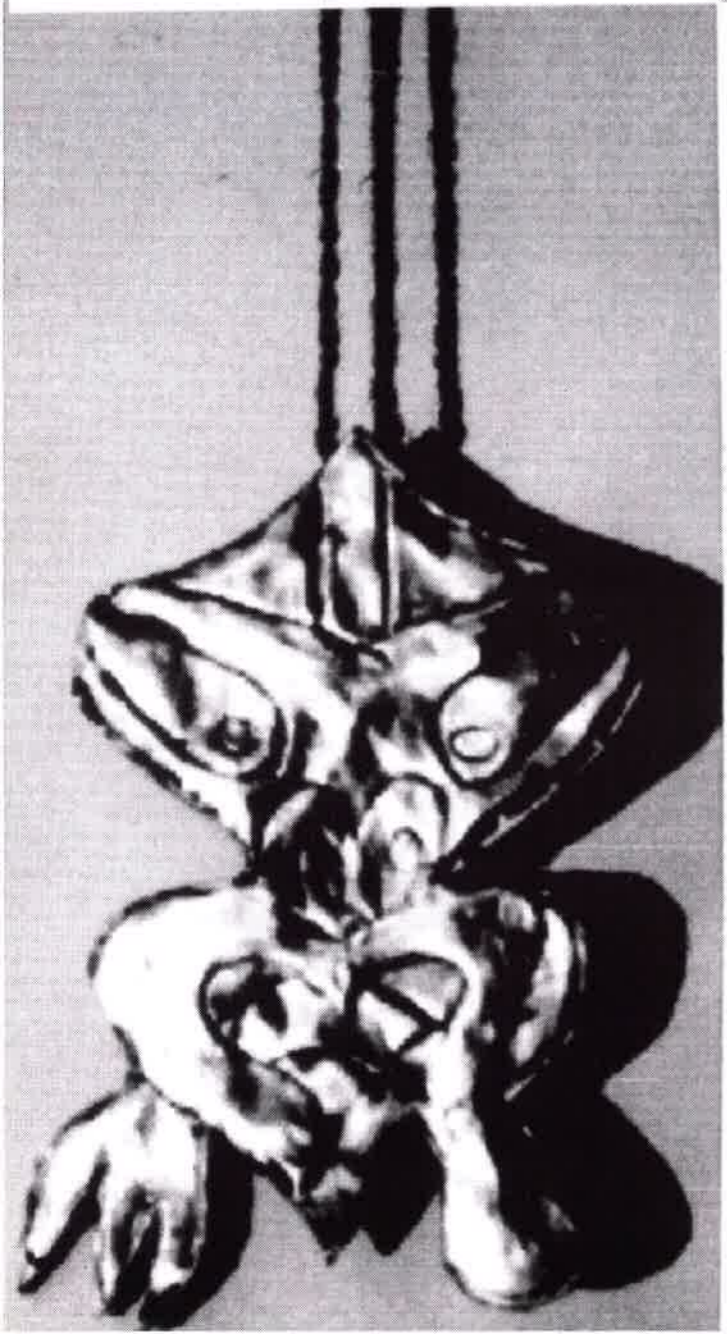


MANGERE COLLEGE



1995



MANGERE COLLEGE MAGAZINE 1995

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I re-read the first Principal's Report written by Mr I.D. Armstrong from the school's very first magazine. It was interesting to look at his aspirations for this school and see how many of them have come true.

Mr Armstrong spoke of the thousands of students who would pass through this school's classrooms and the influence these young people would eventually have large and small throughout this country. He spoke of establishing good relationships between people of many different origins and that with dedicated staff, our students would develop a pride in scholarship and community. His final comment stressed that while all of these things were essential ingredients for a school it was only with the support of the district and the deep concern of the parents in the growth and development of their children that we could unlock their unlimited potential.

The landscape was very different in 1971 and the school was only partly complete, H-block (Home block) and Administration being the starting points. As the roll grew the other buildings were completed to accommodate children from a rapidly burgeoning housing boom.

For some years the school was the only facility in the area; the Town Centre did not exist. Much of the surrounding land was farm land and the school was a focal point for families who generously gave their time to develop facilities like the school pool and the supper room at the back of the auditorium. Would you believe we operated a creche in the hall?

People were optimistic and jobs were fairly plentiful. The school grew up with and supported the community with the roll growing to 1250 in 1985. After 1985 as families grew up and moved on, economic times got harder and pupil numbers decreased to 785 this year. Our political masters have not made life easy for us under Tomorrow's Schools with recapitation of primary schools and



a consequent decline in numbers in the intermediates. Sadly many parents have opted to send their children out of the area for secondary schooling in the belief that they will do better academically. However, as with many myths, legends and rumours, the truth is often the first casualty. All Mangere College pupils who have worked hard to succeed continue to do so and are still achieving excellence with national qualifications. So what lies ahead?

The new initiatives in education under the New Zealand National Curriculum framework should enable our young people to acquire higher level skills for which they will get credits towards National Qualifications and Diplomas. Our facilities are still very sound and the challenge for us and the community will be to strengthen the partnership. The Ministry of Education has at last acknowledged the special needs of this area and has pledged its support. We are proud of our past achievements and optimistic for the future.

By the end of 1995 Mangere College will have served its local community for 25 years. We will be celebrating this 25th Jubilee on the weekend of March 8,9,&10, 1996 when ex pupils and staff will gather to share the many memories from yesteryear. We are looking forward to seeing ex pupils and staff to share their successes and recall old times.

Best wishes for the festive season.