

Campbelltown: experiment in Australia's urban way of life

By GLENNYS BELL

Campbelltown last week looked like a landscape painted from memory by an English artist. Recent rains had softened the skyline, blunting the harsh edge of the housetops, blending the gumtrees with the shimmering green of the countryside. It looked like an idyllic rural community, despite the sprawl of Sydney only 34 miles away.

By the year 2000, if all goes according to plan, the same community will have a population of half a million—about the present size of Perth—and will provide a model for the new satellite towns that will be created to relieve the suburban strangulation of the capital cities of Australia.

For the State Planning Authority of New South Wales it is an exciting prospect, a chance not only to create an environment that contributes to the quality of life for its residents, but also eradicates the mistakes of the past that have produced the desolate barrenness of suburbs like Mt Druitt and Green Valley—now ghettos for the underprivileged.

The schedule for the new city of Campbelltown is a frantic one, for how else could a rural community of 47,000 people be converted into a city the size of Canberra by 1980 without accelerating the normal growth processes of a tiny town? It is the first time anything of its magnitude has been tried in Australia. Canberra, as the capital of the nation, is a special case, a city which has had huge injections of national funds because of its status and prestige. Elizabeth, in South Australia, is perhaps an example of a totally new planned city, but on a much smaller and more specific level.

Experts brought together

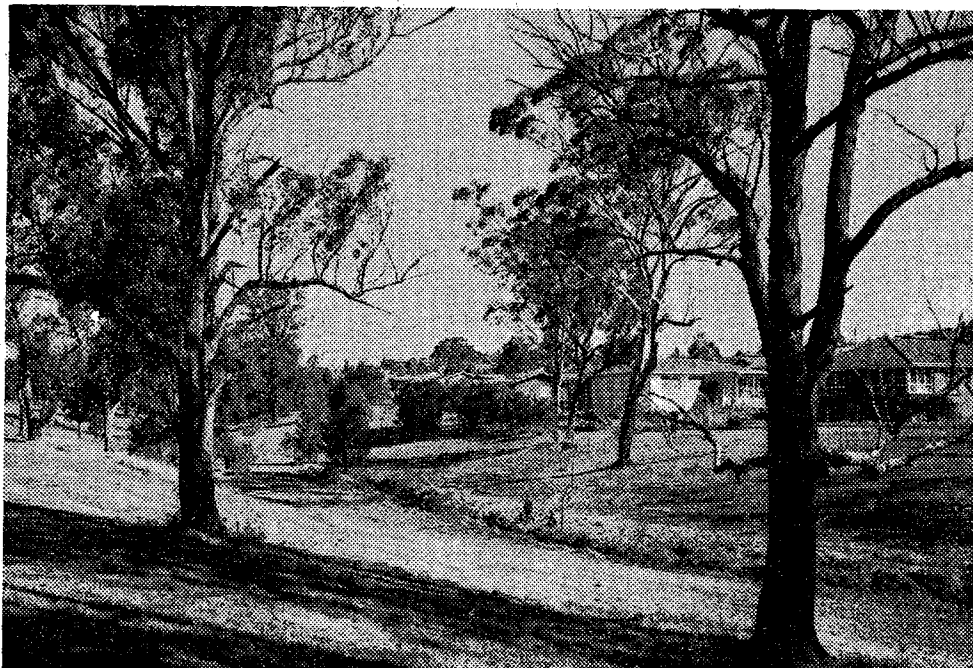
In a way, Campbelltown is an experiment, in much the same way as the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme was experimental, for Australia had no previous experience or expertise in creating new cities as has been the case in England and Europe. Since the Campbelltown Development Committee was established in 1970 it has brought together experts from around the world to help in planning the new city.

The team became operational only early this year, but while the machinery for planning and development was being put into motion, earthmoving machines had already moved into Campbelltown, carving up grazing land and slicing through hills to create an industrial estate and a six-lane expressway. The stark expanse of flattened earth that is the first step in an industrial corridor of 1,800 acres, the monumental concrete pylons of the 30-mile Sydney-Campbelltown expressway, and the continual drone of heavy machinery means progress, but also means the end of the rural character that gave Campbelltown so much of its charm for local residents.

