CRICKET

**In B grade No. 2 All Saints topped the list. W. Symonds, of Spicer Memorial, had the best batting figures with 490 runs, 10 innings, average 49; B. Ellery, of Goodwood Methodist, with 492 runs, average 32.8, being second. W. Fails, of All Saints, obtained the bowling honors with 33 wickets for 120 runs, average 5.75, followed by D. Wing, of the same club, with 43 wickets for an average of 6.83.**

On 29th July 1925 the Symonds welcomed their second child, a daughter (Rachel Jean Symonds).

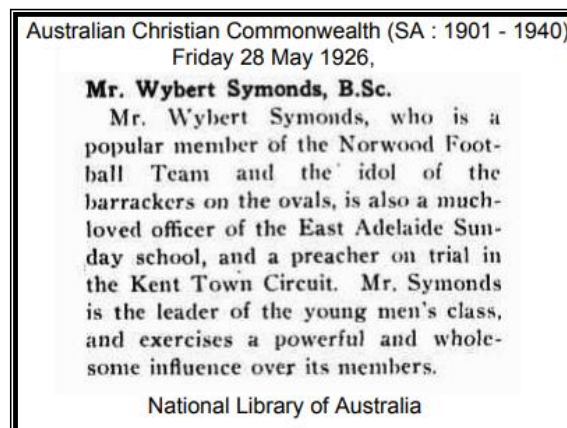


In the summer months, Wybert was still involved with the Forest School at Kuipto and Jean, John and the new baby joined him there, accommodated in a little cottage nearby. Sometimes he oversaw some harvesting of trees, providing a great experience for the lads. On occasions, Wybert and the students were visited by Government officials and during one course, the famous Antarctic explorer and Geologist, Sir Douglas Mawson addressed the boys. Altogether Wybert ran the Kuipto courses for six years (1922 -28).

During his University years studying forestry, Wybert was required for five weeks in his summer holidays to travel to forest plantations all over Australia. In addition, the ten days at Kuipto added pressure on Jean who was spending time on her own with the two young children.

In 1924 Wybert and Jean purchased a 32.5 acre property at Mount Gambier for £70. The opportunity presented itself during a visit by a school inspector to the Kuipto Forest School. The gentleman had previously been a headmaster at Mount Gambier High School and mentioned that there was land for sale in an area suitable to grow pines. Although it left the family almost penniless, the purchase began a lifelong interest and hobby in a profitable pinus plantation. Over the years when the pines reached maturity, it would then provide the Symonds family with additional revenue to supplement the meager income paid by the Education Department. It periodically gave them the means to afford a few more amenities and ensured their children could be provided with better opportunities in their educational pursuits.

After the War, Wybert had continued with his strong commitment to the Church as an officer of the East Adelaide Sunday School and a preacher (on trial) in the Kent Town Circuit. He also was instrumental in organising groups of young men who met on Sundays as a study group and formed a club that gathered in the city on Monday evenings.



In September 1926 Wybert was one of the staff members who accompanied the Adelaide High sporting teams to Victoria for the annual contests against Melbourne High School. In the 1926/27 season he resumed playing cricket in the South Australian Cricket Association competition for East Torrens in B Grade. In November he also gave a talk on "Forestry" to the 1st College Park Scout Group.

## INTER-STATE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS.

The boys' sports team which represented the Adelaide High School, in competitions with the Melbourne High School in Melbourne, returned to Adelaide on Saturday. Adelaide won the football match by 5 goals, and the tennis by five rubbers to four. Melbourne, with an average of 97, defeated Adelaide (average 90) in the rifle shooting, and the Melbourne boys also won the rowing. The Adelaide party was accompanied by Messrs. C. M. Ward (vice-principal), R. A. Potter (sports master), W. M. C. Symonds, and D. A. David.

## Latest Notes from Practice Nets

Thu 4 Nov 1926 / Page 10

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954)

## EAST TORRENS

W. Symonds, who figured with prominence as a footballer with the Norwood Club, batted in fine style for the B team on Saturday. He contributed 84, the highest for the side.

## The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)

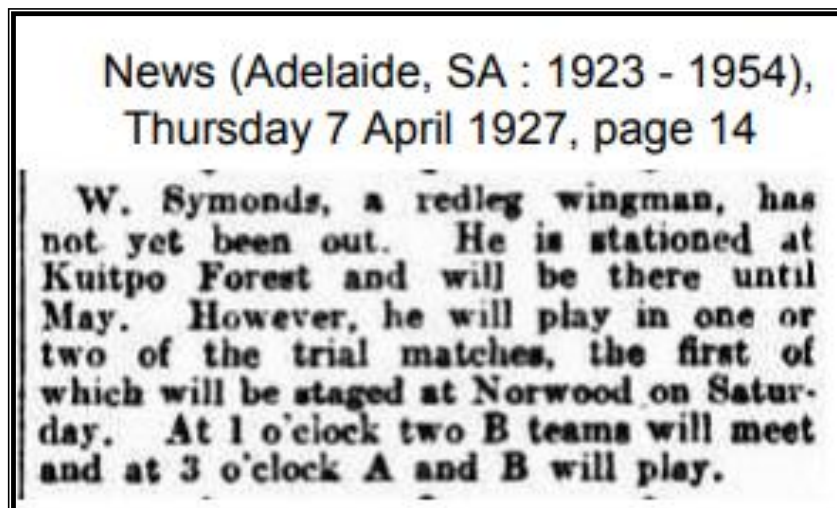
Wed 24 Nov 1926

### Forestry.

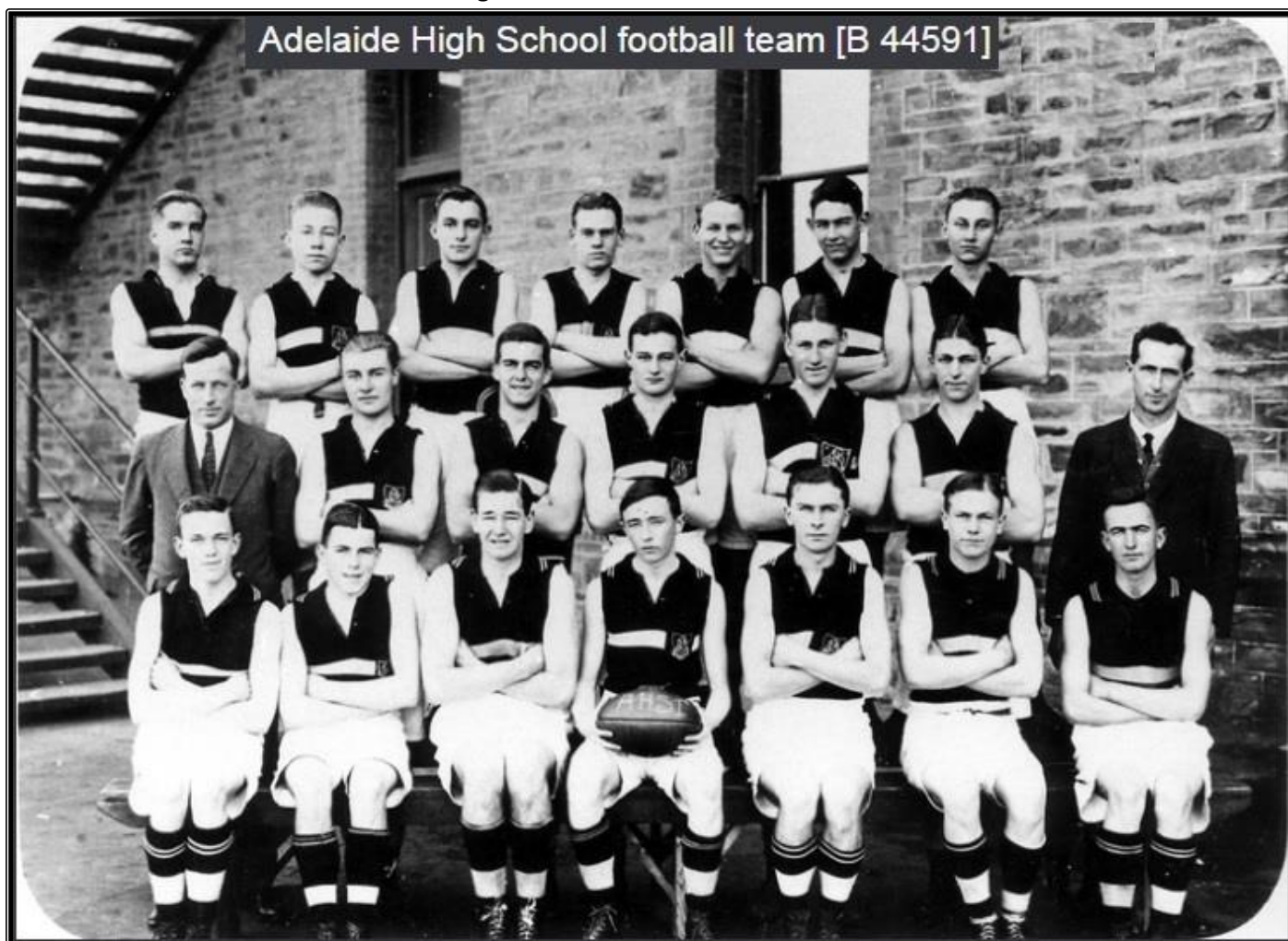
At the usual weekly meeting of the 1st College Park Troop on Friday evening, Mr. Wybert Symonds, the well-known Norwood footballer and East Torrens cricketer, gave a very interesting talk on "Forestry," to a large attendance of members of the troop and representatives from other troops in the district. The proceedings opened with camp fire items. Mr. Symonds then spoke on the giant trees of Western Australia and Victoria, and pointed out the thoughtless destruction that is carried out and the immense loss that occurs by bush fires, and urged caution at scout camps. Mention was made of the wealth timber produced, and the urgent necessity to repair waste by systematic replanting. Mr. Symonds mentioned that the Melbourne High Schools were actively interesting themselves in planting and attending to forest nurseries, which in time would produce large sums of money, which could be utilized in the education of working students. In Tasmania, where the State Commissioner of the Boy Scout movement also holds the position of Conservator of Forests, the Tasmanian Boy Scouts have a permanent camping ground and forest nursery on Mount Wellington, under the supervision of the Forestry Department. The boys always do some work in the nursery when they camp there. They have undertaken to re-afforest Mount Wellington, the work of years.



By 1927 Wybert was continuing to find it difficult to continue with all his sporting activities, but was still actively involved with the football team at Adelaide High School.



Adelaide High School First XVIII Football Team c 1927



After 1928 the Kuitpo Forestry School was discontinued due to a lack of funding as the Great Depression started to take hold. Wybert was offered a position with the Department of Forestry, however both he and Jean favoured "growing young students than growing young trees". Continuing his career in education (with the valuable support of Jean) was the pathway they chose. So began their journey together, which would see them at five country high schools before a return to city life.

## Kapunda High School

Wybert's teaching and sporting career would change significantly when in December 1928 he was appointed to be the headmaster at Kapunda High School for the New Year. The school's homestead style building and substantial grounds had been donated to the Education Department in 1921 by Sir Sydney Kidman - "The Cattle King".

By early 1929, the Symonds family had departed from their comfortable Jarrett Street Maylands home and travelled by train to Kapunda. Jean was now expecting a third child and on arrival they found that the headmaster's accommodation left a lot to be desired and was in need of substantial repairs. Later they were able to move into a much nicer home which had formerly been the Kidman manager's residence.

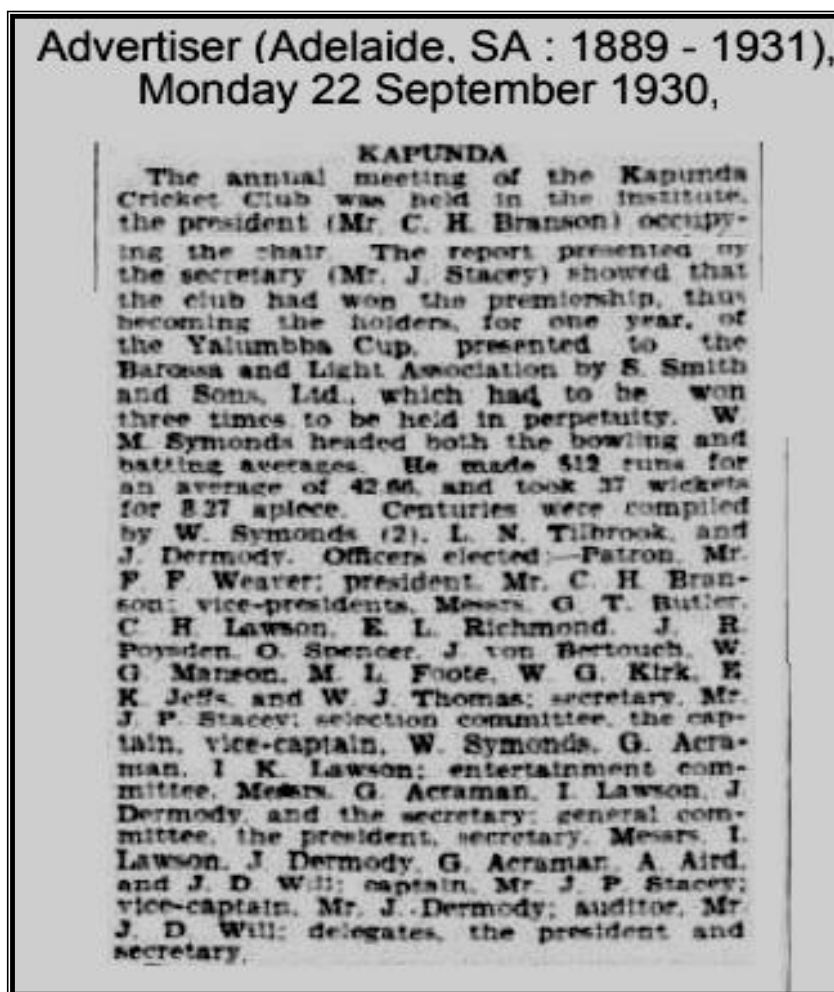
The 60 student Kapunda High School provided the first four years of secondary education and only had positions for a headmaster and one other teacher. The school currently lacked any specialised teacher to adequately prepare students through to Leaving (Matriculation) standard. The only other permanent staff member taught commercial subjects, so Wybert was required to be a very hands on teacher as well as attending to his headmaster duties. At least the broad range of subjects that he had studied at high school and university gave him a competency level to teach most of the required arts and science subjects.

With the Education Department purse strings now even more constrained by the impact of the "Great Depression", Wybert found his salary cut by 22½%. Further additional teaching resources were also unlikely, but fortunately Jean volunteered to give un-paid help to students with their Maths and Latin. She also became the driving force behind the formation of a Parents and Friends Association. Jean would continue to provide great support to Wybert in school and community activities throughout his career. Wybert and Jean knew how important it was to knit the school and community together. Their involvement with local Church and sporting clubs was very beneficial to foster this connection. It also helped make important contacts in the town and surrounding districts.

The Norwood Football Club was still keen for Wybert to continue with them for the 1929 football season; however coming down each weekend from Kapunda to play football was not practical and did not last. Wybert retired from league football for Norwood early that season, with his last game being against West Adelaide on 25th May 1929. He was just two games short of 100 games, but there were other priorities now.



The Symonds family soon became respected members of the Kapunda community, participating in many church (Wybert as a Lay Preacher), sporting and social activities. After finishing with Norwood early in 1929, Wybert continued to play football for Kapunda and helped them win that season's premiership. He also played cricket and in the 1929/30 season Wybert had headed both the team batting and bowling averages, with the team also taking out the Barossa and Light Association title.



Another daughter (Ruth Caust Symonds) was born on 27th June 1929 during the family's first year in Kapunda.

Although the results from the students were sound, coping with all the teaching demands was extremely difficult with a very heavy responsibility falling on Wybert. Fortunately a request to Mr. Adey, the head of the Education Department, was looked upon favourably and later in the year a competent Maths and Latin teacher was provided to take over from the less qualified member of staff. The new teacher, Miss Eleanor May Slade had been taught previously by Jean at Adelaide High School. The school also had assistants who taught woodwork and cooking. By 1931 Kapunda High School had a permanent full-time teaching staff of three in addition to the headmaster. A very competent teacher, Ivan Coward joined the staff in 1930 and he would later become a headmaster at Norwood High School.

After three years as Headmaster of Kapunda High School, Wybert was transferred to Renmark Agricultural High School. Mr. and Mrs. Symonds were given a farewell social. The years at Kapunda had been an initiation to a new way of life and good preparation for the future which would include several more country appointments. The moves were a challenge for the children, being uprooted and needing to make new friends each time.



Mr. J. E. Moyle, A.C.U.A., headmaster of the Renmark District Agricultural High School, has been promoted to the Adelaide High School as special senior master. He has been in Renmark for 12 months. Before coming to Renmark Mr. Moyle was headmaster of the Moonta High School, and he has had many years' experience in the department. He served as assistant teacher at the Hindmarsh High School, prior to the opening of the Woodville High School, to which he was afterwards transferred. From there he enlisted in the A.I.F. and returned to take up his position at the same school. In 1920 Mr. Moyle was appointed senior commercial master to the same school, remaining there until 1923, when he was promoted to the position of headmaster at the Moonta High School. From there he came to Renmark at the beginning of this year.

Mr. W. Symonds, B.Sc., of the Kapunda High School, will succeed Mr. Moyle at Renmark.

Kapunda Herald (SA : 1878 - 1951), Friday 25 December 1931, page 2

**FAREWELL SOCIAL TO MR. AND MRS. W. M. SYMONDS.**

A farewell social to Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Symonds, who are leaving Kapunda for Renmark, was held in the Methodist Lecture Hall on Monday evening, when there was a representative gathering, not only of church people, but of others representing the different activities with which Mr. and Mrs. Symonds have been associated during their three years' sojourn in Kapunda, during which time Mr. Symonds has been in charge of the High School. Mr. Symonds particularly has taken an active interest in town affairs, and has rendered valuable assistance to many of our institutions. Mrs. Symonds, also, so far as her home duties would permit, has given her time and influence in furthering the interests of various bodies, mainly those connected with the young people of the community.

Although the social on Monday evening was somewhat hurriedly arranged, owing to the proximity of the Christmas holidays, there was an excellent attendance, and a happy time resulted. The Rev. W. J. Bailey (Methodist minister), who presided, said he regretted having to meet in a farewell to their guests. He thought it would be much siver if such functions could be tendered to their friends in the middle of their stay instead of at the end of it, to show their esteem. Many other associations were represented there that evening besides the Methodist Church, as it was felt that a combined effort to bid farewell to their guests would be preferable to a number of smaller functions.

Short addresses were given by the following:—Mr. H. Hughes (on behalf of the High School Council and the Floricultural Society); Mr. W. Muirhead (Institute Committee); Mr. J. Stacey (Cricket club); Mr. C. H. Branson (Football club); Mr. R. H. Hughes (Returned Soldiers' Association); Mr. S. Hitchens (H.S. Old Scholars' Association); Mr. D. L. Clarke (Methodist Churches over the range); Mr. E. Clarke (young men of the Church), and Miss M. Clarke (Methodist Young People's Guild). The Rev. W. J. Bailey referred to Mr. Symonds' excellent work in connection with the Methodist Church, particularly as a local preacher, and on behalf of church friends presented him with a loose-leaf Bible. Mr. H. Hughes made presentations to Mr. and Mrs. Symonds on behalf of the different organisations represented at the social. Mr. S. Hitchens also presented Mr. Symonds with a token of esteem from the Old Scholars' Association; and on behalf of the Methodist Young People's Guild, Miss M. Clarke made a presentation to Mrs. Symonds. Both Mr. and Mrs. Symonds feelingly thanked the speakers for their remarks and also for the gifts.

The addresses were interspersed with musical items, contributed by the following:—Overture, Miss M. Clarke; songs, Mrs. H. L. Haines, Mrs. T. R. Letcher, Miss R. Trevenn, and Mr. J. Christie; recitation, Mr. C. H. Branson; violin solo, Mr. W. Talbot. The accompanists were Mrs. S. A. B. Oats, Misses M. Oats and M. Clarke. "For they are jolly good fellows" was sung, and supper brought a pleasant function to a close.



## Renmark Agricultural High School

Prior to moving to Renmark, the family decided to take a holiday to the beach in a rented house at Seacliff. The pleasant conditions by the seaside became a stark contrast to the weather endured during their train trip to the Riverland. On through the Murray Mallee, the temperature reached an official high of 116 degrees Fahrenheit (46.7 degrees Centigrade), but was probably higher inside the coach. It was the worst journey the family had endured. On arriving exhausted at their destination, they found their furniture and other possessions had still to be collected from storage; having been previously shipped from Kapunda to Renmark. Also there was no cot to be found for infant Ruth. Fortunately their new neighbour, the local Methodist Minister, kindly invited the Symonds in for an evening meal.

It had been an unpleasant journey to the Riverland, but the next day was worse, when the temperature reached 120 degrees Fahrenheit and there were no luxuries such as a refrigerator to provide a cooling drink. The two days of extreme heat were followed by a swirling red dust storm and then by the predictable thunderstorm that produced a deluge of "red mud".

The tales of woe continued when they found themselves sharing their house, corridors and bathroom with strangers; boarders who the owner had previously let rooms to. During the Depression there were many itinerant fruit pickers in the area trying to make a go of it. Accommodation was in demand, but it was not fair that the home provided for the headmaster would be used as a boarding house to all sorts. One hot day after riding his bike home from the school and finding one of the lodgers using the bathroom, it all came to a head and after a confrontation Wybert gave them notice to leave within a week. Thereafter the family would have their home and privacy to themselves. The following year the family moved into a new brick house with ample space and water on tap in the summer to be able to raise a nice garden.

## Sport in the Riverland

Wybert's sporting reputation followed him to Renmark and his prowess was in demand. He was now in his mid-thirties, but had kept himself very fit by continuing to play sport and riding his bike. Soon he became involved with the local football team and was appointed captain/coach. This brought immediate success to the club.



Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record  
(Renmark, SA : 1913 - 1942)  
Thu 26 May 1932 / Page 8


**ROVERS' LEADERS**

Before the match against Walkerie at Cobdogla on Saturday Renmark Rovers elected W. M. C. Symonds to captain them with L. Lock as his lieutenant.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954)  
Thu 6 Oct 1932 / Page 21

The first semi-final between Berri (minor premiers) and Barmera (third) was won by Barmera by three points. The second semi-final was won by Renmark Rovers by two points from Walkerie. Renmark Rovers and Barmera then played in the final, and the result was tie. In the play-off Renmark Rovers broke the run of close finishes by a "comfortable" victory of 16 points. The major round is played under the old system, and Berri and Renmark Rovers played off for the premiership in the challenge match, Renmark Rovers completing its sensational climb from the bottom of the list by winning by two points.

The success of Renmark Rovers is largely due to the leadership and coaching of W. M. C. Symonds, the former Norwood wingman. The personnel of the team is:—W. M. C. Symonds (captain), A. E. Sage, B. Walters, G. Curyer, A. Roberts, J. Roberts, A. Wescombe, L. LeLeu, C. Matulick, J. Jones, G. Andrews, E. Truscott, J. Lynch, E. Warnock, W. Wescombe, C. Trenwith, E. John, and L. Warnock.




W. M. Symonds

The Renmark "Rovers" had been a struggling team, but under Symond's guidance they improved during the season and won the 1932 premiership. It would be the team's last premiership until taking out the title again in 1950.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950)  
Thu 5 Oct 1950 / Page 8

**REMARK'S 1932 FOOTBALL PREMIERSHIP TEAM**



**REMARK ROVERS PREMIER FOOTBALL TEAM** of 1932—the last time the club had won the Upper Murray premiership previous to this year. Captain of the team was W. M. C. Symonds, then headmaster of the Renmark High School and now headmaster of the Glossop High School.

Back row (from left): G. Curyer, B. Walters, J. Jones, A. Roberts, G. Andrews, W. Wescombe.

Third row (from left): D. Rees (selector), C. Hamilton, J. Lynch, A. Wescombe, J. Roberts, E. Warnock, C. Matulick, C. Trenwith.

Second row (from left): L. Warnock, T. F. Whillas (patron), W. M. C. Symonds (captain), H. F. Tardiff (chairman), E. Sage.

Front Row (from left): E. Truscott, K. Bryden (boundary umpire), L. LeLeu.

Wybert also continued playing cricket in Renmark performing very well for the High School team which participated in the Upper Murray competition. His all-round batting and bowling performances saw him high in the batting and bowling averages in each of the four full seasons he played. In 1934, 1935 and 1936 he won the association trophy for the best all round performances (1934 - 32 wickets @ 9.2, 332 runs @ 43.7; 1935 - 32 wickets @ 10.3, 485 runs @ 48.5; 1936 - 27 wickets @ 8.78, 420 runs @ 52.5). One example of his all-round performances in 1934 was match figures of 12 wickets for 40 runs and 67 not out with the bat.

Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record (Renmark, SA : 1913 - 1942),  
Thursday 15 February 1934,  
**SYMONDS FINE DOUBLE AGAINST WEST**  
**12/40 and 67 n.o. Gives Students Eight Points**  
Completing an exceptionally fine double performance, Symonds carried High School to an eight point victory against Renmark .....

Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record (Renmark, SA : 1913 - 1942)  
Thu 11 May 1933

LEADING ASSOCIATION PERFORMANCES		
BATting		
	Runs	Ave.
J. Tolley (Bookmark)	738	92.1
R. Dolan (Kk. West) ..	335	41.8
E. Miller (Crescent) ..	300	33.3
F. Tucker (Banks) .. ..	300	33.3
R. Rosenthal (H. School)	281	25.5
W. M. Symonds (H.S.)	252	25.2
C. Williams (Banks) ..	196	24.5
T. Young (Lyrup) .. ..	318	24.5
R. Coats (H. School) ..	236	23.6
D. Springbett (Banks)	239	21.7
Bowling		
	Wkts.	Ave.
F. Berrill (H. School) ..	27	6.3
D. Corbett (H. School) ..	19	6.6
W. M. Symonds (H. S.)	26	6.9
E. Sage (Banks) .. ..	30	7.2
E. Miller (Crescent) ..	40	7.3
F. Dermott (Crescent) ..	23	8.6
R. Marsh (Crescent) ..	27	9.5
J. White (Crescent) ..	9	9
C. Williams (Banks) .. ..	8	10.3
J. Roy (Ren. West) ..	18	10.5
G. Rowell (Ren. West) ..	41	11.2

Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record (Renmark, SA : 1913 - 1942)  
Thu 12 Apr 1934 / Page 6

## CRICKET TROPHIES

Presented at Upper Murray Social

At the annual social of the Upper Murray Cricket Association the following trophies won for leading performances during the 1933-34 season were presented:—

Best bowling, under 21 years (Whillas trophy, to Ray Marsh (Crescent), 22 wickets, average 7.8

Batting, under 21 (Tolly trophy), Ron Rosenthal (High School), 283 runs, average 35.4.

Bowling, over 21 (Turnbull trophy), E. Mead (Bookmark), 31 wickets, average 7.5.

Batting, over 21 (Rigby trophy), K. Hosking (Bookmark), 397 runs, average 56.7.

Best all round performance (Rosenthal trophy) W. Symonds (High School) 32 wickets, average 9.2; 332 runs, average 43.7.

Most improved player (Odgers trophy) A. Rix (Lyrup), 28 wickets, average 12.5, 180 runs, average 17.

The toast list included: "The King", by the chairman (Mr. E. J. Rigby); the premier team, by the president (Mr. T. F. Whillas), and supported by other captains, response by the Bookmark captain (Mr. J. S. Tolley).

## Trophies Presented at Annual Social

-O-

Col. Williams, of course, dominates the Upper Murray batting averages for the season just concluded, his magnificent form throughout giving him 92.7 runs per innings with an outstanding aggregate of 1,113 runs in club matches alone. In the bowling, H. Highman retains his position at the head of the bowling, though several secured more wickets.

The honour of securing the biggest bag goes to R. Dolan, though his victims were obtained at considerable expense. Of the all-rounders W. Symonds has recorded easily the best performance.

The complete list of leading batsmen (average of 10 or more) and bowlers (10 or more wickets) in the Upper Murray competition for the 1934-35 season is given below:—

### BATTING

	I.	N.O.	H.S.	Agg.	Ave.
C. Williams (Bo)	15	3	162x	1113	92.7
J. Tolley (Bo)	16	2	127x	679	49.9
W. Symonds (H)	11	1	142	485	48.5
F. Tucker (Ba)	3	-	61	128	42.6
A. Pitt (C)	12	1	138	461	41.9
L. Laffer (H)	6	2	38	102	34
K. Hosking (Ba)	6	-	51	193	32.5
A. Roberts (W)	10	1	56	287	31.9
N. Marshall (C)	14	1	106	383	29.5
R. Snow (H)	12	2	100x	292	29.2
R. Rosenthal (H)	12	2	86x	285	28.5
R. Jacka (Ba)	12	3	69	249	27.6
C. Norton (B)	11	3	102x	201	25.1
W. Nuske (B)	13	4	48x	282	24.7
R. Dolan (W)	13	1	61	283	24.4
W. Tucker (B)	4	1	38x	65	21.6
R. Marsh (C)	12	-	43	240	20
E. Mitchell (B)	6	1	41	90	18
L. Smith (H)	12	1	75	194	17.6
J. Roy (W)	10	1	46x	154	17.1

### BOWLING

	R	W	A
H. Highman (B)	231	24	9.6
W. Symonds (H)	329	32	10.3
O. Bartsch (B)	103	10	10.3
E. Mead (B)	315	27	11.7
J. Tolley (B)	321	27	11.9
R. Jacka (Ba)	343	28	12.25
C. Twardz (W)	341	23	14.8
S. Wells (H)	505	32	15.8
W. Nuske (B)	488	29	16.8
G. Rowell (Ba)	224	13	17.2
P. Hall (C)	174	10	17.4
R. Marsh (C)	235	18	18.1
A. L. Roy (W)	260	14	18.6
E. Sage (Ba)	387	17	19.8
R. Dolan (W)	708	35	20.2
R. Langmead (W)	227	11	20.6
A. Pitt (C)	309	12	25.7
M. Smith (H)	389	12	32.4

### BATTING

(Minimum: 200 runs)

	I.	N.O.	H.S.	Agg.	Ave.
R. Dolan (W)	11	4	136x	574	82
C. Williams (Bk)	14	2	148x	808	67.33
K. Hoskings (Ba)	10	2	109	430	53.75
W. Symonds (H)	11	3	117x	420	52.5
R. Marsh (C)	11	1	193	430	43
R. Jacka (Ba)	11	1	134	402	47.2
E. Sage (Ba)	13	2	102x	381	34.64
R. Rosenthal (C)	15	2	68	386	29.7
J. Tolley (Bk)	16	-	105	412	25.44
C. Norton (Bk)	16	-	78	400	25
J. Dolan (W)	10	-	61	230	23
L. Smith (H)	13	1	63	261	21.75
N. Marshall (Bk)	15	1	46	271	18.07
A. Pitt (C)	16	1	95	232	15.47
N. Norton (Bk)	16	2	41	216	15.43
W. Nuske (Bk)	15	-	39	214	14.27

### BOWLING

	O	W	R	Ave.
W. Symonds (H)	84	27	237	8.78
G. Rowell (Ba)	57	20	199	9.95
M. Whallin (Pi)	50	30	304	10.1
A. Pitt (C)	60	31	339	10.94
R. Marsh (C)	92	26	295	11.35
S. Wells (H)	138	37	500	13.51
E. Sage (Ba)	89	34	551	16.21
J. Tolley (Bk)	90	25	409	16.36
O. Bartsch (Bk)	61	22	380	17.27
R. Jacka (Ba)	140	27	475	17.59
R. Dolan (W)	126	36	699	19.4
E. Mead (Bk)	149	20	395	19.75
M. Smith (H)	111	20	463	20.15

Note: W, Renmark West; Bk., Bookmark; Ba, Banks; H, High School; C, Crescent; P, Pioneer.

