

Development of MaroonDAH High School Grounds.

The school was built on land that was an original grant of 20 acres to Anne Tally in 1879, surrounded by 20 acre allotments to Michael Duffy on the western boundary, Patrick Muldowney on the eastern, and W. Grant on the southern boundary. Anne Tally sold drapery from a covered wagon. Anne sold to William McCreve in 1885 (Ref. ①). The 20 acre property remained intact, and from 1938 Samuel Smith lived in a 5 roomed house on the property. The following owners were :- from 1944 - G & M Davies, from 1949 - Eltringhams from 1953 - Edna Jacobi, and George and Misa Kraus. The property was named "LONIAS". (Ref. ②)

In 1959 the acquisition of approx 15 acres of the original 20 acres, by the Education Dept took place for the building of Croydon West High School. The remaining 5 acres (approx) adjacent to MaroonDAH Hwy was used by the Wilhelmina Soccer Club for their junior soccer teams until the housing division took place 1971-2.

~~In 1965 the contract for the 1st stage of~~ IN 1959 the Education Dept also bought land from E L & N M Lloyd (John Grandfills original Crown grant) for the building of Croydon West Primary School, which was built in 1962.

In 1965 the contract for the 1st stage of Croydon West High School was let on 03/11/65, and the building of B, D and part of C wings were built in 1966. Earth filling was essential for levelling low areas, in particular orchard dams. The school was completed, and staff and students moved into the building on the 26.10.66. Some of the grounds were covered in crushed rock, the rest was left as it was.

In 1967 the track into the school from MaroonDAH Hwy was impassable in wet weather. Staff had to leave their cars parked near the Hwy and walk to the school — a change of shoes was certainly necessary. The school grounds were now asphalted, and some trees were planted along the boundary, and along the garden walls of B and C blocks.

(2)

~~removing the walls of the old school~~

The second stage of the buildings A wing, was commenced in 1968 and completed in April 1969. Extreme problems were encountered in the development of the playing fields, and extra funding was necessary. Drainage was a problem from the proposed oval area onto adjacent properties, as the oval was now raised much higher than the surrounding areas, by earthfilling from the widening of Mt Dandenong Road. Staff and students delightedly explored the swamp life.

In 1970 the access road from the Hwy, was partly gravelled. The school now had a grassed sports oval in 1971. Aspiration of the basket ball and tennis courts, took place, also the fencing, drainage and retaining walls were completed.

On 17.04.71 the official change of the name of Croydon West to Mavondah High School took place. On the 13.11.71 at the official opening of the school by the Governor of Victoria, Sir Robin Delacombe, his Excellency planted a Callithus (small native pine) in the lower car park embankment.

This was to symbolise the meaning of Mavondah - aboriginal word meaning "place of pines" (Native Pinacallithus). People out of work in the early seventies were employed to plant trees in the lower car park embankment, and another lawn. The school students also planted trees near the old septic area.

In 1974 the land owned by Mr Alfred Alfred Brentnall (originally 30 acre grant of Patrick (Bridgeway) founded by Mavondah High, Croydon West Primary and Hinesee Park was bought by Croydon Council for \$100,000 for the building of the Community Centre - funded 4 ways, M.H.S council, Ringwood Croydon Councils, Eas Dept. This building was not to get underway until tenders were called for in 1978, with work commencing in March 1979. In December the community centre was completed. Meanwhile tenders for the building of the library was let in 1977. and the library was built in 1978.

The official opening of the library was on the 03.05.79. Gardens around the walls of the library were planted by the students, also along B & C wings. Early plantings had to be removed to make way for new pipes and drains, as the school was on the sewerage system now.

In the seventies, the New Science Block and 2 Maths Rooms C7 & 8 were built onto the western end of 'C' block.