To many of them, the town was a retreat from the congestion and pollution of the Sydney suburbs. In a recent survey by students at the Campbelltown High School, 86 per cent of those questioned said they liked living in the town because of its countryside and rural atmosphere. For them, life in present-day Campbelltown has its drawbacks, but there is a vitality that is a complete contrast with the aridity of the places like Green Valley and Mt Druitt, the new townships surrounding Sydney, where poverty of goods is often matched by poverty of spirit.

Unlike Campbelltown, whose future is still in preparation, and will be traced in a Master Strategic Plan by the end of 1972, the future of Mt Druitt and Green Valley has already been determined in the type of environment provided and the children growing up there.

Green Valley—5,000 monotonous, monochrome houses marching uniformly down symmetrical streets with telegraph poles slung across their shoulders, a homogeneous community of low-income earning families whose "problems" have been microscopically analysed by the sociologists. Green Valley—deserted wives, neglected children, petty crime and incipient delinquency, 25,000 people living lives of quiet despair, and only gradually, according to a survey by the Department of Social Work at the University of



Sherwood Hills, Campbelltown . . . planning provides for natural parkland.

Sydney, stabilising and becoming "culturally structured."

It may be adjusting to its environment, but its problems are not only repeated but magnified at Mt Druitt, a suburb of 80,000 that has no library, no swimming pool, no shopping centre. Negativism is the name at Mt Druitt. Its children learn the lesson early, and it may be the only lesson they learn for at the Mt Druitt Primary School they get top marks for destruction and very few for literacy.

A schoolteacher who has just completed her first year of teaching at the school ended both despondent and despairing. "The children come from poor families, and they seem to be deprived of everything. They're deprived emotionally, financially and culturally, and most of them seem even deprived of applied intelligence. I think I had the only six bright children in the school in my class, and there were 1,000 at the school," she said.

Nothing to occupy their minds

The children are even deprived of an adequate education for there are no special schools for the retarded in the area, and the dull, average and bright are taught by teachers who are generally inexperienced in teaching, let alone capable of catering for special needs. The children come from homes where families smaller than six are rare, and where incomes are so low they cannot afford a car. Some have never seen the sea, only 35 miles away. Their lives are a dull round of nothing, for they often lack the imagination to occupy themselves and there are no amenities to fill their free time. They take out their boredom in vandalism.

As the teacher explained: "You can see the criminal tendencies developing in the under-10 year old. Vandalism is the greatest expression of the problems of the children in the school. They're not vicious, but they have nothing to occupy their minds so they smash windows, break furniture and rip books."

The planners are not only determined but convinced that Campbelltown will never become another Mt Druitt, even though the Housing Commission plans four estates in the area, with several thousand houses on each estate. The first stage of the program begins next year with 1,000 houses. Balancing the low-income housing estates, however, are the middle and higher income bracket districts being promoted by the private developers.

The first is Sherwood Hills, a Lend Lease project that began in 1965 and is the beginning of further expansion for the company, which owns 5 per cent of the land in the proposed Campbelltown city area. The company has retained Urban Systems Corporation Pty Ltd as planning consultants for the development of areas in which it plans to invest \$30 million.

The Planning Director for Urban Systems,

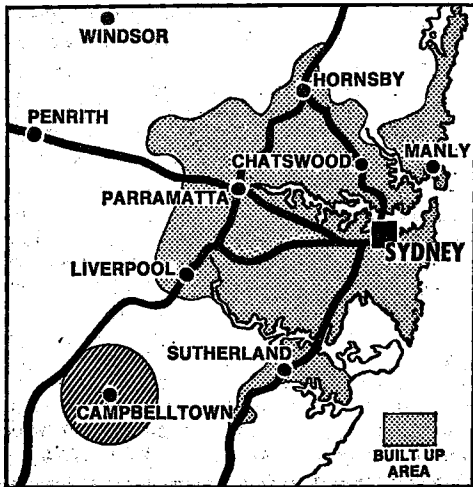
Mr N. Ingham, is reasonably optimistic that Campbelltown will be an imaginative example of an aesthetically pleasing, interesting and varied community with none of the jarring features that have crippled places like Mt Druitt.

