

A Taste of Our History

Beginnings - 1958

(The following account of the foundation of the College comes from The Founders' Convention, published by F.W. Cheshire Melbourne in 1960)

There have been many discussions among educators in Australia about the possibility and advisability of forming a professional organisation which would include teachers at all levels and from every type of education. It is impossible to determine what were the first steps which led to the formation of The Australian College of Education. However, it is clear that the College really began when fourteen Headmasters of the Victorian Independent Schools, fourteen High School Headmasters and three University Professors were entertained to dinner at Wesley College on 6 June 1958, and afterwards discussed the possibility of creating some kind of Institute of Teachers.

Everyone present at that meeting was so enthusiastic and so determined to make the attempt to form such a body that a small representative committee was elected. This committee was asked to prepare a statement of aims and organisation and to report back to a larger and more representative gathering as soon as possible.

The committee presented its report on 1 August 1958 to a meeting of forty people who represented the different fields and aspects of education in Victoria. Once again the idea of the formation of a professional body of educators was most enthusiastically received. The proposals of the committee were discussed in detail and, after some amendment, were adopted by the meeting. A Provisional Council was elected. This Council was instructed to use the amended statement of aims and organisation as the basis for a Constitution and to take all necessary steps to found the College.

The Provisional Council held six meetings and did considerable detailed planning in preparation for the foundation of the College.

Due to the considerable interest from other States, Mr C. E. S. Gordon, Headmaster of St. Peter's College, Adelaide, and Mr B. H. Travers, then Headmaster of Launceston Grammar School, attended a number of the Council meetings, and Mr G. E. Hewan, Headmaster of Cranbrook School, Sydney, N.S.W., attended one meeting. In December 1958 a meeting representing the various fields of education was held at Sydney University under the chairmanship of Professor McRae, and the Secretary discussed the whole project with this committee.

As a result of this meeting a special committee was formed in Sydney to work in liaison with the Provisional Council. Finally, a draft Constitution was ready and 118 people from all over Australia were invited to be present at the Founders' Convention at Geelong Grammar School.

The Reverend T. H. Timpson
Honorary Secretary

Members of the Provisional Council

Chairman: Dr J. R. Darling,
Headmaster of Geelong Grammar School.

Honorary Secretary: The Rev. T. H. Timpson,
Headmaster of Camberwell Grammar School.

Honorary Treasurer: Dr W. C. Radford,
Director, Australian Council of Educational Research.

Miss Alice Hoy, previously Principal of the Secondary Teachers' College, The University of Melbourne.

Miss Dorothy Ross, previously Headmistress of Melbourne Church of England Girls Grammar School*

R. E. Chapman, Esq., Headmaster of University High School.

Dr T. H. Coates, Headmaster of Wesley College.

The Very Rev. J. P. Gleeson, Rector of Newman College.

B. W. Hone, Esq., Headmaster of Melbourne Grammar School.

Professor C. E. Moorhouse, Head,
Department of Electrical Engineering, The University of Melbourne.

Major-General A. H. Ramsay, Director of Education in Victoria.

R. Selby Smith, Esq., Headmaster of Scotch College.

A. Tyiee, Esq., Principal of Swinburne Technical College.



This description of moves which resulted in the formation of the College was written by the Reverend Tom Timpson, Founder Member of the College and in 1959 Headmaster of Camberwell Grammar School in Melbourne. He is pictured here with Archivist Tony Ryan following the recording of an extended oral history interview in 1995.



Celebrating and Moving Forward
ACE National Convention 2004