December 1979 saw the community centre ready for use. On Wednesday 27.2.1980 at 2.15 pm the community centre was officially opened by the Governor General - Sir Zelman Cohen. Planting of shrubs in the brick planter box and along the walls of the community centre was carried out by the students. In 1981 a major ground development was carried out in front of the library. The year 7 walkathon raised money for the paved area, seating and gardens. In term I Year 10 Graphics students drew up plans for the library court area. The year 10 students then assisted the contractor with the preparation of the area. Term II saw the completion of the paving and the planting of shrubs and trees by the students and the library staff. Yes, we had a light hearted official opening of B & C court, named after the Botany/Horticulture teacher (using timetable initials). The old wagon was an added interest to the area.

The garden development in the centre of B & C block was now planted by the students and this area won the school the "Keep Australia Beautiful Prize". Term III saw M.H.S awarded the District Prize and the Regional prize for Grounds and Gardens.

In 1982 the sports houses names were changed to Australian Plant names - Acacia, Banksia, Casuarina, Grevillea, Hakea, Melaleuca. Year 7 Walkathon once again raised money for the major grounds development at the end of D wing. Rocks, seating and gardens were put into place and another old pioneer wagon became a focal point. The area was planted.

by the students, using the names of the trees and shrubs of the sports houses e.g. Acacia. Tenders were let for the music centre. Term 1 of 1983 saw the completion of the music centre.

The official opening not only of the music centre, but of Pioneer Place by Mrs Ellie Pullen, President of the Ringwood Historical Research Group, was held in Pioneer Place.

The school won the Regional Prize for the Victorian State Garden Award for the 2nd time. At last, the top State Award for the school. On 25/11/1983, the Victorian State Garden Award was presented to Maroondah H.S. at the Fitzroy Gardens. Marita Ginty, Kylie Hemus, Mark Antonio and John O'Neill represented the school. Even the heavy rain could not dampen our spirits.

In 1984 a working B was held to prepare the garden and seating area on the southern side of the music centre. Students planted the area. Pavers were laid, and have since been extended along the western wall side between the portable and music centre. The LION PARK - This area has been fenced in for some time. Classes were held in a marquee, when a room shortage occurred in 1973, and no portables were available. The area then has always been called the lion park, so the 1983 H.S.C students decided to make it a reality. "Elsa" so named, who is really a lion, was presented to the school. "Elsa" is now surrounded by a garden and seating.

More shrubs and trees were planted around the school and in the garden of the Community centre in 1985. The school has won the Regional Award for the Victorian State Garden Award for the 3rd time. Two students, Vivienne Gardner and Julie Whatnall

accepted the prize at the Fitzroy Gardens in December. Further plantings were carried out in the grounds of the school and community centre in 1986. The school was asked to select 2 students to represent the Victorian State Secondary Schools, at the launching of the Victorian Garden Scheme, by Premier Cain at Rippowee on the 26.09.86.

Alison Gloane and Annette Williams represented the school.

Alison presented a posy of flowers to Mrs Cain.

28.11.86. At last, after waiting for 22 years, the road into the school was sealed. The art students painted the school badge, name, and other designs on the road. The official opening of BAENTNALL RD was carried out by ^{Cr Gordon Coultas on behalf of} the Mayor of Croydon,

Cr D. Martin. The official party included the Minister for Education (Hon T. Cuthrie), Kay Setches M.P. for Ringwood, Dr Robin Chapman - Regional Director.

Trees & shrubs were planted in the community centre lawn, with student help, gold spades, and the school orchestra.

1987 - A working B was held to repair school areas, clean up the grounds, and the making of extra seating and tables. Students planted trees and shrubs to screen off the pump house area near Cotts Ave.

1988 ~~Brought~~ brought the news of the administrative upgrade to the school after many years of waiting.

In 1989 the upgrade is well under way. The school is busy planning ahead for future development of the facilities, including the grounds, such as the year 12 area at the western end of 'C' block, student recreation areas eg North wall of 'A' wing, the placing of much needed seating, upgrading the LION PARK, and the planting of trees and shrubs around the boundaries.

The success of the development of the grounds has been due to hard work, and a commitment, not only at the many working B's, but at all times, by parents, friends, teachers, and most of all the students. The amount of interest, as well as the hard work and participation of the students, has been most rewarding.

EVA BUCHANAN