

ad 3/10/35  
**FRAMING OF  
 FEDERAL CONSTITUTION**  
**Mr. J. F. Downer Unveils  
 Memorial Tablet**  
**ST. MARK'S COLLEGE  
 CEREMONY**

In the presence of the Minister of Education (Mr. Jeffrey), the Director (Mr. Adey), Sir Langdon Bonython, members of the Adelaide City Council, representatives of the University, the Council of St. Mark's College, and undergraduates, Mr. J. F. Downer unveiled yesterday afternoon a bronze memorial tablet in the Downer House at St. Mark's College. The tablet commemorates the fact that in the Downer House, St. John Downer (father of Mr. J. F. Downer), Sir Edmund Barton and Mr. Justice O'Connor prepared a draft of the Australian Commonwealth Constitution which met in Adelaide in 1897. The unveiling ceremony also commemorated the centenary anniversary of the foundation of St. Mark's.

The Chairman of St. Mark's College (Sir Henry Newland), in welcoming the gathering, said that the ceremony would have an interest for all, and for a few an especial interest, as it was ten years since St. Mark's College, the first of the University Colleges, was founded.

Sir Henry Newland said that Mr. H. W. Hodgkiss and he were co-eduators of a young State for the continent of Australia, it was important to cherish the remembrance of historic events, for such events were the basis of traditions. Their discussion ended in one agreeing to give a tablet associating the foundation of the college with the immortal tablet of the Constitution in the Great War. If the other would give a tablet to the University, the association of the Downer House with the drafting of the Constitution of the Commonwealth would be unveiled, and represented the fulfilment of their mutual undertaking.

**Great Public Service**  
 Mr. Hodgkiss in asking Mr. Downer to unveil the tablet in the name of the Council of St. Mark's College, in approving of the bronze tablet being placed on the wall, felt that the presence of this dedication of public service would be a definite incentive to the students. It was the aim of the memorial tablet to give to the students a sense of the value of personal service to the community by those who are fortunate enough to have the privilege of University residential college life. During the ten years of his residence in the college, he had produced many already notable young men whose careers had more than vindicated the faith placed in the resolution of the institution by its founders.

Mr. Hodgkiss said that, with the example now before them and the history of successful students, the students of the college would proceed on the lines aimed at originally. The Federal Constitution was actually drafted in one of the ground floor rooms, but the council considered that it would be more appropriate to have the bronze tablet in the common room, where it would be constantly before the students as they worked in the library, and with the presence of Messrs. J. F. and Alec Downer, sons of the late Sir John Downer, and other members of that distinguished family.

**"Happy Thought"**  
 Mr. J. F. Downer, before unveiling the tablet, said—  
 "I have to thank you, Sir Henry Newland and the council of this college, for allowing me to play so important a part in today's ceremony. I should have thought that it would be the fact that in this building 30 years ago, in a large measure, the Commonwealth Constitution of Australia was framed. It was characteristic of the generosity of Mr. Hodgkiss that he should have translated that thought into a happy thought."

"I was privileged in my young days to be associated intimately with the work of the great men who were working today. Of my father I need say no more than that no man ever had a better or one who more thoroughly understood the needs of the young men of youth are eternal, the attitude from which they are viewed changes with the passing of the years. Of Sir Edmund Barton it can truly be said that all who knew him liked him; that those who knew him well loved him; that the ideal he had in mind was that he was as near to the ideal of a Christian as it was possible for a mere mortal to attain."

"It was a fortunate circumstance and can hardly be gone into, but the concentration for the drafting committee should have fallen upon the three men who were present, more than any other in that great gathering personified the true Federal spirit. To the two—representatives of the two predominant States would have been as abhorrent as to him who stood for the smaller States, and the Federal spirit seems to have weakened, and there have been times when many of us might have been tempted by an opportunity to retire from the Federation. Fortunately, no such opportunity has presented itself, but it did this year than last. The figures announced yesterday, with last year's figures, show a marked improvement (2,670; leaving, 1,391 (1,289); and leaving none, 218 (187). Examinations will begin on Tuesday, November 26, and will finish on Monday, December 9.