In addition to playing for the Upper Murray in inter-association matches, in 1936 he was chosen to be vice-captain of the combined team that played against a South Australian Cricket Association side. The team, captained by Don Bradman, was too good for the locals, however Wybert had the thrill of getting the great batsman out. This feat became embedded in family folklore over the years.

### S.A.C.A. TEAM

D. G. Bradman (capt.)  
C. L. Badcock,  
E. J. R. Moyle  
M. G. Waite  
C. W. Walker  
F. H. Collins  
F. Ward  
T. R. O'Connell  
R. A. Hemence  
J. A. Stradling  
B. H. Leal  
R. M. Stanford.

### The Upper Murray Team

The selectors of the Upper Murray Cricket Association have chosen the following players to represent them against the S.A. C.A. team on the show grounds on Thursday, March 19 (play to start at 10.30 a.m.):  
J. S. Tolley, capt., (Bookmark)  
W. M. Symonds, vice-capt. (High School)  
R. Dolan (Renmark West)  
C. Williams (Bookmark)  
S. Wells (High School)  
R. Marsh (Crescent)  
D. Kumnick (Banks)  
E. Sage (Banks)  
R. Jacka (Banks)  
R. Rosenthal (Crescent)  
K. Hosking (Banks)  
W. Brauer (Lyrrup)  
Emergencies—F. Pollard and J. Dolan (both Renmark West)

Then against Symonds, Bradman skied one very high to the off but Sage failed to hold a difficult chance. Off the next he scored one, Moyle got one, and then, going for another big hit the champion missed altogether and was brilliantly stumped by Hosking.

In Renmark, Wybert and Jean were also quick to involve themselves in church and other community activities. In August 1932, he gave a prepared lecture on the attributes and shortcomings of the League of Nations.



## THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

### High School Head Addresses Methalian Club

Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, B.Sc., head master of the Renmark District Agricultural High School, gave a well prepared lecture on the League of Nations at the last meeting of the Methalian Club in the Renmark Methodist lecture hall.

#### War's Futility

The lecturer briefly traced the development of warfare from primitive tribal fights to the vast international conflict of recent times. War's futility and colossal expenditure were then dealt with. Nations went to war in order to gain or to preserve what they considered to be their rights; but intelligent peoples, if only they were rightly informed must repudiate that method of settling disputes. The fearful aftermaths of the last great war should prove convincing. The selfish nationalism which had led to so many wars, and was such a barrier to present efforts for world peace, must be corrected by a better understanding among the nations and their co-operation for the good of the world as a whole. The League of Nations existed for that purpose.

With the help of a blackboard, the speaker then explained the organization and activities of the League since its inception. Several very serious conflicts between great powers had been averted and a large number of minor disputes had been satisfactorily settled, he said. Each member of the League promised to submit its case to the Court of the League when a dispute arose.

#### Valuable Work in Many Directions

Though the prevention of wars had been of incalculable benefit to the world, the League had rendered still more valuable services in other directions. Its international labour organization had done much to restrict child labour and to abolish slavery in backward nations. It had saved millions of lives by co-operative action against diseases; broken up powerful organizations for white slave traffic and illicit drug traffic and in many other ways had rendered great services to humanity. There were enormous possibilities of its influence in regard to the industrial, financial and economic problems which now faced the nations. Very much had been done in the few years of the League's existence. Its scope and influence should increase and make it a very powerful force in the future of the world.

In answer to questions, at the conclusion of the lecture, Mr. Symonds admitted that the League lacked the power to enforce its decisions, though economic boycott might be a very effective weapon if the necessity arose. Nevertheless, a great deal had already been accomplished without compulsion and it was anticipated that the censure of the League would be increasingly effective as time went on.

On the motion of Mr. J. Hannath, seconded by Mr. A. Bignell, a vote of thanks to Mr. Symonds, for his lucid and interesting address, was carried with acclamation.

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#### BRIDGE EVENING

An enjoyable bridge evening, arranged by Mesdames F. Hooper, B. Jenkins, W. M. C. Symonds and Miss D. Hooper, in aid of the Ugly Man competition in connection with the High School bazaar, was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Symonds on Tuesday. There were eight tables of players and the prizes for the highest scores were made by Mrs. Woodcock and Mr. J. Scholefield, and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gregory won the prizes for the lowest score. As the result of this evening Mr. Whillas, one of the "ugly man" competitors, received quite an addition to his score. The committee and girls of the Chaffey house were responsible for a nice supper.

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Thu 17 Aug 1933 / Page 12

#### REMARK INFANT WELFARE

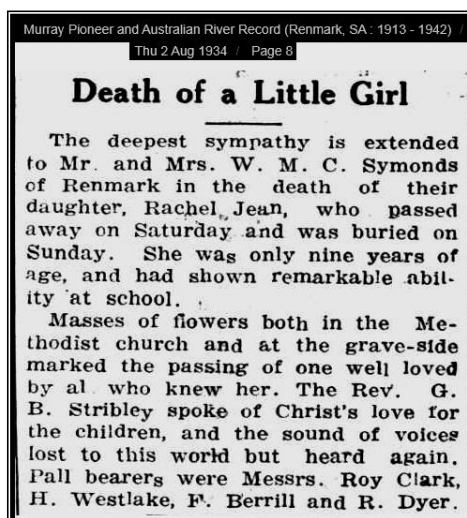
The Infant Welfare Club of the Renmark town school have been meeting regularly, the gatherings being well attended and a keen interest taken in the welfare of the school. Interesting and well appreciated addresses have been given by a number of visitors; among them being Mrs. W. M. C. Symonds, who gave a fine paper on "Motherhood and Responsibility of Parents", and Miss Gale of the W.C.T.U. on "Temperance and Physiology".

Wybert now had a reduced teaching load at Renmark so was able to be more productive in terms of curriculum development. He based this on analysis of the different needs of the children, both in terms of career paths to meet the requirements of the Riverland community and also those who may be looking towards vocations needing further technical or tertiary study.

The Renmark Agricultural High School had, like other fruit growers, its own substantial blocks to look after. The agricultural teachers and students were responsible for this care, including at allocated times opening the irrigation channel to source their periodic quota of River Murray water. The appointment to an agricultural school created some issues for Wybert as the curriculum had been biased towards agricultural and horticultural pursuits. However, he saw a need to provide a balance of subjects that could prepare girls and boys for other vocations also. It seemed to him that too much time was being spent by the students looking after the school's large blocks of vines, fruit trees and farm animals. Wybert believed that a number of smaller experimental plots under the supervision of a senior agricultural teacher with a science background would serve the students better.

## **Family Heartbreak**

A tragedy struck the Symonds family when on 28th July 1934 their daughter Rachel passed away from meningitis in the Renmark Hospital. It was the day before her 9th birthday.



Despite the heartbreak, Wybert, Jean and Rachel's brother, John and sister Ruth continued stalwartly on with their lives and they would continue to make their own individual marks on society.

Wybert battled on with his curriculum development and only a month after Rachel's death, in August 1934, he pushed to advance the programs at Renmark Agricultural High School. Initiated by Wybert, Agricultural Master V. A. "Aubrey" Prider and supported by the school committee, they set up the first research projects on the experimental plots. The initial research projects covered a comprehensive range of experiments on commercial grape varieties grown in the area.

# Seasonal Notes

BY "NEMO"

## VINE EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS INITIATED AT HIGH SCHOOL

Through the efforts of the head master of the Renmark Agricultural High School (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds), the agricultural master Mr. V. A. Prider) and the school committee, the high school is about to embark on a comprehensive range of experiments embracing the commercial varieties of vines mostly grown in this locality, viz., currants, sultanas, and gordos.

Wybert's term as headmaster of Renmark Agricultural High School was at the height of the Great Depression, so the school always seemed short of funding for any additional resources. Jean however, was instrumental in organising fund raising activities and Wybert, together with some close contacts in the Education Department, was able to provide some additional items of equipment for the school.

Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record  
(Renmark, SA : 1913 - 1942), Thursday 1 October 1936

With the object of raising money to help defray expenses of matting for the High School A Grade cricket team, an enjoyable and successful progressive bridge evening was held at the High School last night, the organizers being Mr. and Mrs. W. M. C. Symonds and High School staff. There were ten tables of players, and the prize for a hidden number was won by Mrs E. E. Jarrett. A home made supper was provided.

National Library of Australia

## Port Lincoln High School

In December 1936, Wybert was advised of a promotion and transfer to Port Lincoln High School. It was decided that the family first needed to have a holiday at the beach for a "well earned rest", before the start of the new school year. The family by now had purchased a second hand motor vehicle for their journey to Adelaide. As Wybert, Jean, John and Ruth departed Renmark, there would have been mixed emotions from the memories of their five years there. Much had been achieved and many friends made, but moving on was the way of life for a country headmaster and his family.

Ahead of them during the heat of January was the long 440 mile journey from Adelaide to Port Lincoln. The 200 miles to Port Augusta was on a sealed road and after a hot unpleasant night at Port Augusta they continued the journey. There were many unsealed country roads in the 1930s, so it was a tedious and dusty journey, negotiating corrugations, pot holes and patches of bulldust from Port Augusta to Port Lincoln. They eventually made it safely to their destination and the beginning of a new challenge after the "rib-shaking" journey.

On arrival, they were pleasantly surprised to find their accommodation to be a very nice home with a fine view overlooking the harbour and Boston Island. This was in contrast to their initial experience at Kapunda and Renmark.

## High School

### Headmaster

### Transferred

The headmaster of the Port Lincoln High School (Mr. S. L. Tregenza), as announced briefly in "The Port Lincoln Times" last week, has been notified that after the summer vacation he will take charge of the Renmark High School in succession to Mr. Wybert Symonds, who will take Mr. Tregenza's present position. The Port Lincoln and Renmark schools are grade as Class IV, but the Renmark school will be raised in status after the holidays to Class III.

Mr. Tregenza, who is a Bachelor of Arts and holds the Diploma in Education, has been headmaster of the Port Lincoln High School since its inception, both in the present building and when classes were conducted at the primary school. With an interval of 12 months, he has been stationed here for 15 years.

Mr. Tregenza has played a prominent part in the community life of Port Lincoln. He has been always ready to assist in social work, and cultural and educational movements have also been given his support. As a member of the board of management of the local sub-branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League he has rendered excellent service, and as chairman of the Institute Literary and Arts Club he will be difficult to replace. A few months ago he was elected a member of the institute committee. Until he sustained a leg injury a few years ago, he was a keen tennis player; since then he has played bowls in the summer. He is a member of the Port Lincoln Golf Club.

Mr. Symonds, who is a Bachelor of Science, will be remembered by followers of the Norwood League football team as a wingman. He has retired from the game, but in recent years he has played cricket.

Unlike the Riverland, Port Lincoln was more of an old fashioned country town and the best way of being accepted was to participate in community activities as soon as possible. The people of the West Coast, because of their relative isolation, were fairly set in their ways and possibly not readily amenable to any changes initiated by newcomers. Wybert had the wisdom and experience to meet the challenge.

Before long, Wybert became involved with local sporting clubs and other organisations. In the winter of 1937, less than a year after arriving, he accepted the coaching role for the Port Lincoln Centrals Football Club. It would have been a challenge but he knew, sport as previously, provided him with an avenue to gain respect from a section of the community. Also Wybert's participation in religious and cultural activities, earned him the respect of others. It was therefore only a matter of time before Wybert and Jean were considered socially accepted.

Wybert's connection to the Church and sport were shown in August 1937 when he as one of the coaches of the local teams involving their players and supporters in a service at the Port Lincoln Methodist Church. The famous former



Norwood footballer and local Methodist Minister, Reverend Charles "Redwing" Perry was coach of the "Waybacks" at the time. The Symonds and Perry families became close friends.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
Fri 27 Aug 1937 / Page 8

### Service For Footballers

An invitation is extended to all footballers and supporters to attend a special service in the Port Lincoln Methodist Church on Sunday, at 7 p.m., when the coaches of the three local football clubs will take part in the service. They are :—Rev. C. J. Perry (Waybacks), Messrs. W. M. C. Symonds (Centrals) and Hyde (Kirtontians). Special singing by a male choir of 45 voices, under the baton of Mr. E. A. Fox, will be a feature of the service.

Wybert also joined the Port Lincoln Literary and Arts Club and was soon participating in a debate where he took on the case that the "Cinema has been detrimental to the community". The debate was chaired by Reverend Perry. Wybert would often in the future express the view that activities that had no intellectual, artistic or social merit that perhaps discouraged personal interaction and discussion were a bad influence on society.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
Fri 20 Aug 1937 / Page 1

### DEBATE ON THE CINEMA

Members of the Port Lincoln Literary and Arts Club should enjoy an interesting evening on Tuesday, when a debate "That the development of the Cinema has been detrimental to the community," will be held. The headmaster of the High School (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) will lead the affirmative side, supported by Mr. J. Martin and Miss P. Elerton, while Mr. A. E. Whitford, for the Literary and Arts Club will take the negative side. Other speakers in his team will include Messrs. N. Weisner and R. Durbin. Rev. C. Perry will be the adjudicator. All are welcome.

Wybert also joined the Port Lincoln Golf Club; he had previously played in the AIF Golf Days held at Renmark (off a handicap of 22).

Friday 27 August 1937, page 13  
Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)

### BOGEY COMPETITION

**WIN TO W. M. C. SYMONDS**  
An 18-hole bogey competition played by members of the Port Lincoln Golf Club on Saturday, was won by W. M. C. Symonds with 3 up.

Sadly, in September 1937, Jean received news that her father had passed away at the age of 68. He had been working with the Municipal Tramways Trust for many years after starting out his working life as a carpenter.

**WHITE.**—The **FRIENDS** of the late **Mr. JOSEPH HILLS WHITE**, late of the Municipal Tramways Trust, are respectfully informed that his Funeral will leave the residence of his son (Mr. Lloyd White), No. 1 Moar street, Eastwood, on **THURSDAY**, at 2.30 p.m. for the North road Cemetery.

**ALFRED JAMES & SON**, Undertakers,  
98 and 193 Unley road, Unley. Phone U1060.

Wybert was now at 40 years of age, but he was still playing cricket, representing the High School in the local competition. He had not lost any of his touch and in a characteristic aggressive display in November 1937 he scored 159 with three sixes and 22 boundaries. In the 1937/38 season he was the best all rounder in competition with 539 runs and 27 wickets.

## Three Centuries In Saturday's Cricket

A. Spiers And R. Godden Make 226 In  
Record Partnership

W. Symonds (159) Proves Highest Scorer For Season

**CENTRALS (309) AND HIGH SCHOOL (291) GIVE FLINDERS AND RAMBLERS HARD TASK**

For the High School, W. Symonds made a brilliant 159, which is the highest individual score for any match of the season. His hefty hitting included three sixes and 22 boundaries.

**HIGH SCHOOL.**—First innings—P. Ryan, c Mullner, b R. Calderwood, 37; C. Hopping, l.b.w., b M. Faehse, 19; W. M. Symonds, c Young, b C. Celeste, 159; R. Chalmers, run out, 7; M. Krieg, c Young, b Celeste, 5; F. Semmens, b Celeste, 4; R. Brabham, l.b.w., b Faehse, 1; L. Letcher, b Faehse, 11; D. Curnow, c R. Curnow, b Wallis, 11; M. Owen, not out, 17; L. Ramsey, not out, 1; sundries, 19; total (for 9 wickets), 291.

How the wickets fell:—1/60; 2/64; 3/81; 4/102; 5/109; 6/166; 7/178; 8/201; 9/289.

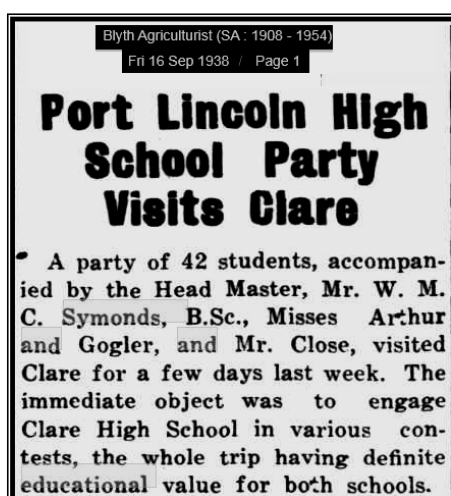
**Bowling:**—C. Celeste, 3/79; L. Wallis, 1/23; C. Polden, 0/25; M. Faehse, 3/73; R. Calderwood, 1/58; B. Baker, 0/13.

There was an unusual situation at the school in 1938 when Port Lincoln was visited by a German "training" ship. It was not an uncommon occurrence as many German vessels called into the ports of Spencer Gulf loading grain at Port Lincoln, iron ore at Whyalla and base metals (including tons of lead), from the smelters of Port Pirie. On this occasion Wybert invited the young German sailors and officers to the school so they could be entertained by the students and have some recreation. They organised a soccer match on the school oval and apart from a "Hail Hitler" to begin the match, Wybert saw them as a clean, wholesome group of young men. He often wondered how many of them survived the 2nd World War or as submariners sunk allied ships. No doubt many of the visiting ships would have taken back details of harbours, coastline routes and other naval information. With trouble brewing on the

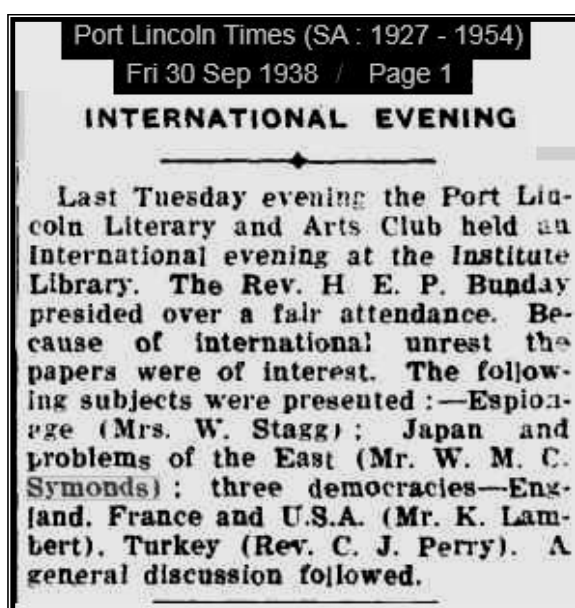
other side of the world, Wybert's knowledge of international affairs and beliefs, would have meant that it was not a naive decision to give the invitation to the young sailors, but one solely of goodwill to them.

The world was still in depression and the West Coast families may have been land rich but were money poor. Wybert had sought scholarships for his country students from the Education Department but none were forthcoming.

It was a common practice for country high schools to have annual exchange visits to other country schools. In September 1938, Wybert accompanied a party of students, with support from other teachers, to the Clare High School. After an official welcome on the Wednesday evening, the students went with local host families to their homes. Over the following days there were keenly fought contests with the victorious school taking home the trophy. The Thursday athletics contest saw the Clare girls and the Port Lincoln boys successful. In the evening a debate on the subject "That machinery had not benefited mankind" was won convincingly by Clare. The next morning the students visited Mintaro Slate Quarries followed by a scenic tour back to Clare. In the afternoon the football match saw a big victory to Port Lincoln. The final contest was the girl's basketball on Saturday morning and in a closely fought match Port Lincoln were winners by two goals. The overall trophy was won by Port Lincoln High School and after the trophy presentation, Wybert acknowledged the hospitality that had been shown to them.



The topics of discussion at the Literary and Arts Club "International Evening" in late September 1938 related to the unfolding international unrest. Wybert's presentation centered on "Japan and problems of the East".



In 1938 Wybert, as President of the Port Lincoln Cricket Association, led a deputation to present a case to the Council for the laying of a turf wicket on the new town oval. It was approved to go ahead and would hopefully be ready for the 1939/40 season.

## CRICKET

**Port Lincoln.**—A deputation from the Port Lincoln Cricket Association comprising Messrs. W. M. C. Symonds, J. E. Crotty, A. Spiers and R. Brabham, waited on the town council and asked that a turf wicket should be laid down on the new town oval.

The Mayor (Mr. R. F. Poole) promised that consideration would be given to the request, and an early reply forwarded.

In April 1939 at the conclusion of the annual West Coast Cricket Carnival a dinner was held for members of visiting teams. In Wybert's speech it was announced that the local Association was striving to make a big success of the coming visit of a South Australian Cricket Association (SACA) team. The new turf wicket would be used for the match and in future it would be an attraction to all West Coast cricketers. Wybert along with others had done the work on the new turf pitch themselves, under expert guidance of Adelaide Oval Curator Mr. S. Williams. The SACA had arranged (free of charge) the shipment of black Athelstone clay to complete the turf wicket project.

## Cricketers Entertained

### DINNER AT HOTEL BOSTON

Last Saturday evening the Port Lincoln Cricket Association entertained the members of the visiting cricket teams with a dinner at the Hotel Boston. This was an innovation in connection with the annual cricket tournament, and it was very much appreciated.

In proposing "The Visitors," Mr. W. M. C. Symonds stressed that Port Lincoln Association looked forward keenly to the annual carnival which gave an opportunity of gauging the development of the sport of cricket on Eyre Peninsula. They realised the great possibilities of the attraction of the new turf wicket once it is available. He also pointed out that Port Lincoln was striving to make the coming visit of a South Australian Cricket Association team a big success, and were relying on the support of all cricketers on Eyre Peninsula. The idea was to select a representative Eyre Peninsula team to meet the visitors. They anticipated having eight teams to compete in next year's tournament.

Responses to the toast were made by F. Errey (Port Neill), K. Hancock (Lipson) and T. Mahoney (Mount Hope).



In 1939 he was elected captain of the Port Lincoln golf Club.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
Thu 16 Mar 1939 / Page 1

## Port Lincoln Golf Club

### ANNUAL REPORT

A very satisfactory report was presented to the members of the Port Lincoln Golf Club last Tuesday evening.

Membership has increased and the total income was almost a record. The fence will require renewing, and it is suggested that portion be done each year as funds are available.

An Adelaide team, which was to have come to Port Lincoln last year, had to cancel the visit, but a team is promised for this year. The team which competed in the country week fixture proved that the local standard is equal to that of other country clubs.

It was pleasing to note that trees had been planted and are growing satisfactorily. These were supplied and planted by Mr. A. S. Hopping and Mr. W. Symonds. Thanks were given to Mr. D. Corry and his workers and to Mr. N. V. Jacobs for work in improving the design of the course, and to the ladies for their assistance with social events.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. A. S. Hopping; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. W. Humphreys and F. A. Lykke; captain, Mr. W. M. C. Symonds; vice-captain, Dr. C. T. Piper; secretary, Mr. K. E. Jacobs; assistant secretary and treasurer, Mr. R. M. Forbes; auditors, Messrs. N. V. Jacobs and I. Siggins; committee, Messrs. A. S. Hopping, N. V. Jacobs, J. W. Humphreys, C. S. Hopping and A. G. McInerney.

The opening day is fixed for April 22. The committee will draw up the programme.

Wybert had previously expressed his views on the futility of Wars and at another of the Literary and Arts Club meetings he was involved in the discussion on "That War is unjustifiable".

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
Thu 27 Jul 1939 / Page 4

## Literary and Arts Club

### DISCUSSION ON "THAT WAR IS UNJUSTIFIABLE."

On Tuesday evening the monthly meeting of the Port Lincoln Literary and Arts Club was held in the institute library. It took the form of a discussion of the statement, "That war is unjustifiable."

Mr. C. Hall took the affirmative, quoting largely from the recently published book by A. Milne to prove that in all cases war results in disaster to both sides.

Miss Graham and Mr. S. Pedersen spoke well for the contention that in certain cases it was justified.

There was an interesting discussion in which Messrs. J. H. McDonald, W. M. C. Symonds, N. W. Wright, H. E. Bunday and R. E. Story.

No vote was taken, but the general verdict appeared to be that there were cases in which war was justified.

Miss Collins is arranging the programme for the next monthly meeting, which will take the form of prepared papers or speeches on chosen subjects.

Coinciding with Port Lincoln's Centenary celebrations and prior to the start of the 1939/40 cricket season, Wybert was leading the organising committee which arranged a visit by a South Australian Cricket Association (SACA) side led by Don Bradman.

In October 1939 the new wicket on the new Port Lincoln Centenary Oval was ready for play for the SACA match.

Included in the visiting SACA team, were Clarrie Grimmett, Merv Waite, Jack Badcock, Ken Riddings, Charlie Walker<sup>11</sup> and Adelaide University cricketer, Jack Tregonning. Vic Richardson travelled with the team in his role as a journalist. The team also visited the High School where Wybert gave them a warm welcome.

Although Wybert was still playing well for the High School team until the 1939/40 season, he did not play for the Eyre Peninsular representative team, probably as he was too much involved in the organisation of the event. Pity that, as he did not have a chance to dismiss Bradman for a second time!

Special trains were arranged to bring distant West Coast folks to Port Lincoln to watch the match.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954) / Thu 12 Oct 1939 / Page 1

## DON BRADMAN AND OTHER FAMOUS CRICKETERS ARE HERE

Team Arrives Per m.v. Moonta  
Welcomed By Mayor ; Visit Schools

The South Australian Cricket Association team arrived in Port Lincoln just before 9 a.m. today, to play the carnival match with an Eyre Peninsula team. At 10 o'clock they were welcomed by the Mayor (Mr. A. K. Mulliner) in the Mayor's parlor. He said the town was very proud to know that their invitation had been accepted.

Mr. H. W. Tomkins, the manager of the S.A.C.A. team, said they appreciated the welcome, and hoped to have a good time. He congratulated Port Lincoln on having a turf wicket, which, he was sure, would become one of the best country wickets in Australia.

Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, speaking for the organising committee, apologised for the lack of a grandstand and changing rooms, which, he hoped, would be available for their next visit.

The visitors next made a call at the High School, where the headmaster (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) gave them a warm welcome. The drizzling rain held off for a time and the children were grouped on the lawn in front of the school. Mr. Symonds said they appreciated the visit of cricketers of such fame as D. Bradman and C. Grimmett.

Mr. T. B. Aveling, as vice-president of the High School, said the visit would benefit Port Lincoln children, both those of today and of the future.

Mr. H. W. Tomkins, in responding, said the reason for their visit was to foster the game. The turf wicket should be of great value, and would be a step in improving the standard of country cricket.

Mr. D. Bradman, who was acclaimed, said he was pleased to come and appreciated the welcome. The S.A.C.A. management had sent perhaps as good a team as South Australia could produce, with the idea of showing the local players how cricket should be played. His team were tough and he thought they liked the rain. He had heard of Port Lincoln before he came to the State from New South Wales. It was famous for the size of its oysters.

Mr. C. Grimmett also responded. He said this was his first visit to Port Lincoln, but he did not think it would be the last.

The children then gave three hearty cheers for Don Bradman and Clarrie Grimmett.

Mr. T. B. Aveling then declared a half holiday.

The Primary School was next visited, and the children were addressed in the classroom. The excitement of both boys and girls were very evident. One enterprising boy took the opportunity of securing the autographs of D. Bradman, C. Grimmett and V. Y. Richardson.

The itinerary included a drive of inspection of the surroundings of Port Lincoln until lunch time.

The visiting cricketers and other officials will be fendered a dinner at the Pier Hotel tonight by the Port Lincoln Cricket Association.

A special rail car was run from Lock, Yeelanna and Cummins to Port Lincoln today to enable country people to witness the match.

<sup>11</sup> Both Ken Riddings and Charlie Walker were killed in action in WW2

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
 Thu 12 Oct 1939 / Page 1

## TWO ONE-DAY MATCHES ARRANGED

### 400 SEE FIRST BALL BOWLED

Over 400 people saw the first ball bowled by J. McInnes to P. Ryan, who opened the Eyre Peninsula team's innings with D. Mudge, against the visiting S.A.C.A. side at the Port Lincoln Centenary Oval this afternoon.

Mr. V. Y. Richardson, who is giving a running commentary, said that the wicket was one of the best he had ever seen.

Two one-day matches will be played instead of one two-day match.

The S.A.C.A. team comprises—D. G. Bradman (capt.), C. V. Grimmett, C. W. Walker, K. Ridings, M. G. Waite, C. L. Badcock, M. J. McInnes, M. Roberts, R. W. Ellis, T. Klose, J. Tregonning and V. C. Brogan.

Eyre Peninsula—A. Spiers (capt.), D. Mudge, M. Agars, T. Mahoney, C. Herbert, K. Baillie, R. Yeates, D. Perry, P. Ryan, J. Fulwood, H. Firth and B. Quinlan (12th man).

The umpires are :—J. H. McDonald and R. Minear.

Mr. W. H. Jeanes, O.B.E., representing the S.A. Cricket Association, has accompanied the team.

The local organising committee are Messrs. W. M. C. Symonds, J. E. Crotty, A. K. Mullner, A. Spiers, J. H. McDonald and R. Chalmers (secretary).

Despite inclement weather, matches were played on the Thursday and Friday (see match reports). On the Thursday evening, the Port Lincoln Cricket Association put on a dinner at the Pier Hotel, followed by a Ball at the Civic Hall.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 14 October 1939, page 22

## PORT LINCOLN CENTENARY CRICKET CLUB BALL



A FEATURE OF PORT LINCOLN'S centenary celebrations was the visit of a team of Adelaide cricketers on Thursday to play a West Coast team. The Adelaide team was victorious. In the evening a cricket club ball was held in the Civic Hall. Among those present were (from left)—Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hyde, Vic Richardson, and Mrs. L. Telford.

National Library of Australia

On the Friday morning, pastoralist and benefactor to the State Library, University of Adelaide and Waite Institute, John Mortlock<sup>12</sup>, entertained the SACA team at his Coffin Bay property.

<sup>12</sup> Mortlock was also a benefactor to the West Coast people. This included assistance the High School in their fund raising activities in the 1930s when money was particularly hard to come by.



