



NEWS BULLETIN

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MOORE COLLEGE

Carillon Avenue, Newtown 2042

DOES THE COLLEGE NEED A SHAKE UP?

"Not at all" in the opinion of the Acting Principal, Dr. Bill Dumbrell — and his background ought to convince critics of his competence to judge. With training in professional accountancy in the bank, service in the RAAF and ministry in a western suburbs parish, Dr. Dumbrell brings a wealth of experience to his present position.

Here he answers questions put to him by the "Bulletin" on himself and the college.

Your qualifications include a doctorate from Harvard and post-graduate study in Europe. Have you always been academically inclined?

"Far from it — I left school at 14 to work in a bank."

Were you a Christian in those days?

"No, but at Sydney Boys High School the I.S.C.F. and Anglican scripture

lessons led by Mr. Wally Guilford had a strong influence upon me."

When did you decide to enter the ministry?

"Almost immediately after my conversion in 1951. This happened under the preaching of Dr. Howard Guinness at St. Matthew's Manly, during the ministry of the Rev. Alan Begbie. I had nursed the ambition for many years to enter the ministry and once I was converted everything started to 'fall into place'. I studied at Sydney University for my B.A. and at the same time attended Moore College."

What practical pastoral experience did you have?

"Upon graduation I was curate to Bishop Hilliard at St. John's, Parramatta, from 1956-60. In those

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The recent death of Mr. John Charles Pitkin removed one of the most lovable "personalities" ever associated with the college. As Dr. Peter Jensen said in his funeral sermon, "My own little boy once described Mr. Pitkin as 'the man who is in charge of Moore College'."

In the funeral service at St. Barnabas' Broadway, Dr. Jensen likened Jack, as he was best known, to Bunyan's "Mr. Valiant-for-Truth". He told of Jack's early associations with the Salvation Army and Baptist church, and of his deep personal faith in the Lord. The text was Romans 8:37, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

Born into a Christian home in London, 65 years ago, Jack was by trade a sign-writer. For a long time he and Mrs. Pitkin worked amongst juvenile offenders before being invited to Moore College about 10 years ago.

The large number at the funeral service was evidence of the affection and respect people held for them.

Our prayers are with Mrs. Pitkin (Rita), who will continue as matron of the college, her son Michael, daughter Bridget and her grand daughter.



BACK ROW: David, Ian, Dr. Bill Dumbrell

FRONT ROW: Grace, Naomi, Mrs. Norma Dumbrell

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days I used to pedal around the suburbs west of Parramatta on a bicycle!

In 1960 I became curate-in-charge of the provisional district of Ermington-Rydalmere, which became a provisional parish before my appointment to the college staff in 1963."

Students have always noticed, if I may say so, the obviously happy relationships in your family. Did Mrs. Dumbrell realise when you were married that she was destined to become a minister's wife?

"She certainly did. We met while I was a catechist at Eastlakes in 1954. She was a double-certificated nurse and a student at Sydney Bible and Missionary Training College at Strathfield."

Was it love at first sight?

"I think it must have been! We were married the next year and have been blessed with a very happy marriage. We have four children, David who is a medical student at University of New South Wales, Grace, who has her B.A. and is doing her Dip., Ian who is working for a year while he has deferred in medicine, and Naqmi who is still at school."

What changes do you see in the college compared with your student days?

"The great difference in the last 20 years at college is the growing availability of teaching resources. The library, for example, benefits both staff and students. Consequently the college has become a much more able instrument for theological training although this has its own dangers of narrow specialisation"

Have your views on training ministers changed much?

I'm more convinced than ever of the need for very thorough theological training. At the same time I admit there is a need to persuade theological students of the relevance of detailed

theological training for a full pastoral ministry on the personal level."

What would you do if you had your time over again?

"If I were to return to parish life I should devote much more time to sermon preparation than I did. Also, I'm more convinced of the need to minister through preaching (as well as through pastoral contact) to people's personal needs."

It has been said that theological training tends to make students more abrasive, or at least, more aggressive theologically. Is this fair comment?

"This depends largely upon the individual student. What the pastoral ministry in the college seeks to do is to make the student aware of the tendencies in this direction. College training, however, must work within the limits of the personalities provided".

What of the assertion that "Moore men" are often disappointing in the pulpit?

