



Celebrating
50
years

1974 - 2024

GYM WEST GYMNASTICS CLUB



THE FORMATION OF THE CLUB
MEETING HELD 18th DECEMBER 1973

In March 1974 the Grange Baptist Church and the local community formed the Henley & Grange Youth Club Incorporated to support the needs of local youth. Mr Frank Opie was elected President and his wife, Mrs Joan Opie, was Treasurer. Mr Opie was interested and actively engaged in voluntary organisation and working for and with young people over a period of forty five years.

SYNOPSIS.

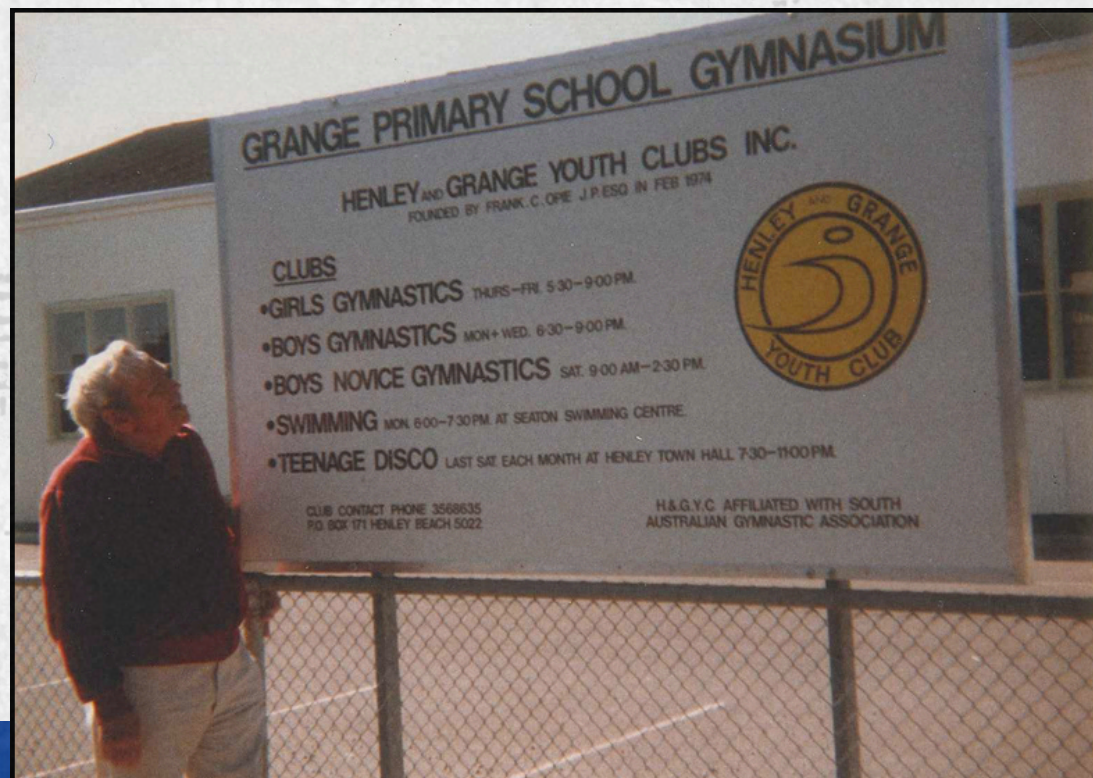
This is the History of the "HENLEY & GRANGE YOUTH CLUBS Inc." of dedicated people, their aims and aspirations, together with the means of achieving them. Of frustrations and disappointments, the enjoyment and gratification in success derived after many hours of work given for the benefit of young people.

INTRODUCTION.

The Clubs are on/going from the Grange Baptist Church Boys Club (undenominational) formed by me in 1963 and continued - successfully until 1973. The then Mayor of Henley & Grange the late Bronte Edwards suggested the formation of a district youth club, thus catering for both girls and boys. Satisfactory negotiations were made with the Principal of the Grange Primary School, Mr.C.Cropley for the use of the War Memorial Hall, built by voluntary labour in 1937. On the 10th of December 1973 at 2pm a group of civic minded people met in the main shelter shed of the Grange Primary School Jetty Street Grange, with the object of forming a much needed district youth club.

THIS HAS GIVEN ME
GREAT SATISFACTION
AND PERSONAL
ENJOYMENT, AS I WAS
ABLE TO GIVE TO
OTHERS THE BENEFIT OF
MY OUTSTANDING TRAIT
- ORGANISATIONAL
ABILITY.

The Club's first home was the Grange Memorial Hall at Jetty Street, Grange, which they occupied until 1996.



CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF AN ASSOCIATION

I hereby Certify that
HENLEY AND GRANGE YOUTH CLUBS INCORPORATED
is incorporated under the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act, 1956-1965
Given under my hand and seal of the State of South Australia,
this 6th day of December 1974.



