


Fun Scotch Facts

L is for Locations

Only four of the 11 APS schools still have a presence on their original sites. Melbourne Grammar School (excepting the argument for it being the successor of the Melbourne Diocesan Grammar School), Wesley College, Xavier College and Carey Baptist Grammar School still have a campus on their original sites. Scotch has moved several times, and has had additional sites that were not primary campuses. Below is a quick look at 10 of them:

- Scotch's first site was at what was then 155 Spring Street, Melbourne, between Lonsdale and Little Lonsdale Streets. The properties have since been renumbered, but it was immediately south of the new Australian Unity building at 271 Spring Street. Known as the "Green Door School" according to one Old Boy, it was tiny, and soon too small for Scotch. The buildings on the site changed over time. It housed Bright Star Products, car polish manufacturers, when a fire severely damaged it on 16 August 1942. Then known as 257 Spring Street, the charred remains were auctioned on 22 September 1942, and it was subsequently demolished.
- The first boarders did not board at Scotch, but at 198 Stephen Street (formally renamed Exhibition Street in 1898 after the 1880 International Exhibition, but also to cleanse its bad reputation), the residence of Robert and Isabella Lawson, the first Principal and his wife, the school's first female teacher. Mrs. Lawson taught French and German and had responsibility for the boarders. Isabella Lawson Lodge, on the Hill, is named after her.
- As Scotch grew so quickly, it moved in December 1851 to what was then 61 Spring Street, on the southwest corner of Spring and Little Collins Street, south of the Windsor Hotel. The building had been built as a hotel. Lessons were conducted downstairs at the bar, and the boarders slept upstairs. Scotch remained here until the end of 1853, after which it became the Ulster Family Hotel in 1854, and from 1874 to 1968 it was the New Treasury Hotel. It was closed, demolished, and replaced by an apartments block at what is now 99 Spring Street.
- The Victorian colonial government granted land to each religious denomination in 1853, with the size of the land being determined by the number of each denomination's adherents. Scotch received two acres (almost one hectare) of land and opened Scotch's first purpose-built buildings on the corner of Lansdowne and Grey Streets, Eastern Hill, on 10 January 1854. As the school expanded, so too did the number of buildings on the increasingly crowded site. It was vacated at the end of 1925 to complete the move to Hawthorn.
- As Scotch's two acres on Eastern Hill did not include space for sports fields, in 1879 it obtained permissive tenancy of the Civil Service Cricket Club's ground at Yarra Park. Located at Yarra Park – now the site of the Melbourne Park Tennis Centre – it was relinquished in 1925 as Scotch left to complete the move to Hawthorn.
- When Old Boys returned to Scotch at East Melbourne for Scotch's Diamond Jubilee in 1911, they were dismayed by the crowded site. The school thought that building a bigger hall would solve the problem. The majority of Old Boys said they would not give money for a hall, but that they



would for a new site. Scotch was fortunate to buy its current site at Hawthorn in 1915: it was due to have been sold for housing development at auction on 29 April 1911, but floodwaters covering the low-lying areas saw the auction being called off. When the site was purchased it was understood to be 51 acres (20.64 hectares), but surveying revealed it was actually 65 acres!

- An interim solution to Scotch's shortage of space was to lease Parkville High School. Incongruously named, for it was only a primary school, it contained both boys and girls, and continued to receive girls while Scotch ran it from 1915 to 1918. At least five Old Girls sent sons to Scotch, of which two were the sons of both an Old Boy and an Old Girl.
- In 1928 Harold Edward 'Pompey' Elliott, father of Scotch boy and Scout Neil Campbell Elliott (SC 1925-30), generously donated five acres of his sister's [sic] land at Healesville for the use of Scotch's Scouts. The first Elliott Lodge was opened on 8 March 1930, burned down in the Black Friday bushfires of 13 January 1939, and rebuilt and reopened on 11 May 1940. It is widely and erroneously believed that property and the Lodge are named after Neil, who is memorialised in the Lodge for his death by spearing in New Guinea on 1 July 1939. They are, however, named for his father. Over the years the property has been significantly expanded through additional purchases by Scotch.
- The University Public Schools' Camp was first held at Barwon Heads in 1911 for Public School boys who were about to enter Melbourne University, to help break down the barriers between those from different APS schools. Eventually a site was purchased at Cowes, and the camp was moved from Barwon Heads to Cowes in 1926. The camps continued until 1941, after which it was used by various Public School boys, including Scotchies, who used it as a work camp to harvest chicory to help the war effort. Not used again for the University camp, it began to fall into disrepair. Scotch held an experimental camp that led to annual Scotch camps being held there from 1955, with Scotch ultimately buying the property, now known as Scotch at Cowes.
- In 1973 a concrete slab was laid on a property at Mansfield, and it was used by some brave souls as a bed under the stars. Hector Ralston Ingram (SC 1923-26) arranged for an unused Presbyterian church at Thornton to be transported to the property, where it was named G.H. Owen Lodge on 12 October 1986, in honour of former English teacher and boarding housemaster Gordon Hampton 'Gunner' Owen (staff 1946-74). The property was used by Scotch's boarders on weekends for several decades until its recent sale.

Photo Captions:

- Parkville High School boys and girls in 1917.
 - Building Elliott Lodge in 1929, with John Alexander 'Tiger' Lyne (SC 1924-28, staff 1942-74) on the front of the timber trolley used to deliver timber on the still-operational tramway running through the site. He died aged 102.
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