"It depends upon one's definition of preaching. I don't import a division between preaching and teaching and I would insist that every sermon has its fair measure of content. Preaching must be a compound of information, exhortation and application. The college has a commitment to expository preaching which I thoroughly endorse. We need to develop creativity and imaginativeness in the use of biblical materials to encourage 'personal flair'."

Do you see expository preaching as dull?

"It ought not to be. It is bad to be sound and dull; it is even worse to be dull and not sound! We should be striving for engaging, interesting, biblical preaching. As I see it, a theological college which is incapable of producing sound capable preachers has forfeited its mandate. But I recognise that this is an area which will always need attention. Homiletics has a high priority at College."

"I became a keen Bible student after my conversion 10 years ago, but SPTC has given me a perspective of the Bible which I had never known possible." — SPTC student.

"One term of SPTC weekly classes my parish 'pushed me on five years' in the Christian faith. — SPTC student.

A LINK WITH GROSE FARM?

Donald Robinson

The College house occupied by Dr. O'Brien is the oldest and historically the most interesting part of the College.

Until 1846, the whole area north of what is now Carillon Avenue was part of Grose Farm, which at that time was owned by the Government, and was used only for the grazing of stock by Sydney butchers. But there was a plan to subdivide the Farm for residential purposes, and two half-acre sites were reserved at the south-east corner for a parsonage and a school. A parsonage was built on one site in 1847, and was used by the Reverend C.C. Kemp, who was curate-in-charge of the newly erected St Stephen's church at O'Connell Town, a branch church of St Peter's Cook's River.

O'Connell Town was really the first 'suburb' of Sydney. It sprang up at the top end of Missenden Road after the breaking up of Governor Bligh's Camperdown Estate in 1840. It was eventually absorbed into Newtown.

Mr Kemp lived in the parsonage, first as curate and then as incumbent of St Stephen's, until his resignation through illness in 1870, and possibly until his death in 1874. The Reverend Robert Taylor, who succeeded him, lived there from 1875 until a new rectory was acquired in Egan Street in 1881. He was followed by a church official, Ernest Lumsdaine, and the old parsonage was then leased to an H. Brindley.

The proposed sub-division of Grose Farm had never occurred. Instead, the Farm had become the site of Sydney University in the 1850's and the new St Stephen's Church for Newtown was built in 1872/3 in the Camperdown Cemetery instead of "at the corner of Grose Farm" as originally proposed in 1846.

But when Bishop Barry was looking for a site near the university to which he could move Moore College from Liverpool, the old parsonage site seemed very unsuitable, and it was purchased by the Trustees in 1886. The house became the Principal's residence, and the College buildings (now the old wing) were built on to the back of it. And so it has remained, as the Principal's residence in the days of Bernard Schleicher, Nathaniel Jones,

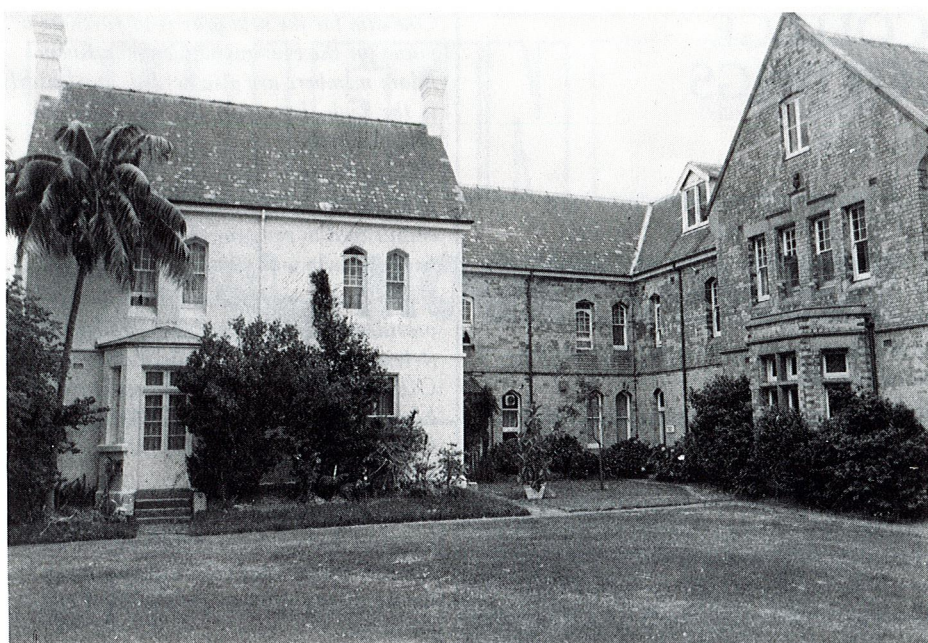
The Preliminary Theological Course (familiarly known as "SPTC") conducted by Moore College is a correspondence course aimed at helping people grow in the faith. Some parishes hold weekly classes; some students work alone. Each year there are testimonies such as you read in this issue which tell of blessing received. Enrol now: Department of External Studies, King Street, Newtown. 2042.

