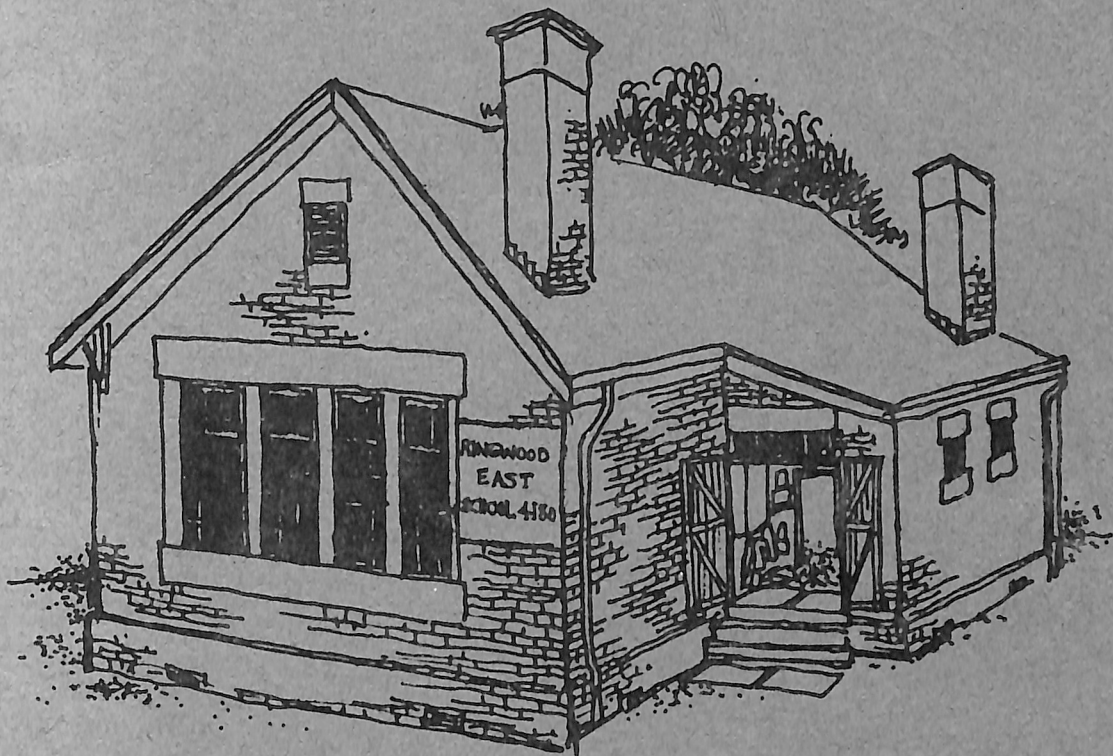


HISTORY OF RINGWOOD EAST



1924 - 1974

PRIMARY SCHOOL 4180

20 Cents

HISTORY OF STATE SCHOOL No. 4180 RINGWOOD EAST

In 1916, a petition signed by 33 residents was presented to the Minister of Education by Mr. J. Rouget M.L.A., stating the need for a school at Ringwood East; the District Inspector, Mr. A.S. Burgess did not recommend a school "at present".

In 1920 Mr. W.H. Everard M.L.A. interviewed the Director of Education on behalf of Mr. E. Lindsay, Mr. H.E. Watson, Mr. J.B. Robinson and others informing him that the district was rapidly developing and a centrally situated school was necessary in the East Ringwood locality. The District Inspector, Mr. A.N. Barry recommended a full time school for 75 to 100 children.

In 1921 Mr. Everard still interested on behalf of Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Burkitt and other residents called at the Department in 1921 and urged that the building be proceeded with as soon as possible. The building was commenced in 1923, it consisted of 2 rooms each 26'6" x 24' partitioned and built on allotments 41, 42, 43 and 44 in the parish of Ringwood county of Mornington the corner of Everard and Holland Roads. It is interesting to note that the names Lindsay, Robinson, Watson and Burkitt do not appear on the School register on the opening day.

On the 13th of July 1921, the Victorian Education Department purchased 4 acres of land at the corner of Everard and Holland Roads Ringwood East for a school site. The vendor was Mr. Ted Lindsay and the price paid for the site was somewhere between £200 and £300. Records at the Town Hall Ringwood show that as far back as 1855, land at the corner of Maroondah Highway and Everard Road was reserved for a school site but the land was never used for that purpose and is still vacant. The 4 acre site sloped fairly sharply from north to south and remnants of the original surface, though small, show the observer that the area must have been covered with dense scrub, comprising gnarled and stunted eucalypts and acacias of many varieties with a ground coverage of kangaroo grass and native tussocks with occasional patches of white heath and hardenbergia, a sanctuary for small birds and as one former pupil said, the haunt of the copper head.

On this site, on the Everard Road frontage, in 1924, contractor A.E. Wieland of Camberwell erected State School 4180 Ringwood East at a cost to the Department of £2,227.

