

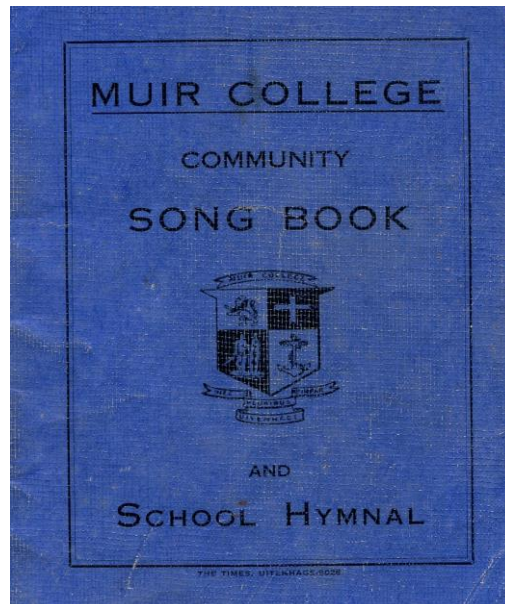
CHAPTER 56 Giving voice to community singing

Inter-schools rivalry in sport pops up as a theme in community singing in songs such as *There is a College (in our town, in our town)* and *Some Talk (of Marist Brothers and some of Grey High School)*. Swimming provided the impetus for another song: Number 78 in the Community Song Book, *The Clift Cup*. It was not an expression of celebration but rather something of a lament. After a run of successive victories spanning eleven years, Muir lost the annual Clift Cup race to Grey High by the narrowest of margins in 1944. The tune was from *Blue Bells of Scotland* and goes like this:

Oh where and oh where has our silver Clift Cup gone?
Oh where and oh where has our silver Clift Cup gone?
'Twas captured by the Grey, just about a year ago today,
And it's oh! in my heart that I wish the cup would stay.

Oh how, tell me how, did we lose our silver cup?
Oh how, tell me how, did we lose our silver cup?
The A team swam quite well, but the Grey team did excel.
And it's oh! in my heart that I feel it like a knell.

Oh when, tell me when, shall we win it back again?
Oh when, tell me when, shall we win it back again?
Of swimmers there's no lack, so we'll win that Clift Cup back.
But it's oh! in my heart that I feel we must not slack.



Frank Esselaar, enthusiastic piano accompanist for community singing