## FAMOUS CRICKETERS VISIT PORT LINCOLN

### Play Centenary Match Against Eyre Peninsula Team

**WEATHER UNFAVORABLE; LARGE CROWDS ATTEND; DINNER TO VISITORS**

The extremely wintry weather which was in evidence when the South Australian Cricket Association cricketers arrived last Thursday morning persisted until they boarded the motorship Minnipa on Friday evening to return to the city.

There was sufficient rain each day to interfere with the game, particularly as the turf was not sufficiently developed to prevent the pitch and ground becoming sticky with the rain. The visitors might have been excused had they knocked off play, but they did their best to enable the public to enjoy a game.

On Thursday, Eyre Peninsula won the toss and had the privilege of being first to bat on Port Lincoln's new turf wicket. The score of 62 runs by the local team was creditable considering the conditions.

In the evening the visiting team were tendered a dinner by the Port Lincoln Cricket Association at the Pier Hotel.

About 70 guests sat down to a sumptuous repast. Among the guests were the secretary of the S.A.C.A. (Mr. W. Jeanes), the manager of the team (Mr. H. W. Tomkins), the director of the S.A. Tourist Bureau (Mr. A. J. Baker), the Mayor (Mr. A. K. Mullner) and councillors of the Port Lincoln Corporation, the Eyre Peninsula cricket team and members of the Centenary committee.

Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, president of the Port Lincoln Cricket Association, occupied the chair.

After the loyal toast the chairman introduced the Mayor, who proposed "The Visitors," especially naming Messrs. D. G. Bradman and H. W. Tomkins (manager). He hoped they would enjoy their stay and bring an English team next time they came.

In responding, Don Bradman (captain) said the South Australian Cricket Association had sent a very strong representative team to Port Lincoln, and while it was unfortunate that conditions were not ideal, they hoped to have a better day tomorrow. He was impressed with the possibilities of the oval, which he thought could become one of the finest in the State. Turf wickets were essential to the development of inter-State and international play. They appreciated the warm hospitality. He asked that at this time we should not forget our friends who are having an anxious time in England.

Mr. Tomkins, the team's manager, supporting the response said he, too, was very pleased with the oval.

The chairman proposed "The S.A.C.A. and Cricket." He said the Port Lincoln association appreciated the great help given by the S.A.C.A., who provided all soil for the pitch without any charge, and also asked Mr. N. W. Wright to convey their thanks to the directors of the Adelaide Steamship Company which had brought over soil without charging freight.

The S.A.C.A. were paying the whole of the costs of the visiting team except, of course, for the dinner they were enjoying. They had also sent over their groundsman to instruct the local man. Mr. Symonds spoke of the spirit of cricket and its desirability in all relationships.

Mr. W. Jeanes, the secretary of the S.A.C.A., responded. He offered Port Lincoln people his hearty congratulations on their Centenary year, and the good use made of the opportunity. When it was known that Port Lincoln intended to lay a turf wicket, the S.A.C.A. at once decided that they would send a representative team. He apologised for the president and vice-president of the association, who could not come over with the team.

Other country centres were laying turf wickets, and they would be looked to to contribute inter-State and international players to cricket later on. With the continued improvement of the Port Lincoln ground they could expect further patronage which would repay them.

Mr. J. Crotty proposed "The Press," and Mr. A. Leech responded.

On Friday morning the cricketers were motored to Coffin Bay, where they were entertained by Mr. J. T. Mortlock. The weather was not favorable to viewing the beauties of this favorite resort.

Play was resumed at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, but the weather had become colder and rain fell in drizzly showers. This time the visitors batted first, and knocked up 250 runs before the afternoon tea adjournment. Notwithstanding the weather and the wet wicket, the play was bright and interesting. After the adjournment the local team batted, and the visitors fielded in a drizzling rain until five wickets had fallen for 67 runs.

Some of the high lights of the play by the local team were P. Ryan's 42 not out on Friday and K. Baillie's 9 not out and 7 not out on the two consecutive days. Baillie also took 5/73, running a close second in bowling to T. Mahoney, who obtained 5/70 in the two days' play. D. Mudge, of Streaky Bay, gave a splendid display of wicketkeeping, saving his side a number of runs. The fielding was good on the whole.

The Port Lincoln branch of the Country Women's Association catered for afternoon tea for both cricket afternoons, but owing to wet weather patronage was not up to expectations. The proceeds were to aid the seaside cottage fund, and a statement will be published next week.

The honorary secretary (Mrs. G. H. Bassham) tenders thanks to all who assisted in any way to make the function a success.

The S.A.C.A. cricketers expressed sympathy for Port Lincoln's bad luck with the weather and they may show this in a practical manner by paying another visit. The full scores were:

#### MATCH ON THURSDAY.

##### EYRE PENINSULA.

P. Ryan, c. and b. Waite	1
D. Mudge, c. Walker, b. McInnes	3
R. Yeates, c. Waite, b. McInnes	4
C. Herbert, st. Walker, b. Ellis	9
D. Perry, l.b.w. Grimmett	9
A. Spiers, c. Ellis, b. Grimmett	10
H. Firth, l.b.w. Roberts	9
M. Agars, c. Waite, b. Ellis	0
K. Baillie, not out	9
J. Fulwood, bowled Roberts	0
T. Mahoney, bowled Roberts	0
Sundries	8

Total .. 62  
Fall of wickets:—1/7, 2/7, 3/16, 4/28, 5/42, 6/43, 7/44, 8/58, 9/58, 10/62.

##### Bowling.

	O.	M.	W.	R.
M. McInnes	4	1	2	9
M. Waite	4	0	1	12
R. Ellis	4	0	2	15
C. Grimmett	3	0	2	3
M. Roberts	3.25	0	3	11
T. Close	3	1	0	5

##### S.A.C.A. TEAM.

T. Klose, bowled Yeates	28
K. Ridings, bowled Mahoney	32
C. L. Badcock, c. Agars, b. Mahoney	12
D. G. Bradman, bowled Mahoney	1
V. C. Brogan, c. Mudge, b. Mahoney	11
M. Waite, st. Mudge, b. Baillie	23
M. Roberts, c. Mudge, b. Fulwood	12
C. W. Walker, l.b.w. Baillie	0
M. J. McInnes, c. Ryan, b. Fulwood	2
C. V. Grimmett, not out	0
R. W. Ellis, not out	4
Sundries	4

Total (for 9 wickets) .. 129  
Fall of wickets:—1/53, 2/71, 3/72, 4/81, 5/93, 6/105, 7/113, 8/126, 9/126.

##### Bowling.

	O.	M.	W.	R.
D. Perry	3	0	0	16
T. Yeates	6	0	1	27
T. Mahoney	6	0	4	38
J. Firth	1	0	0	9
C. Baillie	3	0	2	31
J. Fulwood	1	0	2	6

Fulwood bowled two wides.

#### MATCH ON FRIDAY.

##### S.A.C.A. TEAM.

T. Klose, bowled Yeates	71
K. Ridings, c. Mudge, b. Mahoney	2
C. L. Badcock, c. Firth, b. Baillie	76
D. G. Bradman, c. Mahoney b. Fulwood	38
V. Brogan, bowled Fulwood	0
J. Tregonning, c. Perry, b. Baillie	40
M. G. Waite, l.b.w. Baillie	16
M. McInnes, not out	1
Sundries	7

Total (for 7 wickets dec.) .. 251  
Fall of wickets:—1/3, 2/117, 3/167, 4/176, 5/197, 6/250, 7/251.

##### Bowling.

	O.	M.	W.	R.
R. Yeates	6	0	1	20
T. Mahoney	5	0	1	32
D. Perry	2	0	0	24
H. Firth	5	0	0	35
K. Baillie	5	0	3	42
J. Fulwood	7	0	2	53

##### EYRE PENINSULA TEAM.

P. Ryan, not out	42
D. Mudge, l.b.w. Grimmett	0
C. Herbert, c. Brogan, b. Ellis	1
M. Agars, bowled Ridings	10
T. Mahoney, c. Walker, b. Tregonning	5
B. Quinlan, bowled Tregonning	0
K. Baillie, not out	7

Sundries .. 2

Total (for 5 wickets dec.) .. 67  
Fall of wickets:—1/0, 2/3, 3/26, 4/31, 5/31.

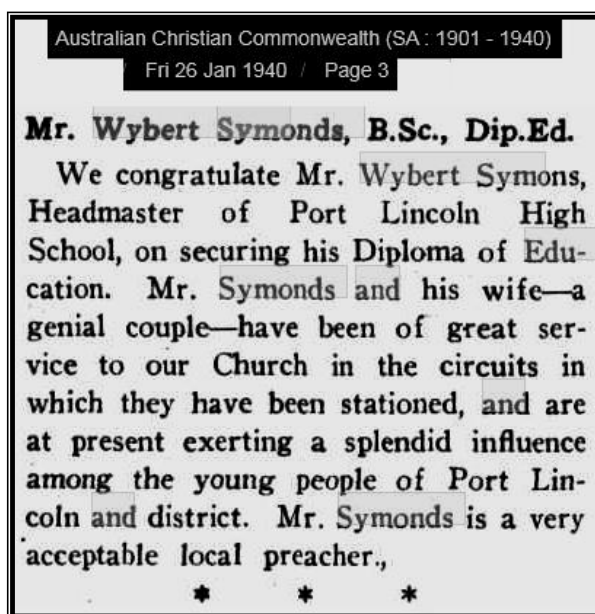
##### Bowling.

C. Grimmett	3	1	1	8
R. Ellis	3	0	1	13
K. Ridings	2	0	1	18
J. Tregonning	2	0	2	11
M. Waite	1	0	0	15

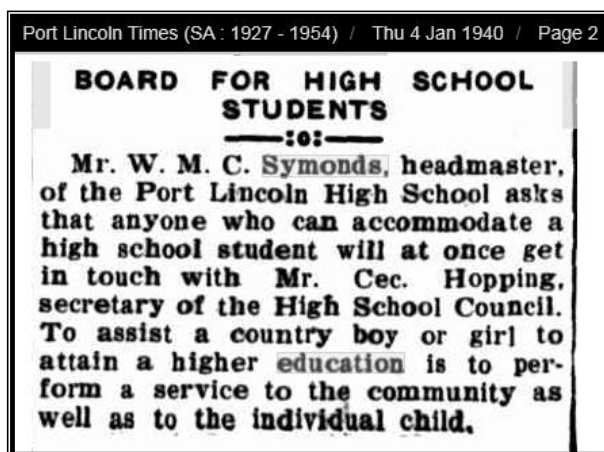


In 1939 Wybert gained his Diploma of Education from Adelaide University. This followed his submission to examiners of a paper based on a study he conducted while headmaster at Renmark. His research followed the vocational pathways his students took after completing their secondary education. His report detailed statistics on all his students' career paths. It showed that, although a high proportion remained working in the Riverland, a significant number of bright young students pursued further education and careers in the city. He referred to this as "Talent Erosion", but of course his own policies on curriculum fostered the choice of vocations. He ensured there were choices; a range of subjects suiting those who wanted to remain to work on family properties or find work in the local businesses and also subject choices that prepared students for higher education and professional careers elsewhere. Throughout Wybert's time as headmaster of country high schools he continued to keep statistics on the career pathways his students followed.

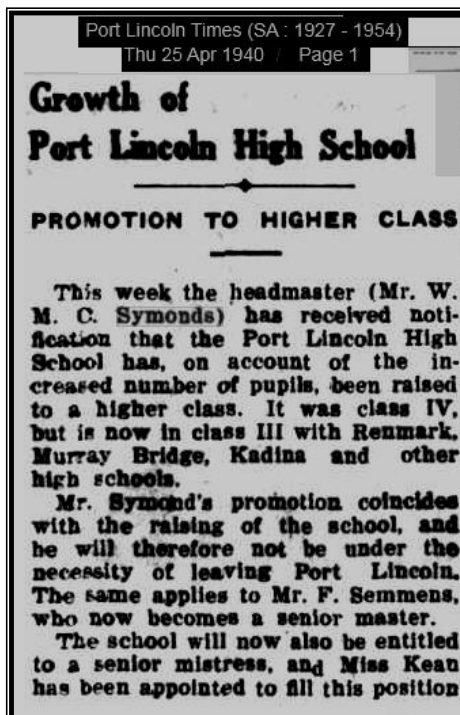
Wybert and Jean were now also being recognised for their service to the local Church. In particular for their "splendid influence among the young people of Port Lincoln and district" and Wybert becoming a "very acceptable local preacher".



Staffing at High Schools around the State became a little more difficult during the War Years, but fortunately Port Lincoln High School had very good senior staff. They were needed, as by April 1940, Port Lincoln High School had also seen an increase in student numbers. This was assisted by Wybert's initiative in seeking local accommodation for students from distant regional areas so they could continue to complete their secondary education.



Based on the increase in student numbers, the school was raised to a higher classification and with that, Wybert also gained a promotion.



While at Port Lincoln High School, Wybert's son John completed his Intermediate examination in 1938 passing with credits in Maths I and Physics and in 1939 he passed the Leaving (matriculation) examinations with a credit in Physics. Following in his father's footsteps, he would now go to Adelaide High School to study for Leaving Honors during 1940 and passed Physics, Chemistry and Maths. While in Adelaide he boarded at Wesley Theological College at Wayville. John would then go on to Adelaide University to study for a science degree after gaining a cadetship in the Physics Department.

In the 1939/40 cricket season Wybert played some matches with John in the High School Team. In December 1940, having completed his Leaving Honors exams in Adelaide, he returned to Port Lincoln and again they played cricket together, this time for the parents and friends against the students.

Daughter Ruth loved her time by the sea in Port Lincoln while attending the local Primary School.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)	
Thu 19 Dec 1940 / Page 1	
<b>Parents and Friends.—</b> R. Ramsey, retired, 50; N. V. Jacobs, b King, 13; J. H. McDonald, c and b Cook, 10; C. M. Griggs, b Cook, 3; R. Yeates, c King, b Cook, 17; K. Ulbrich, c Cook, b King, 3; J. C. Barrett, b King, 1; C. T. Piper, c Cook, b Mullner, 9; N. W. Wright, b Mullner, 2; W. Symonds, c King, b Haines, 8; J. Symonds, not out, 17; sundries, 8; total, 141. <b>Bowling:—</b> K. Matheson, 0/41; Pine, 0/35; B. Cook, 3/22; T. King, 3/21; D. Mullner, 2/15; M. Haines, 1/4.	
<b>Students.—</b> K. Matheson, retired 29; C. Mends, b Yeates, 1; T. King, b Griggs, 40; D. Mullner, c J. Symonds, b Piper, 9; V. Cotton, c Jacobs, b Piper, 6; Pine, b Piper, 7; M. Haines, b Calderwood, 7; Heinze, c Yeates, b Piper, 0; Clarke, c Griggs, b J. Symonds, 12; B. Cook, b Yeates, 16; M. Gregory, not out, 5; sundries, 26; total, 158. <b>Bowling:—</b> R. Yeates, 2/7; L. Ramsey, 0/10; J. H. McDonald, 0/11; N. V. Jacobs, 0/16; C. Griggs, 1/12; W. Symonds, 1/20; C. T. Piper, 4/15; J. C. Barrett, 0/8; Calderwood, 1/10; N. W. Wright, 0/14; K. Ulbrich, 0/4; J. Symonds, 1/2.	

In the 1939/40 cricket Wybert was still in good form and was again member of the Port Lincoln inter-association cricket team. He also continued on as Chairman of the Port Lincoln Cricket Association and was also a Vice-president of the Port Lincoln District Tennis Association.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
Thu 26 Sep 1940 / Page 5

## Annual Cricket Meeting

—:o:—

### PORT LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

SEASON TO COMMENCE ON  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

There was a fair attendance at the annual general meeting of the Port Lincoln Cricket Association, in the Institute reading room, on Tuesday night of last week. The chairman (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) presided.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
Thu 19 Sep 1940 / Page 5

## PORT LINCOLN JUNIOR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

—:o:—

### NAME ALTERED TO DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

At the annual general meeting of the Port Lincoln Junior Tennis Association, last Friday night, it was decided to alter the name of the association, to the Port Lincoln District Tennis Association, as the clubs of which it consists are drawn from the district as well as the town. The association may affiliate with the S.A. Lawn Tennis Association.

All clubs have agreed to join up again this year, with the exception of North Shields, who may alter their decision.

It was decided to hold the opening day on October 5.

Officers elected for the ensuing year were—Patron, Mr. R. F. Poole; president, Rev. J. Cleveland Barrett; vice-presidents, Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, Rev. K. J. Chatfield and Mr. C. Rogers; secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. Beames.

To contribute to physical fitness of the children of Port Lincoln, Wybert continued to ensure that they had access to suitable venues to play at their favourite sports. In August 1940, he was again involved in a Literary and Arts Club debate on "Science v Religion". For Wybert, the scientist and preacher, it must have been difficult a scenario, but he had to put the case that religion had done more for humanity than science. His team lost the debate - Science won.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
Thu 20 Jun 1940 / Page 12

## PHYSICAL CULTURE AT HIGH SCHOOL

—:o:—

Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, headmaster of the Port Lincoln High School, has asked the Town Council for permission to use the old tennis courts on the oval for basketball. It was decided to grant the use of two courts as requested during the period between May and the end of August, when the Junior Tennis Association would not be using the courts.

A further request was received from Mr. Symonds for the use of the Agricultural Hall and the council's gymnasium equipment on two afternoons each week.

It was proposed to take a boys and girls physical culture class alternately on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The council resolved to grant the request, provided Mr. Symonds undertook to store the equipment as there was no room to leave it at the hall.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
Thu 1 Aug 1940 / Page 7

## "Science v. Religion"

—:o:—

### LITERARY AND ARTS DEBATE.

There was considerable interest in the Literary and Arts Club debate on the contention that "Science is doing more for the welfare of humanity than religion."

The team supporting the contention comprised Messrs. J. H. McDonald, B.A., and W. Crowe; while Messrs. W. M. C. Symonds, B.Sc., and Rev. T. R. Hallahan took the opposite view.

The chairman (Mr. C. R. Doudy) awarded the decision to Messrs. McDonald and Crowe, who, he thought, kept more to the point of the debate. He congratulated all the speakers on the amount of thought they had given to the subject.

The Rev. T. Hallahan congratulated the winning team.

In October 1940, Mrs. Symonds was elected a Vice-president of the Port Lincoln Hospital Auxiliary Committee at their annual meeting. Wybert and Jean also enjoyed the membership of the music society, which often arranged performances by visiting singers and musicians. Long-time friends Alec and Mary Paull, then living at Bay Road Port Lincoln, were also members. Alec was then the Education Department District Inspector of Schools.

## Port Lincoln Hospital Auxiliary

### ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The annual meeting of the Port Lincoln hospital auxiliary was held in the Port Lincoln Civic Hall cloak room last Friday afternoon.

The report of the president (Mrs. R. E. Storey) showed a satisfactory year and the financial statements, presented by the secretary and treasurer (Miss H. L. Brougham), revealed a small credit balance.

Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows—auxiliary committee—president, Mrs. R. E. Storey; vice-presidents, Mrs. T. F. Gibson and Mrs. W. M. C. Symonds; secretary and treasurer, Miss H. L. Brougham; general committee—Matron E. Spring (ex officio), Mesdames C. T. Piper, D. A. Hunwick, T. Bascombe, P. J. Kelly, P. A. Mueller, A. S. Hopping, and A. H. Campbell.

After the School Sports Day in September, Wybert thanked those who had assisted his staff in running the event. During the school holidays Wybert and Jean visited Mount Gambier while Ruth stayed with the Rev. Charles Perry and his family who were now back in Adelaide.

## ASSISTANCE AT SPORTS APPRECIATED.

The headmaster of the Port Lincoln High School (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) expresses appreciation of the assistance given to the staff at the sports on Friday last by Messrs. R. F. Poole, A. H. Campbell, and L. E. Mudge, Dr. C. T. Piper, Revs. J. C. Barrett and T. R. Hallahan, and to Mr. J. H. McDonald, who lent the amplifier from the primary school, and any others who helped.

During the High School vacation Mr. W. M. C. Symonds will visit Mount Gambier. His daughter, Ruth will pay a visit to the Rev. and Mrs. C. J. Perry.

## REV. C. J. PERRY HOME AGAIN

Miss Elizabeth Perry accompanied Mr. and Mrs. W. M. C. Symonds when they returned to the High School last week after the holidays. She will be their guest until the Methodist Ladies College reopens on February 11.

Elizabeth was very thrilled the other evening when her father, the Rev. C. J. Perry, rang up from their home in Adelaide. Mr. Perry, who had accompanied troops overseas, and had been for a time in Palestine, had just returned unannounced.

Wybert and Jean were living on the grounds of the High School and had a house guest after returning from the long vacation in early 1941. Elizabeth Perry, the daughter of the Rev. Charles Perry stayed with them at the end of the long summer vacation. Rev. Perry was an Army Chaplain in Palestine during WW2.

At the triennial meeting of the Port Lincoln High School Council and Parents and Friends' Association, Wybert gave a presentation titled "Education - Past Present and Future". In it, he expressed his concerns about the educational handicaps facing country children, in particular those on Eyre Peninsula. His points of view were supported by statistics that he had collected. Although Wybert had done a great deal to rectify the situation the presentation was



given only weeks before the announcement of his pending transfer to the new Glossop High School. So it would be for others to continue the good work.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954), Thursday 10 April 1941, page 2

## Education Today and Tomorrow

### NECESSARY TO MAXIMUM OUTPUT IN PEACE OR WAR

The following are some of the aspects of the question of education as stressed by Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, in an address he gave at the triennial meeting of the Port Lincoln High School Council and Parents and Friends' Association.

Mr. Symonds said it was necessary to preserve a sane outlook of the war and the war effort's relation to the adolescent child. While the youth of today should be urged to make immediate sacrifices, he should also be equipped to face his civic responsibilities and to give an immediate contribution to the war effort. These ends can be achieved by giving every boy and girl a sound education on the broadest possible lines, and by requiring them to work hard at their studies instead of being sidetracked into affairs of secondary importance.

It is a significant fact that of about 300 young men who applied for the R.A.A.F. on Eyre Peninsula, only about 20 were accepted. The large majority were rejected because of lack of education.

The High School, he said, was organized for, and is giving, first consideration to developing physical, mental and moral powers. For that reason he welcomed the inclusion of religious instruction, so that the youth might have the high moral principles of the Christian religion placed before them.

Mr. Symonds pointed out that reference to figures of employment relating to children from the Port Lincoln High School, demonstrated that intermediate and Leaving certificates had great economic value and were a distinct asset to youths seeking employment. Casual labor was the lot of those who had not troubled to carry their education far enough.

Figures were analysed showing the lack of opportunity for education by the boys and girls of Eyre Peninsula. Remedies in the form of scholarships, board allowance and boarding school or hostel facilities were necessary. The lack of provision for higher education for so many of the boys and girls of Eyre Peninsula reveals a serious wastage of the nation's potential brain power and the position is not consistent with the ideals of democracy.

The same story is told by the figures of the lecturer in economics at the Adelaide University (Mr. J. A. La Nauze), where he showed that the higher professional positions are gained, not by virtue of ability only, but because certain groups could afford to pay for the whole course of such professions as medicine, law, or dentistry.

Thus, Mr. Symonds concluded, if we are to organize all the resources of the people for today and tomorrow, we must give every opportunity for the bright child, in fact every child, to get the necessary knowledge by which he may make his full contribution to the well being of the nation.

Prior to leaving Port Lincoln for Glossop, there were a number of farewell events planned for Wybert and Jean.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954) /  
Thu 24 Apr 1941 / Page 7

## Departure of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. C. Symonds

—\*—

Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, headmaster of the Port Lincoln High School, has been appointed to the new High School at Glossop, and will take charge there after the May vacation.

During the five years Mr. Symonds has been in charge at Port Lincoln, he has maintained a very high standard and has gained the esteem of all who have been fortunate to come into contact with him. He has made a special point of character building and has stressed its major importance in training citizens for the future. Mr. Symonds has also pointed out the injustice which a lack of facilities for higher education imposes on the children of the outback, and his efforts on their behalf may bear fruit even after he has left.

Mr. Symonds has taken part in all that is best in the social life of the town and has been ably seconded by Mrs. Symonds. Their departure will be felt as a loss to this town. It is, no doubt, a recognition of Mr. Symonds' ability and works that he should be chosen to undertake the organization necessary in opening an important new high school such as that at Glossop.

All who are interested are invited by the Mayor (Mr. R. F. Poole) to attend a meeting in the Mayor's parlor tonight, to arrange a civic farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Symonds. They will leave Port Lincoln on May 9.

The Symonds family was given a public send-off in the Port Lincoln Civic Hall. During the farewell event, numerous speeches were made, all praising the broad contributions Wybert and Jean had made to the community during his five year term as headmaster. On a separate occasion the High School staff and students representing the various grades organised a farewell social. Wybert was presented with a leather golf bag. On both occasions Wybert paid tribute to the cooperation and help he had been given by many and by no means least the support he had been given by Jean.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954), Thursday 8 May 1941, page 7

## PROMINENT PORT LINCOLN CITIZENS FAREWELLED

### Valedictory Social to Mr. and Mrs. W. M. C. Symonds and Sgt. and Mrs. A. G. Ewens

#### PUBLIC SEND-OFF

A gathering of citizens met in the Port Lincoln Civic Hall on Friday evening to say farewell to the headmaster of the Port Lincoln High School (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) and family, and to Sgt. A. G. Ewens and his family.

Mr. Symonds has been given the headmastership of the new High School at Glossop, and Sgt. Ewens is transferred to the control of the Police Station at Clare.

Owing to it being the late shopping night the proceedings opened at 9 p.m., when the Mayor (Mr. R. F. Poole) conducted the guests to the tables at the foot of the stage to the singing of "For they are jolly good fellows."

There were numerous speeches, and the Mayor asked that they should be condensed.

Capt. T. F. Gibson, chairman of the High School Council, testified to the splendid spirit of co-operation between that body and Mr. Symonds. Mr. Symonds had done work which would continue to benefit the school after he had gone. Mrs. Symonds, who had been an able and active president of the Parents and Friends' Association, had been a great support to her husband. On behalf of these bodies he wished Mr. and Mrs. Symonds every happiness in their new sphere.

Mr. A. H. Campbell, speaking for the Port Lincoln Bowling Club, wished Mr. and Mrs. Ewens happiness in their new home at Clare. As the sergeant had won a club championship here, they fully anticipated hearing later that he had gained similar distinction in his new home. As a citizen, Mr. Campbell expressed best wishes also to Mr. and Mrs. Symonds.

Two speakers who gained special applause were Myrna Mueller and Basil Baillie, High School prefects, who spoke for the students of the school and testified to the sympathetic assistance and encouragement they had received in work and sport.

Mr. C. B. Doudy spoke for the legal profession and the Port Lincoln Football Association. He said Sgt. Ewens was recognised as one of the most able clerks of court in South Australia and had always been of great assistance to both the bar and the bench. He and Mrs. Ewens had won the esteem of every citizen in Port Lincoln. As president of the Port Lincoln Football Association, he said Mr. Symonds had made it possible to carry on the game during the reconstruction of the town oval by granting the use of the High School Oval for football matches.

The Rev. J. Cleveland Barrett spoke for the Methodist Church, of which Mr. and Mrs. Symonds had been active and earnest members. Mr. Symonds' influence was realised in homes of students all over Eyre Peninsula. Mr. Barrett also testified to courtesy and help he had received from Sgt. Ewens.

Mrs. R. E. Story spoke for the Women's Hospital Auxiliary, and said they would miss Mrs. Symonds acutely.

Mr. J. H. McDonald spoke of Mr. Symonds as a colleague and friend, and of Mr. and Mrs. Symonds' great help to the Institute Literary and Arts Society.

Mr. C. S. Hopping spoke for the Port Lincoln Cricket Association, the Golf Club and High School old scholars. He pointed out that it was while Mr. Symonds was chairman that the Port Lincoln Cricket Association had put down the turf wicket, and had arranged the visit of the team captained by Mr. Don Bradman.

Mr. F. Semmens (senior master at the High School), spoke of the high esteem in which all their guests were held by all sections of the community. Speaking for the High School teachers, he said that they had realised that Mr. Symonds had a higher ideal for the young people than academic honors only. He tried to train future citizens with strong characters and high ideals. The teachers were genuinely sorry to lose Mr. Symonds and Mrs. Symonds.

Mrs. G. Bassham spoke on behalf of the Country Women's Association, and presented Mrs. Symonds and Mrs. Ewens each with a bouquet.

Mr. C. Anderson told of the assistance Mr. Symonds had given to members of the R.A.F. reserve, and Mr. C. L. Thomas of his work as a member of the R.S.L.

Finally, the Mayor wished the guests all future success and happiness on behalf of the citizens of Port Lincoln. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Bishop, Mr. W. B. Richardson, Mr. H. H. Pascombe, Dr. and Mrs. D. A. Hunwick and Dr. and Mrs. C. T. Piper.

Sgt. Ewens, in responding, said he was pleased to have been appointed to Port Lincoln, which he thought a fine place. He was glad to have given satisfaction. He had a duty to do which was not always pleasant. He hoped their sojourn at Clare would prove as happy as the six years they

had spent at Port Lincoln. He assured the people of Port Lincoln that they would find his successor a fine man. He thanked them all on behalf of Mrs. Ewens and family.

Mr. Symonds thanked the Mayor and all for the opportunity of saying farewell. Much had been said of what he had given to the school and town, but he had gained infinitely more than he had given. He appreciated the remarks of the prefects, but much for which they gave him credit could only have been done by co-operation with the High School Council, to whose work he paid the

highest tribute. The success of the school could only be achieved by co-ordination of the efforts of all concerned, and he had received a full measure of support from all, not least Mrs. Symonds. He carried away from Eyre Peninsula an appreciation of the disabilities of the people out-back and the fine spirit in which they met their difficulties. Mr. Symonds in conclusion said they would find his successor, Mr. Noblett, an earnest and efficient master.

After the National Anthem, the Mayor invited all to the supper room where a light repast was served.

During the evening the following gave items:—Mrs. F. H. Odgers (song), Mrs. W. C. Stagg (recitation), Mrs. E. A. Warlang (song), Mr. C. Rogers (cornet solo), Mrs. M. K. Secombe (songs), Mrs. R. W. Arrow-smith, Miss E. M. Brougham and Mrs. Desmazures were the accompanists.

#### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TENDER SOCIAL AND PRESENTATION

On Monday evening the High School pupils tendered a farewell social to Mr. and Mrs. W. M. C. Symonds in the Civic Hall supper room. The other teachers of the High School staff were present.

There were one or two musical items by students, and several dances for which Mrs. Brierley provided music.

