

WATTLE GLEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

No. 4060



75th ANNIVERSARY
1922 - 1997

*For the Eltham Historical Soc. Collection
in exchange for '1999 Chronology': 27/4/99*

**Eltham District
Historical Society**
Inc. A0016285F
P.O. Box 137, Eltham, Victoria 3095

GENERAL EARLY HISTORY OF WATTLE GLEN AND SURROUNDING AREA

The Diamond Valley, of which Wattle Glen is a part was the first area in Victoria in which gold was discovered. It was the first area to develop the fruit and chaff industry commercially and also an area well-known to some of Melbourne's early bushrangers.

Ref. Nillumbik Historical Newsletter, Vol. 2. No. 2.

In the early days Wattle Glen was known as Allwood (see map). The area was noted for its orchards and timber which supplied Melbourne's markets. There were also many mines and shafts scattered around the area.

The railway line was put through to Hurstbridge in 1910 (see photos). The line was built with local labour. The siding at Wattle Glen originally called "BALEE" was changed to "WATTLE GLEN" in 1922.



Building railway between Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge, 1910–1913.

In the 1860's the area east of Diamond Creek was a general common. Charges being 1/- per head of cattle per annum (10c). There were two main mustering yards.

1. Queenstown
2. Kangaroo Ground

The nearest main commercial centre was Heidelberg where people obtained their provisions and stores – the more fortunate owning a dray horse. A Court

of Law and Council operated from Heidelberg. The track down to Heidelberg was extremely hilly and rough.



Near Wattle Glen, 1910–1913.

There was a gold rush to the area in the 1860's and the two richest mines in the area were the 1st and 2nd Watery Gully Mines. At the same time there were hundreds of miners panning for gold in the creeks in the area and quite a large Chinese population.

The area is still surrounded with old shafts where miners tried their luck. Some yielded up to 2oz. per pan.

GOLD MINING

Quartz Mining was carried on by the Union and Diamond Creek Mines from July 1907 to June 1914. This yielded 29,833oz. from 23,163 vans.

Dividends £12,250.

The mine continued to work until 1951 when the plant was destroyed by fire with a further 652oz. of gold being obtained.

Rel. Letter, Government Geologist, Melbourne, August 1951.



Gold mine in Diamond Valley area.

4060 WATTLE GLEN

One of the earliest pioneers of the area was the late Mr. E. Jones.

Rel. Photos – Panning Gold, Golden Gully Orchard.

He was the first man to select and plant an orchard in the area. A number of miners living on Miner's Rights grants followed and planted orchards in the district. The area was very suited to fruit growing and there are still third generation orchardists in the area. e.g. J. Smith, Hurstbridge



Albert Jones' property – Golden Glen 1906.

The fruit from the area was noted for its quality and supplied the markets in Melbourne.

The late Mr. A. E. Herbert, an orchardist in the area, took most of the first prizes at the Royal Melbourne Show and was later a well-known judge and authority on fruit growing.

The district won a Commemorative Medal at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

There were two cider plants in the area which used up the surplus apple production.



Albert and Arthur Jones – Panning for gold, Wattle Glen.



Fishing in Diamond Creek near Wattle Glen (Jones brothers).

Mr. Wilson, the owner of the Tivoli Theatre in early Melbourne built a large cool store and drying plant at Hurstbridge at a cost of £10,000 in 1915. This was later removed to Ringwood.

In 1916 a second privately owned cool store was built by the late T. Clarke (now a private dwelling).

About the same time the Government built a cool store on a co-operative basis and became the property of the local shareholders.

1900's

Families were large at this time (6 to 12 children approximately). Most families reared their children and lived on 25/- a week approximately.

When the school was situated at Upper Diamond Creek most children had about 3 miles to walk to school. After school children helped in the orchards or chopped wood to sell. Lads on leaving school earned 5/- a week approximately.

The first houses in the area were built with local timber (saplings joined with mud and bark). A camp oven was used for cooking.

A load of wood brought 11d per cut – sometimes as low as 6d. When farmers lost a crop though heavy frosts or thrip they turned to wood clearing, growing tomatoes or gold fossicking. People often exchanged goods for labour or bartered produce. Bush clearing (trees and stumps) £2 per acre. The men used stump jacks and pick and shovel. Splitting posts 50/- per 100.

Rel. Notes from Mr. Sly (early pioneer farmer).

RECREATION

There was a Community Hall at Hurstbridge where dances and concerts were held. These functions were the social highlights of the local community.

A large tea room at Hurstbridge, near the station, was very popular with locals and visitors to the area.

Wattle Glen was noted for its golden wattle and two special trains ran from Melbourne to Wattle Glen during the wattle season.

A private picnic ground was established in 1928 and is still a popular picnic ground. This was the site of many Sunday School picnics in the early days.