On July 7th of that year it was opened for enrolment of pupils by its first Principal Mr. Walter Whittle, who transferred to his new school from Millgrove. Fifty-nine pupils were enrolled on the first day at the imposing solid brick building with 2 classrooms and a cloak room or porch with wash basin at one end. To Arthur Meyland goes

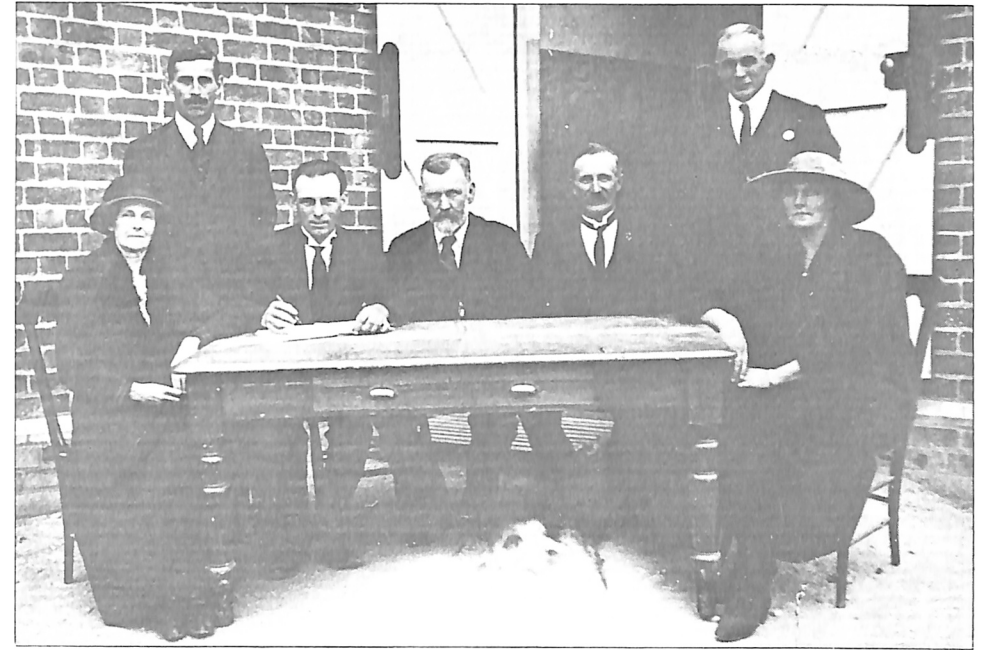
the honour of being the first pupil enrolled. Most of the new pupils came from Ringwood and Croydon schools. The new school was officially opened on August 6th of the same year by The Hon. W. Everard, M.L.A. member for Evelyn. Fred Hodgkins number 30 on the School Register, and destined to become "Mr. Cricket" of Ringwood East, and subsequently chairman of the School Committee, said that on the occasion, Mr. Everard planted the tree immediately on the left of the entrance gate from Everard Road. A packed gathering witnessed the opening ceremony, all proud of their new school, but none more proud than Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hodgkins, Mr. Edward Perry, Mr. Paul Klix, Mr. Jack Hann, Mr. Charles Meyland and Mrs. Charles Crooks, who were the members of the first School Committee and had gained the honour of representing the many who had worked to get the school, by their energetic leadership, interest and hard work in establishing the school, even down to grubbing stumps and clearing the scrub from Everard Road itself. All the foundation Committee members had children enrolled on the opening day as the register shows among those enrolled on 7/7/24 Arthur, George and Jack Meyland, Fred Hodgkins, Pearl Klix, Nellie, Ernest and Jean Crooks, Jack, Adna and Alice Hann and Roma Perry.

On the 29th July, 1924, the School received its first visit from a Departmental Inspector, Mr. Henderson; he noted that a waterhole on the site was to receive a protective fence, and that the pupils had been examined at their former schools. Much voluntary work had been done by interested people. Everard Road had to be ploughed and formed by drawn grader, and this was operated by Chris Molloy, Charles Meyland and Arthur Blood.

Many pine trees and eucalypts were planted in the School grounds and these were taken from the Eastfield Road area. The grounds then had to be cleared of trees and scrub in preparation for a football and cricket area and later a basketball court was ploughed and levelled. This was carried out by Chris Molloy, Charles and Bill Meyland.

To raise funds for the 2 shelter sheds, dances were held at the school. The dynamic band, known as 'Sinclairs Band' consisted of Mrs. Sinclair, pianiste; George DePelsenaire; violinist; Bill DePelsenaire, drummer. Mrs. Lord and Mrs. Neal also spent many hours at the piano providing music on these occasions. The following men acted as M.C.'s for the dance evenings; Mr. P.Klix, Mr. A. Maggs and Mr. D.Clark, A flag pole was purchased and erected by Charles Meyland, and he later donated a piano which involved a days journey by wagon to Richmond.