Students representing the different grades spoke, wishing Mr. and Mrs. Symonds happiness in their new home. The speakers were:—First year students, Victor Serotzki; second year, Olive Altmann; intermediate, Les Elefsen; and leaving class, Basil Baillie. The latter, on behalf of all the students, presented Mr. Symonds with a leather golf bag.

Mr. and Mrs. Symonds responded. The supper was provided by the pupils.

A bright evening concluded by singing "Auld Lang Syne."



## Glossop High School

The Symonds family moved to the Murray river town of Glossop in May 1941. Travelling by motor vehicle during the month of May was in contrast to the family's journey by train to Renmark 10 years earlier in the extreme heat of the Summer of 1932. Unfortunately, there was another housing dilemma and at first they had to stay in temporary accommodation while the new headmaster's house was being built near the school. Coming from Port Lincoln where they had many friends, it again took time for the family to adjust. For Ruth, now 11 years old, she would be changing to her third school in six years and have to make new friends again. Her Primary education would be completed at the nearby Barmera Primary School.

Wybert had been specially invited to be the headmaster of the new Glossop High School. It had been built to provide convenient secondary education for the youth of the Barmera, Berri, Cobdogla, Kingston on Murray and Monash districts. Wybert, from his experience during his time as headmaster at Renmark, was well aware of the desperate need for the new well located high school. Previously the students from these areas had to travel by an early morning train to arrive at Renmark for the first lesson of the day. Parents who remembered Wybert from his days at Renmark High School, had fought tenaciously with the Education Department to have the school built at Glossop, in a central position in this Upper-Murray region. They were particularly pleased to have Wybert accept the position as its first headmaster. The invitation had been accepted, but it was done without any incentive of promotion!

In April 1942, a year after their move to Glossop, the Symonds finally moved into their new home and they were given a surprise house warming visit by members of the Glossop High School Council.



The challenge of heading a new school was made a little easier because of the excellent backing of the Education Department, the parents and the regional organisations as a whole. Wybert was very pleased that the school was provided with an excellent group of senior staff and intelligent young teachers. The facilities in the new buildings

were excellent, however with World War 2 raging and still suffering from the tail-end of the Great Depression, money was tight. Many additional resources necessary to fully equip a new school were hard to come by. For example; for a time they had a very nice library with empty shelves.

Wybert had always been an active member of the R.S.L. after his return from WW1 and on Anzac Day 1942 he invited two local members to address the school assembly.

Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record (Renmark, SA : 1913 - 1942)  
Thu 30 Apr 1942 / Page 5

## GLOSSOP H.S. FIRST COMMEMORATION

### Addresses by R.S.L. Members and Students

In the celebration of Anzac Day at the Glossop High School the Headmaster (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) invited representatives of the R.S.L. sub-branches of the district to be present and for two of their number to address the students during the ceremony. This idea was much appreciated by the R.S.L. members and by all concerned. It was the High School's first Anzac Day celebrations.

In the midst of WW2, Wybert was appointed as Officer in Command of the Berri Air Training Corps. He had previously had an association with the R.A.A.F while still in Port Lincoln. He had offered instruction (3 month courses) in mathematics and physics to R.A.A.F Reservists as evening courses at the Port Lincoln High School.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
Thursday 7 November 1940

## R.A.A.F. RESERVISTS

### SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IN STUDIES

Eight young men who were placed on the R.A.A.F. reserve when they offered their services some time ago, have since been studying under teachers of the Port Lincoln High School.

Four examinations will be held at intervals to ascertain what progress they are making. The first has just been made, and the headmaster at the High School (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds), reports:—The young reservists are doing excellent work, are keen and alert and always co-operate with us most willingly in whatever they have to do. Their results are good, and they all seem to have a sound grasp of this preliminary work. The reservists are:—J. L. Box, R. C. Brabham, L. F. Brown, W. G. Miller, P. S. Ryan, C. G. Stobbing, R. Snowdon and V. Bauer. One or two others, who are not reservists, have been attending the classes and Mr. S. Close has been an instructor.

Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record (Renmark, SA : 1913 - 1942)  
Thu 30 Jul 1942 / Page 7

## BERRI AIR TRAINING CORPS

### Mr. W. M. C. Symonds Appointed O.C.

Berri, July 27.  
The Berri Air Training Corps is Squadron 73 Berri Flight, of which the appointment of Mr. W. M. C. Symonds (head master of the Glossop High School) has been confirmed as O.C. Twenty-four cadets have been enrolled. A preliminary examination has just been held, and the results were very satisfactory.

In September there will be a review in Adelaide of all squadrons of the Air Training Corps Cadets, at which His Excellency the Governor (Sir Charles Malcolm Barclay-Harvey K.C.M.G.) will take the salute. It is hoped to have the Berri Flight (cadets in uniform) for that occasion.

Recently an A.T.C. ball was held in Berri, the net proceeds £33/4/4 being to provide uniforms, etc. The ball was a great success, between 350 and 400 being present. The supper arrangements and decorations were under the direction of Mrs. L. S. Trenaman.

Regular classes are held for the cadets, and in Berri Mr. M. W. Scriven (one of the educational officers) holds classes twice weekly, which are well attended and the boys are very keen.

On July 18 a football match was played between the Berri Flight and the Barmera Flight, Mr. Scriven being central umpire, Mr. Symonds (Berri Flight) and Mr. Kernot (Barmera Flight) goal umpires.

The secretary of the Berri Flight is Mr. F. H. Wack.

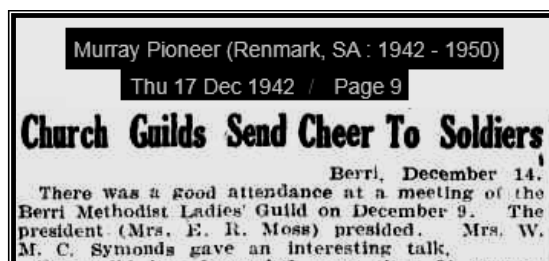


Sadly, on September 19th 1942, Wybert's mother Amelia passed away at the age of 88 years.



Amelia Caust (1854 - 1942)

During the War years Jean was involved with fund raising for the school and also other activities supporting the Australian Forces at home and abroad.



As with his previous headmaster appointments, Wybert was seeking additional funding from the Education Department to cope with increased enrollments. Additional sporting facilities were also planned, but a lot of this depended on local fundraising activities as money was tight during the War years. Some of the School's sporting facilities were able to be built at little cost using the labor of Italian migrants who had been held at the nearby Cobdogla Internment Camp.

Jean again had played a very important role in engaging with the parents and friends. When money was tight she did much to organise significant fundraising activities to enable the acquisition of additional resources for education and recreation.



Wybert's role with the Air Training Corps at Glossop/Berri was to facilitate the education of potential recruits to the R.A.A.F. and these included correspondence courses for lads who were not able to attend training centres.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950)  
Thu 22 Apr 1943 / Page 5

## THE AIR TRAINING CORPS

### Correspondence Tuition

If any boys of the River districts between the ages of 16 and 18 are interested in the ATC, but are living too far from the four centres at which Flights are established, to attend classes, this does not preclude them from joining the corps.

A special correspondence course has been arranged to meet the situation, and is supervised by a staff of instructors experienced in correspondence tuition.

The correspondence cadet is attached to the squadron which is nearest to his home, so that on his occasional visits to the neighbouring towns at week-ends he may join his squadron or flight for instruction in drill and service knowledge. In addition the correspondence cadet is encouraged to visit RAAF stations for camps of continuous training with other members of his own unit.

Any boys interested may obtain further information from their nearest Flight Commander: Flt./Lieuts. S. A. James (Renmark), E. H. Kernot (Barmera), W. M. C. Symonds (Glossop Berri Flight), or Mr. L. E. Trebilcock (Walkerie).

An event in aid of the "Miss Red Cross" fund raising competition was a Burlesque football match in which Wybert (now in his mid-40s) participated. Captain of the "Berri Veterans" team was W. "Harold" Oliver (the legendary Port Adelaide footballer) who had a fruit block at Berri.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950)  
Thu 10 Jun 1943 / Page 1

## Burlesque Football at Berri Raises £40

"Berri Veterans", by virtue of more accurate shooting for goal, narrowly defeated "The Army" in a burlesque football match played on the Berri Oval on Monday. The match, which was well attended, was arranged for Miss Kath Knappstein in the "Miss Red Cross" competition, and raised the excellent sum of £40. Afternoon tea was provided by a committee of ladies. Prior to the match the Berri School Band marched through the streets to the oval. Teams were as follows:

**BERRI VETERANS**—W. H. Oliver (capt.), W. M. C. Symonds, Harris, G. Greenwood jun., P. Affleck, H. Moss, Stevens, Carpany, M. Scriven, J. McKay, J. Possingham, B. Setterberg, C. Tasse, B. Oates, W. Westley, R. Moss jun., P. Treloar, R. Moss, H. W. King, J. Llewellyn, E. D. Nitschke.

**Army**—Padre Walsh (Capt.), Lt. Smith (vice capt.), Durnwood, Lush, Clancy, Pitt, Whitehouse, Taylor, Hett, Hayston, Prince, Leighton, Stone, Clonper, Appleton, Laidlaw, Winch, and Ford.

The central umpire was Mr. Ken Lowe (in top hat and all); timekeeper, Mr. N. Dyer; goal umpires, Messrs. Carpenter and Scott.

Prize for best player on the Berri side was won by Carpany. A running commentary on the match was broadcast by Mr. L. S. Trenaman.

A programme of children's sports was also held. (Details later).

Even during the War years, Wybert continued to raise issues around the special education needs of country students.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)  
Wed 4 Aug 1943 / Page 2

### Agricultural Features In "The Chronicle"

A feature of uncommon interest in "The Chronicle," which will be published tomorrow, is an article by Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, BSc, Dip. Ed., of Glossop, dealing with the entire sphere of education, but having special reference to the necessity for both theoretical and practical training for students in rural areas. The article discusses many aspects of the matter and includes references to adult education.

Another issue raised by him was the "leakage" of students who failed to complete their education after reaching the legal school leaving age of 14 years<sup>13</sup>.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950), Thursday 28 December 1944, page 1

### GLOSSOP HIGH SCHOOL

#### "Leakage of Just Over 14 Group"

Mr. W. M. C. Symonds (headmaster of the Glossop High School) in his annual report presented at the speech night, held on Monday of last week, said that he was "perturbed at the more than usual leakage of the just over 14 group" this year.

The following is a slightly abridged version of Mr. Symonds' report:

"When I submitted my report last year, I expressed the hope that we would meet this year without the fear that war would continue to claim our young men and women. However during the year, several of our young and old scholars have joined the Forces, but I am happy to report that, as yet, no casualties have occurred.

"The students of the school have contributed to the SPF £126/14/5 this year, making a total of £437/16/6 since the school opened.

"I want in this year's report to stress the need for co-operative effort in this our school community and the paramount need for the extension of this spirit in the bigger communities of the district, nation and the world. I know that Dr. Ross was amazed at the extent of the co-operative effort in the Murray communities, and was seeking a reason for it. I think he partly found it in the original common need for water, requiring a common and co-operative con-

common and co-operative control. In this atmosphere we would be failing in an educational duty if we failed to organize our school on fundamentally the same lines. In most respects we have, I think, succeeded. I feel that some have failed to realize: (1) how vital to any co-operative effort leadership is, and (2) how no effective co-operative effort can be achieved without every person being prepared to sink at times personal convenience, to make deliberate sacrifice, and to give thoughtful consideration of the rights of others. I look to you senior students to set the pace, to prove yourselves worthy of your place at the top of the school by setting an example of courageous and inspiring leadership in work and play.

"I appeal to you parents to show an understanding interest in what your child is doing. I can see clearly where home influence has been an inspiration to the student, where interested supervision has been exercised and how much it means in the life and attitude of the student."

Mr. Symonds set out a table showing what had happened to those who had left the school. This revealed that 13.4 per cent had gone on to university studies to fit themselves for teaching, medicine, science and so on, while 54 per cent of the boys had gone back on to the land. "Personally, I am pleased to see two strong streams, provided that we have fitted them adequately for their future life", said Mr. Symonds.

(Continued on page 7)

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950)  
Thu 28 Jun 1945 / Page 4

### FORMER HEAD MASTER TO ATTEND HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL

Mr. W. M. C. Symonds (former head master of the Renmark High School, and at present head master at Glossop) with Mrs. Symonds will attend the 21st birthday social of the Renmark HS tomorrow (Friday) evening, at the school. A big attendance of former students parents, and other interested persons is expected. A bus will leave Holden's Corner at 7.45 p.m.

In June 1945, Wybert attended the 21st Anniversary of the Renmark High School.

<sup>13</sup> In South Australia the school leaving age was raised to 15 years of age in 1963.

In June 1945, as the outcome of WW2 was moving in favour of the Allies, his appointment in the R.A.A.F. was terminated.

Commonwealth of Australia Gazette (National : 1901 - 1973)

Thu 28 Jun 1945 [Issue No.126] / Page 1407

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND SPECIAL DUTIES BRANCH.**

The following officers are transferred from the Active List with effect from the dates indicated:—Temporary Wing Commander N. Mulroney (260064), 27th April, 1945, (Temporary Flight Lieutenants) D. N. Gillison (254475), 14th April, 1945, D. B. Duncan (263804), 24th April, 1945.

The appointments of the following officers are terminated with effect from the dates indicated:—Flying Officer W. C. Pruden (267711), 10th April, 1944, (Pilot Officers) J. A. F. Blair (277432), 23rd March, 1945, W. D. Stewart (8784), W. D. Napier (5707), 28th March, 1945, W. M. C. Symonds (5775), M. W. Scriven (8398), 16th April, 1945, A. W. Cavanagh (257444), 20th April, 1945.

Following the surrender of Japan on 15th August 1945, the Riverland celebrated with unprecedented gaiety and in Berri, Wybert was one of those who addressed the students of the district who had marched to and assembled on the local oval.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950), Thursday 16 August 1945, page 1

## RIVER CELEBRATES END OF WAR



### GAY SCENES AND SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING

#### Following Announcement Jap. Surrender

Scenes of almost unprecedented gaiety and services of thanksgiving have taken place in the River districts yesterday and today, following the announcement yesterday morning that Japan had surrendered to the Allies.

#### BERRI

Shops in Berri closed at 9.30 a.m. yesterday and there were gay scenes in the streets, although celebrations were purely informal until this morning. Last night coloured lights which had previously been erected in readiness were lit.

Today there is a full day of festivities. The district schools marched to the oval, where addresses were given by the chairman of the District Council (Cr. L. S. Trenaman) and Mr. W. M. C. Symonds. Sports for the children followed.

Tonight there will be bands playing and dancing in the streets.

On 26th August 1946, the Prime Minister of Australia, Ben Chifley, visited Berri along with the State Premier Tom Playford. Wybert was asked to welcome them and after sitting down next to him, Chifley said in a characteristic gruff voice, "I am going to give these kids a full day's holiday" and with a smile continued, "I know it is unconstitutional, but if Tom Playford makes a fuss about it, you tell him I will cut off supplies"



Following soon after, on 13th September 1946, the school children from Glossop High and Primary Schools were among the 3,000 at Berri Oval who welcomed the Duke of Gloucester (Prince Henry, 11th Governor General of Australia) on his visit to the Riverland. During the official Ceremony, Wybert being the most senior headmaster in the Riverland, had the honour of being seated next to the Duke. At one stage, just as Chifley had done earlier, he turned and whispered to Wybert, "I am going to give the children a full day's holiday. Don't you agree"? Wybert replied "Well I am sure your Royal Highness that they will agree with you". This brought a loud roar of laughter from him. So in the space of a couple of weeks, the Riverland schoolchildren had received the bonus of two extra holidays without prior consultation and approval of the Education Department or headmasters.

In December 1946 Wybert presented a detailed report analysing the pathways followed by the students of Glossop High School after they had left school.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950)  
Thu 26 Dec 1946 Page 1

## Callings Followed by Students after Leaving High School

### GLOSSOP HEAD MASTER'S ANALYSIS IN ANNUAL REPORT

As an indication of "what happens to those who have left this school", the head master of the Glossop High School (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) quoted the following analysis in his speech night annual report as giving "a fairly accurate picture":—

**GIRLS**—Of a total of 165—Office 55, or 33.4 per cent; home duties (many remain at home waiting for call to nursing) 40, or 24.2 per cent; University (including teaching) 24, or 14.5 per cent; nursing 20, or 11.4 per cent; shop assistants, 19 or 11.4 per cent; trades (dressmaking, hairdressers, etc.) 7, or 4.2 per cent.

**BOYS**—Of a total of 159—Block or farm 66, or 41.2 per cent; University (including teaching) 23, or 14.4 per cent; trades 20, or 12.6 per cent; office (including banks) 18, or 11.3 per cent; labourers 15, or 9.4 per cent; shop assistants 6, or 3.8 per cent; Police and Navy 5, or 3.1 per cent; Roseworthy College 5, or 3.1 per cent.

At the Speech Night, Wybert gave an interesting reply to a parent's criticism of the High Schools homework policy.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950),  
Thursday 2 January 1947, page 4

## High School Homework

### Glossop "Heads" Reply to Letter

In his annual report presented at the speech night of the Glossop High School the head master (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) replied to a letter recently published in "The Pioneer," on the subject of "High School Homework."

Mr. Symonds said:

"I did not reply to the letter as I consider this to be a more suitable place. I would agree with the writer that if formal homework seriously interferes with the health or music, tennis or other physical entertainment work it should be curtailed, but I am afraid that it is more likely that homework would interfere with pictures, dances and such-like social activities. These are necessary, and desirable I admit, in moderation, at the right age, and at the right time during the week. Don't you think that we are tending to underestimate what a student—primary or secondary—is capable of achieving; that it is bad to give a child the impression that the highest achievements and results in life can be easily gained by a lackadaisical attitude to his school work; that in the swing from stern and puritanical discipline we can easily swing to a state of loose evasion of responsibility or chaotic licence?"

"If 'Fair Play' is here tonight I would ask him or her to see me personally, and I can assure you that the claim of your child will be considered on its individual merits and adjustment made, if health, or other worthwhile interests are unduly interfered with. I might add that I have also been reproached for not giving enough homework, and add further that we cannot take over the responsibility of the parent in seeing what we consider to be necessary home studies are done; we seek your co-operation in the matter—in the interests of your child."

In April 1947 Wybert made arrangements for 52 students from Glossop High School to visit Mount Gambier. Another 25 girls attended the National Fitness Camp at Mylor.

## Glossop High School Children on Tour

Berri, April 15.

The headmaster of the Glossop High School (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) has made arrangements for a number of students to visit other areas with the object of broadening their minds meeting other children and becoming acquainted with industries which are allied to their own. Pendle's road liner with 52 boys and girls, under the care of Mr. M. Scriven and Miss J. Borchers left early this week for Mt. Gambier. The children will be billeted in the Mt. Gambier district with parents of the Mt. Gambier High School children. Mr. Carthew (headmaster of the M.G.H.S.) is co-operating and arranging an itinerary which will be of great interest and outstanding educational benefit to the visitors. The

boys and girls are to visit the cellulose mills at Millicent and the pine forests and box making and other places of interest in the Mt. Gambier area, including Pt. MacDonnell. They will also participate in athletics, tennis, soft ball, cricket and debating, with the Mt. Gambier children. The party who will have a full programme, should derive much benefit and a fund of information. They will return to Berri on Sunday.

Another party, of 25 girls under the management of Miss Elder left after school on Monday in Bishop's bus en route for Mylor, where they will be camped in the National Fitness Camp. Mrs. Rowe, of Berri, will be the camp matron and do the cooking for the girls. While there 25 girls from the Millicent High School will also camp at the National Fitness Camp, and the parties will engage in athletics. A visit will be paid by the party to the Exhibition at Wayville. They will return at the end of the week.

Wybert was Chairman of a meeting of representatives from Riverland towns that favoured the development of adult education services in the region.

## W.E.A. Lecture Series Sought for River

A meeting of representatives from the various towns held at Berri on Tuesday evening, with Mr. W. M. C. Symonds in the chair, decided in favour of the establishment of an adult education service in the River districts. The principal resolution was that the W.E.A. be asked to extend the service of monthly lectures offered to Barmera to Berri and Renmark over a six monthly period. The meeting was attended by Mr. B. D. Whitwell (W.E.A. general secretary) from Adelaide.

Appreciation was expressed of the interest shown by the Barmera Community Centre Committee (of which Mr. A. E. Whitmore is secretary) in convening the meeting.

In November 1947, Wybert addressed a regional teacher's conference held in Berri on the subject of "Teaching as a Profession"

# Teaching as a Profession

By W. M. C. Symonds, B.Sc., Dip.Ed.

**T**HE following address on the subject of "Teaching as a Profession" was given by the headmaster of the Glossop High School (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, B.Sc., Dip.Ed.) at the recent teachers' regional conference, at Berri.

Wybert now aged 54, was playing lawn bowls (very well). He and his Berri Bowling Club partner were successful by winning the State four-ball pairs.

## BERRI PAIR WIN STATE BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP

### Fischer-Symonds Defeat Club Colleagues Dalziel-Lehmann in Final

A. F. Fischer and W. M. C. Symonds, of the Berri Bowling Club, won the State four-ball pairs championship in Adelaide last week. They defeated their club colleagues H. McR. Dalziel and J. T. Lehmann in the final. This signal success by the Berri players is the more remarkable when it is remembered that there were 500 competitors in the event.



A. F. Fischer



W. M. Symonds



H. McR.  
Dalziel



J. T. Lehmann



In June 1948, Wybert presented a paper concerning the loss of young talent from country districts. This material on which the presentation was based, was probably the culmination of the research and collection of statistics that had started 16 years earlier when headmaster at the Renmark Agricultural High School.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950),

Thursday 24 June 1948, page 9

## **TALENT EROSION**

**By W. M. C. Symonds**

Paper read at recent Agricultural Bureau Conference at Berri by Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, B.Sc., Dip. Ed. (head master of the Gleskop High School)

Several years ago, in a paper given at a similar Agricultural Bureau Conference here, I suggested that serious problems would arise in our country districts because so many of our brightest boys and girls were leaving it to go to the city. I hinted that this would seriously affect the stock itself, the industry and the very soil. Quoting from my talk on "Farming: A Mode of Life":—"The test of their skill and intelligent handling of their farm will be that they can make it even more productive, while still leaving the soil (which, after all, is what we live on and by) for future generations to co-operate with, for the perpetuation of man's existence on the earth."

Since writing that paper I find that New Zealand thinkers are concerned with the same problems. Let me quote from a research book, "The High Schools of New Zealand" (p. 180), by J. H. Murdoch.—"It has recently been estimated that whereas some 8,000 farm recruits are needed annually, only some 4,320 actually enter the occupation: moreover it has been shown that the total number of school-leavers probably entering farming in 1938 was only 60 per cent of the number in 1932. It is asserted, with some justice, that many of these recruits come from a poorly-trained, even dull section of the community, and the forecast has been made that within three generations the result will be economic disaster."

I wish, however, to give you the gist of an excellent article, written for the Australian Quarterly (March, 1948) by A. J. Greenhalgh, of Armidale University College. I hope he will forgive me for having pirated

his striking title, "Talent Erosion." He supports his con-

clusions with significant figures the counterpart of which I shall give you for these districts and for certain localities in South Australia.

He first shows that:—

(1) With increased technical skill, output per farm worker increased 150 per cent between 1870 and 1930 in U.S.A., and that one man in ten of population is now sufficient to satisfy the demand for rural produce in our society. (I have no comparable Australian figures, but a great increase in output has clearly been gained in Australia, too).

(2) Rural populations have highest fertility rates (the 1933 Australian census for N.S.W. showed 8 per cent city population under 5 years as against 11 per cent for rural areas. These are now 16 to 20 years of age). Therefore, he concludes: "Since nine men in ten are needed in non-rural work, since the majority of these live in cities like Sydney (and Adelaide and since they do not reproduce sufficiently, the country surplus of population must be attracted. This is done by a system of rewards, i.e., occupations in secondary and tertiary services and other facilities."

He then goes on to show (and I shall prove that it is also true from this district) that the process is strongly selective, i.e., it is "the most able members who go away, often leaving many of those behind restless and discontented. It is all too frequently the natural leaders who go." From his figures he shows the following serious problems arising from this selective movement, which are more ser-



ious than just numerical numbers:—

(1) "Strong hereditary element in ability, therefore presence of very able children indicates a similar presence of very able parents"—"the most able ever on the move; less able either do not move or they move in the manner of inert and heavy material, small distances, collecting in pockets, such, perhaps, as small towns. They cannot foresee opportunity."

(2) That since, the bright move to opportunity, if opportunity offers in the country, it will attract the bright.

(3) In order "to give the children a chance" the farmer is bent on making money quickly to send them away from the land. Thus he tends to overstock and over-cultivate "for the children's sake"; these do not return, parents sell out and the exhausted land is bought by less able (because less aware) people or goes to hirelings.

Therefore the calibre of people has deteriorated with the land. Therefore:—

(4) The change is often rapid, probably in a generation "leaving a more sterile group, a feature of life which has certain eugenic possibilities it would be interesting to examine"

(5) Dangerous, he considers, because "Countryman is left without those abilities best suited to adopting the generalized discoveries of the academic scientist to the particular instance, e.g., scientific soil theory to the vagaries of soil to be found in a single paddock".

Therefore tends to stultify applications of scientific principles to the land.

(6) Prevents "the development of the farm as 'a way of life,' because alternative values are given such point by society that farmer appears 'inferior.' The rapidity of selective nature of change threatens the 'group' life of rural areas; since full education assumes group moves, loyalties and co-operation, we

have a threatened decay in the rural community extending beyond mere numbers. Thus, though it may be true that only one in ten is required on the land, that one is vital."

(7) He concludes that decentralization—or recentralization—schemes are no solution because rural areas will get the same problem with smaller units in towns and do not produce "healthy, organic community life in the country proper."

That is the gist of Mr. Greenhalgh's analysis to which he offers, very wisely, no solution. The figures given below for South Australia reveal these same tendencies, and I suggest that you examine them closely. However, I consider that the picture painted is rather gloomy, and not enough account (in our Irrigation Areas particularly) has been taken of other factors.

In examining the graph (on Pg. 13) the reader should know what IQ represents. The Intelligence Quota, IQ (a figure given to each person after he has done group or other intelligence tests, the figure 100 being accepted as the mean, improving intelligence being shown by the higher figure and reaching brilliance at 140, and vice versa at the other end) is designed to show intelligence only, and not temperamental or emotional qualities, or "stickability" or effects of environment, etc. It is admitted that I.Q. figures are liable to faulty interpretation; however, I have found that there is a reasonable correlation between I.Q. and achievement.

You will notice from the graphs that you have, roughly, the following groups:—Below average, average, upper average and superior intelligence groups. The graphs represent percentages for comparison purposes. I wish to thank Mr. Whitford (from the Education office) for making available the figures and for his help in many ways. I have made the Glossop District High School a basis for comparison with the city, and other country areas, but other comparisons can be made. The figures are based on results of group tests done by boys and girls entering secondary schools this year (1948). Care must be taken not to draw wrong conclusions from the "superior" intelligence groups, as it is possible that one or two groups from very small number groups may have gone to city private schools for religious, social or domestic reasons. I have added another graph which shows the groupings resulting from all the tests made on students from Berri, Barneta to Moorook districts over the past four years; one to represent intelligence groupings of those who have remained in these districts, and one of those who left the district.

You will observe that the metropolitan high schools (b) have a much higher percentage in the "superior" intelligence group, and a much lower percentage in the below average to poor intelligence group than in any other type of schools (representing transport facilities, etc. districts). The average

per average are much the same as for the other areas. However, you will notice that when metropolitan high schools are taken with other city secondary schools (C), giving a more representative cross-section of the community, that the "superior" intelligence per cent, though still slightly higher, approximates more closely to some country areas, while the farming, old mining and horticultural areas show a greater proportion below average. You will notice how strikingly similar is the overall picture of the whole metropolitan area graph (C) and the "Farming-Industrial" (E), and "Industrial-Railway Graphs" (F). This is another story which we cannot enter into here. If that average and upper average in country areas can be maintained in sufficiently high numbers, I do not think we have much to fear for the intelligent management of blocks, farms and the application of scientific principles to the land, particularly if farming and horticulture are regarded as a "way of life." It appears that it may be maintained; the below average group will no doubt be much happier doing those kinds of work which do not require administrative or organizing ability, of which they are, most likely, not capable. There is also a demand for their services in country areas.

We are still faced with the implications of this set of figures taken for this district only, viz., a comparison between the graph of the intelligence grouping of those who remain in these districts (J) with those whom I know have gone to the city (K) and elsewhere for educational, vocational or other

reasons. That some of the latter will return is possible, perhaps to take over the block, or some administrative, professional or semi-professional work or as wives in the homes. Even if they do not come back to their own district, many will, I think, go into other districts to use their ability for the benefit of that district. Others from other districts having similar intellectual calibre will enter these districts to become the teachers, medical officers, lawyers, clergymen, administrators in Government and private business, etc. It is here that the equalizing and stabilizing effects will be felt.

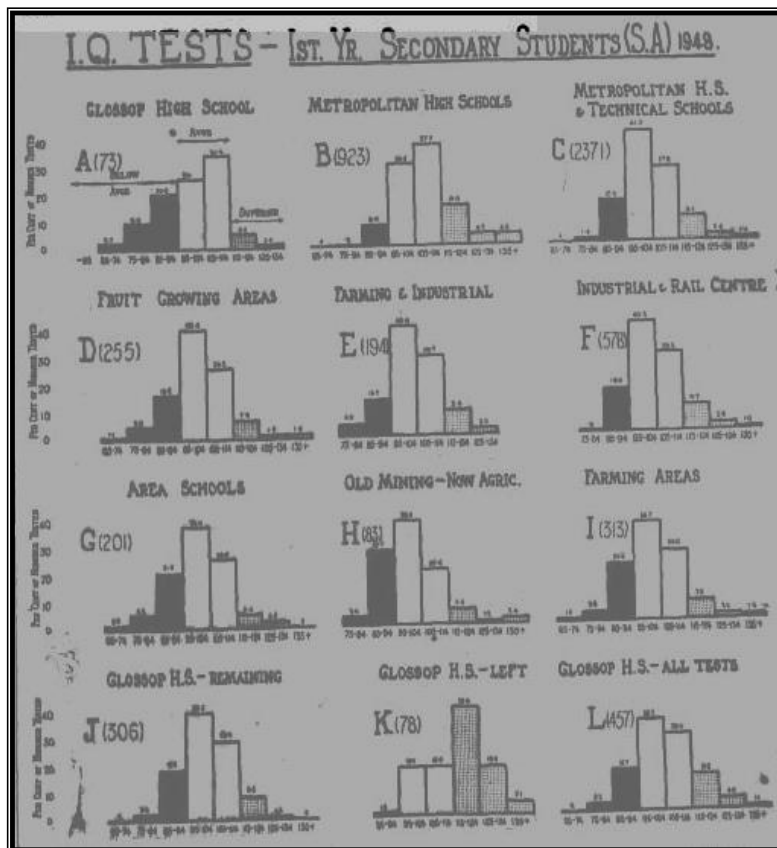
It must be granted, however, that these leavening influences are less likely to occur in the more sparsely populated and isolated areas. For these reasons, I would modify the conclusions which Mr. A. J. Greenhalgh considers will follow the "talent erosion." The good soil moves from one place to another, but it is still there, except maybe in the drier outback from whence it is blown, never to return, with consequent local sterility.