"There will be a spread of income housing, from the lower levels to the higher levels, so Campbelltown for a start will avoid the 'homogeneous community' that was created in places like Mt Druitt," he says. "They're one-class areas, where the mass of people had various problems, financial, marital and social, and lacked community leaders to generate activities."

He believes the mixture of different income levels, and the opportunity to provide open spaces with different density housing, should provide the type of environment which enhances the quality of life for its residents. Yet he is only "reasonably optimistic" about the chances of success for the new city.

"The controlling factor will be whether adequate financial and management resources are put into the development of the city. It's a massive task and a lot of co-operation will be needed between the State Planning Authority and the private developers," he says. "Most of all, however, is the need to integrate the various resources so that particular needs are met rather than have each develop piecemeal. Transport, services, utilities and amenities have to be planned in total."

There is already evidence that the various departments are co-operating in the Campbelltown area, and Mr Ingham believes Lend Lease, too, is leading the way for other private developers in its approach to the development of its estates. "The company has gone beyond pure real estate. In Sherwood Hills, Lend Lease had a chance to start from scratch, and it was the company which decided on underground cables rather than overhead wiring, a move that has been adopted as policy by the SPA. It has also



provided the land for a swimming pool in the estate, and will build a pre-school kindergarten for local children in Sherwood Hills."

Private enterprise generally is enthusiastic about the prospects for Campbelltown City, and full of praise for the State Planning Authority. Both financiers and developers believe the new city is not only an idea, but could become a reality that will provide leadership for the rest of Australia.

But there are also strong reservations, best expressed by a resident in the area, Mr Tom Bass, the sculptor, who lives in Minto. He agrees Campbelltown could be the prototype for future urban development in the country, but feels events are moving too quickly and Campbelltown might never achieve its expectations.

"The root cause is not the planners, for I have great admiration for them, and it is not even private enterprise, but rather the Australian people themselves," he said. "I don't think people are prepared to invest in planning. The taxpayer has a tendency to believe town planning is a waste of money, even though the ultimate cry becomes a complaint about lack of planning."

Mr Bass would like to believe Campbelltown could become a city where living and working, education, culture, recreation, services and amenities are integrated with harmony and where people could have a rich and satisfying life. "We've already seen from models in England and Europe that it is possible to take a beautiful area like Campbelltown and retain the beauty of the area if it is planned with care and knowledge."

Capital investment of \$5,000m

Mr Bass feels, however, that development is running ahead of planning in Campbelltown, and the Government has a tendency to let private enterprise do much of the work it should be controlling itself. "It looks as if the Government wants to attract finance by having tangible results, like the vast aerodrome flats being developed for an industrial estate."

Finance, of course, is the major problem, as well as lack of complete control over the area. Unlike the Commonwealth case of Canberra, the State Planning Authority owns only about 10,000 acres in the Campbelltown district, and it does not have power to buy land for its use at existing values. Nor does it have any special sources of finance like the Commonwealth Government in creating Canberra.

Urban Systems Corporation has estimated that the total capital investment in Campbelltown will exceed \$5,000 million. Costs are based on an average of \$5,000 per person to provide all services, amenities, utilities and transport, as well as education, recreational and cultural facilities. Though private enterprise will contribute a healthy proportion of this money, the major investment will come from the New South Wales Government.

To Mr Bass, and Mr Ingham, the ideal would be a Development Commission similar to the National Capital Development Commission that supervised the construction of Canberra with complete Commonwealth financial backing. Without this control the State Planning Authority has to rely on the involvement and co-operation of private enterprise. And until it has produced a Master Strategic Plan it has to rely on trial and error.

But even with a master plan, will Campbelltown come close to that ideal—a city that is self-contained, in harmony with its setting and with people living in harmony with each other and their environment, or will it become another cannibalistic urban sprawl, feeding on itself, and eroding the souls of its citizens? As many people concerned with the project point out, Campbelltown has to succeed, otherwise the future of both old and new cities in Australia is grim. On paper, Campbelltown looks good, and if enthusiasm and involvement could convert paper promises into reality, then its success is assured.