In 1938, Inspector E.A. O'Brian reported that 'extra accommodation would add greatly to the comfort of the pupils and teachers'; 101 pupils were then taught in the 2 rooms, but it was not until 1950 that 2 aluminium classrooms and an office were erected in the school ground. These 4 rooms accommodated 215 pupils until in 1954, the L.T.C. unit of the school was commenced, and in stages was completed in 1964, giving 10 extra classrooms, a staff-room, 2 storerooms and an office. This now gave the School 14 classrooms which accommodated in 1966, 574 pupils, -



First Committee 1924



First Students 1924

Opening of the School 1924



the highest enrolment the school has had to date.

In 1968 a central library and a 15th Classroom were officially opened by Mr. Lindsay Thompson M.L.C., Minister for Education on 30th March, a day on which a severe drought broke in no uncertain manner and the official party, which also included Mr. Ryan, Assistant Director of Primary Education, had to step carefully around a bucket placed in the centre of the library floor to catch drops from a leaky roof.

In the interim, the School Committee had taken rigorous steps to increase the size of the 4 acre site, and in 1952, 8 lots comprising 1½ acres were added to the school ground abutting the south west boundary, and having a frontage to King Street. This additional land was purchased from Mr. N.J. Tannock of Box Hill.

In 1960 and subsequently in 1967, 2 co-operative societies were formed for the construction of the oval and the building of the library. At the formation of the first in 1960, Mr. R. Finger occupied the chair, the meeting was attended by Mr. J.Manson, M.L.A., and Mr. A. Winn was elected Secretary. Mrs. Burke was the first President of the Mothers' Club of the School, and the funds to build the Central Library were raised chiefly by the Mothers' Club's efforts. The School has had 3 municipal identities. In 1924 Ringwood East was in the Shire of Lilydale, then in the same year Ringwood became a borough and subsequently in 1960, a city.



Early Teachers



Present Teachers

State School 4180 was had 12 Principals:

Mr. W. Whittle	Mr. W. Kane
Mr. G. Hatfield	Mr. R. Gowan
Mr. J. Maher	Mr. E. Shallcross
Mr. F. Poyser	Mr. J. Hookey
Mr. J. Kennedy	Mr. H. Critchley
Mr. E. McLean	Mr. I. Loutit

In the 1960's Ringwood East School had featured prominently in sport, and one noteworthy achievement was the winning of the Metropolitan Girls Basketball Championship in 3 consecutive years; 1965, 1966 and 1967. The captains on these occasions being Janet Brown, Elizabeth Campbell and Rhonda Clarke. At that time no other Victorian School had attained this record.

The following Departmental Inspectors have reported the School's progress over its 50 years of history, these being:

Mr. Henderson,	Mr. Dew
Mr. Osborne	Mr. Green
Mr. O'Brien	Mr. Anchen
Mr. Elijah	Mr. Priclor
Mr. Fliegner	Mr. Franklin
Dr. Robinson	Mr. Cole
Mr. Romanes	Mr. Hopkins
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Phillips
Mr. Pruden	

In 1968 the original 2 roomed School was completely renovated by the Public Works Department, fluorescent lighting was installed and the 45 year old rooms are the best in the school. The School then consisted of 15 class-rooms and a central library, and was

connected to town sewerage, while the playgrounds had 2 well constructed playing ovals and 2 basketball courts. Enrolment had commenced to decline at the end of 1969, and stood at 520.

Now, in 1974 the School Committee and Mothers' Club are both very active bodies who add to the material welfare of the School. The major sources of income are Department Grants, Voluntary Contribution Scheme, Walkathon, Sausage Sizzles, Fetes, Book-Room and Uniform Committee.

Improvements include store shed for equipment and sports material, playground equipment for Junior School, enlargement of asphalt areas, maintenance of School grounds, purchase of teaching aids and equipment, library books, notice board. The Education Department improvements include fencing, supply of School sign, painting of school buildings, fluorescent lighting, installation of gas heating, major drainage.

On March 30th 1974, Mr. Brian Dixon, M.L.A., officially opened the new sports oval, most of the filling coming from the new Maroondah Hospital site.

The School now has as its Principal, Mr. I. Loutit, and 13 class teachers, and a librarian. The roll now stands at 448.

Thanks to School Committee, Mothers' Club, Principal and Staff, and Nature Notes.

50 YEARS

- 8 -

JUBILEE

NOTES & ADDRESSES

PROGRAMME

Saturday 2nd November.

- approx. 10.30am Enrolment of ex-students,
wellwishers.
General Get-to-gether.
Old photograph display.
- Mid-day Lunch at School.
- 2pm Welcome to ex-students
Opening of 50th year
Jubilee Celebrations
by Mr. E. T. Purser.*
- 3pm Decade assemblies-- Roll Call.
Decade photographs.
- 8pm Dinner Dance--R.A.E. Army Hall;
Dublin Rd.,
Ringwood East.

* Mr. E. T. Purser.

Ringwood Councillor 1940-1958.

Mayor of Ringwood 1943-44, 1951-2.

School Committee Member 1937-1943.

Chairman School Committee- 4 years.

Photograph Orders : Display or decade may be ordered
from registration rooms.

Cover by "Nature Notes".