It is interesting to note the viewpoint of A. Anastasi in her book, "Differential Psychology, resulting from a careful study of this problem in America and Europe. She states the same views as those above, concerning "selective" migration of the more intelligent group, and that "intellectual status of the inhabitants become progressively poorer as the degree of remoteness increases" (page 553). Speaking of "selective migration of the more intelligent" she says (page 554):—"The opposite argument could just as readily be put that it is the shiftless and dull who migrate because they have been unable to succeed at home"—(but is it? I notice that these birds come home to roost when times are bad generally, or for them in particular!). On page 577:—"Thus from several converging lines of evidence (for America and Europe) it would seem that the inferiority of rural children in the current tests on intelligence, results from environmental handicap rather than from a process of selective migration which might drain the rural areas of their better stock"—and further suggests (page 575)—"a definite im-

provement in test score is to be found with increasing length of residence in an urban environment."

This conclusion for improvement must be accepted, I think with qualifications as to how far (most likely within very narrow limits) that improvement will go. It is, of course, a strong argument for extended formal school education. Thus the Glossop High School must accept some responsibility for this "talent erosion" since it provides that education which enables many boys and girls (17 per cent or more) to accept other opportunities for which they have now been fitted. I frequently come up against the point of view of students (and parents) that further education is not required "since I am going on the land," or "my daughter will, after all, get married—and then, what is the good of it?" This point of view colours and damages their whole approach to study, to the acquisition of knowledge and culture and to the disciplining of the minds of those young people. The long-suffering parents allow their children to remain at a secondary school of some kind, the better equipped will their children be to become mothers, or to pursue whatever vocation they wish to pursue in their own district, and the richer will the community be. A. Anastasi's viewpoint is also an argument for an extension of meetings such as we are having here today, of W.E.A. activities, of Youth Clubs and CWA where the things of the mind, too, are not neglected, and where all possible is done to maintain and strengthen the intellectual vigour of our people. Even with this, the effects of this "talent erosion" may be felt most seriously in the political and cultural fields, and in matters where community organising leadership is required. Whether that is so or not, so long as we possess freedom to choose the occupation we desire, this "talent erosion" is inevitable—and from some points of view, healthy and desirable, for, in transferring good fresh new soil from one place to another throughout our country, new ideas, fresh viewpoints and activities germinate, grow up and flourish in the land.







## DRIFT OF COUNTRY PEOPLE TO THE CITY

Country Women's Association members from all over the State spent Tuesday, the opening day of their annual conference, discussing the drift of country people to the city.

The president (Mrs. Mel Shannon) presided, and visitors included Mrs. Mac. Smith, who is Federal president of the CWA, and Miss E. Zimmern, who has been connected with the Associated Country Women of the World since it was established.

Referring to amenities in country homes, the president of the Chamber of Manufactures (Mr. S. Barton Pope) said that the growing generation of children would seek improved conditions, failing which they would be tempted to drift to the comforts of city life.

Miss Zimmern, who opened the conference, said that the root of the trouble was that country homes lacked city amenities, such as electricity, pipe water and telephones.

Education which would enable children "to live richly and fully" was advocated by the

headmaster of Glossop High School (Mr. Wybert Symonds), who said that he did not think that by any educational, political or economical pressure should young people be forced to remain in the country.

Art and drama must be discovered and not only received, said the Director of the Conservatorium (Professor John Bishop), who suggested that CWA members should arrange music festivals which would move from district to district.

Other suggestions for counteracting the city drift by education were given by the Deputy Director of Industrial Training (Mr. John S. Walker), hobbies; Mrs. W. A. West, a member of the National Fitness Council, youth centres; Mr. M. Gerlach, of the Education Department, rural education; and two CWA members, Mesdames Edwin Withers and E. E. Lang, who spoke on the home factor

In July 1949, the sad news was received of the passing of Jean's mother, Mary, aged 83 years of age.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954) / Fri 29 Jul 1949

**WHITE.**—On July 28, at the residence of her daughter Mrs. J. M. Knight, 36 Hampton street, Hawthorn, Mary, the dearly beloved wife of the late J. H. White, loving mother of Francis, Jean and Lloyd, and loved sister of Mrs. Horner (Blackwood). Aged 83 years.



Mary Lloyd (1866 - 1949)



**GLOSSOP** High School provides secondary education for pupils from Berri, Barmera, Monash, Winkie, Moorook and Cobdogla. Here the school's leaving class is shown with the Headmaster (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) (back, sixth from left), and Mr. K. L. Berndt, who is senior master (fourth from right).

### High School Head Masters



Mr. D. H. Forder  
(Walkerie H.S.)



Mr. W. M. C. Symonds  
(Glossop H.S.)



Mr. E. C. Wilson  
(Renmark H.S.)

In 1950 Wybert celebrated his 10th year as headmaster of Glossop High School which had opened in May 1941. Starting the school from fresh enabled him to introduce many new ideas. One of his innovations was the introduction of General Science I and II subjects to Intermediate students, to prepare students better to tackle physics and chemistry in Leaving and Leaving Honours. It also was good background for those who were to move into the biological and agricultural sciences or those students who just went back to their family blocks and were able to apply better science to their vineyards or orchards.

Wybert, with the cooperation of the headmaster of Mt Gambier High School, Lance Carthew, arranged school exchange visits. Lance had much in common with Wybert, both having also attended Adelaide High School and Adelaide University and playing both cricket and football. Lance also played league football for Sturt a few years before Wybert at Norwood.

Wybert's participation in community activities in 1950, among many, included Chairman of the Upper Murray Educational and Arts Association he was also on the Berri War Memorial Community Centre Committee.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)  
Friday 26 May 1950, page 15

## **RURAL BRIEFS**

### **ARTS ASSOCIATION**

An Upper Murray Educational and Arts Association has been formed with Mr. W. M. C. Symonds as president and Mr. A. E. Whitmore as secretary. Organisations represented are the Berri and Barmera community centres, the Renmark Arts Society and the Loxton Development Association.

National Library of Australia

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950)  
Thu 20 Jul 1950 / Page 13

## **Berri Community Centre Officers**

At the first committee meeting of the Berri War Memorial Community Centre, following the annual general meeting, the following appointments were made:

Chairman, Mr. J. R. O'Keeffe; secretary and treasurer, Mr. K. R. Nettle; works committee, Messrs. J. McKay, H. Chilton, P. H. Curren; finance committee, Messrs. B. T. Bond, C. Haines, A. Coombe and R. C. McNamara; educational and general purposes committee, Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, Mrs. F. Afflick and K. R. Nettle.

Wybert presented his final end of year headmaster's report in December 1950. This was prior to a transfer to Port Pirie High School. During his time at Glossop High School, he had been able to maintain a first class staff and his students had performed very well overall in the Public Examinations Board (PEB) examinations. There were some outstanding students and Ruth was one of those who excelled. She would have been awarded a Leaving Bursary, if not for the fact that Wybert's salary as a headmaster just exceeded the income threshold. At the time, the Education Department wages for teachers, senior staff and headmasters were still fairly modest, so this aggrieved Ruth's father somewhat!

Setting high standards at Glossop High School during his time as headmaster, maintaining discipline and encouraging the students to work hard, were the basis for his students excelling and it was noticed and appreciated by the community. Wybert was very proud of his teachers and students whose PEB examination results compared very favourably with other country and city high schools and colleges. He was very interested in following the lives of many of his former students as they progressed through higher education and into their careers both in the Upper Murray and further afield.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950)  
Thu 21 Dec 1950 / Page 2

## **Glossop High School Head-Master's Report**

### **"BEGINNINGS OF A NOT UNWORTHY TRADITION"**

In presenting his tenth and final report before his departure for Port Pirie, the headmaster of the Glossop High School (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds), who had been in charge of the school since its inception said that of the co-operation and goodwill of members of the staff, of the High School Council, Parents and Friends' Association, members of councils, Hotels and Community Centres, ministers of religion, and of the people of the districts from Moorook to Lyrup, he had nothing but happy memories and a consciousness that, "with you and your children, we have established the beginnings of a not unworthy tradition for the Glossop High School."

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954) /  
Thu 14 Dec 1950 / Page 7

## **HEADMASTER FAREWELLED**

Several presentations were made to Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, who has been headmaster of the Glossop High School since its inception 10 years ago, at the annual speech night. The Deputy Director of Education (Mr. E. A. Allen) said Mr. Symonds was one of the outstanding teachers in the department and he hoped nobody would begrudge his services going to Port Pirie after Glossop had had the benefit of them for 10 years.

Wybert and Jean were given several farewells prior to their departure. In one of the events at the Berri Methodist Church, their contribution to community activities was recognised. Wybert and Jean had been very closely associated with the Church, involving themselves in a wide variety of activities. Wybert served as a lay preacher on the Berri Circuit for many years.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950)

Thursday 21 December 1950, page 10

## **Methodists Farewell Mr. and Mrs. Symonds**

Barri, Dec. 12.

Mr. W. M. C. Symonds (head master of the Glossop High School) who has been transferred to Port Pirie, was, with Mrs. Symonds, tendered a farewell evening by the congregation of the Berri Methodist Church and members of the Church Circuit at the Berri Methodist Church Hall last Thursday evening. Mr. A. G. Maddern (church secretary) in bidding the guests farewell, expressed regret that the district and the church were losing such a sound supporter. Since being in the district, Mr. Symonds had closely associated himself with all matters pertaining to the church and the circuit. He had been a lay preacher for years and his faithful services had been greatly appreciated. Mr. A. V. Mills, on behalf of the circuit, supported Mr. Maddern in his remarks and wished their good friends everything of the best in the future.

The Rev. Rex Brook, as a mark of appreciation for the valued services rendered by Mr. Symonds, presented to him on behalf of the gathering the three volumes of Mr. Churchill's Memoirs. Mr. Symonds in responding expressed his thanks to the people for the kind thoughts which prompted the gift, also for the kind references to his services to the church.

Mrs. Baden Powell (president of the Ladies' Guild) also spoke and presented Mrs. Symonds with a handbag on behalf of the Berri and district churches. The evening was made very enjoyable by a programme of music and singing arranged by the Wilkinson brothers, and supper.

National Library of Australia



## Port Pirie High School

His stay as headmaster of Port Pirie High School would only be a short one, but both he and Jean again were quick to participate in community affairs. Wybert's sporting interests were now confined to golf and lawn bowls. He was soon out on the golf course and in the long years that had passed, since he was first introduced to the game in Scotland at the end of WW1, he had brought his handicap down to single figures.



He continued his lay preacher role with the Risdon Park Methodist Church and he and Jean joined the local music club.



Wybert found his time at Port Pirie the hardest of all his appointments to country schools. It was a bigger school with a larger staff, which were capable but not up to the standard he had put together at Glossop, so he saw many immediate challenges. Soon after arrival, he also identified weaknesses in the school's administration systems, which tested him. He would have liked to initiate numerous changes, but coming into an established school, he knew he would have to move slowly and in the end had little chance to do much.

In the year of his arrival (1951), the town was celebrating its 50 Year Jubilee and Wybert oversaw the school's very successful participation in the celebrations. In conjunction with the Technical School, they put together a series of floats for the main Jubilee Parade which represented the different eras in education and life in the town. Unfortunately, later in the year, criticism from the Port Pirie Jubilee Committee stung Wybert; enough for him to take the unusual step to answer the critics in a letter to the local newspaper.

In a "Letter to the Editor" in October 1951, Wybert responded to criticism that school children had not been allowed to participate in the Labor Day Procession. Of course Port Pirie was a Union and Labor Party stronghold and it was expected all segments of the community should participate in the day's activities.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954).  
Friday 12 October 1951, page 2

## WHAT OUR READERS SAY

### Why Schools Did Not Parade

(To the Editor)

**S**IR—Reference was reported in "The Recorder" to have been made by the chairman of the Jubilee Committee that he was disappointed that the students and children attending the public schools of Port Pirie did not take part in the Labor Day procession. As chairman of Pirie Teachers' Association I think I should explain why it was not possible or desirable for them to take part as schools.

It is a definite part of departmental policy—and I think a wise one—that schools should not take part officially in any functions in which any particular political party or religious denomination may be involved. Whatever we may think personally, and however much we may encourage children to take part as individuals, we should be unwise to take any official part as a school.

It is for that reason that departmental schools did not participate. Moreover, most of our teachers were in Adelaide from Thursday to Monday attending the New Education Fellowship Conference.

We feel that we made a useful contribution to Jubilee year earlier this year and that that made heavy demands on children and teachers in both effort and time.

**W. M. C. SYMONDS.**  
Port Pirie High School.

In addition to his golf, Lawn bowls was also a form of exercise and relaxation for Wybert in his spare time.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954)  
Mon 7 Apr 1952 / Page 4

## PIRIE BOWLERS' 61-PT. WIN

Pirie defeated Gulgare by 61 pts. in North-Western Bowling Association's Boucher Shield series on Saturday, rinks skippered by W. M. C. Symonds (up 30) and D. C. Laube (up 29) accounting for all but two points of the winning margin.

Wybert completed his term at Port Pirie High School in May 1952 to take up the position as Principal of Norwood High School. He had been a headmaster in South Australian country High Schools continuously since 1929.

Wybert's successor at Port Pirie was his old friend, Lance Carthew, whom he had known for many years and who had been previously at Mount Gambier High School which had an annual exchange visit with Glossop High School.

## OLD SOLDIER, FOOTBALLER

### *New Headmaster Has Much In Common With Predecessor*

Like his friend Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, who preceded him, Mr. L. Carthew, new headmaster of Pirie High School, is an old soldier and league footballer and an enthusiastic golfer.

The two headmasters (Mr. Symonds is now at Norwood High School) also have much in common in their ideas on modern education. "I find that most of the work here is on lines that I would have followed, and I shall try to consolidate what has been started," Mr. Carthew said on Friday.

"What Mr. Symonds has introduced in Pirie I have been trying in my own schools in other places. All I have to do is carry on," he added.

Mr. Carthew, who came to Pirie from Murray Bridge, entered the Education Department in 1911 as a probationary student. Since his appointment as assistant-in-charge at Burra he has travelled widely. He was at Gladstone for 11 years, then at Mount Barker, and for 10 years at Mount Gambier before his appointment to Murray Bridge.

World War I caused an early break in his career in the Education Department. He enlisted in September, 1915, and served with 18th Battery, Field Artillery, on the Suez Canal and in France.

### Three Years With Sturt

He entered league football in 1920, when he was promoted from Sturt's association team, of which he had been captain. He was three years in the senior ranks, playing under the captaincy of such stalwarts as Frank Golding, Vic Richardson, and Billy Mayman.

In his high school days he rowed and played tennis, and before the war he played B grade cricket for University. In 1926, with Mr. Roly Hill and the late Mr. Howard Mayfield, he founded Gladstone Golf Club. He believes that he is the only original member of that club who is still an active player.

Mrs. Carthew, who was associate secretary of Murray Bridge Golf Club, is keenly interested in the activities of parents' associations.

The couple have a grown-up family. Their two sons, Messrs Brian and John Carthew, are Adelaide University graduates in mining engineering and are respectively with Lake George Mining Company, Captain's Flat (N.S.W.), and Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Whyalla. Their daughter, Mrs. Robert Beare, is a qualified social service worker and before her marriage was almoner for Crippled Children's Association of South Australia.

Mr. John Carthew won several trophies in the recent North-Western golf championship meeting.

On his departure he made an appeal for the parents of children attending Port Pirie High School to take an active interest in their child's education and support the endeavors of High School Council. One of the interesting gifts Wybert left with the Port Pirie High School was his "investment" in two Hans Heysen paintings, depicting the Flinders Ranges, which he purchased for the equivalent of \$13 each!

## "PARENTS MAY HELP"

### **Departing Headmaster Makes An Appeal**

On his final day in charge of Pirie High School before moving on to Norwood Mr. W. M. C. Symonds was invited to have something to say of the school conditions he was leaving behind. Substance of his words was an appeal to parents to stand behind the High School Council in its constant endeavor to have improvements brought about.

"It is, I think, a good thing for parents to know the conditions under which some of their children and the teachers of those children must work," said Mr. Symonds. "Although realising that the present is not the most propitious time for making constructional changes I believe that neither teacher nor student can work satisfactorily in a room in which the summer temperature frequently reaches 108 degs. and which is at the same time inadequately and badly ventilated.

### Strengthening Claims

"There are at least three such rooms at Port Pirie High School, in which upward of 100 boys and girls and staff work for about five hours daily. I deem that parents themselves, through such organisations as Parents and Friends' Association, should make themselves aware of such matters as these, for in so doing they will strengthen the hands of their elected high school council when it asks for reasonable improvements in the school and will gain a more sympathetic hearing from the Government because they have interested themselves in such matters.

"Parents in this town are fortunate in having such a capable and enthusiastic staff to teach their children. Anything they (the fathers and mothers) can do to help the teachers will be doing a good service for their own children."

Mr. Symonds expressed appreciation of co-operation received from the High School Council and parents and of the "distinctive help" given by Broken Hill Associated Smelters in connection with Commonwealth Jubilee events last year.

Commending his successor, Mr. L. Carthew, he said: "He has broad interests as a community man and as head of a school."

## Norwood High School

While his time at Port Pirie was challenging, the experience was of value. The 18 months at the larger, somewhat overcrowded Port Pirie High school, probably prepared Wybert for the move to a bigger city school.

Wybert commenced his duties at Norwood High School in late May 1952. For him, it was a return to the heart of the Norwood Football Club territory, where in the 1920's he had been one of the very popular league players. Even though he loved sport and encouraged sporting participation by the students, he still believed that it should not dominate the mind-set of students and be only secondary to educational and intellectual pursuits. Wybert's tasks at Norwood High School were made easier because of his popularity as a former Norwood footballer. He also inherited very good staff, administrative support and had invaluable help from his old friend and current deputy headmaster, L. P. "Perce" Johncock. They had been at the teacher's training college together in the 1920s. Perce had similar views to Wybert in regard to the need for students to readily accept the discipline of hard work to achieve their best possible outcome, irrespective of individual ability. With a competent deputy and group of senior staff, he had an effective structure which enabled delegation of many tasks that he would have previously taken on. For the first time in 23 years, administrative roles, such as staff rosters, were no longer his tedious, often after hours, responsibility.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 24 May 1952, page 6

# REDLEG NOW HEAD OF SCHOOL

**After 23 years in the country, a former Norwood footballer has returned to the Redleg's district as high school headmaster.**

He is Mr. Wybert Symonds, who will take up duty at Norwood High School on Tuesday, following his transfer from Port Pirie High School.

From 1923 to 1928 he was a dashing wingman in a team which won two premierships and was in the final four three other times.

At that time nearly half the Norwood team were players with interstate experience.

Among them were "Wat" Scott, Sid White, Alec Lill, Alec Bent, Ern Wadham, and "Perker" Lee.

Wybert Symonds, then a teacher at Adelaide High School, retired from league games when he was appointed head master at Kapunda High School.

He was transferred in turn to Renmark, Port Lincoln, Glossop, and Port Pirie.



**THE** wingman of the twenties.



*Mr. Symonds today*

He still looks fit, although he's much heavier.

In spite of his keenness on football, Mr. Symonds as an educationist believes sport should be kept to a secondary role in schools.

"There is a danger of the competitive sporting spirit getting out of hand and dominating school life," he says.



Norwood High School was in those days located at Lossie Street, Kensington Park, a highly residential area and the school had no room for sports grounds or a school hall large enough for assemblies. Apart from outside assemblies, the only way the headmaster could get his message through to students was through a very supportive staff who worked very openly and cooperatively with him to apply Education Department and School policies.

Wybert was a participant in an umpiring and coaching school for teachers run by the Education Department and sponsored by the SA Football League in October 1952. When the teachers visited Norwood High as part of the program, Wybert demonstrated some of his coaching methods gained from his years of experience.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
Thu 2 Oct 1952 / Page 2

### Attended School On Football Umpiring And Coaching

Mr. F. J. Semmens, a Port Lincoln High School teacher and vice-president of the football association, recently attended a school for teachers, on football coaching and umpiring. The school was conducted by the Education Department and sponsored by the S.A. Football League.

Lectures on umpiring were given by Messrs. Phil Read (umpires' coach) and Ken Aplin.

Magarey Medallists and former champion footballers gave lectures and demonstrations on coaching. They were Messrs. Bob Quinn, "Wacka" Scott, Bruce McGregor, Tom Leahy and Max Murdie.

Mr. Semmens said the teachers visited Norwood High School, where the coaching of high school boys was demonstrated by the headmaster (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds), who is a former headmaster of Port Lincoln High School, and Mr. Alex Mutton.

Films were shown on different aspects of the game, and on some grand finals played in Melbourne.

On his return to the city, Wybert renewed his connections with the Methodist Church circuit in Adelaide and in October 1952 he was the guest speaker at an anniversary meeting of the men's fellowship group at Glenelg.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)  
Sat 4 Oct 1952 / Page 16 / Advertising

**GLENELG — MOSELEY STREET.**  
 11 a.m. Rev. Sam. Forsyth.  
 O.B.E. 7 p.m. Men's Fellowship  
 Anniversary. Speaker. Mr.  
 Wybert Symonds, B.Sc., Dip. Ed.  
 Special music. Tuesday, 8 p.m.  
 Social. Speaker. Mr. George  
 Pearce. **BATH STREET.**—11 a.m.  
 Mr. J. Dally. 7 p.m. Student. **ST**  
**LEONARDS** (Sunday School Anni-  
 versary).—11 a.m. Rev. Norman  
 Smith, M.A. 3 p.m. Rev. Mervyn  
 Norman. 7 p.m. Mr. R. Stace.

At the Senate meeting of the University of Adelaide In November 1953, Wybert was elected to the University Council. Dr Ivan Jose, who had played cricket and football for University and also served in WW1, was also elected. Wybert would hold this position on the University Council for 14 years. For much of this time he was a lone voice

representing public secondary schools. The Council was very much dominated by Adelaide University Academics and graduates who came through the private school system.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)  
Thu 26 Nov 1953 / Page 3

### New Members For University Council

Two new members have been elected to the council of the University of Adelaide — Dr. I. B. Jose and Mr. W. M. C. Symonds.

The election took place at the annual meeting of the University senate at the Bonython Hall yesterday.

There were eight nominations for the six vacancies on the council, to which Mr. Justice Ligertwood, Professor M. L. Mitchell, Dr. F. R. Hone and Dr. Helen Mayo were re-elected.

Mr. Justice Ligertwood was re-elected warden of the senate, and Mr. V. E. Edge-loe clerk of the senate.

In July 1954 Wybert submitted a rare "Letter to the Editor" to correct a misunderstanding in an article published in the *Advertiser*. It was in response to an article written by Gordon Schwartz on the selection of a Norwood High Schoolboy in an SA Under 14 Carnival team.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954).  
Saturday 31 July 1954, page 4

### S.A. Schoolboy Footballers

To The Editor  
Sir—I would like to make clear, following on Gordon Schwartz's short comment on the Under 14 Boys' Football Carnival teams (26.7.54) that the boy from the Norwood High School was selected without my official approval.

There was an early misunderstanding because my letter was received by the committee after the boy had been selected for training, and virtually selected in the team.

In those circumstances I did not strongly oppose this particular boy being chosen.

But I do oppose the principle and will take steps on any future occasion to see that it does not occur again.

The carnival was first organised for primary school children with an age limit of 14 and the situation now is that only one primary school child is included.

We, as high school headmasters, consider that the right to earn the trip should be preserved for primary school children.

That right is being taken from them because of the policy of extending the opportunity to secondary students.

W. M. C. SYMONDS.  
Headmaster.  
Norwood High School.

National Library of Australia

Wybert's stay at Norwood High School was enjoyable, but short lived, however he was able to introduce changes that benefited students by giving them greater subject choices. As an example, two of his senior science masters had recently completed the text book for General Science 1 & 2. These two subjects, introduced at intermediate level, gave students the choice to do General Science or elect to do Physics, Chemistry or other biological sciences as individual subjects. The options taken by students depended on whether or not their academic inclination was to pursue higher education. Students who were intending to proceed to Adelaide University needed to meet the strict matriculation standards of the compulsory subjects like physics and chemistry. Choosing the pathway to these compulsory subjects at intermediate level prepared them better for Leaving (Matriculation) and Leaving Honours. Excellent results in Leaving Honours were important if a student wanted to enroll in a faculty where quotas applied.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)  
Wed 25 Aug 1954 / Page 3

## New Head At Adelaide High School

The Minister of Education (Mr. Pattinson) yesterday announced that the headmaster of Norwood High School (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) had been appointed principal of Adelaide Boys' High School.

Mr. Symonds will take up his appointment next month, replacing Mr. A. E. Dinning, who will retire after five years as headmaster of the school.

Before going to Norwood High School, Mr. Symonds was an assistant teacher at Adelaide Boys' High School and headmaster at Kapunda, Renmark, Port Lincoln, Glossop and Port Pirie high schools.

He is a member of the council of the University of Adelaide.

At the end of 1954, acting headmaster "Perce" Johncock paid tribute to Wybert, who in a short time had overseen a considerable broadening of the school curriculum and improved the amenities for students and staff.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)  
Wed 15 Dec 1954 / Page 20  
NEW HEAD AT NORWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

In his report at Norwood High School break-up last night the Acting Headmaster (Mr. L. P. Johncock) paid a tribute to the work done by the previous headmaster, Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, who left the school in August, both in broadening the educational life of the school and in improving the amenities for students and staff.

Later in the 1960s, after Norwood High School had moved to its new spacious location on the Norwood Parade at Magill, Wybert was invited back on occasions to conduct the induction of Prefects at school assemblies. The new school by then had expanded to 2000 students, with ovals and a large capacity school hall. He had been invited by the current headmaster, his old friend, Ivan Coward. Wybert had appointed Ivan, as a much needed, young intelligent teacher, at Kapunda in 1931. Looking over the large gathering at these special assemblies must have been a stark contrast to their time together at Kapunda, which only had 60 students. Ivan had continued to raise the education standards at Norwood High School, meeting the needs and ambitions of the eastern suburbs students whose parents were unable to afford to give their children a college education.

## Adelaide Boys' High School

In August 1954, after just over two years at Norwood, it was announced that Wybert would succeed Alfred Ernest Dinning as headmaster of Adelaide Boys' High School (ABHS). Dinning had held the post for five years and in 1951 had overseen the move of the boys from Grote Street to the new school on West Terrace, leaving the girls at Grote Street. Wybert and Jean, as old scholars, head prefects and teachers at Adelaide High School were very pleased and proud of the appointment.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)  
Friday 3 September 1954, page 8

### Two School Heads Farewelled

The retiring headmasters of Norwood High School (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) and the Adelaide Boys' High School (Mr. A. E. Dinning) were farewelled at their schools yesterday.

Mr. Symonds will take over as headmaster of the Adelaide Boys' High School after the school holidays.

At an informal luncheon in the staff room at Norwood High School yesterday, attended by members of the school council, and the Old Scholars, and Parents and Citizens' Associations, Mr. Symonds received presentations on behalf of the staff, council, old scholars, and the Parents and Citizens' Association.

Speakers at the farewell to Mr. Dinning in the Adelaide Boys' High School assembly hall included the Director of Education (Mr. E. Mander-Jones), the Superintendent of High Schools (Mr. C. M. Griggs) and the deputy assistant headmaster of the school (Mr. J. Brown).

Mr. Dinning, who has retired, received presentations from the students and staff.

National Library of Australia

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954)  
Wed 25 Aug 1954 / Page 13

### NEW AHS HEAD



THE NEW principal of Adelaide High School, Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, pictured today at Norwood High School, where he is headmaster. A former Norwood footballer, Mr. Symonds will take up his new appointment next month.

At Adelaide Boys' High School, Wybert was fortunate again to have an excellent Deputy, Tom Brown (Thomas Roderick Brown), who had started at Adelaide High School, Grote Street, 36 years earlier and had wide ranging experience at the School and so was going to be a great asset. He had risen from an office clerk to Deputy Headmaster and apart from brief appointments as a senior master at Port Pirie and Norwood High School, had been at Adelaide High School ever since.

Back in 1918, during the term of the first headmaster Mr. William J. "Plugger Bill" Adey, Tom Brown, then a 16 year old, was first appointed by the Education Department to Adelaide High School as a cadet. He had passed his Senior



Commercial Exams in 1917 and was awarded a John Creswell Scholarship to study Commerce at Adelaide University. While working at Adelaide High School, he completed Commerce subjects part time, gaining his Associate Diploma in Commerce (A.C.U.A) in 1923. He saw several generations of boys pass through the School and outlasted four headmasters. He virtually held every possible position on the staff from assistant teacher through to special senior master, sports master through to acting headmaster.

In the confines of the City in Grote Street, the original Adelaide High School had never had its own sports facilities. One of the early tasks for Wybert and Tom Brown at the new Adelaide Boys' High School was to continue to oversee the development of sporting fields at the new West Terrace site begun by Mr. Dinning. Timely action was necessary as the SA Olympic Council also had its eye on the land for its own international sports park.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954) / Wed 22 Sep 1954 / Page 6

# School has its own parklands sports plan

use of the grounds. It was fully realised that future athletes would come from the schools.

It would be quite possible to add tennis courts to the general arena for the school's use, he said.

**Adelaide Boys' High School plans to use as a sports area the section of the West Parklands in which the SA Olympic Council proposes to build a sport park for international events.**

The school headmaster, Mr. W. M. C Symonds, said today the Olympic Council's plan would severely restrict the school's playing fields.

"This is a vital issue for our school," he said.

Mr. Symonds said the school held leases over land stretching almost to Keswick Bridge.

In this area the school proposed to build three ovals, a hockey ground, baseball ground, and 13 or more tennis courts.

They could be used by other suitable bodies as well as the school.

"This plan has been made with the collaboration of Adelaide City Council, which approves of it," said Mr. Symonds.

A meeting would be held by a planning committee at the school on Saturday to finalise details and priorities for the project.

## "Will help boys"

Olympic Council publicity officer, Mr. R. Blythman, said today the council's sports park plan, far from restricting the playing fields of the school, would provide them.

