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The Hughes memorial gateway at Muresk

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MURESK AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Memorial to Foundation Principal

A LARGE gathering of past and present students and members of the staff attended a ceremony at Muresk Agricultural College on Visitors' Day, September 7, when a handsome gateway erected to the memory of Mr. Hugh Jason Hughes the first Principal of the College was officially opened by his widow.

Mr. Hughes, who had a long record of achievement in the educational sphere prior to his Muresk appointment became Principal when the College was founded in 1926. He retired in 1938 and his death occurred three years later.

A strict disciplinarian and an able administrator, Mr. Hughes had the gift of commanding both respect and affection. Always ready to help any student who was a trier he laid the foundations of many enduring friendships in the 12 years that he was in charge of the College. Although his previous experience had been confined to the scholastic, rather than the agricultural sphere, Mr. Hughes, by a study of agricultural colleges in Britain and elsewhere was able to formulate sound policies for Agricultural education in this State.

His successor, the present Principal (Mr. W. Southern) paid a warm tribute to the work of Mr. Hughes. His death, at a time when World War II was becoming very real to Australia, meant that any ideas of a suitable memorial had to be held in abeyance, and, even since the war, those responsible for erecting the gate-

way had encountered many difficulties. Its completion, said Mr. Southern, had only been possible through an example of that teamwork which Mr. Hughes had always advocated. Mr. Southern then called upon Mrs. Hughes to perform the opening ceremony by severing ribbons stretched across the gateway.

The gateway, which was designed by



Mrs. Hughes cutting the ribbons.

Mr. Marshall Clifton, embodies two massive pillars each carrying a bronze tablet. One is inscribed:—

“Hughes Memorial Gateway
Erected to the Memory of Hugh

Jason Hughes, Foundation Principal of Muresk Agricultural College 1926-1938."

The other reads:—

"Muresk Agricultural College was opened on October 30th 1926 for the Extension of Agricultural Edu-

cation to the People of Western Australia."

Flanking the pillars are two wrought iron and metal-mesh wings carrying the name of the College and the space between them has steel rails forming a stock-proof "run-through".



The Hughes Memorial Gateway

AERIAL SPRAYING OF CROPS

Three firms in Western Australia are now operating aircraft for the aerial spraying of weeds in crops with 2,4-D or hormone-like weedkiller, and officers of the Weeds and Seeds Branch of the Department of Agriculture have assisted these firms with the calibration of their machines and have also been associated with the initial spraying operations.

Calibration involves firstly ascertaining the effective spraying width of the boom at the height the plane is to be flown over the crop and secondly the rate the solution is sprayed from the boom. From these figures along with the ground speed of the plane the volume applied per acre can be estimated. Water is then added to the amount of weedkilling chemical required per acre to make up to that volume.

The need for accuracy in these estimations is stressed by the fact that in most cases less than two gallons of solution is being applied per acre and the average amount of active chemical is six ounces per acre.

Although aerial spraying lacks some of the precision of the more orthodox land boom unit it has the advantage of not being delayed by boggy paddocks and is a more speedy operation. The capacity of the tank fitted to the Tiger Moth plane is 35 gallons and more than 500 acres have been sprayed during one day.

It is likely that at least 50,000 acres of crop will be sprayed from the air during the present season to supplement the large area that is being treated by ground units. At this stage the results with both wild radish and wild turnip are very encouraging.

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