

A BROADER VISION

*Voices of Vocational Education in
Twentieth-Century South Australia*

ERICA JOLLY

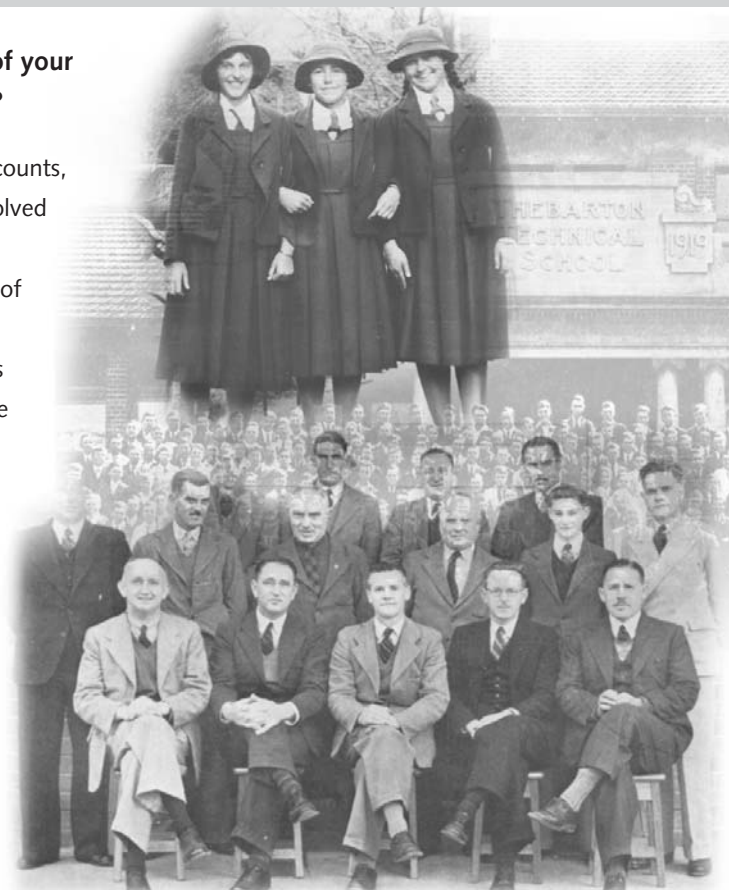
Do you remember the 'techs'? Did you or members of your family attend one of South Australia's 'tech' schools?

Combining history and autobiography, **A Broader Vision** recounts, in their own words, the experiences of those who were involved with the technical/vocational schools, either as teachers or students. The collection ranges from 1897, with the origins of Adelaide Technical High School, to 2001, with the re-constructed vocational education colleges. The book centres on people's experiences, giving a personalised portrait of the exceptional pre-1939 schools as well as the post-1945 binary secondary system in South Australia.

Contributors consistently refer to the strength of feeling about their school experiences, and the emotional impact schooling has had on their lives.

The book follows the changes in educational policy over the century, including the metamorphosis of the 'techs' into high schools after the Karmel report, and takes a look into the future with developments in vocational education.

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'I think I have that broader vision to thank for my progression in life.'

Vola Thomas Ryan Former student of Unley Girls Technical School

'Too much stress is laid on teaching and too little on active learning. The child is not encouraged to discover things on his own account. He learns to rely on outside help, not on his own powers, thus losing intellectual independence and all capacity to judge for himself. The over-taught child is the father of the newspaper-reading, advertisement-believing, propaganda-swallowing, demagogue-led man – the man who makes modern democracy the farce it is.'

Aldous Huxley,

quoted by A.S. Paull, Headmaster of Thebarton Technical High School in support of the Dalton approach to self-directed learning in 1930.

'The reason that my father sent me there was, I believe, that he thought the Dalton Plan would prepare me well for university education.'

Professor Frank Fenner

John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University

'She awakened our ability to think for ourselves, to voice opinions, to "interpret" as well as comprehend ... She dared us to face the world head-on as women with our own exciting destinies ahead.'

Gale Edwards

Theatre Director – Former student of Port Adelaide Girls Technical High School

'This book is unusual in that it is a history from below which contains the voices of ordinary people (students and teachers) rather than administrators and policy makers. Such social histories are rare in South Australia and, indeed, in Australia generally.'

Dr Kay Whitehead

School of Education, Flinders University