**Long Association**  
 Sir Henry Newland, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Downer, said that he would be guilty of ingratitude if he were not to thank Mr. Downer on behalf of the College for the part he had played. His pleasure at presiding was increased because it continued the association of the Downer family and his own. His own father was a member of Parliament for the Adelaide district, and Mr. Henry Downer, and he served as Treasurer in the second of Sir John Downer's Ministries.

Mr. Downer was at St. Peter's College with Mr. J. F. Downer and also at the University. It was, therefore, with authority that he was able to testify that the members of the Downer family were imbued with a fine sense of duty. No one could occupy any prominent and responsible position with credit without that sense, and Mr. Downer showed that he was particularly conscious of trust which he occupied in the business world. It had always been the ideal of the college to turn out gentlemen of the highest character, men, when the opinions of masses of merely average men tended to become the dominant power, the counterweight and corrective to that tendency must be the more and more pronounced individuality of those who stood in the ascendency of thought and action. There were other roads to immortality than that of the soldier, the statesman, with its testimony that Mr. Downer had just unveiled would always serve as a reminder to the student body. Dr. Grenfell Price, in seconding Sir Henry Newland's vote of thanks, said that the college owed a great debt of thanks to the Downer family. In a country where traditions were as yet few, their importance should not be overlooked. St. Mark's object was to encourage men who were not afraid to live."

Mr. John Horner, teacher of the organ and piano at the Elder Conservatorium, has left for Tasmania, where he will examine on behalf of the Australian Music Examinations Board. Mr. Horner will visit Burnie, Hobart and Launceston, and will be absent from the State for about three weeks.

News 3/10/35  
**Fellowship Applications  
 Close Today**

Applications for appointment to the Smithson Research Fellowship, which is given by the Royal Society under the bequest of Mr. E. W. Smithson, close today.  
 The fellowship is open to all British subjects under the age of 35, and preference is given to candidates with a sound knowledge of theoretical and practical physics and chemistry. The object of the fellowship is to promote research in the field of theoretical physics, with a view to the discovery of new laws and principles, rather than the exploitation of what is already known. It is tenable at the University for a period up to eight years.

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**Executive Council yesterday appointed the following as members of the School Leavers' Committee: Messrs. Harvey, M.L.C., Nichols and Anthony, M.P.s. (Director of Technical Education), and Messrs. Dr. S. Ward (Director of Mines), Dr. C. A. E. Fenner (Superintendent of Technical Education), and Messrs. J. G. Brown, G. Jeffrey, and A. McArthur.**

**MORE CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS**

More candidates will sit for the University and Arts examinations this year than last. The figures announced yesterday, with last year's figures, show a marked improvement (2,670; leaving, 1,391 (1,289); and leaving none, 218 (187). Examinations will begin on Tuesday, November 26, and will finish on Monday, December 9.

ad 2/11/35  
 Dr. A. R. Southwood has been appointed chairman of the Medical Science Section of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. The next meeting of the association will be held in Auckland in January, 1937.

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**STATE'S DUTIES ANALYSED**

Mr. J. H. Allen, who has had a brilliant career at the University, will leave for England in the near future. He will later continue his journey to England where he will sit for the Indian Civil Service examinations in May. Mr. Allen, who is 22 and an arts student, expects to complete his course at the University this year. During the past nine months he has concentrated almost exclusively on honours classes. Since he entered the University in 1932, Mr. Allen has been top in every examination, except two, for which he has sat late. While at Prince Alfred College he was a member of the Australian team which visited New Zealand, and captain of the Australian team against the Indian team, which was awarded his blue. He represented the University in inter-University and district tennis.

**REMARKABLE CHILD  
 PIANIST**

**High Praise By  
 Examiners**

By H. BREWSTER-JONES  
 Alison Nelson, aged eight, greatly impressed Dr. E. Harold Davies by her remarkable procedure when she was awarded the exhibition valued at £10 10s for an honours pass in Grade IV examination in piano at the Adelaide Conservatorium. This year she has played Grade III with honours, and has high marks, but when the pendulum gives, it is a grade valued at £12 12s. She has been studying the piano for two years only, under Miss Jessica Dix, a former pupil of school for three years, being six of her class.

