Wyndham was too fancy a name for a school enrolment, so he chose the name Charles: Charles Jones. Came the Latin term exam. Old Wyn engrossed a magnificently ornamental title-page for his paper in blue and red link with scrolls, his name highlighted as Charles Jones with class, school, date and anything else, whether necessary or not. He even helpfully marked his own paper: "No marks", he wrote, because he didn't write another word, be it of English or Latin. Mr Jenkins, the Latin master, singled out Wyn's paper, and then turned over to the second page where it said "No marks", stating: "As a matter of fact, he didn't even get that right either, because I couldn't ignore such a work of art as that title page; I have given him five marks for neatness!" But then little Jenks had a good sense of humour; Zilda, on this occasion, had none; she wouldn't even give me a lousy couple of marks for neatness, perhaps because there were too many desperate crossings-out. I still got zilch from Zilda.

But if I may end on a happier note, even to the extent of bragging, I did have one great moment. I can't remember who the teacher was, but I recall we were doing quadratic equations. We had to solve a problem about two trains, one from London, one from Bournemouth (with distance stated) -- they were always Pommy trains -- one travelling at one speed, the other at a different one; and we had to determine the point at which the two trains would pass each other; as if anybody cared if they crashed head on! Anyhow, I set about the solution, writing two lines:

Let x equal the London train
and let y equal the Bournemouth train.

At that moment, I confess, I felt the need for inspiration, because a bit of honest cheating never really hurts anyone, if you don't get spotted. So I looked across at my desk-mate -- it was not Gus this time -- only to find that he had only one line written down; and that line read:

Let x equal the two trains

So my great moment had come. By this time I was reconciled to the fact that it was not my destiny to hound Sir Isaac Newton or Einstein out of the mathematics business. Nevertheless, the moment of revelation had come at last; I wasn't the worst in the class at matters mathematical; I was only the second-worst.

Edgar Beale

MOUNTAIN ROADS

Macquarie and Kangaroo Valley

An agitation is being made to some extent in the Kangaroo Valley direction for the construction of the best available road between that place and the Macquarie River. The route intended, we understand, is, in the main, via what is (or was formerly) known as Mr. Henry Osborne's Butter Track, passing the Messrs. Frasers' Lake View Farm, on the Tullimbar side of the mountain. By a good road in that direction the large population inhabiting Kangaroo Valley and the adjoining localities would be within a much shorter distance of Sydney than under present circumstances. By having to go to Moss Vale to reach the railway, as now is the case, the people are travelling half-way to Goulburn, as
it were, before getting a direct start to Sydney. In fact, they are worse off in that respect than were the people of this district when they had to travel round by Campbelltown to get to Sydney. By means of a good road via Albion Park, however, they would be proceeding straight to Sydney, as might be said, or vice versa. That the matter is a most important one there cannot be a doubt, as, by having railway communication with the metropolis via Albion Park, instead of by the round about Moss Vale route, hundreds of thousands of miles of travelling and corresponding expense would be saved to the large population interested in the proposed road.

Illawarra Mercury 31 December 1887

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Advertisement in "The Wollongong Argus", 17th October 1888