

PETE'S

PAGE

NO EASY WAY TO SUCCESS

Dear Kids,

I daresay by now you have all read the success story of Gary Williams (17), of Nambucca Heads, and Charles Perkins (27), the Alice Springs athlete, who this year entered Sydney University on scholarships after matriculating at last year's Leaving Certificate examinations.

I know readers of this page will congratulate both on their scholarship and wish them success in their University studies for Bachelor of Arts degrees.

Their's has been no easy road to success but there is absolutely no reason why they should not be followed to University by many of the children studying this year for the Leaving and Intermediate examinations.

Many parents with children at secondary schools are perhaps wondering whether or not they should curtail their child's outdoor social and sporting activities because of the increased need for home-study.

The Chief Guidance Officer for the N.S.W. Department of Education (Mr. Norman Jenkins), has said that no hard and fast rules can be applied. Most parents seem



Two beautiful children from Armidale, Carol and Alana Cutmore, who now live in Brisbane with their parents Mr. and Mrs. A. Cutmore

to know, anyway, just how much their children are capable of handling physically, mentally and emotionally.

Most secondary schools lay down suggestions for home-study time-tables and it is important that the child adhere to these where possible. An average time for first and second-year students seems to be at least one hour to one-and-a-half hours a night, increasing to as much as three hours for fifth-year students.

This gives the school-child little time for many other interests.

But it is most important that the study time-table should be so arranged that outside activities are not entirely neglected.

Children who are physically capable should have some sporting activity to develop both their bodies and their sense of fair play. Schools offer good opportunity for team sports like football, cricket, hockey and basketball.

For extra weekend sport it is advisable to let the child concentrate on something which he can continue right through his lifetime when the opportunities for team activities are not always present. Sports, like tennis, cycling and swimming are ideal.

Team sports often demand a lot of training and one or two afternoons a week is the maximum time which should be allowed. Night training should be avoided.

Whether or not a child should learn to play a musical instrument or join scouting groups or church younger sets depends on his abilities, interests and the time available.

If possible, young people should be encouraged to develop a love of literature and to start collecting books as a nucleus of their own personal library in later life. Comics don't really do much harm, but after early childhood they should be discouraged.

The best advice the experts have to offer is—aim high, work with the necessary enthusiasm, intensity and integrity and play healthfully and you cannot fail to do well.

Good luck kids,

Your sincere pal,

Pete