and David Davies, until the present Principal's residence was built in 1928. It was then used by the unmarried Vice-Principal, Corrie Glanville, and a number of students.

From 1937 until 1944 it was the home of Canon R. B. Robinson, who was General Secretary of the Home Mission Society and who also had certain responsibilities at the College. Then from 1944 to 1973 it was the residence of successive Vice-Principals, M. L. Loane, D. B. Knox, and D. W. B. Robinson and their families. Dr O'Brien and his family have lived there since early in 1974.

So the old parsonage, now 133 years old, is not only the oldest part of the College, but one of the oldest buildings in Newtown. (The small College cottage on the corner of Campbell Street and Little Queen Street is also very old.) But it is not entirely what it was!

Its original kitchen and out-houses must have been swept away in 1889 when the old wing was attached to the rear of it; there was no separate kitchen for the Principal until 1922 — the College kitchen was shared — and both floors gave direct access into the old wing. There were further renovations in 1937 just before my family moved into it, when the branching ends of the staircase were replaced in 1966 by one less steep (both my elderly parents had fallen down the stairs while staying with us!) and extensive alterations were made in the structure of the back part of the house.



The old "Newtown Parsonage" as it is today



At that time I formed the conclusion, from an examination of the rear wall, that the three main rooms on the ground floor must once have existed as a separate entity, and without a staircase. This seemed to be confirmed by the appearance of the exterior brickwork, which suggested that the second storey was a later addition to the edifice, and also by the fact that there was a cellar, now filled with earth, which could hardly have been so filled once the house as it now is had been completed. (My children began to excavate in the cellar during 1972, and recovered some interesting old bottles, now in the College archives.)

All this suggested to me that the house had a history going back even earlier than 1847 when the parsonage more or less as we know it was completed. I wondered if the ground floor could originally have been a farm building on Grose Farm. However, here is now my guess for some curious person to disprove.

In J. F. Campbell's article in the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* on "The Early History of Sydney University Grounds", he quotes an 1822 report of Governor Macquarie that the 300-acre Grose Farm had been "completely enclosed with a strong five-rail fence", and that he had erected "four watch-houses for the protection of Grose Farm, and that part of Parramatta public road leading from Sydney".

Campbell has a map showing the location of **two** of these watchhouses (or police stations), both on Parramatta Road. One is not far from the Toll-bar

near the present junction with City Road, and the other is at the north-west corner of the Farm, where Parramatta Road meets Missenden Road. Where would the other watch houses have been?

The other public road leading from Sydney was the Newtown Road (City Road), along the eastern boundary of Grose Farm, and its Toll-bar was just beyond the present junction of City Road with Carillon Avenue.

My guess is that Dr. O'Brien's drawing-room, study and dining room (with their very solid exterior walls and filled-in cellar beneath), though much altered, comprise the third of Macquarie's Grose Farm watch-houses, built in or before 1822. A historical find, if it be true!



Present occupants of the "Old Parsonage"
Left to Right: (standing) Stephen, Mrs. O'Brien, Dr. O'Brien, David; (seated) Sarah and Elizabeth.

COLLEGE JOTTINGS

The college will celebrate its 125th anniversary next March. The first principal, the Rev. William Houghton, M.A., advised in January, 1856, that he was accepting the appointment, but his wife's illness delayed their departure from England.

Archbishop Loane's centenary history of the college says that Bishop Barker then arranged for the college to commence under the control of William Maquarie Cowper on March 1 of that year. There were three students and they met in the home formerly owned by Thomas Moore.

Cowper was the son of the rector of St. Philip's, Church Hill.

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Another "first" chalked up this year was a 2-day conference for staff at Vaughan College, Macquarie University. The principal of Deaconess House, Miss Margaret Rodgers, also attended.