But the New South Wales Minister for Labour and Industry, Mr Hewitt, said much the same about Mt Druitt: Planning for the town had looked "pretty good" on paper according to the Minister. "It provided for schools, shopping centres, transport, recreation areas and a balanced community. It has just not developed according to plan."

To Mr Tom Bass, the answer is education. "People can't get the sort of environment they want without paying for it, and it has to be paid for in money, otherwise they will become impoverished in spirit. The future of Australia depends very much on what happens in places like Campbelltown."

The world's most impossible job

NEW YORK

When the members of the Security Council came up with the name of Mr Kurt Waldheim as their choice to succeed U Thant a double ripple of relief spread through the throng of delegates at the United Nations.

Relief at the fact that the five veto-wielding powers who are permanent members of the council had been able to settle on a new Secretary-General at all before U Thant's term ran out with the dying year; and at their having managed to do so just in time for the General Assembly to disperse for Christmas.

But there was nothing really unexpected about the news. It had long seemed probable that the new man would be picked only at the last moment and Mr Waldheim had been one of the most prominent candidates for the post throughout the year.

A European like two of his three predecessors, the new Secretary-General combines several of the basic qualifications for what Trygve Lie called "the most impossible job in the world."

His country, Austria, is a "neutral" one in a strict sense: indeed, one kind of neutrality has been imposed on it by treaty. Mr Waldheim has much experience of the United Nations where he is now the head of Austria's mission: he is a professional diplomat who has also been his country's foreign minister. His standing is such that he was the conservative People's Party candidate for the Presidency of Austria in last April's elections.

All this distinction has been accompanied by very little controversy. Indeed one of the doubts that has been voiced

about Mr Waldheim might be put in such words as "if he has made no enemies, can he have any real guts?"

The Governments of the major powers (who are really the grand electors in the UN context, since the assembly can only accept or reject the candidate proposed by the council) have always preferred to choose a quiet man. Their hopes that he would remain quiet, once translated to the 38th floor of the UN building, have sometimes been dashed.

But at least, in making this latest choice, they have been true to their established tradition. What remains to be seen is whether Mr Waldheim will likewise maintain the tradition of his new office—by, sooner or later, giving some or all of his great sponsors a nasty jar.

From "The Economist"



Kurt Waldheim . . . "if he has made no enemies, can he have any real guts."

Still a long way from Tokyo to Peking

FUKUDA

TOKYO

The most cautious man in Japan is the Foreign Minister, Mr Takeo Fukuda, who is now within an ace of succeeding to the Prime Ministership. If things go his way, he will make his move in the early summer, and be home and dry by the autumn at the latest. There is absolutely no reason, therefore, for Mr Fukuda to make any departures from his present position — unless they are strictly related to the matter of the succession.

This is why his latest statement on China is causing a little flutter of interest in Tokyo. What Mr Fukuda told Parliament early this month — that Japan had been guilty of "regrettable" actions in China during the war — was not brilliantly new. The Prime Minister, Mr Eisaku Sato, had made a similar remark earlier in the year. But this was the first time that Mr Fukuda himself had said *nostra culpa*.

Mr Fukuda's motivation is no mystery. The first strong challenge to his candidacy emerged early this autumn in the shape of the burly Mr Masayoshi Ohira. Mr Ohira's challenge took

the form of a "forward looking" statement on China. And China policy has been Mr Fukuda's weak point. He has been closely associated with the right wing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which has for many years supported Taiwan's Chiang Kai-shek. Mr Fukuda has now gone through the motions of correcting his position to avoid being outflanked.

In real terms, however, China and Japan are as far away from talking to each other as they have ever been. Japanese diplomats offer no odds on Chinese-Japanese talks before President Nixon's visit to Peking in February. And the Japanese say that the "Hori letter" to Chou En-lai, a feeler from Mr Shigeru Hori, the Prime Minister's aide, to see if the Chinese would receive Mr Sato, was "officially not received by Peking."

The Chinese probably want the Japanese to eat a great deal more humble pie before they agree to acknowledge Japanese letters — let alone deign to speak to the Japanese Government at an official level.

