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## RINGWOOD EAST

HISTORY OF STATE SCHOOL NO. 4180 RINGWOOD EAST

Written by J. Hookay.

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 Marcondah 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 told me, 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 <sup>Head Teacher</sup> (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) <sup>of two</sup> 2 classrooms and a cloak room or porch with wash basin at one end. To Arthur Moyland 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, told me 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 Klitz, Mr. Jack Mann, Mr. Charles Moyland and Mrs. Charles Crooks who were the members of the first School Committee (and had) <sup>gaining</sup> the honour of representing the many <sup>establish</sup> 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. <sup>A</sup> among those enrolled on 7/7/24 <sup>were</sup> Arthur, George and Jack Mayland, Fred Hodgkins, Pearl Kliz, Nellie, Ernest and Jean Crooks, Jack, Edna and Alice Hann and Roma Perry.

On the 29th July, 1924 the school received its first visit from <sup>D</sup> a departmental inspector, Mr. Henderson, <sup>who</sup> 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.

In 1938 Inspector E.A. O'Brien 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, 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. <sup>M</sup> minister for education <sup>J E</sup> (on 30th March,) <sup>A</sup> a day in which a severe drought broke in no uncertain manner and the official party, which also included Mr. Ryan <sup>A</sup> assistant <sup>D</sup> director <sup>P E</sup> 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) <sup>T S C</sup> the school committee had taken <sup>V</sup> vigorous steps to increase the size of the 4 acre site, and in 1952 <sup>eight</sup> 8 lots comprising  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres were added to the school <sup>P</sup> ground abutting the south west boundary and having a frontage to King Street. This additional land was purchased from Mr. N.J. Fannock of Box Hill.

In 1960 and subsequently in 1967 <sup>two</sup> 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. B. Finger occupied the chair, the meeting was attended by Mr. J. Manson M.L.A. and Mr. A. Wina was elected secretary. Mrs. Burke was the first <sup>P</sup> president of the Mothers <sup>C</sup> club of the school and the funds to build the central library were raised chiefly by the <sup>M C</sup> mothers' club's efforts. The school has had three municipal

<sup>B</sup> identities, built in 1924 Ringwood East was in the Shire of Lillydale, in the same year Ringwood became a borough and subsequently in 1960 a city.

State School 4180 has had <sup>97 Head Teachers</sup> 10 (principals) Mr. W. Whittle, Mr. G. Hatfield, Mr. J. Maher, Mr. F. Poyser, Mr. J. Kennedy, Mr. E. McClean, Mr. W. Kane, <sup>the present Principal (1969)</sup> Mr. R. Gowan, Mr. E. Shallcross and Mr. J. Hookay, and <sup>by</sup> the 13th October, 1969 when these records were put together 3259 pupils have been enrolled.

In the 1960's Ringwood East School ~~has~~ featured prominently in sport and one noteworthy achievement was the winning of the <sup>M</sup> metropolitan girls <sup>B</sup> basketball <sup>C</sup> championship in 3 consecutive years 1965, 1966 and 1967.

The captains on these occasions being Janet Brown, Elizabeth Campbell and Rhonda Clarke. To the <sup>end of 1969</sup> (present time) no other Victorian school <sup>had</sup> attained this record.

<sup>D</sup> [ The following departmental inspectors have reported the school's progress over its 45 years of history (these being):- Mr. Henderson, Mr. Dew, Mr. Osborne, Mr. Green, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Anchen, Mr. Elijah, Mr. Prieter, Mr. Fliagner, Mr. Frankling, Dr. Robinson, Mr. Cole, Mr. Romanes, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pruden. ]

In 1968 the original <sup>two-</sup> (2) roomed school was completely renovated by the Public Works <sup>D</sup> department, fluorescent lighting was installed and the 45 year old rooms are the best in the school. <sup>By 1969</sup> (Today) the school consists <sup>ed</sup> of 15 class-rooms and a central library and is connected to town <sup>was</sup> sewerage, while the playgrounds <sup>had two</sup> have 2 well-constructed playing ovals and two basketball courts. Enrolment <sup>(has)</sup> commenced to decline at the end of 1969 <sup>8</sup> when (this stands now at) 520 pupils were on the roll.