Discussion focussed on college aims, difficulties in N.T. theology, preaching and the Bible, and individual and corporate aspects of the Christian life.

A major emphasis was on prayer — each student and his family being prayed for at length.

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Recent college missions went with a swing — students are enthusiastic (they now want annual missions), staff members are keen and parish reports very encouraging.

Parishes which had missions were Cabramatta, Chatswood, Earlwood, Gladesville, Lane Cove and Normanhurst. Patterns varied — there were children's missions, dialogue meetings, visitation and street evangelism. In Chatswood the students organised a "walk-through" sermon by erecting a maze in an arcade. Good personal contacts were made in several missions.

Mr. Michael Hill had oversight of the work. He says student reaction is "very positive", many recognising that visitation can be very rewarding when done properly.

"Several invitations have already been received for missions in 1981, "Mr. Hill said last week. "These are being considered."

One aim for the new year is to purchase a piano for the Hammond Common Room. More members are also needed, particularly in the Ryde, Liverpool and outer western suburbs area.

During the year there were several social functions to publicise the college, people were encouraged to pray for the college and financial help was given to students.

Office bearers are: Patron (Lady Loane); president (Mrs. Ailsa Knox); vice-presidents (Mesdames Norma Dumbrell, Mary O'Brien and June Prott); secretary (Mrs. Mary Rowland); assistant secretary (Mrs. Christine Jensen); treasurer (Mrs. Lynette Winter).

The senior student (Mr. Alan Mugridge) has said that students greatly appreciate the interest, prayer and practical help given by the auxiliary, various parishes and prayer partners.

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A Diploma of Bible and Missions course at the college is so popular that some theological students have been "sitting in" on lectures for their personal benefit.

The 12-month course is designed for intending missionary candidates, overseas students returning home and for theological students who feel it answers a need.

Two lecturers with overseas experience are active in the course. They are the Rev. Bruce Winter, for five years vicar of St. George's Singapore, and Dr. Peter O'Brien, a lecturer in New Testament for 10 years at the Union Bible Seminary, Yavatmal, India.

"Tutorial assistance is provided for three essays that students must write.

"We are finding that the course brings a fresh dimension to the college."

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Most of the photographs in this and the last issue were kindly taken by a student, Mr. Ian Porter. We are grateful for his interest.

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"For many years I viewed doctrine with suspicion as being of little interest to the Christian. How wrong I was! Study in SPTC has helped revolutionise my whole Christian thinking."
— SPTC student.

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Prayer is continually needed by staff and students for themselves and for their families. How often do you pray for the college?

Nearly 30 parishes screened the college audio-visual, the secretary of the Women's Auxiliary (Mrs. Mary Rowland) told the annual meeting last month. Mrs. Rowland said that it had been a great help to have student wives at these meetings to tell about college life.

Special evening courses seem here to stay. They are held in the college on Tuesday and Thursday and at Wentworthville on Tuesday.

Subjects include Old Testament, Ethics, Church History and the Epistle to the Romans.

There are two semesters and enrolment for 1981 should be made through the external studies department. The course is designed for those wishing to increase their understanding of the Bible and general christian life.

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The principal and Mrs. Knox expect to return from overseas at the end of the year. Dr. Knox is spending sabbatical leave in Cambridge where he is at work on several manuscripts for publication, particularly his Moore College Lectures of 1979.

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Donations to the college building fund in the first six months of this year exceeded the total gifts for 1979.

College bursar (Mr. Trevor Blundell) said last week that there had been one donation of \$10,000. This had been specifically provided for improving student housing.

"Despite heavy commitments, the college committee has itself provided another \$10,000 for accommodation," said Mr. Blundell. "This will help greatly, but there is still a long way to go."

Mr. Blundell said that there had been more than 500 individual donations to the building fund. General fund donations were also up a little on the previous year.

Donations for all funds for 1980 exceed \$61,000. Last year's total was \$40,123.

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There was a good response by students and staff to the recent mission celebrating EU's 50th anniversary at Sydney Uni. Two college Old Boys, Phillip Jensen and John Chapman, were missionaries, and students assisted.

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Impact Bookshop manager (Mr. Charles Mann) reports increased sales since new premises were opened on the opposite side of King Street. "We have been impressed with the number of people coming off the street," he said. "Many people have commented on how they enjoy our personal service."