

... have done much to bring the school grounds to their present condition, and maintain them. A recent
... the netting-in of the room foundations. The P. & C. now runs a school tuckshop on a Monday. Other
... that ex-pupils returning in 1992 will note are some changes made to uniform in recent years. But perhaps
... nological change which has made school days seem so different today, and the variety of experiences
... With the release of the Scott Report in 1989 and the move away from the "State-centred" education system
... school-based" system, the P. & C. has also seen its role change slightly, and now finds itself involved in
... the everyday decisions on the running of the school.

... one of the parents has become part of P. & C. folk lore, and we record it here:

The Wallabadah Working Bee

*Stately old ghost gum stands true and tall,
Been shading our school kids four score and more.
A thing of great beauty for some to behold,
A great trial for others (so we are told).
Leaves in the gutter block up the spout;
When it rains, what a nuisance! the water runs out.*

*And so it was decided by higher decree
That the P. & C. would lop that tree.
On Saturday morning they turned out in force:
There was Fisher and Fisher and Kelly (of course),
There were Ingalls and Norvills and Barnett too,
Smith, Webber, Towse, to name but a few;
McLean and MacDougall, and that's not all,
Mustn't forget the Headmaster, N. Paul.
Some women came to wish them luck,
And Lobsey turned up with his tipping truck.*

*"Stand back," said Norvill, in a voice clear and loud.
(Hitched up his trousers, puffed his chest out proud.)
"I'm the boy you're after, you wait and see.
There's not a tree standing that's too big for me.
I'll start at the top, cut it block by block,
A tree like this won't be too hard to lop.
A tree like this I'll take in my stride.
You other fellas just stand aside."*

*So up like a monkey, thirty feet high,
Chainsaw in one hand, he reached for the sky.
"We'll start with this bough. It'll fall to the south.
The sawdust will be flying, don't open your mouth.
Better be careful, don't want trouble at all;
Tie on a rope to help the limb fall.
I'll start up the chainsaw and cut right through,
Then pull on the rope and it's all up to you."*

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*So he started sawing, with sweat on his brow
As he slowly gnawed his way through the bough.
Those on the ground stood well away
And watched intently as it started to sway.
Quick, the rope! It's falling! Can't you see!
It's going, it's going! Oh bu--er me,
It's landed on top of the W.C.*

*The next one we'll take will be this one here.
Should be alright, should fall in the clear.
You saw what happened when the last one fell -
Better tie a rope on this one as well.
Look out! It's going, about to fall!
Goodness, be careful, it might hit the school.
Pull hard! Pull quick! No, no, go slow!
Oh ... too late; it's hit the window.*

*This one will be easy; a piece of cake.
That makes me think it's time for a break.
It's hard work in the sun, lopping this tree.
Must be time for a cup of tea.
See if the women got the water to boil.
And it's time to top up the chainsaw with oil.
Refreshed and re-oiled; what more could you ask
Than good tea and biscuits, then back to the task.
Just a few more and the job'll be done,
Then it's home to the missus to tell her the fun.*

*This one is nothing, no trouble at all,
Everyone can see where it's going to fall.
Tie on the rope - a bit more to the end;
Now that's the way to make it descend.
You ready? It's breaking! Quick, give a yank!
Oh gor blimey; there goes the tank!*

*And so it's all finished. The tree's on the ground
And we've cleaned up the mess that was strewn all around.
We all admire the job we have done,
Even though now we must stand in the sun.
One man alone felt his blood run cold;
The Education Department must be told.
"How do I explain - could you help me please -
How tell them we were just cleaning the leaves?"*