The boys would have

There were 30 acres of barren parklands available for development and the Adelaide Boys' High School held the lease<sup>14</sup> so were in an advantaged position for their own development. Vice-Principal, Tom Brown, was a driving force and after gaining Adelaide City Council development approval, promptly organised land-fill from city demolition sites. Ironically, one of the main sources of material was from the demolition of a building in Grenfell Street, formerly owned by Benjamin Mendes DaCosta, who had bequeathed it to St Peter's College. The college financed the construction of the eleven stories DaCosta Building, Adelaide's first post-War "skyscraper" at a cost of approximately £1m. During the 1950s there was a boom in City development and building companies were very happy to have a dumping ground close at hand. Rubble was also sourced from the new Advertiser, National Mutual and MLC building sites. This facilitated the site preparation for two main ovals, hockey and baseball fields and

<sup>14</sup> With the Grote St. site over-crowded, Mr. R.A. West who had been AHS Headmaster from 1920 - 1948 had lobbied the Minister for Education (Mr Jeffries) for a suitable site for a new High School for boys as early as 1935. An area of Government land on Frome road (now the site of the new Botanic High School) was originally proposed, however, a late change in 1939 occurred when the Education Department gained approval from the Public Works Department to secure the West Terrace site. The lease obtained from the City Council was renewable on an annual basis.

thirteen tennis courts. With foresight by Mr. Dinning's predecessor, Mr. R.A. West, funding towards AHS sporting fields had started to be raised as early as 1937; this was even before the final site and building design had been chosen. Then in the early 1950s with some assistance from the Education Department, a sum of £30,000 was spent on completion of the project. Additional landscaping, including a tree planting scheme followed. In recognition of his work the grounds were aptly named the "Tom Brown Playing Fields". Following a suggestion from Test cricketer, Bill Woodfull, the headmaster of their "brother" school, Melbourne High, Wybert introduced a £10 levy on students to assist further development and maintenance of the sporting facilities.

For the first time, these quality sporting fields gave the School home grounds where they could contest football and cricket against some of their preeminent traditional rivals. Adelaide High School and now Adelaide Boys' High School had historically been the only high school that had competed in sports against Adelaide's private schools. Wybert, when a student at Adelaide High School was captain of the football team in 1916 which defeated arch rivals St. Peter's and Prince Alfred Colleges.

Wybert was always an advocate of "hard study" and that school work including homework should be a priority ahead of any social activities or other distractions.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)  
Wed 13 Oct 1954 / Page 10

## Homework Necessary, Teachers Claim

Senior secondary school pupils should have their evening recreation at week-ends and "should not go out at night during the week," the headmaster of Pulteney Grammar School (Rev. W. R. Ray) said yesterday.

Mr. Ray was commenting on the complaints of a parent, that secondary school pupils were given too much homework and had insufficient time for recreation.

The president of the High School Masters' Association (Mr. R. A. Potter, Unley High School) said that pupils were set the minimum of homework necessary for them to pass examinations.

Homework gave pupils the benefit of studying in the quiet of their homes and it developed reliability and self trust.

Mr. W. M. C. Symonds (Adelaide Boys' High School) said that one boy may take much longer doing his homework than another, depending on the intelligence of the pupil.

"If boys are to succeed the price they must pay is hard study," he said.

Mr. P. B. Hilbig (Goodwood Boys' Technical School) said that first and second year secondary school boys were not "overburdened with homework."

It was important that pupils should be given home studies as the school week, generally, was no longer than 25 hours, he said.

He was also quick to engage with the Parents and Friends' Association at their Christmas supper on the 8th December 1954.

## A.H.S. SUPPER

The principal of the Adelaide Boys' High School (Mr. W. M. C. Symonds) and Mrs. Symonds will receive guests at the Parents and Friends' Association Christmas supper in the school hall at 7.40 p.m. on Friday.

The school choir and orchestra will provide music, and Mr. Len Sweeney will entertain.

Speaking at his first Speech Day in the Adelaide Town Hall in December 1954, Wybert emphasised the need for the education systems to recognise and foster high ability students and in particular in the sciences.

Wybert had a highly qualified staff of senior subject teachers who ably supervised and advised the younger teachers. During his years at ABHS, examination results were consistently high, with perhaps 1956 leading the way with the highest number of honour positions in Leaving (Matriculation) subjects.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 15 December 1954, page 3

# Society 'challenge to education'

Development of intelligence was fundamental to the development of a modern society, the headmaster of the Adelaide Boys' High School, Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, said today.

He was speaking at the school's speech day in the Adelaide Town Hall.

Conditions of modern life were such that a nation which did not value trained intelligence was doomed, he said.

It was a challenge to the system of education that high ability, no matter where it was found, should be recognised and fostered.

The primary aim of education was to teach how to think, to master the set courses, to know where to find knowledge—and how to use it.

The fostering of scientists was vital to any country.

However, Mr. Symonds warned that with the State, private enterprise, and pure research com-

peting for scientists there was a tendency to overlook schools.

Science could not develop unless there were science teachers in the schools, and if the schools were short, the repercussions would be felt in technical colleges and the universities, and, ultimately by industry and defence.

Fostering of science at ABHS may have been a paramount aim; however Wybert's love of the Arts shone through as well. He was especially pleased, when later in the School history, it became a special language school where students could come from all over the State to study a much wider range of subjects than just French and Latin.

With a wonderful modern school hall (with balcony), which could seat 1200 students and a stage of proportions that could accommodate the full staff at assemblies, it was ideally suited for students stage productions, orchestral and choral performances. More importantly the assemblies were a wonderful tool for the Principal to get his messages across to all the students. Wybert had many and varied contacts, in particular through his association with Adelaide University and he was also able to arrange a wide variety of eminent and interesting guest speakers for school assemblies.

Mr. Dinning had, along with very accomplished musician, Alan Tregaskis as the music teacher, already established a small orchestra and Wybert was keen to foster it further.

A month before Wybert's arrival at ABHS, one of Mr. Dinning's final acts was in August 1954 when the beautifully designed and spacious library was opened. The "Memorial Library" honoured the School's old scholars who served and fell in the two World Wars. The bookshelves had already been suitably filled with books thanks to a £10,000 fund from donations from Old Scholars. This was in contrast to the situation regarding the library at the Glossop High School when Wybert had first arrived there in May of 1941. There were of course, no old scholars to help out and little chance of government funding.

## LIBRARY HONORS WAR DEAD

The Minister of Education (Mr. Pattinson) officially opened the War Memorial Library at the Adelaide Boys' High School yesterday afternoon.

The library, beautifully furnished in polished Queensland maple, is on the first floor of the new school building on West terrace.

In the centre is a lectern with a roll of honor containing the names of the 229 old boys of the school who were killed on active service.

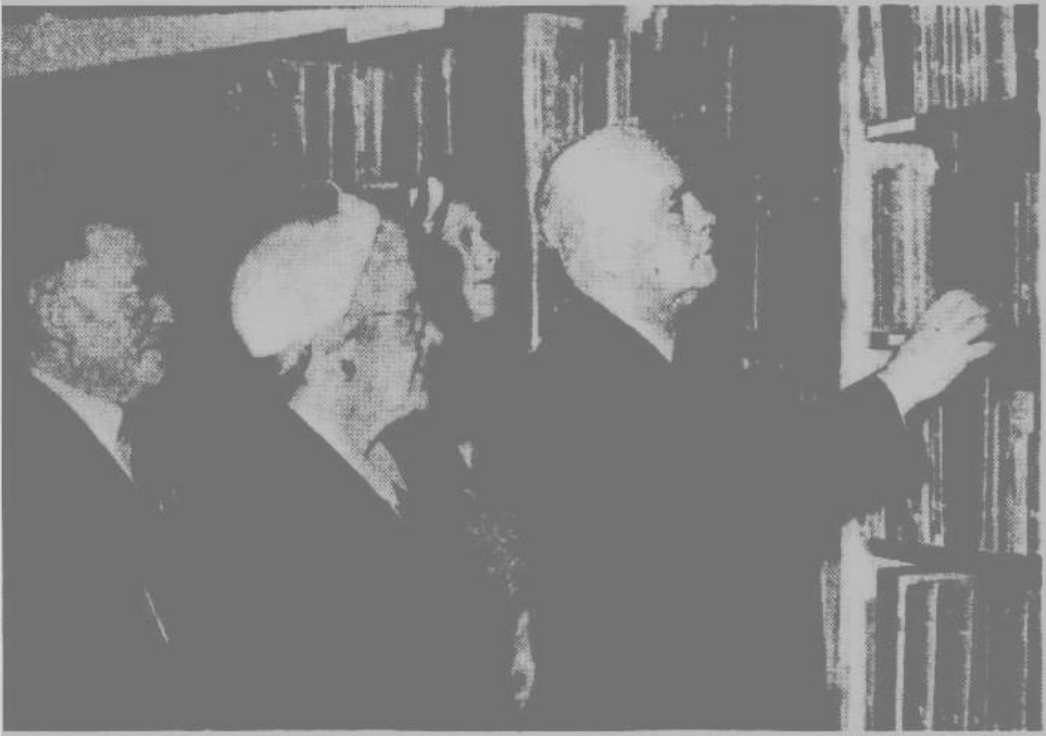
Huge windows on the west side provide perfect lighting and ventilation.

Mr. Pattinson said that the school, in its fairly short history, had produced leaders in all spheres of life.

The men whose memories were perpetuated by the library had held fast to the traditions and aspirations of the founders of the State.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954) / Mon 23 Aug 1954 / Page 3

## Minister Opens New A.H.S. Library



The principal of the Adelaide Boys High School (Mr. A. E. Dinning), at left, and Mrs. Dinning show the Minister of Education (Mr. Pattinson) and his wife the selection of books offered by the school's new war memorial library after it had been opened by the Minister yesterday afternoon.

Wybert ensured the library continued to be well resourced with the regular addition of new reference books, literary works, magazines, journals and pamphlets. The Library was under the care of full time librarian, Mrs. Tomaszewski with assistance at the desk from 2nd and 3rd year boys who were in training to be members of the Library Committee. Fitted out with Queensland Maple library furniture and expansive Australian wall murals overhead, it provided a great environment to study. By 1962 (Wybert's final year), the library had acquired a record number of books (18,957).

1958 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of Adelaide High School. There was a week of Jubilee celebrations, with a dinner for 3000 guests held at Centennial Hall Wayville, being the major event. Present were a



majority of the 1200 current students, parents, old scholars, present and former teachers and many dignitaries including the Premier, Tom Playford and the long serving Director of Education, Evan Mander-Jones (1946 - 1967) and the Minister of Education, Baden Pattison (1953 - 1965). After Wybert gave his address and welcomed the guest speakers, the Premier held the floor for so long that Mr. Pattinson had to cut short his speech. The whole week of events was well reported which highlighted the significant contribution Adelaide High School had made to secondary education in South Australia and to the welfare of the State and beyond.

The end of the Jubilee celebrations was punctuated by a great victory by the rowing "eights" in the annual Head of the River contest. The win over St Peter's College was the first since 1926 and Wybert gave great credit to the coaches Bob Lewis and Phil Read, who had brought out the best in the rowers for this important year. Sadly it was also the last success by Adelaide High School to the present day. Thirty-two years earlier, Wybert was a teacher at AHS, so had now witnessed both wins.

In 1959, Wybert was a member at the Founder's Convention for the Australian College of Education which was held in Victoria during May. He was later made a Fellow of the Australian College of Education (F.A.C.E.) in 1964.

It was not all smooth sailing during his years at ABHS and he had faced one particularly difficult situation. It was brought to his attention that a gang of twelve students were found to have been methodically stealing items (toy mini-cars) from the city retail stores and bringing them back to school to sell to other students. When they were eventually caught, Wybert alerted the police, but with their agreement and that of the store owners, handled the situation internally in the hope of avoiding bad publicity for the school. Wybert tackled the situation head-on and had the boys and their parents appear in his office. They received a firm dressing down and a suggestion to make restitution for the thefts. The boys were suspended with the approval of all but one of the parents. Fortunately, the Education Department did not have to get involved, and the School escaped attention from the local newspapers. Much later in 1983, Wybert reflected on this incident: *"There is a thin line between a headmaster and his authority as headmaster in loco parentis<sup>15</sup> and that of parent authority"*. He thought that it no longer could have been handled as he did then, without the wrath of the parents and contact from their lawyers".

Wybert, at music teacher Alan Tregaskis's request, was pleased to have the school host the May 1962 National Music Camp. The following is a copy of the letter of appreciation from Professor John Bishop<sup>16</sup>, Director of the National Music Camp Association.

*"The Music Camp ... has been a very exciting success, and on behalf of the Association I write to express our warmest gratitude to you in having made it possible. The [ABHS] has been a splendid site for this first May Music Camp, and I look forward to such an Annual Camp being held in Adelaide. This time some 80 youngsters gained an experience which they might not otherwise have had, and this I find really rewarding. I should be grateful if you would convey to ... your Staff ... our appreciation. Mr. Tregaskis has been a first-class assistant."*

By 1962, his final year at Adelaide Boys' High School, the orchestral ensemble had grown to 40 instruments. At the December Speech Day, held in the Adelaide Town Hall, the orchestra performed several items. Along with a choir of about 200 students<sup>17</sup>, the performance of the Hallelujah Chorus bought the plaudits of the guest speaker, Minister of Education, Sir Baden Pattinson.

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<sup>15</sup> The doctrine of in loco parentis - When minor children are entrusted by parents to a school, the parents delegate to the school certain responsibilities for their children, and the school has certain liabilities. In effect, the school and the teachers take some of the responsibility and some of the authority of the parents.

<sup>16</sup> Dean of the Faculty of Music - University of Adelaide and member of the University Council

<sup>17</sup> The author was one of the 200 choir members

Wybert and Jean were given a special and emotional farewell at this final speech day. Wybert concluded that for him and Jean, who had both been head prefects 46 years earlier, the final 9 years at Adelaide Boys' High School had been "the most significant and happy years of our lives".

He was very proud of his years at ABHS and in particular, proud that many of the boys who had passed through the school, went on to have successful careers in their various fields and make valuable contributions to society.

During his term as Principal, the School Council was helpful and cooperative, as were the Parents and Friends Committee. Jean, due to ill health, was no longer able to take a more active role at either Norwood or ABHS but still was able to show an interest by attending meetings. Wybert was always invited to give an address on School activities at each of the monthly meetings.

Wybert had seen a lot of changes to education in the 33 years that he had been headmaster at seven different country and city high schools.

## ADELAIDE BOYS HIGH SCHOOL MAGAZINE

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### Speech Day 1962

On the 18th December, parents, friends and students once again filled the Adelaide Town Hall to witness that all-important function of the school year, Speech Day.

The School Hymn, sung by the school with the aid of the more avid in the audience, opened the programme on a pompous note, inspired by the zeal of our accomplished conductor, Mr. Tregaskis, and the members of the orchestra. This elite band then performed Handel's "Sinfonia from 'Solomon'", followed by a recital of Handel's "Variations in D Minor" by a smaller group of woodwind instrumentalists.

Then followed the annual report of the school, Mr. Symonds' last in his position of Principal. "In an atmosphere charged with emotion", Mr. Symonds, later described as "the doyen of the teaching profession in South Australia", performed his last official duty in connection with the great school which he had helped so much to establish. All those fortunate enough to have been present will no doubt remember this moving occasion as representing the end of an era in the history of the school.

The orchestra then presented its next item when, joined by the choir, it played "Hallelujah Chorus" from the "Mount of Olives", following which Mr. Greenfield, President of the Men's Executive, introduced our guest speaker, Sir Baden Pattinson, K.B.E., LL.B., Minister of Education. In his speech Sir Baden Pattinson said that never before had young people held so much power or carried so much responsibility. "The onus is on you all," he told the students, "to shoulder such responsibility and to wield such power wisely and well."

Mr. Brown, Vice-Principal of the school, paid further tributes to Mr. Symonds, and later, Lady Pattinson presented prizes in an impressive ceremony.

The final item by the orchestra and choir was "The Wide Brown Land", composed for the occasion by Mr. Tregaskis, who, conducting in his usual magnificent style, but for the last time as a member of the school, was appropriately applauded for his efforts.

In the valedictory address (reproduced from the ABHS Magazine of 1962) given by Vice-Principal Tom Brown he succinctly summed up Wybert's career in education and his achievements in establishing much of the facilities and resources in the early years of the West Terrace campus.

## The Retirement of our Principal

The following is taken from the valedictory address to be delivered by the Vice-Principal, Mr. T. R. Brown, at the Speech Day Assembly to be held on Tuesday, 18th December, 1962.

Wybert Milton Caust Symonds, B.Sc., Dip.Ed., F.A.C.E., the second Principal of Adelaide Boys High School, was appointed in September 1954 after a long career in the Education Department which started as a monitor at Millbrook School in 1913. He attended Adelaide High School in 1914-15-16, and was Head Prefect in his last year. He had a year as a fourth grade junior teacher at Norwood in 1917 and then entered the Teachers' College in 1918. He enlisted early in this year and on his return from overseas was permitted to enter the Teachers' College for two years prior to his appointment as an assistant at Adelaide High School. He completed his Science Degree in Forestry in 1924 and the Education Department made use of this by giving him charge of a series of courses for boys held at Kuitpo Forest. He was appointed Head of Kapunda High School in 1929, and remained for three years. Then followed appointments as Head of Renmark (5), Port Lincoln (4½), Glossop, which he opened (9½), Port Pirie (1½), and Norwood (2½).

He has been a member of the University Council since 1953, and the College of Education since its inception. He has been President of the High School Headmasters Association during the period of its greatest growth, and was for many years a member of the Central Authority of the South Australian Institute of Teachers.

During his eight years at this school Mr. Symonds actively encouraged the many improvements in the grounds, including extensive tree planting; a larger orchestra and more music instruction; a rapidly growing Library; appreciation of art with the purchase of many new pictures which were placed in strategic positions in the corridors; additional sports teams; the rowing club by the purchase of an additional eight oar boat and the complete rebuilding of the boathouse; and the many other extra curricular activities fostered by the numerous school clubs.

Mr. Symonds also made his impact in other, not so tangible, but nevertheless very real ways. The traditions of the school were firmly laid during the regime of the first Headmaster, Mr. W. J. Adey (who also was a pupil and monitor at the small Millbrook school), and Mr. Symonds has done everything possible to strengthen them. His frequent use of old scholars and other men eminent in many walks of life as speakers at the weekly assemblies has been a means of giving breadth to the education of students at the school. His valiant efforts to lessen the stranglehold imposed by zoning for entrance to the school have not as yet been crowned with success, but they will be of great help to his successor. His wide experience as an educator, his fine personal qualities, and the example he set in his own private life have been of inestimable value in dealing with problems of the school and its students. His unfailing courtesy, sympathy, tact, and understanding enabled him to deal gently with students and staff alike. He will be remembered as a man who gave his life to the service of others.

The school wishes him a long, happy, and rewarding retirement.



## Principal's Message

When a person sees what appears to be the end of a road, I suppose he wonders whether it really is an end or just a bend. If it is an end the opportunities of direction must then almost be infinite and if it is a bend it simply means some variations of scene or change of environment loaded with new possible experiences. I shall be one with a number of you from our school who will, at the end of this year, become "Old Boys" of the school.

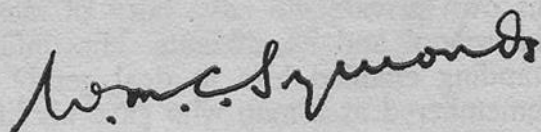
It was Lamb who suggested that, when faced with such change, a person may be in danger of "going to and fro instead of to and from". The danger, of course, is a lack of purposive direction. Dr. Norwood (of Rugby School fame) in speaking of the changes from home to Infant School, to Primary School, to High School, to University or to Community job suggests that all of these changes are a valuable preparation for life and for truly democratic living. At each stage, he contends, the person starts from the bottom and at each change of the road must win his way to the top or play, generally, a quieter part with the mass of others. Both are important and necessary in personal and community living. We need those who can adequately lead and those who can intelligently and wisely follow.

We can expect that what we have achieved and the habits we have formed at one stage will profoundly influence what happens at the next for, as Browning writes:

"All that is at all  
Lasts ever, past recall;  
Earth changes, but thy soul and God stand sure;  
What entered into thee,  
That was, is and shall be".

If Browning is right, and I believe he is, then all of us might well ask ourselves have we used the opportunities for leadership? For working co-operatively with others in all sorts of ways? Of loyally serving the interests of a worthy institution or team or of others, as well as our own interests? Of seeking knowledge and knowing where to seek it, not only because it may be useful to us but because we have enjoyed the knowledge and the seeking? Of being critical yet tolerant of the opinions of others? How we may answer these important questions, and others, must be left to each person alone. I hope that many, through the influence of this school may have been helped to answer them with some modest satisfaction; I trust, too, that the preparation at A.B.H.S. may help all to move forward on the road with greater confidence, while still retaining the more dangerous spirit of the searcher.

My best wishes go with you all, and with those who will succeed you on the way.







MR. W. M. C. SYMONDS, B.Sc., Dip.Ed., F.A.C.E.



## John Dowie's Portrait of Wybert Symonds Esq.

(Finalist in the 1965 Archibald Prize)



## **Retirement**

There was little chance that Wybert would drift off into a quiet and melancholic retirement. Family, Church, friendships, a pine plantation, golf at Kooyonga, lawn bowls with the Walkerville Club, travel and an ongoing appointment on the Adelaide University Council would make sure of that.

### **Member of Adelaide University Council**

It was in 1953 that Ronald Wilkinson Close, a friend and one of his former senior mathematics masters at Port Lincoln High School, encouraged Wybert to stand for the University Council to provide a badly needed voice for public secondary schools. Wybert would hold his position on the Council for 14 years and he had a hand in seeing changes to the pathway for entrance to the University. One of the changes that pleased Wybert most of all, was seeing the University have less control over a student's compulsory subjects during their three important years of public examinations. This eventually opened the way over time for the introduction of a broader range of subject choices leading to matriculation.

Quotas had been put in place by some university faculties in the 1950s which resulted in the introduction of a double standard for entry for some courses. A student's results in Maths 1 & 2, Physics and Chemistry in Leaving Honours became a secondary entry criteria and this resulted in undue specialisation. Entry for some popular courses then had become based on results in both Leaving (then the matriculation year), but also from Leaving Honours. From 1959 Wybert had been on the Matriculation Sub-committee (made up of him, the six faculty professors and up to four co-opted members) and early on he had put up a strong case for change. After nearly four years, nineteen meetings, two interim reports, a final report and its recommendations were voted on in November 1962. The University Council and Education Committees had already accepted the recommendations of the sub-committee and it was then put to all the representatives from the wider secondary schools community. After a lot of vigorous discussion, the recommendations were accepted by a majority vote. Following a transition period, the change from the old standard was finalised and in 1966<sup>18</sup> the 5th year at secondary school became the single matriculation year. Initially during his term on Council, the University still dominated the development of curriculum for 4th and 5th year, but there was greater subject choice at 3rd year level, allowing students to prepare for vocations other than those that required a tertiary education. Wybert retired from the University Council in 1967, probably well satisfied that he had been part of the important transformation process that had provided a uniform five year pathway to all university courses. Later, it would have been very pleasing for him to know, there would also be the introduction years later of greater flexibility for subject choices in the final two years of study towards matriculation.

### **Secretary of Churchill Fellowship Trust**

After his retirement as Principal of ABHS, Wybert was not short of offers to sit on various committees. Henry Basten, then the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, asked him to become the first secretary of the South Australian Branch of the newly established Churchill Memorial Trust of Australia. He accepted the offer and held the position for nine successive years. The Churchill Fellowships provided successful applicants with three to twelve months of overseas study (and further extensions if warranted). His role was to receive applications, which often required meeting the applicants in person and giving them advice on how to present their case in the best light. He would then have to arrange meetings and prepare the submissions for review by a selection committee to make a short-list for final interviews. The job was fairly demanding and later Wybert was given secretarial assistance. Over his years as secretary, Churchill Fellowships were awarded to individuals in a very broad range of human endeavours. Looking back Wybert was able to observe anywhere in the Arts, Science, Healthcare, Music, Crafts, Industry, Education, Agriculture, Business, etc., and find a Churchill Fellow who reached the top of their professions

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<sup>18</sup> Previously a student's 4th year (Leaving) had been the matriculation year. The author was at ABHS 1962 - 1966 during the transition years, so is a member of a unique group of students who sat and passed the matriculation examinations twice both in 1965 (6 -subjects Leaving) and 1966 (6 subjects - then called Matriculation rather than Leaving Honours).

in Australia and a contributor to society. A special dinner was arranged by all the Fellows to celebrate the tenth year of the Churchill Memorial Trust and Wybert was invited to attend along with board members; musical items were performed by Fellows from that period. His nine years had been a rewarding experience.

### **Commonwealth Scholarship Counselor**

After retiring from the University Council in 1967, Wybert was offered a new paid position; "not that well paid, but that didn't matter". He was asked to take on an appointment as a student counselor. His role was to give advice to Commonwealth Tertiary and Secondary Scholarship recipients. Who could have been better qualified for the job?

For secondary students (awarded at years 11 and 12), advice would have been given on the subjects choices to best prepare for entry into university courses. There no doubt would have been some vocational guidance thrown in as well, as many students had little idea on their career aptitude or best options available to them.

For tertiary scholarship holders, the counseling would assist a final choice of course and give sound advice on study habits needed to succeed. At the end of the first year, students who had difficulties adapting to university life and were failing subjects, would also be given guidance. Unfortunately on occasions, a very difficult decision needed to be made and the very poor performers had to be told that they had been excluded from their course. Jean was often called upon to give an independent opinion on difficult cases.

Also at times he had to counsel those tertiary scholarship holders who may have wanted to pursue teaching careers and study for a university degree. The conundrum for these students was that the Teachers College student allowance was larger than the Commonwealth Scholarship payments; however the former required the student to be bonded to the education department for a period of two to three years. Wybert was well qualified to identify students with the right makeup to probably be good teachers.

Wybert said he probably learned more from his discussions with the students than they from him; however that may be downplaying the value of his wise words.

### **University Council Committee on the Planning of the University Institution at Bedford Park**

Wybert's final role while on the Council of the University of Adelaide was an appointment to Peter Karmel's steering committee to establish a second university in South Australia at Bedford Park. An economics professor with exceptional planning and organisational skills, Karmel had in 1961 been appointed to oversee the establishment of a second campus for the University of Adelaide. Land (formerly the site of the Bedford Park Tuberculosis Sanatorium) had been acquired by the Playford Government in 1960 and planning for construction was soon underway with capital works beginning in 1962. The first academic appointment was made in 1964. In 1965, after a change in government, it was decided that the new university would be independent of Adelaide University and in 1966 it was named Flinders University. By then Karmel had sought far and wide for the best academic staff available at home and abroad. In 1966 with former Adelaide University professor and member of the University Council<sup>19</sup>, Sir Mark Ledingham Mitchell as Chancellor and Professor Karmel as Vice-Chancellor, the new university was officially opened by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

It was fitting that these two men headed the new tertiary institution, Karmel for his role in its establishment and Sir Mark Mitchell, whose father, Sir William Mitchell, was an iconic figure in the history of the University of Adelaide from 1895 to 1948 and was a strong advocate of tertiary teacher training in South Australia.

*"In 1895 Sir William had: pleaded then for schools to provide 'general education in opposition to the widely-accepted view that education was simply a means for "getting on"'. He defined general education as 'the formation of an*

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<sup>19</sup> Both Sir Mark Mitchell and Professor Peter Karmel were on the Council of the University of Adelaide at the same time as Wybert.



*intellectual, an aesthetic, and a moral character, together with various kinds of skill'; and he saw that 'thorough professional education of teachers' as the governing factor in providing it."*<sup>20</sup>

Wybert's own education philosophy throughout his career, as a teacher and headmaster, certainly mirrored those of Sir William Mitchell!

### **Australian College of Education**

Wybert and Jean's time together in retirement was far too short, however in the next five years they were able to make good use of their relative freedom.

It was however, their continued interest in education that still was foremost. Wybert remained on the Council of the University of Adelaide until 1967 and was also at the time of retirement on the Council of the College of Education. In 1963, when the annual Conference was held in Adelaide, he was made a Fellow in a ceremony in Bonython Hall. The Australian College of Education represented a cross-section of every branch of education in Australia and was a great influence on education and above party politics.

In 1964 the Conference was in Perth and with Jean, he travelled there by train. Wybert had last been on that journey to Perth nearly 40 years ago when he was completing practical training towards his BSc in Forestry. The Conference was held at the University of WA where their accommodation was also provided. The conference was a great occasion where they were able to catch up with many of their friends including some of Wybert's contemporaries from Adelaide University Forestry days. Many Western Australians had to travel to Adelaide to do their University studies. It was a very memorable trip and an incident which Wybert particularly remembered was when they went to one of Perth's beautiful parks and gardens. When one of the gardeners found out they were from Adelaide, he said; "I have a brother in Adelaide, Jack Sheehan". To his astonishment, Wybert told him he was on his staff at ABHS<sup>21</sup>. "The world is a strange place and full of surprises"!

Jean enjoyed travelling by car and they had recently purchased a new Holden and they went on several long trips interstate including memorable trips to the Snowy Mountains and Canberra. The trip to the Snowy Mountains included a rather scary adventure on a very narrow winding road near the peak of Mt Kosciusko. In Canberra they were able to catch up with another old forestry friend, Max Jacobs, then the Director General of Forestry Australia. His wife gave them a wonderful guided tour of Australia's Capital.

They also travelled to other College of Education Conferences in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne over the next few years. On the trips to Brisbane and Sydney they were able to catch up with their son John and family. Jean enjoyed these trips immensely as they passed quietly through the varied Australian landscapes and passed through historic towns of interest. She had always had a great interest in Australian history and the pioneering spirit of its early settlers.

### **Welfare Department Board**

Wybert was also a member of the Welfare Department Board for several years. He helped shape policy for the Magill Boys' Home and Vaughn House at Enfield. There were many difficult situations that the Board and its institutions faced, but overall Wybert had a very high regard for the welfare officers and the jobs they did in rehabilitating many of the juveniles under supervision. Wybert and Jean were able, on their trips to the south east visiting their family plantation, to also visit the Welfare Department's boys' home at Struan<sup>22</sup> near Naracoorte. They were required to inspect the facility and provide a report on conditions and activities. Their interest in this facility

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<sup>20</sup> McGuire, Anthony. *Pupil Teachers and Junior Teachers in South Australian Schools 1873 - 1965, A Historical and Humanistic Sociological Analysis*. PhD Thesis, University of Adelaide, 1999

<sup>21</sup> The authors Leaving class teacher

<sup>22</sup> From 1946 to 1970 the house and 469 hectares were used as a "rural colony for the better class delinquent boys and youth"

was appreciated by the staff and boys. In one report Wybert suggested that 300 acres nearby could be developed into a pine plantation with the boys setting up a nursery and planting 10 acres of seedlings per year and eventually having at the end of 30 years a significant forest and felling 10 acres each year on rotation. This would provide the lads with experience that could lead to forestry jobs on their release. Unfortunately in 1969, after only four years of operation, the Department reported that it had been finding it increasingly difficult to maintain the required number of boys at the farm. With the cost of maintaining the facility too high, it recommended that the Farm School be discontinued. It was closed as a departmental institution in October 1969 with the property taken over by the Department of Agriculture, becoming an agricultural research station.