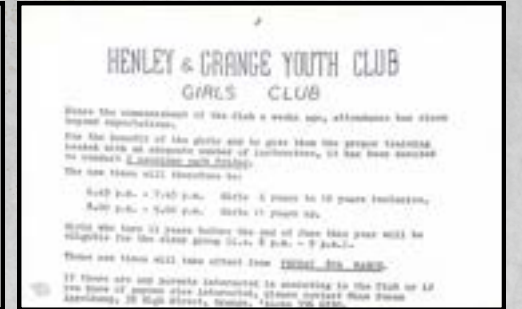
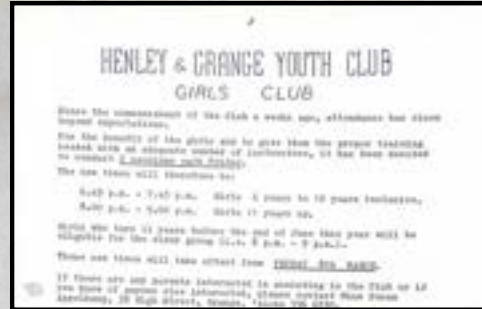
CELEBRATING OUR JOURNEY: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST 10 YEARS

1973: INAUGURAL LEADERSHIP

Susan Applecamp, a proud Grange girl, assumes leadership of the Henley & Grange Youth Club on December 18th, marking the club's official beginning. She was originally at All Girls Club Queenstown, but expressed that she was a Grange girl and considered her services should be with the new club.

1974: EARLY GROWTH AND EXPANSION

Within the first two months, Henley & Grange Youth Club has established 3 clubs: Girls Gymnastics, Boys Gymnastics, and Swimming. Mr. Graeme Cornish, an Education Department Swimming Instructor took charge of the swimming program. The opening night saw an impressive turnout, with 37 girls, 90 boys, and 21 swimmers in attendance. Additionally, a fundraising committee of 9 ladies held its inaugural meeting on March 18th, laying the groundwork for future endeavours.



1975: DIVERSIFICATION AND NEW ADDITIONS

Volleyball is introduced to the club's offerings, drawing 21 enthusiastic participants on its opening night.



HOLIDAY HELPING HAND

A WEEK OF ACTIVITY
 Henley and Grange Youth Club have organised a week of recreational activities for children during the second week of the school holidays. They will cater for primary school children from grades one to seven and as only 80 vacancies exist, it will be first come, first served.
 In the morning and afternoon sessions, suggestions include new outside games, ball games, dog obedience and care, crafts, first aid, chess competition, gymnastics, art, play reading and police lectures.
 Cost is 50 cents a child per day or \$2.50 for the week. Sessions are from 10 a.m. till noon and from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m.
 Venue is the Further Education Department, old Grange Primary School, Jetty Street, Grange and the activities start Monday, May 22 to Friday, May 26.
 Further information and application forms are available from either Mr. Frank Opie on 356 3873 or Mr. Jim Fowles on 356 1067.
 Activities co-ordinators will be at Grange Primary School hall today, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, May 10 to 12 from 3 to 4.30 p.m. to accept applications and fees.

1977-78: COMPETITIVE SPIRIT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Junior Girls make their competitive debut, securing an impressive 3rd place out of 9 clubs. A waitlist of 55 girls began to grow. An additional teenage social club was established offering activities such as social table tennis, volleyball, dart competitions, and shared meals. Furthermore, a successful recreational program was organised during the May holidays, featuring activities such as macramé, leatherwork, knot tying, finger painting, first aid training, learning police road safety rules, dog obedience classes, and both beginner and advanced chess sessions.

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1979: EXPANSION OF INTELLECTUAL PURSUITS

The club broadens its offerings with the addition of a chess club and bookshop, promoting intellectual growth alongside physical activities. The Club was successful for the third consecutive year in taking out the "Champion Club Pennant" in the combined Youth Clubs Western District Sports Day. Frank Opie was awarded the SA Community & Recreation Associations highest Honour, the "T.B. Prescott Award". The club's first life membership was given to Frank Opie.



CELEBRATING FRANK'S "PRESCOTT AWARD"



1980: TRIUMPHS IN SPORTS AND INTELLECTUAL PURSUITS

The club secures victory in a chess tournament at Henley High School and excels in gymnastics, with the Under 9 female team emerging as champions at the S.A.C.R.A. Gymnastics Championships. Mrs Joan Opie was awarded the "Rotary Trophy for Outstanding Service to Youth"



1981-1983: CONTINUED DOMINANCE

The girls' team secures victory once again at the S.A.C.R.A. Gymnastics Championships, earning the prestigious title of "The Champion Club Overall".



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