

# Memorial Gates and New Wing

## OPENING OF NEW WING.

### DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL.

Comforting indeed must it have been to those who toiled years ago for the erection of a High School, in Dandenong, to have stood at the iron gates, on Thursday, and to take part in so delightful a ceremony of their dedication. They have become erected at the south-western entrance to the spacious and lofty building, which marks, as it were, the approach from the metropolis on one of the picturesque highways of this State. It was a wholesome gathering, largely of those growing boys and girls, who might some day become leaders among men and women, and with them were many of their elders, proud of their association with all the interests of that school. Around the gates they gathered in goodly number, and between the ribbons, which temporarily barred the gateway, sat Mrs. Tharle and her daughter, near whom was standing the young son, Mr. Bradley Tharle, in whose father's name the gates were being opened. There was also Mr. Singleton, J.P., president of the High School Council, who had come to lead the ceremony as memorial to a former friend and companion, the late Cr. Tharle, and near him were Mr. Abbott, J.P., Cr. Butler, J.P., Mr. Russell, J.P., and Mr. McAfee. With them stood Mr. M. P. Hanson, M.A., Director of Education, whose presence was delightful. Among the gathering also was Shire President Wilson, members of committees, and leading professional and business men.

business men.

Sincere and truthful was Mr. Singleton in all he had to say concerning his erstwhile friendship of Councillor Walter Bradley Tharle, J.P., whose benevolent mind had rendered it possible to have so excellent an approach to their worthy educational establishment in Dandenong. He was of so sterling a character that he had won the admiration of all, whose sincere respect for him was the invariable outcome. As a Councillor of the Shire he had given always of his best endeavors, and that call, which had found the warmest place in his heart, had been the High School, and all that it was standing for in the well being of the young lives who were training there under that tuition so faithfully and so skillfully imparted. He had ever been anxious to do all in his power to aid. Mr. Singleton had known him for many years, and they who had known him best had admired him most. His passing was a district loss, he said, yet they all were proud his life had been so useful, and so striking an example.

Mr. John Abbott, a councillor colleague, said though this gathering was in some respects a solemn one, it was nevertheless one of great triumph, and in memory of that one of whom they were all so proud. He was delighted with them in the thought the opening of those gates would be as a triumphal entrance into the school of knowledge. He knew how truly fond of children had been his former comrade; and now, if that were possible, how delightful he would have been to have seen the magnificent archway which had become

... seen to have been the magnificent archway which had become provided largely as the result of his munificence. His association with Mr. Tharle had a glorious reign of nearly 37 years, and of that he was personally very proud.

"I desire now," said Mr. Bradley Tharle, speaking on behalf of his mother and her family, "to thank those gentlemen who have spoken in such kindly terms of my father." His mother and her family were proud to feel there was such sincerity in all that had been spoken. He had known his father as one who had dearly loved the boys and girls whom he knew growing around him, and he thanked the High School committee, the teaching staff, and others for contributing so largely to the gateway thus provided.

Then, with words profoundly spoken, a tablet in the archway was uncovered by Mr. Singleton, who read aloud these words inscribed:

These gates were erected by the citizens of Dandenong in memory of Cr. W. B. Tharle, J.P., who was a member of the School Advisory Council from its inception in 1919 until his death in 1929.

As he spoke, the delicate cords of ribbon, which bound the entrance, was by Mrs. Singleton neatly severed; and, holding the ends tenderly together, they were later drawn apart as her husband spoke the final words in dedication, and those who stood before her marched forward into that verdant fine enclosure which adorns the schoolhouse.