### **Mount Gambier Pine Plantation**

Wybert and Jean's investment in 32.5 acres of land for a pine plantation near Mt Gambier in 1924 was a venture that left the relatively poorly paid country headmaster, with his wife and three children to feed and care for, with very little spare cash. The pine plantation "adventure" would last for nearly 60 years. The family would spend many holidays in the South East and in that time made many friends. The eventual return on investment over this period provided the Symonds family with additional financial security, even if it was a long time between cheques. Most importance was placed on providing the best for their children's education, with both needing to board in Adelaide for their final year of secondary school and then tertiary studies. Both attended Adelaide University, with John completing his Bachelor of Science in 1944 and Ruth gaining her Bachelor of Arts in 1950.

The plantation was cared for by a local dairy farmer, Mark Leggett, who had previously been employed as a foreman in the Woods and Forest Department and it provided him with an additional job in between the day's milking. He did all the clearing, fencing, establishing the nursery for the first plantings in 1925 - 1926. He was still there for a second planting in 1942-1943. Wybert considered himself very fortunate to have met and employed Mark. Wybert assisted him when thinning was required and his background in forestry science obviously benefited the project, but it was still not without risk. The first planting suffered from disease which caused some dieback, but the later use of sprays for weed, pest control and application of trace elements, improved the yields significantly. Wybert's plantation cashbook recorded every detail of the plantation's history from 1924 to 1981. There was one incident that perhaps did not show up in the cashbook (unless it was for medical expenses) when Wybert had a narrow escape from serious injury (or death) when felling a tree on the plantation. He still had no fear, but after being struck by the falling tree, it brought home the reality that he was no longer a fit young sportsman.

From 1969 to 1971, 35 rows of 30 year old pines on the Mount Gambier plantation were clear felled and then replanted with seedlings. The rest of the mature pines were felled in 1978. The income returned on the investment would provide a comfortable living and several overseas trips. In 1983 Wybert inspected his new 12 year old pines which were now 20 feet or more high and after thinning out there were still nine to ten thousand trees. They were all looking very healthy thanks to the effective use of spray treatments.

### **Daphne Jean Symonds (1899 - 1968)**

Wybert's one deep regret was that Jean in her lifetime was not able to gain more of the benefits of the financial returns from the pine plantation, which mostly came just after her death on May 21st in 1968.

Their last trip together was to attend the annual conference of the Australian College of Education in Melbourne in 1968. After driving through the autumn beauty of the Adelaide Hills, they followed the well known route to Mount Gambier. They were not in any hurry and planned to take nearly four days to get there. After the night's stay at Mount Gambier and a visit to check on the pines, they headed down the scenic Great Ocean Road. Following a two night stay at Apollo Bay, it was on to Melbourne and motel accommodation which had been booked ahead. That evening they visited old friends before returning to the motel to recharge for the conference opening on the next

day (Tuesday 14th May 1968). Sadly, Jean suffered a major stroke that morning and was not able to survive, passing away peacefully a week later.

In her memory, to keep their close link to their Alma Mater alive, Wybert established the Jean Symonds Prize (in perpetuity) for the Adelaide High School student who gained the highest matriculation results in Mathematics or Languages.

## **Mary Paull**

Following the death of Jean in May 1968, Wybert found comfort in the friendship of Mary Paull (née Trewren) who had lost her husband Alec six months earlier. Alec had been a student at Adelaide High School at the same time as Wybert and followed a parallel career path as a teacher and headmaster. In the late 1930s, Alec was appointed as a school inspector covering the West Coast region. Mary and Alec chose to live in Port Lincoln and prior to Wybert's transfer to Glossop, the Symonds and Paull families spent time together engaging in common interests. In retirement back in Adelaide, Alec and Mary had again become very close friends of Jean and Wybert.

Wybert later married Mary and they would spend eight and a half happy years together, which included two very enjoyable overseas trips. The trips taken in 1971 and 1974 were comfortably financed by the return from the felling of pines at the Mount Gambier plantation.

### **Overseas Trips**

Their maiden overseas trip together in 1971 was an ocean voyage on the SS Galileo Galilei from Australia to Europe. First ports of call included Lisbon and Gibraltar, followed by visits to Mediterranean coastal ports. On land, other modes of transport took them on extensive sightseeing of the wonderful scenic and historic regions of southern Europe. The impressive art and architecture they had seen, brought home strongly to Wybert, just how young Australia was.

Then it was touring north by coach, with stops along the way, through the snow covered Alps to Paris for a short one night stay and tour of the city. From the French Capital it was a short journey through green fields and battlegrounds of the past, passing tragic symbols on the way, to Calais and then by boat across the Channel to London. During 12 days in and around London, Wybert and Mary renewed some old acquaintances with people and places. On a trip to the Salisbury Plains, Wybert revisited Stonehenge and remembered other places from nearly 50 years earlier.

Travelling north, while passing through Oxford, Wybert thought of contacting Ian Craig and Patrick Phillips. They were two of his own ABHS boys who had been awarded Rhodes Scholarships in 1968 and 1969 respectively, following their graduation in Medicine from Adelaide University. Unfortunately, he was unable to catch up with them at the time.

It was then on to Shakespeare's country and paying homage at the great poet, playwright and actor's tomb inside Stratford-upon-Avon's Holy Trinity Church and then as one must, visit Anne Hathaway's cottage in the country-side nearby.

Through France and England there had been many poignant reminders of the places Wybert had seen earlier during WW1. From Heathrow, it was a return air trip to Australia via short stays and wonderful tours of Vienna, Athens, Jerusalem, Bangkok and Hong Kong. After 20 thousand miles, Wybert and Mary arrived back in Sydney on Christmas Day, to be spent at his son John's place.

The trip through Europe and then Asia on the way home, reminded Wybert how he had grown up in a predominantly Anglo-Saxon Australia, but which over his 74 years had now transformed through migration creating a cultural link to all of the places they had visited on their trip!

Following retirement from the Churchill Fellowship Trust in 1973, Wybert and Mary deliberated on an extensive world tour. The idea was to visit many parts of the world they had not seen previously.

So it was on 23rd May 1974, they departed Adelaide for Perth and by air to the island of Mauritius, the first port of call on the tourist trail. Then on to interesting stays in Kenya, Madrid, Barcelona on their way to London. On to Glasgow and following a three day stay with old friends of Mary, they hired a car for a circuitous itinerary by way of the Scottish Highlands, the Lochs and a visit to Balmoral - 'but the Queen was not there to greet them'. Staying at a B&B in St Andrews, Wybert managed a quiet nine holes of golf in the morning, followed by a tour of the old University in the afternoon. It was then down to Edinburgh to revisit favourite places that Wybert had seen at the end of WW1. From Edinburgh it was back to Glasgow where Wybert was able to catch up with Charlie Ilse's son, Hugh. He was only a wee youngster when Wybert last saw him in 1919, but now was a six foot two inch man with a mass of white hair!

From Glasgow they travelled by air to Copenhagen and toured north through each of the Scandinavian countries and subsequently boarded a Norwegian coastal steamer to travel down the majestic Fjords to beautiful Bergen.

That was the end of Europe and now it was back to London for a few nights, staying with friends before boarding a flight at Heathrow for the USA and destination Boston. Niagara Falls, Toronto, Calgary, Banff and a six day unforgettable Rockies tour over to Vancouver followed. They were privileged to have an old friend of Mary and Alec show them the sights of Vancouver, making it the most delightful part of the North American visit. From Vancouver, it was by coach down the West Coast with stays in San Francisco, Yosemite Valley and to Los Angeles, including experiencing the fantasy of Disneyland. A bus trip to Las Vegas had to be cut short due to the extreme heat through the Mojave Desert. Perhaps it brought back some memories of the intolerable heat on the journey through the Murray Mallee, on the new headmaster's way to take charge of Renmark High School in 1932.

Finally, it was the last leg home to Sydney (with a stopover in Honolulu for three days) and then back to South Australia. Arriving back in Adelaide on 20th August at the end of their thoroughly enjoyable three month tour, they reflected on many new friendships they had made and old ones renewed.

Their two overseas trips had opened up a wide spectrum of new cultural experiences and panoramas; however the chance to experience the forests of Scotland, Scandinavia, and the Rocky Mountains seemed especially absorbing parts of the journey for Wybert. Being among the great Sequoias of Yosemite National Park would have been one of the old forester's quintessential life experiences.

During the next four years, there was some final follow-up work with The Churchill Fellowship Trust, some trips to visit family in Sydney and to Queensland in the colder months.

Sadly, shortly after a final trip together to Mount Gambier, Mary passed away on 20th May 1977 aged 75. Mary had instilled new life in Wybert after Jean's death.

Later in 1977, Wybert and daughter Ruth travelled to Europe to attend his grandson Nicholas's Wedding to Nicole in her parish church in Ghent, Belgium. On his return journey they booked to fly on the Concorde from London. The trip across the Atlantic to Washington would only take about 3.5 hours, about the same time that it took young Wybert to travel from Chain of Ponds to Adelaide aboard the buggy pulled by Darkie. From his early less complex way of life, it was a remarkable example of the many advances in technology he had witnessed during his lifetime.



## **Millbrook Primary School Centenary**

In 1979 Wybert attended the Centenary Celebration of the Millbrook Primary School (1879 - 1979). Wybert had always maintained a close link with his old school where his desire to become a teacher began. The following is an excerpt and some photos from the Centenary booklet.

### **"Millbrook boys head the way"**

from a history of  
Millbrook School, Cudlee Creek, SA, Australia.

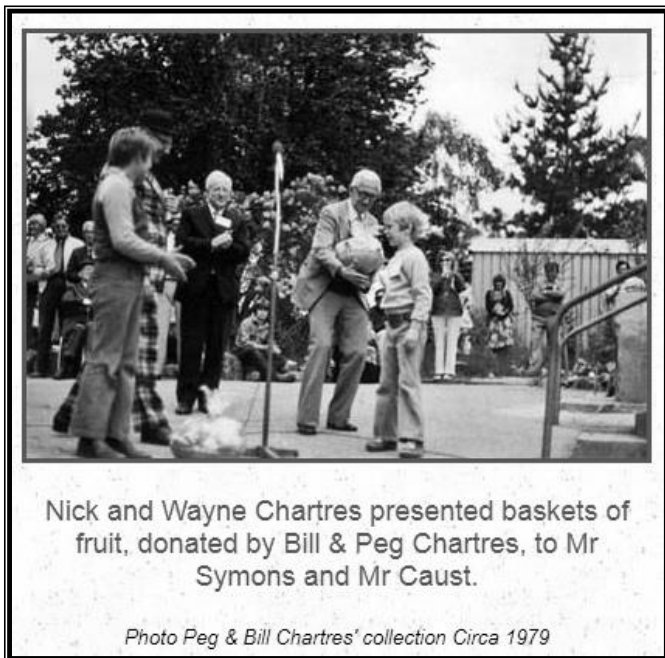
by Bill Chartres<sup>23</sup>

***From a pupil at a small hills school to Head Master of Adelaide High School. That's been the achievement of two former Millbrook boys. They are Mr. William James Adey who became the first Head Master at Adelaide High in 1908 and Mr. Wybert M.C. Symonds who had the position during the 1950s and early 60s. Adelaide High has had only six Head Masters and for two of them to have come from Millbrook is a proud record.***

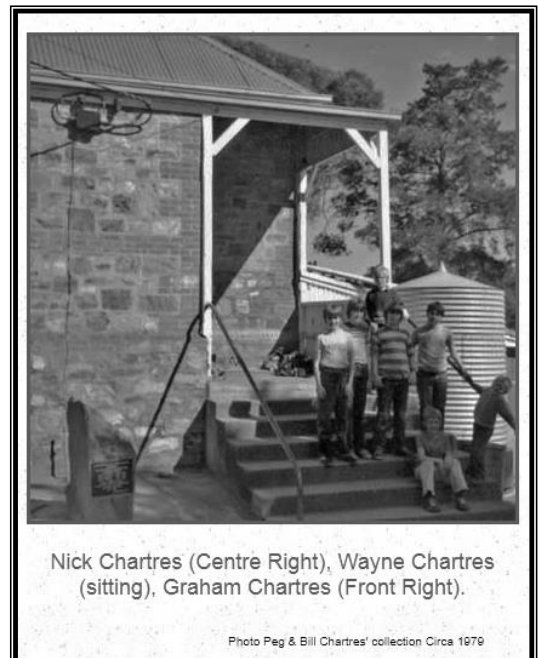
***WILLIAM JAMES ADEY attended the Millbrook School from 1884 until 1886 having transferred from Redhill. He became the first Head Master of Adelaide High School in 1908 having spent 1907 attending Melbourne Training College studying post primary education. He filled the dual role of Head Master of Adelaide High School and Inspector of Secondary Schools from 1916. In 1920 he became Superintendent of Secondary Education and in 1929 was made Director of Education, a position he held until his retirement in 1939.***

***WYBERT M.C. SYMONDS attended the Millbrook School from 1904 until 1911. During 1913 he was a monitor here when Mr. John F. Davis was Head Teacher. He began his secondary studies at Adelaide Boys' High School in 1914. Later he returned there as an assistant teacher and finally became Head Master from 1954 until his retirement in 1962.***

***Mr. Symonds, because of family interests in Chain of Ponds, has maintained an active interest in the Millbrook School. The Symonds-Caust families are responsible for the erection of a memorial stone, in memory of Millbrook's early teachers, unveiled during the centenary celebrations.***



W.M.C. Symonds (Centre)



Symonds-Caust Memorial Stone on left

<sup>23</sup> Authors Note: Bill Chartres was a student at Adelaide Boys' High School in 1958.

## **Adelaide High School - 75th Anniversary**

In February 1983 Wybert received a card from overseas announcing the safe arrival of great granddaughter, Helen Mary, to grandson Nicholas Birrell and wife Nicole. In the same mail drop the postman had also delivered a newsletter from the Adelaide High School Old Scholars Association. It contained information about the 75th Anniversary of Adelaide High School celebrations. Wybert now in his 86th year would only be able to attend a minimal amount of events.

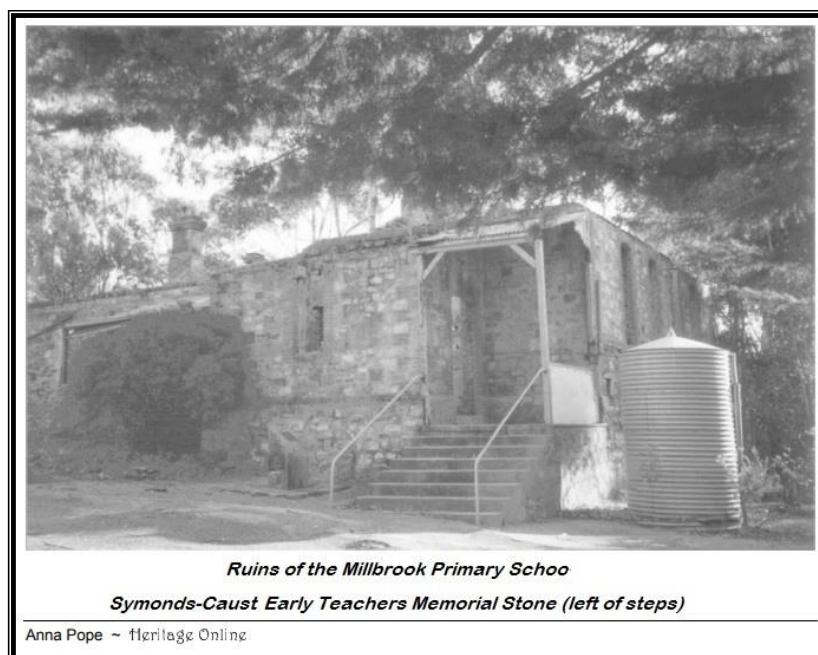
Wybert was able to attend the celebratory dinner held in the "Adelaide Boys' High School" Hall. The guest speaker on this occasion was the Governor of South Australia, Sir Donald Dunstan. Twenty-five years earlier he and Jean had attended the 50th anniversary year dinner held in the Centennial Hall. The Governor had earlier opened new building extensions at West Terrace, to provide more facilities for the girl students who had relocated there in 1979. Now named "Adelaide High School" again, as it was when Jean and Wybert were both students at the co-educational school on Grote Street, 70 years earlier (1914 - 1916).

At the end of the formalities, special guests who included five former headmasters & headmistresses, gathered aside to chat with the Governor and other dignitaries. It was held in Wybert's cherished old Memorial Library which had been replaced in the extensions by a modern library.

## **The Ashes of "Rosedale" and Millbrook School**

The 16th February 1983 is recorded in history as Ash Wednesday. On that day South Australia suffered the worst and most deadly bushfires in the history of the State. The fierce northerly winds and extreme temperatures, made containment of the fires impossible in these firestorm conditions. Victoria suffered a similar fate with loss of life, property and livestock. Wybert in his younger days had seen bushfires in the Chain of Ponds area, often started by lightning strikes. On Ash Wednesday the area did not escape, as the fire burnt all the way from the Anstey's Hill Reserve through to Gumeracha and beyond. Fortunately, rain fell the following night and soon after the fires were all brought under control. A few days later, Wybert drove alone to inspect the devastation for himself. Sadly, the old homestead "Rosedale" and surrounding pines were gone. The Millbrook School and its new library building were gutted. Together with the burnt cemetery grounds it presented an absolutely desolate sight. The ash covered Symonds/Caust Memorial to the Pioneers of Education was witness to the destruction. Later, Wybert was relieved to hear that fortunately the family pine plantation in the south east of the State was not in the path of the fire because of a change of wind direction.

### **Ruins of Millbrook School c 2001**



Wybert passed away at Flinders' Medical Centre on 4th August 1984 aged 86. He was survived by his children John and Ruth and their families and his eldest sister (Bessie - aged 97) and older brother (Claude - aged 90).

Youngest grandson Stephen said, "He died as he had lived more interested in the people around him than himself". He was an intern at Flinders Medical Centre at that time when his "Wyb" or "Papa" died.

Jean, Mary and Wybert were all farewelled at Centennial Park, Mitcham, where there are Memorial Plaques for Jean and Wybert.

Mary's ashes were interred with Alec in their own niche in the Columbarium Wall.

***"Non Scholae Sed Vitae"***  
(Not only for School but for Life)

## **Family Legacy**

### **Son - John Lloyd Symonds (b1923 - d2017)**

John was an excellent student who had all of his primary and most of his secondary education in country South Australian schools. He gained his Intermediate and Leaving Certificates while in Port Lincoln and then completed his Leaving Honours year at Adelaide High School before going to Adelaide University. After gaining a four year cadetship in the Physics Department headed by Roy Burdon, he graduated with a Science Degree (with Honours) in 1945. During his time at University he had also come under the wing of lecturer George Rayner Fuller<sup>24</sup>. George was an old friend of his father from his Adelaide High School and Adelaide University days.

The following provides insight into John's professional career as a nuclear physicist.

In 1946 John won an international scholarship which enabled him to travel to England to take a position in Professor Marcus Oliphant's laboratory in Birmingham. At the time, the laboratory was primarily involved with the ground breaking research and development of a Proton Synchrotron, a nuclear particle (protons) accelerator.

*Marcus Oliphant, found himself in 1943 at Oakridge supervising the business of transforming a laboratory experiment into a large scale industrial process for isotope separation. As E.O. Lawrence's deputy he was given the owl watch and "with little to do unless troubles developed" occupied his time by speculating on plans for his return to Birmingham when war was over. He wrote a memo [1] to the Directorate of Atomic Energy, UK in which he proposed a new method of acceleration: "Particles should be constrained to move in a circle of constant radius thus enabling the use of an annular ring of magnetic field ... which would be varied in such a way that the radius of curvature remains constant as the particles gain energy through successive accelerations by an alternating electric field applied between coaxial hollow electrodes."*

#### **PROTON SYNCHROTRONS**

*The first synchrotrons were electron machines but projects for proton synchrotrons aiming at energies above 1 GeV were not far behind. Oliphant was back at the University of Birmingham in the shadow of the replica of the Siena campanile which adorns that campus. He had made his bid early to construct a 1 GeV proton machine but he was becoming bogged down in the red tape and lack of imagination which abounded in post war Britain. Europe was then unused to big-science and much of his work force had to come from the graduate students in his department.*

*from: FIFTY YEARS OF SYNCHROTRONS E. J. N. Wilson, CERN, Geneva, Switzerland*

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<sup>24</sup> George Fuller and Wybert Symonds both first played A Grade Cricket for the Adelaide University Cricket Club in the 1920/21 Season. Fuller debuted in Round 1 (Cap Number 98) and Symonds debuted in Round 2 (Cap Number 99). Ref: Author

GOODEN, J. S., H. H. JENSEN and J. L. SYMONDS: Theory of the Proton Synchrotron. Proc. Roy. Soc. Lond. **59**, 677 (1947). — The first paper published on proton synchrotron orbits.

The circular Proton Synchrotron was the smaller forerunner to the development of the massive Hadron Collider.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950)  
Thu 23 May 1946 / Page 1

### ATOM RESEARCH Mr. John Symonds Bound for Britain

Berri, May 20.

Mr. John Symonds, 22 years of age, son of Mr. W. M. C. Symonds (headmaster of the Glossop High School) and Mrs. Symonds, has been home spending a few days with his parents prior to leaving for overseas. John was educated at Renmark, Pt. Lincoln and Adelaide High Schools and was for four years a cadet in the physics laboratory at the Adelaide University, doing research work in nuclear physics. During 1945 he obtained a first class honours degree in Science at the Adelaide University and was later appointed to the Radio Physics Dept. of the CSIR, Sydney. Further success came his way when he won a travelling scholarship which entitles him to go to the Nuffield Laboratories, Birmingham University, to continue his studies in atomic energy under the guidance of Professor Oliphant. John left for Sydney, where he hopes to obtain a berth about the middle of June, so as to enable him to be in Birmingham to continue his work in August.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954),  
Saturday 31 December 1949, page 3

### WILL MEET ATOMIC SCIENTISTS

When he visits England next year, Dr. R. S. Burdon, reader in physics at Adelaide University, will renew acquaintances with a number of former Adelaide associates now engaged on top-line atomic research in Birmingham.

They are Prof. Oliphant, Dr. John Gooden, and Messrs. John Symonds, W. I. B. Smith, and Keith Mather.

Dr. Burdon said the main purpose of his visit would be to study latest developments in surface physics at Birmingham, Cambridge, and the Royal Institution, London.

Adelaide University, where he had been a lecturer for 25 years, had granted him study leave.

He would leave with his wife in the Ormonde next month, and expected to be away about seven months.

National Library of Australia

In April 1948 while working at the Nuffield Laboratories with Professor Oliphant, John (24) married Marian Mary Pearce (23) in Birmingham, Warwickshire England.

Based on his research work with Oliphant he was awarded a doctor of philosophy degree.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950)  
Sat 29 May 1948 / Page 1  
THE ODD COLUMN

### GLOSSOP H.S. HEADMASTER'S SON VISITS GLOSSOP, ENG.

MR. John L. Symonds, son of the head master of the Glossop High School, who is studying nuclear physics at Birmingham University, recently spent a day at Glossop, England.

He was the guest of the head master of the Dinting C. of E. School (Mr. N. G. H. Harrop) there. Students of economics class at our Glossop High School have corresponded with Mr. Harrop for a number of years.

These facts, together with a photo of Mr. Symonds inspecting a Glossop industry were contained in a clipping from "The Glossop Chronicle" sent to Miss Peggy Cook, of Berri, by a penfriend in Glossop, England.

With a population of 39,000, England's Glossop is an industrial centre with large spinning mills.

John expected to be returning to Australia in June, but it seems likely that his visit may now be extended.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
Thu 6 Jul 1950 / Page 1

### Former Port Lincoln Boy Gains Doctorate Of Philosophy

Mr. John Symonds, a former student of the Port Lincoln High School, has obtained his Doctorate of Philosophy. Mr. Symonds is at present working at Birmingham (Eng.) with Professor Marcus Oliphant. He attended the high school about 12 years ago, when his father, Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, was headmaster.

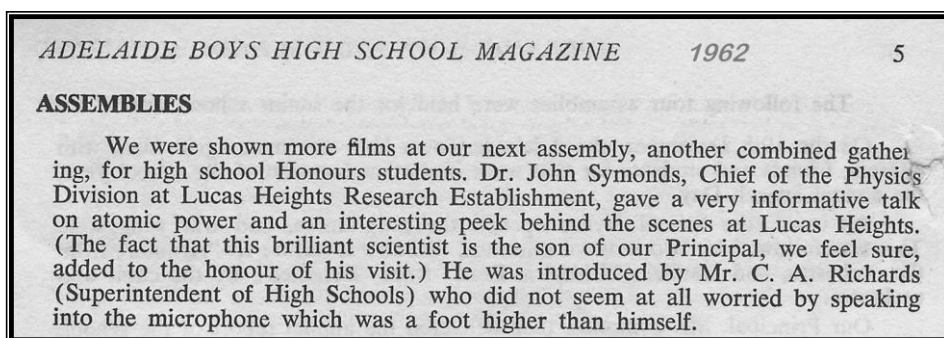


John and Family returned to Australia in 1958.

OUT-GOING PASSENGERS												F.M. 1B. First Schedule			
Name of Ship "HIMALAYA"												Page 20.		Date of Departure 15th February, 1958.	
Owner or Agent P. & O. S.N. COMPANY														Where Bound SYDNEY	
NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND IRISH REPUBLICAN PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF LONDON															
(1) Contract Ticket Number	(2) Names of Passengers (Surname first)	(3) Class of Travel	(4) Port at which Passengers have contracted to land	(5) Sex (M. or F.)	(6) Date of Birth			(7) Married or Single (widowed or divorced to be entered as single)	(8) Address in the United Kingdom	(9) Occupation (i.e., Profession, calling, or kind of work done rather than industry in which engaged)	(10) Country of which a citizen as shown on passport. (If citizen of U.K. and Colonies state also country of home of passport)	(11) Country of last permanent residence*	(12) Country of intended future permanent residence*		
					Adults of 12 years and over	Children between 1 and 12 years	Infants under 1 year								
SYMONDS	John Lloyd	"	"	M	23.12.23			M	Berindene, Westbrook St., Belsbury, Physicist		Australia	"	Australia		
	Marian Mary	"	"	F	11.1.25			M	-do-	Housewife	"	"	"		
	Peter Julian	"	"	M		26.4.50		S	-do-		"	"	"		
	Lesley Mary	"	"	F		5.5.52		S	-do-		"	"	"		

On their return to Australia John was appointed to a senior position with the Australia Atomic Energy Commission (AAEC). He also continued his association with Mark Oliphant at the Australian National University.

In 1962 John was invited by his father to speak to final year students at Adelaide Boys' High School.

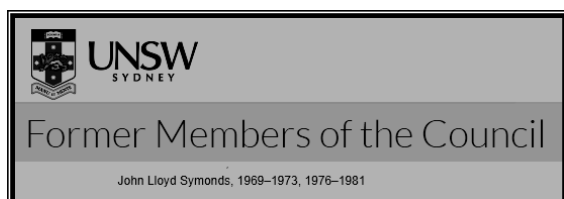


John was consulted by the Australian Government on many occasions, particularly in regard to the safety aspects associated with the storage of and exposure to radioactive materials.

In 1979 as the Chief Scientist (Power & Energy) of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission Research Establishment, John had the prime responsibility for the exhumation of plutonium from the "Airfield Cemetery" at Maralinga prior to its safe return to the UK.

John retired from the AAEC shortly before his 1985 report into the British Atomic Testing at Maralinga in South Australia was published. The publication exposed many shortcomings of the program.<sup>25</sup>

John had two terms on the Council of the University of New South Wales and was an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics



<sup>25</sup> Dr J. L. Symonds, *A History of British Atomic Tests in Australia*, Department of Resources and Energy, AGPS, April 1985

John passed away in November 2017 at the age of 93.

**The Sydney Morning Herald Notices**

## John Lloyd SYMONDS



SYMONDS, John Lloyd.

2nd November, 2017

Late of Cronulla

Much loved husband of Marian, loved father of Peter and Lesley. Adored grandfather and great grandfather.

Aged 93 Years

A funeral service will be held at the Olsens Chapel, 172A Willarong Road, Caringbah on Wednesday, 8th November, 2017 at 10.00am.

John was very proud of the family's Cornish heritage and was a very active member of the Cornish Heritage Association of NSW.

**VALE: Dr John Lloyd Symonds**

23/12/1923 - 2 November, 2017.

Three members of our Association attended the funeral at Olsens Chapel Caringbah on Wed 8 November. Thank you.

See below, a message read on behalf of the Association.

**Message about John Symonds**

*It is with great sadness that I, and those members of the Cornish Association of NSW who knew John, learnt about his death. In advising members of this we have already received comments back about his kindness and help to them.*

*John gave great service to the Association in the 3 decades he was a member, with his intellect and typical thoroughness and tenacity in reseaching Cornish links in the Cadia gold district and the ground breaking work around Cobar and Gilgunnia. The information he passed on from these projects, and activities at Byng, forms a huge component of the Association's web site historical material today. It is accessed often by people looking for clues about their history and ancestry.*

*John's love of his family, especially his Cornish ancestors, shines through in his wonderful book, 'Which Francis Symonds? Cornish Oak or Australian Eucalypt' (which is in our library). Though born in South Australia he saw the wider story when he joined our NSW group, for which we are very thankful.*

*Always a gentleman, and keen to help, he is remembered fondly and with thanks. Apologies that Joy our President, and I, are not able to be in Sydney. Our condolences to you, his other family members, and his other friends. Chris Dunkerley  
Hon. Secretary for the CANSW 8 November, 2017*

## Daughter - Ruth Caust Symonds (b1929)

Ruth was a brilliant student, with all but her final year of secondary education taken in country South Australian schools. She completed Leaving Honours at Presbyterian Girls College in 1946 and then entered the Teacher's Training College the following year. Also enrolling at Adelaide University, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1950. She excelled in languages (in particular French), music and is an accomplished pianist.

The following provide a brief insight into her education, teaching career and life journey.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1954)  
Thu 8 Jan 1942 / Page 12

### FORMER PORT LINCOLN GIRL WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Ruth Symonds, of Barmera, has been awarded an exhibition on the results of the Qualifying examination. Her father, Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, was headmaster at the Port Lincoln High School for several years, and left during 1941 to take up a similar position at the new Barmera High School.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950)  
Thu 22 Feb 1945 / Page 1

### GLOSSOP HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Glossop High School students have figured prominently in scholarships awarded in connection with last year's examinations, securing five Intermediate exhibitions, a horticultural cadetship, and a scholarship for a course at Roseworthy College.