From "The Economist"



Takeo Fukuda . . . his motivations are no mystery.

Fukuda might make it

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

TOKYO

Takeo Fukuda held up a small, four-faced stone image of Kannon, the Buddhist goddess of mercy, which he keeps on his desk. "I think of the four faces as representing the United States, the Soviet Union, China and Europe," he said. "We have to think both of our global situation and of our relations with each area."

Relations with America had been particularly close since the war because of the occupation period, Mr Fukuda explained. "Now we are going to turn our eyes more to Europe. I have sent out instructions to our ambassadors to pay more attention to Europe."

What direction, I asked, would Japan take in the future?

That was exactly the question put to him by European leaders when he accompanied the Emperor and Empress on their recent tour. Would Japan become a military power? He had told them, he said, that the "surplus of economic strength at home will not be used to build up military strength."

There were two main tasks ahead. The first was, "internal construction," making good the years of low investment in the public sector. Japan was "lagging behind (Europe and America) by scores of years" in the provision of housing, schools, sewerage and roads.

The second task, Mr Fukuda said, was that of co-operating with and giving assistance to the developing countries. Japan was now too

big an economic power to "live for itself alone."

This view, extending into the future, of a peaceful, aiding and trading Japan is comforting. It implies no imputation of insincerity to ask whether it is realistic. What sort of man is the politician who proclaims it?

Schooling at "the Eton of Japan"

Mr Fukuda was born in Gumma prefecture in 1905 into a farming family of modest means. The farmers were the middle class of the old Japanese social order, ranking below the "samurai" but above the often richer artisans and merchants.

A gifted youth, Mr Fukuda easily passed the rigorous entrance examinations of the Dai Ichi Koto Gakko or First High School. His academically elitist institution, which no longer exists, used sometimes to be misleadingly described as the "Eton of Japan."

At Tokyo university the young Fukuda read law and gained the unusual distinction of passing the Civil Service entrance examination while still a student. Upon graduation he immediately entered the finance ministry, the home then as now of the *Crème de la Crème* of the Japanese bureaucracy.

His first visit to Europe and England came in 1930 as a junior member of a Japanese financial mission. He has never visited Australia.

He moved steadily up the bureaucratic ladder throughout the 1930s and during the war. The post of vice-minister of finance, probably the most influential Civil Service appointment in Japan, awaited him when in 1948 he was accused of involvement in a bribery case.

He resigned from the service under a cloud of suspicion not finally dispelled by the courts until some 10 years later.

He entered politics in the meantime under the banner of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and rose swiftly. In 1967 he became Minister of Finance after holding several important party posts including that of Secretary General.

Earlier this year he was moved to the Foreign Ministry where he inevitably became embroiled in the machinations to save a seat for Taiwan at the United Nations.

In many ways, then, Mr Fukuda is an immediately recognisable type of Japanese politician: a bureaucrat by training; well-educated and not totally untravelled, but still singularly parochial and unc cosmopolitan; little versed in foreign languages; and above all deeply rooted in Japanese society.

A public image of a dry-as-dust economist is belied in private by considerable charm and a sharp sense of humour. Physically, he is slight, with heavily hooded eyes set in a long face of mournfully quizzical aspect.

Politically, Mr Fukuda has always belonged to the conservative-nationalist stream. He is very close both to Mr Sato and to the latter's elder brother, Mr Nobusuke Kishi, a grey eminence, who was imprisoned as a war criminal but later rehabilitated, becoming Prime Minister in 1957.

Mr Kishi is influential in the movement for revision of the constitution on more traditionally Japanese, and less democratic lines.

Ambivalent attitude

Mr Fukuda's attitude towards China is ambivalent. He spoke to me of the need to remove the "deep-rooted feeling of distrust" between Tokyo and Peking — "We have never said that we are sorry for the havoc caused by millions of Japanese soldiers in China during the war, and I think that we should do so" — but in the same breath talked of the military threat posed by China today.

The pressure for accommodation with Peking is strong. However, Mr Fukuda is credited with considerable flexibility and could well surprise some of his conservative backers if he were to become Prime Minister.