A Rifle Club was formed in 1922.

A Tennis Club was formed in 1929.

The first church (all denominations) was built in 1925 with voluntary local labour. Land was donated by E. E. Pepper when he sub-divided the Sunny Side Estate (see photo copy).

A Post Office was established in 1920. The first Post Mistress was Mrs. Laura Yates.

A Store was established in 1921. This was operated by E. Kennan for 25 years.

Ranger and Dog Collector, Mr. Yates.

Doctors. In the early days the nearest doctors were at Heidelberg. Later a small hospital operated at Diamond Creek by Drs. Helwig and Phipps.

OPENING SCHOOL BUILDINGS

WATTLE GLEN STATE SCHOOL 1922

The new school building at Wattle Glen (formerly known as Balee) was opened by Mr. W. H. Everard, M.L.A. on Friday morning last, and he was accompanied by Mr. J. T. Saxton, Inspector of the Metropolitan Area No. 4. The morning was beautifully fine, the building well filled with parents and scholars, and the proceedings opened with the National Anthem.

Ex-Cr. R. J. Lorimer (chairman of the school committee) apologised for the absence of Miss Rigby, head teacher, who was absent through illness, but expected to be in attendance next week. In introducing Mr. Everard, the chairman said they owed him a debt of gratitude, as he had courteously and energetically kept the matter before the Minister from the time he was approached three years ago. The people are pleased with the building, and he felt sure the department would not have any cause to regret building the school. A post office and store had been established, there were many inquiries for land, and in two years hence there will be a marked improvement in the district.



Mr. Everard said it was a pleasure to attend such a fine little school, but he was sorry Miss Rigby was not present. They all know of the splendid work she did while in charge of the school at Research. He had also to apologise for the

absence of Sir Alex. Peacock (Minister of Education). The building, beautifully situated on the hill, is 40 feet x 16 feet, with porch and cloak room in addition, will accommodate 32 children, and at present there are 23 on the roll. There are two acres of land around the school. He paid a compliment to Mr. Jones (the correspondent) and Mr. Lorimer (the chairman) for their efforts in getting the school. He was pleased to have with him his old schoolmate (Mr. Saxton, the inspector). He impressed on the children that the school was for duty – for themselves, for those at home, for the teacher, and the flag that flies outside the building. He wanted the children to be proud of their school, and when the day comes for a “Back to Wattle Glen” they would remember the opening that day. He congratulated the mothers and residents in making a forward step, and hoped the school would achieve fame. He had much pleasure in declaring it opened. (Applause).

Mr. Saxton (the inspector) referred to Mr. Everard as being a live wire in regard to education and he gives a personal touch to every forward movement in the district. Referring to Miss Rigby, the inspector said she was one of the best teachers in the district, and she had proved it off her own bat at Research. More latitude is being given children than in olden times, and parents can help by going to the school occasionally and helping to make the children happy. Artists and others have gone from small schools, and one of the Collins Street doctors was driving bullocks in Gippsland at the age of 15. At that age he asked for extra tuition, went to London, and returned as a doctor. The inspector congratulated all on the auspicious opening on that bright and happy day. (Applause).

Mr. Keenan proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Everard and Mr. Saxton for attending and delighting the children and parents, and said how everything appears to be in their favour.

Mr. Everard, in returning thanks congratulated Mr. Saxton on being head of the recent display and chief of staff at the M.C.C. and upon being made chairman of all the inspectors for Australia. He also called for three cheers for the ladies who supplied the dainty repast that morning.

A number of trees were then planted in the school ground, and these were given by Mr. W. G. Gray, of Hurstbridge.

Ref. "Advertiser", October 27, 1922.

FOR PRIVATE SALE

SUNNYSIDE ESTATE WATTLE GLEN

By Order of the Owner, Mr. E. E. PEPPER

85 TOWNSHIP AND WEEK-END BLOCKS

LOVELY BUILDING POSITIONS
VALUABLE MAIN ROAD FRONTAGES
POTENTIAL BUSINESS SITES

EASY TERMS

£5 Per Lot
DEPOSIT **20/** MONTHLY

Residue at End of 4 Years; Interest 8%. Payable Quarterly.

TITLE CERTIFICATE

Solicitors:—Messrs. Hall and Wilcox,
20 Queen Street, Melbourne. Phone: Cent. 2938.

