

The Triennial Review of school operations in 1978 was carried out by Inspector Kevin K. Speer who noted in his introductory remarks that ten years earlier, the enrolment at Ringwood North had been 85 pupils. At the time of his review, the enrolment was in excess of 460 and rising.⁶² During the 1976 school year an adventure playground was completed at a cost of \$3,800. An essential feature of the district inspector's role had been to review teaching and school performance and where appropriate, provide constructive feedback on initiatives undertaken and to provide advice on future directions. The physical needs of the school had been addressed in terms of accommodation and grounds improvement. The school also responded to the challenge of enhancing pupil education programming now that the learning environment had been made serviceable.

In 1978 Kevin Speer, when providing professional advice for curriculum planning, expressed his views on the impact media would play in future education programming. His remarks were progressive. In response to a question asked of him during his visit, he wrote:

" Much of our knowledge now comes via the media and our values and our behaviour are at least partly shaped by the press, radio, television and film...it would appear that increasingly education must be attuned to the needs and nature of an audio-visual society – a society of symbols, images and sounds."⁶³

As we move towards the new millennium it is apparent that media studies are an important aspect of the Curriculum and Standards Framework being progressively introduced across Victorian schools. What Kevin's response does not mention is the focus computer technology would play in the schooling of children to equip them to cope with the changing nature of learning and work. Kevin Speer could not have predicated the significant and challenging overhaul of the education system that was to follow.

During the 1980's the school's enrolment hovered around the 450 mark. School entitlements to classroom and support areas were catered for by the extensive additions made during the 1970's. Education Department facilities entitlement guidelines meant that schools were to be designed with core buildings based on established enrolment trends. Should additional rooms be required then portable classrooms would be used to cope with any increases in enrolments above core needs.

With the school's enrolment at high levels, the school council saw a 'window of opportunity' to develop a multi-purpose facility. A free standing hall was built and opened in 1984. This substantial structure was a joint venture between the local government areas of Doncaster/Templestowe and Ringwood. The school contributed to costs by establishing a Building Co-Operative to raise the school's portion. The total cost of the project was \$115,000. Government support for the project was offered on a 'dollar for dollar basis'. The Minister of Educational Services Norman Lacy indicated to school council president Brian Jeanes that "in current terms I would

⁶² School Inspection Report, Inspector's Report Book: 6 July 1978, p. 41

⁶³ School Inspection Report, Inspector's Report Book:6 July 1978, p.45.