

Newspaper files show that 1946 was a period of rapid expansion. Annual enrolments increased by 13%, with the introduction of the post-war Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. Both full-time and part-time training was available to ex-servicemen, and under the scheme they were paid 40% of their wages by an employer and 60% by the Commonwealth Government. There were restrictions, however, prohibiting trainees taking up trades such as Welding, Boilermaking, Blacksmithing and Electrical Trades, as ample trainees could attempt an examination in order to become a fully qualified tradesman.

In 1946 it was announced that a new wing was to be added to the existing building, thus providing accommodation for the rapidly expanding Building and Electrical Trades, due to the post-war building boom.

By 1950, 48,000 ex-servicemen had been trained under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme and the Australian Government has expended some 44 million dollars on the scheme. Under the programme, some 3,600 ex-servicemen were completing full-time studies at Universities, with an additional 9,300 persons completing part-time studies. A further 73 students studied abroad at places such as the Oxford and Cambridge Universities, the British Medical

School, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Sorbonne in Paris. Under the CRTS, Australia gained 17 Rhodes Scholars.

In 1946 a mobile instructional unit came into existence and was to serve the Wagga Wagga district for the next 30 years. These mobile Technical Colleges consisted of three railway carriages equipped to provide classes in Welding, Fitting and Machining, and Automotive Trades. These instructional units travelled a circuit providing instruction at outlying areas, generally for six weeks at a time. Living quarters were provided on the train and the experiences of the teachers who served in the remote areas would fill a book. On one occasion, when the students were behind in their classes, the wheels of the railway carriages were welded to the rails to prevent the unit being moved.

The commencement of daylight training in some trades was possible in 1946, with the appointment of four full-time teachers; one for Carpentry and Joinery, one for Fitting and Machining, and two for Women's Handicrafts. This was soon followed by the appointment of a full-time teacher of Electrical Trades in 1947 and the introduction of Commercial Art classes.

These early post-war years from 1946 to 1949 constituted a period of rapid expansion. Annual enrolments in this period increased to 747. Industrial Management, Day Secretarial and Plumb-



1952 Building and Electrical Trades wing added at a cost of \$208,000.