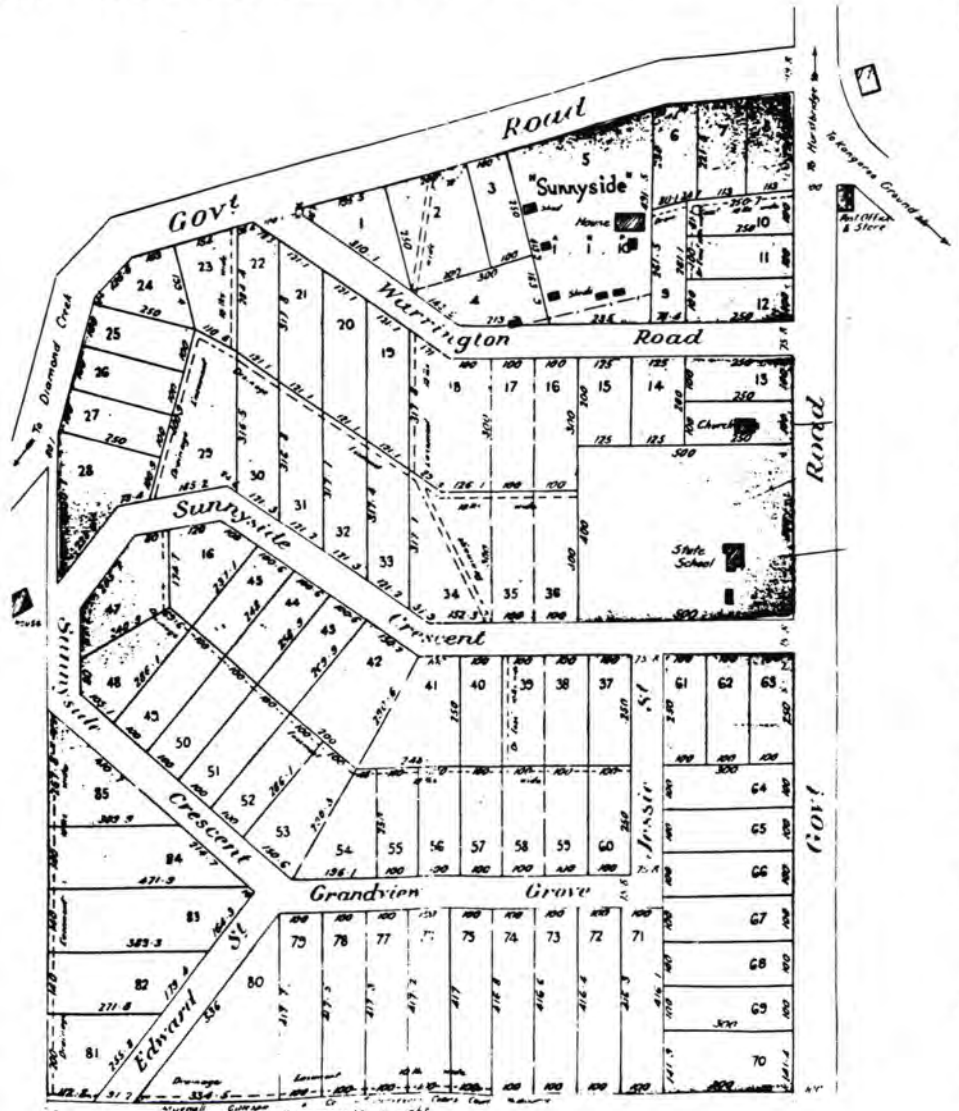


SUNNYSIDE ESTATE is the nearest Land to the Railway Station suitable for Township Development. State School and Church already on the Estate. Store and Post Office adjoining. Lot 8 is a Most Valuable Corner Business Position. Establish a Business on this Corner, it should pay immediately. Lots 6 and 7 are Potential Shop Sites. **BUY A MAIN ROAD BLOCK NOW, it will grow into big money.**

CONTROLLING AGENTS

COGHILL and HAUGHTON

79 SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE
Heidelberg and Canterbury.
Phone: Cent. 2793. Heidelberg 34. Canterbury 59



WATTLE GLEN 4060

The initial application for establishing a school was in the form of a petition forwarded in June 1919 through W. H. Everard, M.L.A. *Rel. Photocopy*. In the accompanying letter Correspondent R. J. Lorimer suggested a suitable site and listed the names of 32 prospective pupils. *Rel. Photocopy*.

All but one resident favoured the removal of 2059 Upper Diamond Creek School and residence to the proposed site offered by E. E. Pepper.

Those interested parents met with Mr. Larnach (an officer in Department) on 15th August, 1919. Those present: Messrs. Lorimer, Harrison, Pepper, Bassett, Bliss, Qualtrough (2), Burton, Jones (2), Mills, Clarke, Sly, Crawthers and Mesdames Mahoney, Cameron, Bassett, Pepper, Crawthers and Stanborough.

