



WOLLONGONG HIGH SCHOOL

Of The Performing Arts

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Mrs Evelyn Livingston
PO Box 161
EPPING 1710

Dear Mrs Livingston

Many thanks for taking the time to record your recollections of Mr J E Lenehan. Your letter offers an excellent insight into Mr Lenehan's early teaching career.

You may be interested to know that Mr Lenehan was born in Hurstville on 24.9.1905. He graduated in December 1925 from the Sydney Teachers' College with the highest College classification – 2A and an "A" teaching mark. His first appointment was to Hurstville Junior Technical College. Coinciding with this appointment he decided to enrol at Sydney University as a full time evening student in the Faculty of Economics. He graduated in the minimum time of four years – without having failed any subject or without having to sit a post-examination throughout the entire course.

After one year at Wollongong Technical School in Gladstone Ave, Mr Lenehan was transferred to Telopea Park High School in Canberra and then to Canberra High School when it was opened on its Acton site in the vicinity of the Civic Centre. He was in Canberra for 14 years and in 1938 became the first Economics graduate to be awarded an A+ teaching mark which led to his appointment as the first Commercial Master in the State. In 1945 he transferred to Gosford High School and after two years he moved to Goulburn High, then to Lismore High and was appointed Headmaster of Lithgow High in 1951. At the end of 1954 he was asked by Mr Stephens, Director of Secondary Education, to take charge of Wollongong High – an offer he accepted.

Mr Lenehan retired in December 1969. He spent much of his retired life painting. His health, both mental and physical, began to deteriorate rapidly in the late 1980's. He died at St Andrew's Nursing home on 11th May 1994. His wife and five children survived him. His sister, who also survived him, died in 2001 at the age of 101.

Once again, many thanks for your interest.

Yours faithfully

Mitchell Gordon
Archivist