In the Intermediates two were won in competition with candidates from metropolitan schools, and three in the section reserved for country pupils.

The winners were: Division I (for Country High Schools)—R. M. Herriot, J. V. Possingham, Margaret J. Rofe.

Division II (Metropolitan or Country High Schools)—Aileen J. Thompson, Ruth S. Symonds. All are to the value of £20 per annum for two years.

Murray Pioneer (Renmark, SA : 1942 - 1950)  
Thu 17 Jan 1946 / Page 1

### RIVER SUCCESSES IN LEAVING EXAM

#### Prominent Places in Credit Lists

Students attending River high schools gained a number of successes in the Leaving examination, results of which were announced last week. Outstanding was the performance of Aileen J. Thompson, of Glossop High School, with five credits among seven subjects gained, including equal third in French. Other notable performances include equal third place in French among eight subjects to Ruth C. Symonds (Glossop High School), equal fifth in Mathematics II to Dean H. Plummer (Renmark High School), two credits in six subjects to R. M. Herriot (Glossop High School), and eight subjects to Marjorie Burns (Renmark High School). Among those who secured certificates were the following:—

Glossop High School—Audrey M. Aird, Eg, F, Eh, Gg, Bk; R. H. Andrew, EgQ, M1, M2, Pc, C; Joan Bollenhagen, Eg, L, M1, M2, C, Bt; F. E. Colby, EgQ, M1, M2, Pc, C, Bt; Ron M. Herriot, Eg, L, M1, M2, Pcx, Cx; Henry G. Pearson, Eg, Pc, C, Bt; Margaret J. Rofe, Eg, L, F, M1, M2, Pc; xShirley M. Stone, Eg, Eh, Gg, Bk, S; Ruth C. Symonds, Eg, L, Fx, M1, M2, Pc, C, M; Aileen J. Thompson, Eg, Lx, Fx, M1x, M2, Pcx, Cx; Laurence J. Wyman, Eg, M1, M2, Pc, C, Bt.

Like her father, Ruth also dedicated her life to teaching. In 1950, after finishing Teacher's College and completing her Arts Degree, she was appointed to Gawler High School.

Bunyip (Gawler, SA : 1863 - 1954),  
Friday 17 February 1950, page 1

### New Teachers at High School.

Two new staff members have received appointments to Gawler High School—Miss Ruth Symonds from the Teachers' College replaces Miss J. Pickering as teacher of languages and music; and Mr. W. Davidson takes the place of Mr. A. Lange as teacher of woodwork and drawing. Miss Symonds is the daughter of Mr. Wybert Symonds, Headmaster of Glossop High School. Mr. Davidson spends Thursday and Friday at Riverton High School.

While teaching at Gawler High School, Ruth involved herself in community activities and was an active member of the Choral Society.

Bunyip (Gawler, SA : 1863 - 1954),  
Friday 2 June 1950, page 1

### Second Soiree Next Week

At the second soiree of the Choral Society, on Friday, June 9th., in addition to the programme being prepared by guest artists Frederick Williamson, Kathleen Glastonbury and Allan Giles, there will be items by Ruth Symonds, Noeleen Fidock and the choir.

Subscribers who have still to re-affiliate are asked to do so without delay.

In January 1950, Ruth became engaged to Max Birrell. Max was an aspiring Artist and Art Teacher at Mount Gambier High and Technical School. He was also fine sportsman and was captain of North Gambier football team. He had previously played with Sturt and Teachers College in Adelaide.

The Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954)  
Sat 7 Jan 1950 / Page 30

### B.A. ENGAGED TO ARTIST

THE engagement is announced of Ruth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. C. Symonds, of Glossop, to Max, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Birrell, of South terrace, Adelaide.

Ruth gained her Bachelor of Arts degree last year, and Max, a young Adelaide artist, is at present teaching at Mount Gambier High and Technical Schools.



In 1949 Max was commissioned to paint a mural for a wall in the Vice Chancellor's residence at the University of Adelaide.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954) / Tue 24 Jan 1950 / Page 5 / PASSING BY

## PASSING BY By Mr. Pim

*Twenty-two lb. of paint—mainly yellow, blue, green, and red—have transformed a wall area 13 ft. long by 10 ft. deep into a pleasing mural in the Vice-Chancellor's residence at the University.*

*A year ago 22-year-old SA artist Max Birrell began working out the design. He made hundreds of drawings in spare time from his duties as art teacher at Mount Gambier High and Technical Schools. Next he painted a 4 ft. by 3 ft. miniature of the completed design in watercolors.*

*First process when Mr. Birrell got on to the wall job last month was to size the plaster with a special preparation to stop any dampness coming through. Dampness has ruined some murals by old masters, notably Michelangelo's "Last Supper."*

*Main feature of Mr. Birrell's painting is a relief representation of Australia. Mainland capital cities, each shown as a little cluster of skyscrapers, are linked with a ribbon symbolising their communication and transport connections.*

*An aboriginal is striding across the "dead heart" of the continent. At the top of the mural a two-masted barque is sailing amid heat clouds and tropical storms, recalling the discovery of Australia.*

*Below are icebergs. Off SA is a fishing boat with a fisherman hauling in a net—the artist foresees big developments in fishing. Coral reefs off Queensland were "scraped on" by palette knife—an artist's fine knife which gives a rugged effect.*

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 24 January 1950, page 15

### University vice-chancellor gets mural by S.A. artist



22-YEAR-OLD SA ARTIST Max Birrell sits beneath his recently completed mural painting in the vice-chancellor's residence at the University. It is the first mural done in oils in Adelaide for many years.

Ruth and Max Birrell were married in the Pirie St Methodist Church on 29th December 1951.

The Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954)

/ Sat 29 Dec 1951

## WEDDING TODAY



TODAY'S BRIDE Mrs. Max Birrell, formerly Ruth Symonds, with (standing—  
from left)—her husband, bridesmaid Miss Myfawney David, and best man Mr.  
Ian Birrell.

## Teachers in art married

BOTH well known in the arts, Ruth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Symonds of Port Pirie, and Ian, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Birrell of Parkside, were married in Pirie Street Methodist Church today.

The bride, a BA graduate of the University of Adelaide with honors in French, teaches languages and music at the Gawler High School, and Max, whose paintings are becoming more and more known, teaches art at the Royal Grammar High School and the Adult Technical School.

Shortly after her marriage to Max, Ruth joined the staff of Mount Gambier Primary School as a temporary replacement for another teacher who was on sick leave.

Border Watch (Mount Gambier, SA : 1861 - 1954),  
Saturday 19 July 1952, page 7

### School Notes

An outbreak of chicken pox has kept a number of children away from the Infant School.

The Infant School Mothers' Club held a happy and successful birthday party in the Rechabite Hall last Tuesday.

Mrs. Ruth Birrell has joined the staff of the Primary School for a short period, in place of Miss J. M. Burns, who is away on sick leave.

Dressmaking teacher of the Millicent Branch of the Technical School, Miss V. G. Hueppaess, has resigned, and plans to return to her people in Tanunda. Her place will be taken by Miss M. Burchard, of the Mount Gambier Branch.

English classes for New Australians are now held regularly three nights a week at the Technical School — advanced on Thursday night, others on Monday and Tuesday nights. A fourth class is in the process of being formed; it will be held on Wednesday nights for those who speak no English at all.

#### STAFF v STUDENTS

The Staff team won the Staff v Students football match held at the High School on Wednesday by one point. Half the Staff team was teachers, and half B Grade student footballers. The Students team was the A Grade team. Scores were: Staff 4.5, Students 4.4. The Headmaster (Mr. A. H. Campbell) was umpire.

Approximately 60 students and teachers from Glossop High School are scheduled to visit Mount Gambier on August 26 for a week. They will be billeted with High School students here, and will take part in various winter sports, and debates at the School.

Ruth was an accomplished pianist and while living in Mount Gambier performed at a Choral Society event in June 1952.

Border Watch (Mount Gambier, SA : 1861 - 1954) / Thu 26 Jun 1952 / Page 9

## WOMEN OUTSHINE MEN AT CHORAL SOCIETY SOIREE

### FIRST APPEARANCE FOR 1952

The women, the men would probably not mind admitting, gave the star performances at the successful "First Soiree of 1952" given by the Mount Gambier Choral Society at Christ Church Hall on Monday night.

#### CHOIR WORK

Superior in numbers, the women gave the choir much of its strength. The men would be helped by an extra tenor or two. The women also seemed to be surer of their technique.

Piano items were given by Bertha and Jean McDonald (mother and daughter duet) who gave a spirited rendition of "March From The Nutcracker Suite" (Tchaikowsky), and by Ruth Birrell, who gave a forceful attack to Bach's "Prelude In A Minor" and "Gigue."



Ruth also played basketball (netball) for the North team but unfortunately was unavailable for the 1952 Grand Final.

Border Watch (Mount Gambier, SA : 1861 - 1954),  
Thursday 11 September 1952, page 13

### BASKETBALL

## GRAND FINALS

Grand finals will be played in all grades of Association Basketball on Saturday. The three matches will be played at the High School and will begin at 1.30 p.m.

The draw is:—

**A GRADE**  
North v CYWA. High School court 1, 1.30. Miss Nunan.

**B GRADE**  
High School (1) v North. High School court 2, 1.30. Miss Bodey.

**C GRADE**  
High School (3) v Postal. High School court 3, 1.30. Mr. Nunan.

On past performances North should win the A Grade premiership, but CYWA put up such a good fight against West last week that the match is by no means a foregone conclusion. North are a splendid combination with perhaps one weak link, having lost their centre Ruth Birrell owing to school holidays. When last these teams met, the result was a draw. With last Saturday's success to spur them on, CYWA will be keen to win. It promises to be a close and fast match.

Late in 1952, Ruth and Max departed Mount Gambier for the UK and Europe, where he was furthering his study of art. Ruth, who had only recently joined the staff of the High School, had to resign after one term.

Border Watch (Mount Gambier, SA : 1861 - 1954)  
Sat 29 Nov 1952 / Page 1

## ART TEACHER TO SPEND YEAR ABROAD

**Mr. Max Birrell, Art Teacher at the Mount Gambier Technical School for the past four years, will sail for the United Kingdom and Europe on Christmas Eve for a year's study of art overseas. He will be accompanied by his wife.**

Mr. and Mrs. Birrell will leave Mount Gambier on December 16, after the High School speech night, and will spend a week with their parents in Adelaide before boarding the Stratheden.

They will go straight to Birmingham where Mrs. Birrell's brother, Mr. John Symonds, works as a nuclear physicist; he was under Professor Marcus Oliphant for a time.

After taking a flat in London, Mr. Birrell will connect up with the Royal Academy Art School for study, and also the Kensington Art School and others, where, in addition to learning aspects of art, he will also study teaching methods.


Paris will be their next centre for study, followed later by Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Birrell will make their

tour via the art galleries of the countries they visit.

Returning to London in time for the Coronation, they will then tour Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

While away, Mr. Birrell hopes to study under Sir Russell William Fint, probably one of the most famous portrait painters in the world, who is also a Trustee of the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

After a year overseas, Mr. and Mrs. Birrell will return to South Australia; Mr. Birrell will resume teaching in Adelaide.



MR. BIRRELL



In June 1954 Ruth and Max had a son Nicholas. They returned home to Adelaide in October and Ruth later obtained a position at St Aloysius College.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)  
Friday 18 June 1954, page 12

Artist Max Birrell and his wife have a son, Nicholas David, born on Wednesday, in London. They left Adelaide two years ago, will tour Scotland before sailing for home in the Orsova, due in October.  
Mr. Birrell is lecturing at London University.

Ruth was appointed to be a senior mistress when Scotch College first became a co-educational college in 1972.

### *1972 The Year of the Girls* *Celebrating 25 years of Co-education*

This photo was taken in Term 1, 1972, and shows most of the girls at Scotch in that first year of co-education.



Back row, l to r: Sally Lyons, Maureen Ritchie, Simone Wiedenbach, Zoe Smaniotto, Judy Anderson, Sue Kelly, Meredith, Green, Julie Karas, Helen Archibald, Caroline Baker, Angela Harrison, Karyn Powell, Kate Nicholls, Wendy Remilton, Lisa Ingerson, Sue Correll, Michelle Raison, Unidentified, Margaret Camens, Julie Bowker, Trelesa Weatherald.

Third row, l to r: Debbie Mullins, Christine Gent, Fiona Knappstein, Elizabeth Paltridge, Fiona Kerr, Anne Taylor, Kate Gilmore, Annabel Fay, Edwina Hamilton, Gay Hanlon, Kirsty Cockburn, Meriel Reavley, Diane Cassidy, Stroma Humble, Diana Lyons, Penny Minchin-King, Mandy Laburn, Mandy Gibbs, Bambi Wellington.

Second row, l to r: Sue Parsons, Sue Smaniotto, Fiona Roche, Jacqueline Klap, Lynette Curtis, Mrs Ronda Conigrave, Mrs Ruth Lumbruso, Ms Andrea Schutz, Mr Philip Roff (Headmaster), Mrs Ruth Birrell (Senior Mistress), Mrs Vicki Hiscock, Latha Neighbour, Peta Osborne, Andrea Short, Nadia Dinning, Penny Pollard, Katrina Stadler, Eunice Beverley.

Front row, l to r: Kirsty Wilson, Jo-anne Kennedy, Virginia Kinnear, Sara Gribble, Lynda Barclay, Kristie Chinner, Gina Neighbour, Ann Firman, Julie Mason, Vicky Short, Julie Roeger, Peg Lemmey, Leigh de Zwart, Prue Jay, Unidentified, Mary Duncan, Helen Rice, Mandy Powell, Cynthia Love, Julia Tahourdin, Alison Dunn.

Not present in this photo: Toni Griffin

### ***Ruth Birrell (2nd Row - centre of picture)***

In the 1980s Ruth was appointed Principal of Wilderness School for Girls and one of her initiatives was to introduce rowing as a sport at the school. They became one of the most successful school rowing clubs. In 2019 Ruth had a boat named in her honour to recognise her legacy to rowing at the school.

"Over the years, the Wilderness Rowing club has certainly grown in size and popularity, yet the club still holds its traditions strong and true. Ruth Birrell was the Principal when rowing was first introduced at Wilderness, her legacy and impact lives on in the Wilderness boat shed today with the second VIII fleet named in her honour."

Wilderness Times #84 April 2019

During her time at Wilderness, Wybert had made funds available for a scholastic prize. Ruth insisted it be called the "W.M.C. Symonds Prize" to provide an enduring link between the public school system that both Wybert and Jean had championed and her own private school.

Ruth also found time to assist new migrants to Adelaide and was a teacher of English in the home tutor scheme.



*(State Library of SA - Courtesy of Messenger Press)*

**Biographical booklet researched and authored by:**

**Robert Martin O'Shannassy**

**Adelaide University Football Club / Adelaide University Cricket Club**

**WW1 Memorial Committee**

## Acknowledgments:

- *Nick and Steve Birrell - Grandsons of W.M.C. Symonds who shared some memories*
  - *Autobiographical Tape Recording - W.M.C. Symonds (1982 - 83) - Courtesy of Nick Birrell*
  - *Adelaide University Football & Cricket Club - Photo Collection - Adelaide University Archives*
  - *National Library of Australia - Trove (Digital Newspapers)*
  - *RSL Virtual War Memorial*
  - *National Archives of Australia - WW1 Service Records*
  - *Ancestry.Com - Public Member Family Tree*
  - *Genealogy SA*
  - *History of the Norwood Football Club - Redlegs Museum*
  - *State Library of SA*
  - *Pupil Teachers and Junior Teachers in South Australian Schools 1873 - 1965, A Historical and Humanistic Sociological Analysis; McGuire, Anthony, PhD Thesis, University of Adelaide, 1999*
  - *"Wilderness Times" School Magazine*
  - *Wikipedia - Chain of Ponds History*
  - *findagrave.com*
-

Appendices

Family Tree - Wybert Milton Caust Symonds

knight Family Tree

Tree Search

fknight167

Wybert Milton Caust Symonds

BIRTH

7 NOV 1897 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

DEATH

4 AUG 1984 • Flinders University Hospital, SA AUS

LifeStory

Facts

Gallery

Facts

Show

Name and gender

1897

(AGE)

Birth

7 NOV 1897 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

2 Sources

1913

15

Death of Father John Symons (1841–1913)

23 SEP 1913 • Chain of Ponds, South Australia, Australia

1914

17

Military

1914-1920 • Adelaide, South Australia

1 Source

1921

23

Death of Brother Harry Francis Clifford SYMONDS (1895–1921)

1 MAR 1921

1922

25

Marriage

30 DEC 1922 • South Australia

St Mark's Church of England Maylands. (No reception)

Daphne Jean White

(1899–1968)

1 Source

1925

27

Birth of Daughter Rachel Jean SYMONDS (1925–1934)

29 JUL 1925

1934

36

Death of Daughter Rachel Jean SYMONDS (1925–1934)

28 JUL 1934 • Renmark, SA, Aust

1942

44

Death of Mother Amelia CAUST (1854–1942)

19 Sep 1942 • Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

1966

69

Death of Brother John Gumma Crocker SYMONS (1888–1966)

1966

1968

70

Death of Wife Daphne Jean White (1899–1968)

28 MAY 1968 • East, Victoria

1984

86

Death

4 AUG 1984 • Flinders University Hospital, SA AUS

Occupation

secondary school teacher and head master

Sources

Ancestry Sources

Ancestry Family Trees

Ancestry Family Trees

Ancestry Family Trees

Australia Birth Index, 1788-1922

Australia Marriage Index, 1788-1949

Australia, World War II Military Service Records, 1939-1945

Australia, WWI Service Records, 1914-1920

Search on Ancestry

Family

Parents

John Symons

1841–1913

Amelia CAUST

1854–1942

Siblings

Spouse & Children

Daphne Jean White

1899–1968

Rachel Jean SYMONDS

1925–1934

Private

Private



Family Tree - John Symonds and Amelia Caust

knight Family Tree

Tree Search

fknight167

John Symons

BIRTH

17 OCT 1841 • Nankervis, St Enoder, Cornwall, Eng.

DEATH

23 SEP 1913 • Chain of Ponds, South Australia, Australia

Facts

Name and gender

1841

(AGE)

Birth

17 OCT 1841 • Nankervis, St Enoder, Cornwall, Eng.

1843

1

Birth of Brother Henry SYMONS (1843–1848)

8 Jul 1843 • St Enoder, Cornwall, England

1844

2

Birth of Brother Thomas Symons (1844–1904)

1844 • St Enoder, Cornwall, England

1846

4

Birth of Brother Charles SYMONS (1846–1940)

21 May 1846 • St Enoder, Cornwall, England

1848

7

Death of Brother Henry SYMONS (1843–1848)

1848 • South Australia, Australia

1850

8

Birth of Brother Joseph SYMONS (1850–1886)

23 Mar 1850 • Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

1861

20

Death of Mother Thomasine CROCKER (1808–1861)

17 DEC 1861 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1885

43

Death of Father Francis SYMONS (1796–1885)

13 MAR 1885 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1886

44

Birth of Daughter Bessie Clarice SYMONS (1886–1987)

9 SEP 1886 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1886

45

Death of Brother Joseph SYMONS (1850–1886)

1886 • Kaniwa, Victoria, Australia

1888

46

Birth of Son John Gumma Crocker SYMONS (1888–1966)

9 OCT 1888 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1890

48

Birth of Son Anne Evelyn Amelia SYMONDS (1890–1893)

1890 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1892

50

Birth of Daughter Alma Thomasine Mary SYMONDS (1892–1895)

1892 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1893

51

Birth and Death of Son Hedley William Symonds (1893–1893)

4 May 1893 • Chain of Ponds, South Australia, Australia

1893

52

Death of Son Anne Evelyn Amelia SYMONDS (1890–1893)

1893 • Infant

1894

52

Birth of Son Claude James Garfield SYMONDS (1894–1988)

14 APR 1894 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1895

54

Birth of Son Harry Francis Clifford SYMONDS (1895–1921)

18 DEC 1895 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1895

54

Death of Daughter Alma Thomasine Mary SYMONDS (1892–1895)

1895 • Infant

1897

56

Birth of Son Wybert Milton Caust Symonds (1897–1984)

7 NOV 1897 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1900

59

Death of Half-Brother William Gummow Symonds (1831–1900)

25 Dec 1900 • Townsville, Queensland, Australia

1904

62

Death of Brother Thomas Symons (1844–1904)

20 Jul 1904 • Coolgardie, Western Australia, Australia

1906

65

Death of Half-Sister Ellen Symonds (1836–1906)

1906

1907

65

Death of Half-Brother Francis Francis Symonds (1829–1907)

1907-06-23 • Inglewood, Victoria, Australia

1913

71

Death

23 SEP 1913 • Chain of Ponds, South Australia, Australia

Family

Parents

Francis SYMONS

1796–1885

Thomasine CROCKER

1808–1861

Siblings

Spouse & Children

Amelia CAUST

1854–1942

Bessie Clarice SYMONS

1886–1987

John Gumma Crocker SYMONS

1888–1966

Anne Evelyn Amelia SYMONDS

1890–1893

Alma Thomasine Mary SYMONDS

1892–1895

Hedley William Symonds

1893–1893

Claude James Garfield SYMONDS

1894–1988

Harry Francis Clifford SYMONDS

1895–1921

Wybert Milton Caust Symonds

1897–1984

knight Family Tree

Tree Search

fknight167

Amelia CAUST

BIRTH

10 MAR 1854 • Chain of Ponds, South Australia, Australia

DEATH

19 SEP 1942 • Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

Facts

Name and gender

1854

(AGE)

Birth

10 MAR 1854 • Chain of Ponds, South Australia, Australia

1881

27

Death of Father James Phillips Caust (1815–1881)

13 May 1881 • Chain of Ponds, South Australia, Australia

1882

28

Death of Mother Ann Clogg (1813–1882)

1882 • Chain of Ponds, South Australia, Australia

1886

32

Birth of Daughter Bessie Clarice SYMONS (1886–1987)

9 SEP 1886 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1888

34

Birth of Son John Gumma Crocker SYMONS (1888–1966)

9 OCT 1888 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1890

35

Birth of Son Anne Evelyn Amelia SYMONDS (1890–1893)

1890 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1891

37

Birth of Daughter Anne Evelyn Amelia Symonds (1891–1893)

30 Dec 1891 • Chain of Ponds, South Australia, Australia

1892

37

Birth of Daughter Alma Thomasine Mary SYMONDS (1892–1895)

1892 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1893

38

Death of Daughter Anne Evelyn Amelia Symonds (1891–1893)

30 Jan 1893 • Chain of Ponds, South Australia, Australia

1893

39

Birth and Death of Son Hedley William Symonds (1893–1893)

4 May 1893 • Chain of Ponds, South Australia, Australia

1893

39

Death of Son Anne Evelyn Amelia SYMONDS (1890–1893)

1893 • Infant

1894

40

Birth of Son Claude James Garfield SYMONDS (1894–1988)

14 APR 1894 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1895

41

Birth of Son Harry Francis Clifford SYMONDS (1895–1921)

18 DEC 1895 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1895

41

Death of Daughter Alma Thomasine Mary SYMONDS (1892–1895)

1895 • Infant

1897

43

Birth of Son Wybert Milton Caust Symonds (1897–1984)

7 NOV 1897 • Chain of Ponds, SA, Aust

1913

59

Death of Husband John Symons (1841–1913)

23 SEP 1913 • Chain of Ponds, South Australia, Australia

1921

66

Death of Son Harry Francis Clifford SYMONDS (1895–1921)

1 MAR 1921

1942

88

Death

19 Sep 1942 • Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

1 Source

Family

Parents

James Phillips Caust

1815–1881

Ann Clogg

1813–1882

Spouse & Children

John Symons

1841–1913

Bessie Clarice SYMONS

1886–1987

John Gumma Crocker SYMONS

1888–1966

Anne Evelyn Amelia SYMONDS

1890–1893

Alma Thomasine Mary SYMONDS

1892–1895

Hedley William Symonds

1893–1893

Claude James Garfield SYMONDS

1894–1988

Harry Francis Clifford SYMONDS

1895–1921

Wybert Milton Caust Symonds

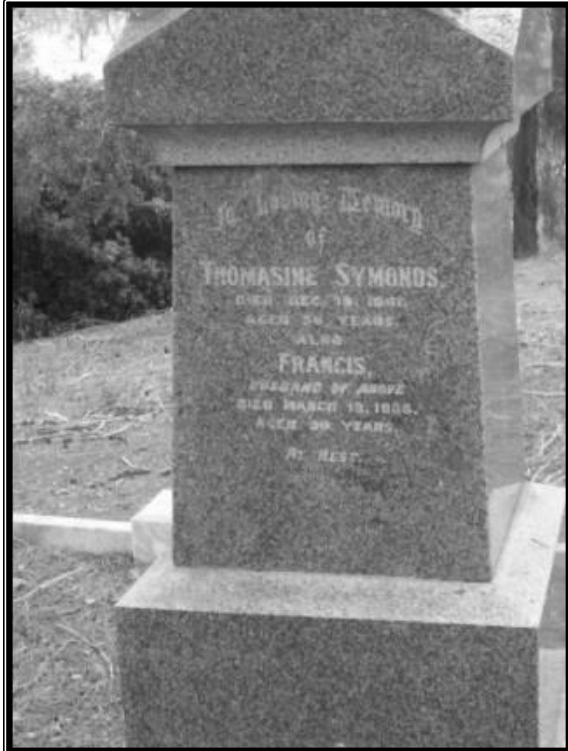
1897–1984

## In Memoriam- The Old Colonists

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900),  
Saturday 28 March 1885, page 3

### OBITUARY.

**THE LATE MR. F. SYMONDS, J.P.**—On Friday, March 13, there passed away at Chain of Ponds a very old and respected colonist, Mr. Francis Symonds, who attained the ripe age of 90 years on the 5th November last. Mr. Symonds came to this colony with his wife and eleven children as passengers in 1848 by the ship *Navarino*. After residing in Adelaide six months he removed to Chain of Ponds, where he continued to reside until his decease. He took an active part in district matters, was member and Chairman of Para Wirra Council for many years, and also took great interest in political affairs and in everything pertaining to the wellbeing of the neighbourhood. Fifteen years ago his name was placed on the Commission of the Peace. He was a member of the Bible Christian Church, for many years filling the offices of local preacher and Circuit steward. For the past few years he had been unable, owing to his advanced years, to get about. He only kept to his bed two or three days. The deceased was buried last Sunday at Chain of Ponds in the presence of a large number of people, the settlers around thus testifying their respect. The Rev. R. Lang conducted the funeral service, assisted by Revs. T. Vercos (Baptist) and T. Edmeades (Wesleyan).



# Chain of Ponds

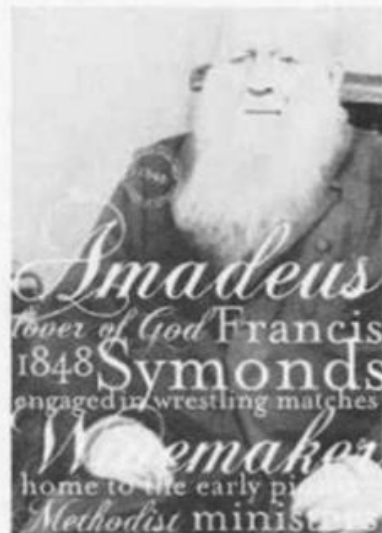
We use the best Pils from the best vineyards in the Adelaide Hills. Quality wines with a difference.

## *Key Families*

### **FRANCIS SYMONDS — 'THE AMADEUS'**

Francis Symonds came to South Australia in 1848 on the Ship 'Navarino' at Plymouth and took up land at Chain of Ponds. All 13 of the family arrived on November 10th 1848, after 99 days at sea. The first Bible Christian Methodist services in the district were held in his old farm house, and continued until the church was built at Chain of Ponds, of which he laid the foundation stone.

Francis Symonds was a local preacher, Justice of the Peace and Chairman of the Para Wirra District council for over 30 years. Few men in the district were better known. Like many others in the early days of the colony, he used to make wine, and had it at table meals. Reverend R. Lang, one of the ministers wrote "He was, taken all round, one of the finest men I have known: a gentleman of striking appearance. If a stranger were to meet him walking down Rundle Street he would pause to look at him, walk on and turn around again to see him". In his youthful days, being a man of great physical strength and endurance, he amused himself by engaging in wrestling matches, at which he excelled. He lived until he was ninety years of age.



1885  
Francis Symonds 90yrs  
Herbert Jolly 10 days

1887  
Amy Thomasina Symonds 19yrs  
James Caust 39yrs

1893  
Hedley William Symonds 3yrs  
Anne Evelyn Amelia Symonds 3yrs 3mths  
Alma Thomasine Mary Symonds 13mths

1894  
Mabel Jessie Ward 7yrs  
Frances Ann Williams 61yrs  
James Phillips Caust 78yrs

1896  
James Ward 48yrs

1900  
Gertrude Mabel Williams 14yrs

1913  
John Symonds 71yrs  
William Ryall 78yrs  
William Henry Jolly 68yrs

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900)

Thu 26 Dec 1861 / Page 2

# **DEATH.**

**SYMONDS.**—On the 16th December, at Rose-dale Farm, Chain of Ponds, Thomasine, the wife of Mr. Francis Symonds, aged 55 years.



Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922),  
Monday 16 May 1881, page 2

# **DIED.**

**CAUST.**—On the 13th May, at Obsin of Ponds, Ann, the beloved wife of James Caust, aged 68 years. A colonist of forty-two years (by ship Recovery). Respected by all who knew her.

National Library of Australia

South Australian Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1895),

Saturday 27 July 1895, page 9

# **DEATH OF AN OLD COLONIST.**

Our Chain of Ponds correspondent reports on July 24:—Mr. James Caust, an old and respected resident of Chain of Ponds, died on Saturday at the age of 80. He came to the colony in the ship Recovery in 1839, and immediately started business as a blacksmith in Currie-street, opposite the Bank of Australasia. In 1845 he removed to Edwardstown and started business there, building the Nelson's Victory Hotel. In 1855 he removed to Chain of Ponds, where he remained to his death, and engaged in farming pursuits. He subsequently built a blacksmith and wheelwright's shop. In 1883 he took a trip to England and another three years later, receiving much benefit thereby. He leaves one son and three daughters, 40 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. His second wife survives him.

National Library of Australia

From G.U.

"I was caned by W for helping a boy in his first-year mid-term exam, I gave him the answers to a simple maths question. I received two handers and I only received the cane from W because Tom Brown was away (thank god) . W told me he rarely caned any boys, so I could say I was one of the privileged!?"

From M.M.

"I was a Prefect at ABHS in 1960/61...have no anecdotes to add...my memory of him being a very fine, impressive and respectful gentleman."