Dr. Davies, in speaking of her talent, said: "I think she has a great future. She is making splendid progress. For her age she is well ahead of any child who has ever come under the notice of the examiners. She has absolute pitch, and a fine musical memory."

Alison Nelson played before Dr. Davies, Messrs. Harold Wilde, George Pearce and John Horner, who were unanimous in their expressions of deep appreciation of her gifts.

Dr. Wilde, who was co-examiner with Dr. Davies, has provided the following interesting eulogium of the child:—  
 "It is not very often that case-hardened examiners give a real thrill at the course of their labors. As far as the standard of work examined goes, the student's playing swings within a modern compass, from the most delicate to the most emphatic, with an occasional leap to very good or very bad. But when the pendulum gives, it is a high kick, even the most case-hardened of examiners will sit up and take notice when they are given a real thrill in the examination in connection with the award of the Grade III exhibition. When the pendulum, so far as my experience goes, gives a high kick, Alison Nelson was the last candidate to be examined for the year. She was examined in a normal fashion, the merits or otherwise had been discussed dispassionately, that the final result was a high kick. The little girl who admitted to being eight years old—several years younger than six other candidates who had examined.

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 She was a perfectly normal little girl, who could not be said to be preferred to porridge for breakfast."

Having clambered on to the piano stool, she began to play, but it was not long that she was not well with our young pianist. She lost her balance and gave a slight imperfection in the first few notes. The piano stool was a revolving one, and her legs were not long enough to reach the floor. She was a little unsteady, and a chair, she began again, and then it was the pendulum began to take its record flight. Her performance was quite striking, and was tackled, with splendid control and apparent ease, works of quite an advanced degree, and difficult music, such as the Sonata, and one or two Preludes from the Bach 48. These she had prepared since she sat for Grade III examination a few weeks ago. She had a sensitively musical touch, and an extraordinary sense and power of tonal coloration, and an amazing memory. I think it probable that Australia has not produced a more pianistically gifted child than Alison Nelson, and for that reason, to progress with the keenest interest."

This opinion was endorsed by Messrs. Pearce and Horner. All music lovers will naturally await with keen interest the future success of this precocious child. Her performance was such that it is being developed under perfectly normal conditions.

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**STATE'S DUTIES ANALYSED**

**Principal Kiek On Liberty**

In an address on "The Province of the State" at a meeting of the Workers' Educational Association at Principal Kiek said that philosophic anarchists objected to the use of coercion, and coercion was immoral. Their philosophy, however, contained serious defects. Political institutions had often been abused for the furtherance of sectional interests, and the State might easily become an agency of moral corruption. It might lead to intellectual stagnation, especially under a dictatorship.

He said that there was no "divine right of majorities," but thought that philosophic anarchism rested on an unduly optimistic estimate of human nature. Coercion, he said, was necessary in the present state of moral evolution. People often needed external discipline. They could not allow people to ruin themselves and thereby do harm to others. Anarchy would lead in practice to something like jungle conditions. In the complex modern world, the State was necessary, becoming superfluous, was steadily enlarging its functions. The philosophic anarchist, however, was not interested in drawing attention to the true end of the State—the promotion of self-realisation. The State should not regard the individual for the State.

**State's Real Aim**

"The State is, or should be, a minister of good, and all its activities should be directed towards a moral ideal," added Principal Kiek. "Undoubtedly, the State's first duty is to maintain a high standard of morality. The end of Government is probably better than no Government at all. The State cannot actually make people good, but it can create the conditions in which knowledge and virtue. The State should protect the rights of property, and it should not be too ready with the general good. The possession of property may be the condition of modern civilization, but it may also lead to moral degradation."

It was a mistake, said Principal Kiek, to regard legislation as necessarily a good thing. Some people might have to be restricted that others might enjoy the liberty they desire. The State should not be right in saying that the State should not do for people what they could do for themselves. He could see the objection to what was called "grandmotherly" legislation. Too much of it might easily destroy the initiative of the young men. The growth of bureaucracy might easily prove a serious peril to the best interests of the State. It was not clear whether it was possible to draw the frontiers of State interference in any case, and he thought it had to be judged on its merits. The use of the State was only to be realised in the spiritual development of the individual. It was not clear whether or not it promoted the achievement of liberty and the attainment of the good.