Reporting on the meeting Mr. Larnach stated, "there are 15 names on the roll of 2059 Upper Diamond Creek and parents of fourteen of them are applicants for the removal. *Rel. Photocopy*. The parent who did not sign the petition is Mr. Sheean and his child only had $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to walk to Upper Diamond Creek. There are also 17 children in the locality, some of whom attend Diamond Creek or Kangaroo Ground at distances of 2 miles and upwards. The site submitted by the parents is suitable and central. The school at Upper Diamond Creek is a wooden building which will accommodate 57 pupils. There are four rooms attached. Building is in good condition and was remodelled 3 years ago."

No further progress was made until June 1920. Mr. Everard urged the Department to expedite the removal of the building. Eventually in 1921, Mr. Everard was informed that the matter would be put before the Minister as the estimate came to hand. Approval for the expenditure of £260 was given by the Minister on 11th February, 1921. (Transfer of land purchased from E. E. Pepper for £60 was completed in May 1921. *Rel. Photocopy*.)

Apparently the Minister the Hon. Sir Alexander Peacock (together with Mr. Everard) visited the site on 11th May, 1921 promising to arrange for tenders for removal of the building. Later that year in December Mr. Everard was informed that "the Hon. the Minister has now approved acceptance of the work." In May 1922 removal was completed by J. Pullen whose tender £313-11-6 had been accepted.

S. S. Balee as it was then known was ready for re-opening in May 1922 according to Elizabeth Rigby (of S. S. Research 2959) who was to take charge.

The Department was duly notified of the fact on the 24th May. However, as the chimney was not erected, opening was delayed. Although the building was finally ready for occupation on June 8 it was not opened until August 4 when H. T. Rigby was relieved from her position at Research. The official opening was on 20th October, 1922.

Removal of upper ~~part~~ ^{part} of Ch. 1059 to Brice Ct. (2)
Application for Establishment of a State School

AT Brice Railway Station.
[Name of Parish, Riding (if any) and of Shire should be stated.]

NAMES OF CHILDREN who would attend the Proposed School, if established, with other information as required below.

Name of Child.	Distance of Residence from Proposed Site.	Distance of Residence from Nearest Existing School.	Full Description of Proposed Site and of Building (if any).
L. La. B. Heston	3 Quarter Mile.	2 1/4 miles	We can serve a block of lands, near a elevated, near to the Brice Station at the junction of the main road situated about 2 1/2 miles from the bridge, Diamond Street & 1/2 way up ground school.
Gene Peers	1 mile	3 miles	
John Hoffman	1 1/4 mile.	2	
Arthur Burton	1 1/4 mile.	2	
Emma Burton	1 1/4 mile.	2	
Ivy Burton	1 1/4 mile.	2	
Robert Mc Kee	1 1/4 "	1 1/2	
Donna Mc Kee	1 1/4 "	1 1/2	
Kellie Mc Millan	1 1/4 "	1	
Ernest Mc Millan	1 1/4 "	1	
Arthur Staley	1 1/4 "	1	
Arthur Foggy	1 1/4 "	1	
Hellie Wale	1 "	1 1/4	
Arthur Wale	1 "	1 1/4	
Howard Pepper	200 yards	2 1/4	
Ernest Pepper	"	2 1/4	
Yannis Pepper	"	2 1/4	
Howard Pepper	"	2 1/4	
Jessie Pepper	"	2 1/4	
Ivan Pepper	"	2 1/4	
David Pepper	"	2 1/4	
Thandie Staley	3/4 Mile.	2 1/2	
Violet Staley	"	2 1/2	
Leslie Jones	"	2 1/2	
Kenneth Jones	"	2 1/2	
Fionica Hatch	1 1/4 "	2	
Phyllis Hatch	1 1/4 "	2	
Charles Bush	1 "	2	
Godrick Bassett	1 "	2	
Miriam Bassett	1 "	2	
Glady's Qualtrough	1/4 "	2 1/2	

The proposed School would be situated in the Parish of Hullumbilly in the Greenborough Riding of the Shire of Heldberg
 Signed R. J. Louisa
Diamond Street

List of children who would attend the school, June 1919.

Balee

June 23 1919

To the Minister of Education
Dear Sir

We the undersigned desire to place before you this petition and hope it will find favour with you, to grant us a school in close proximity to Balee station, on the Sunnyside line, which will make it both central & convenient for the children of this neighbourhood. A site for the school can be secured close to the station which has a junction with three main roads & be situate about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from other schools. There are at the present time 32 children prepared to attend with others in the near future.

We respectfully solicit your earnest consideration in the matter.

Attached are signatures in favour of above, also of children & their respective ages.

Petition submitted by the residents of Upper Diamond Creek for the establishment of a school, June 1919.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Melbourne 18th May 1921

Sir,

re S.S. No (Misc. Appn) *Balee*

I have to inform you that the transfer of certain land at *Balee* to the Minister of Education

has been registered.

The name of the Vendor is *Edward Ernest Pepper*

the amount of purchase money was £60

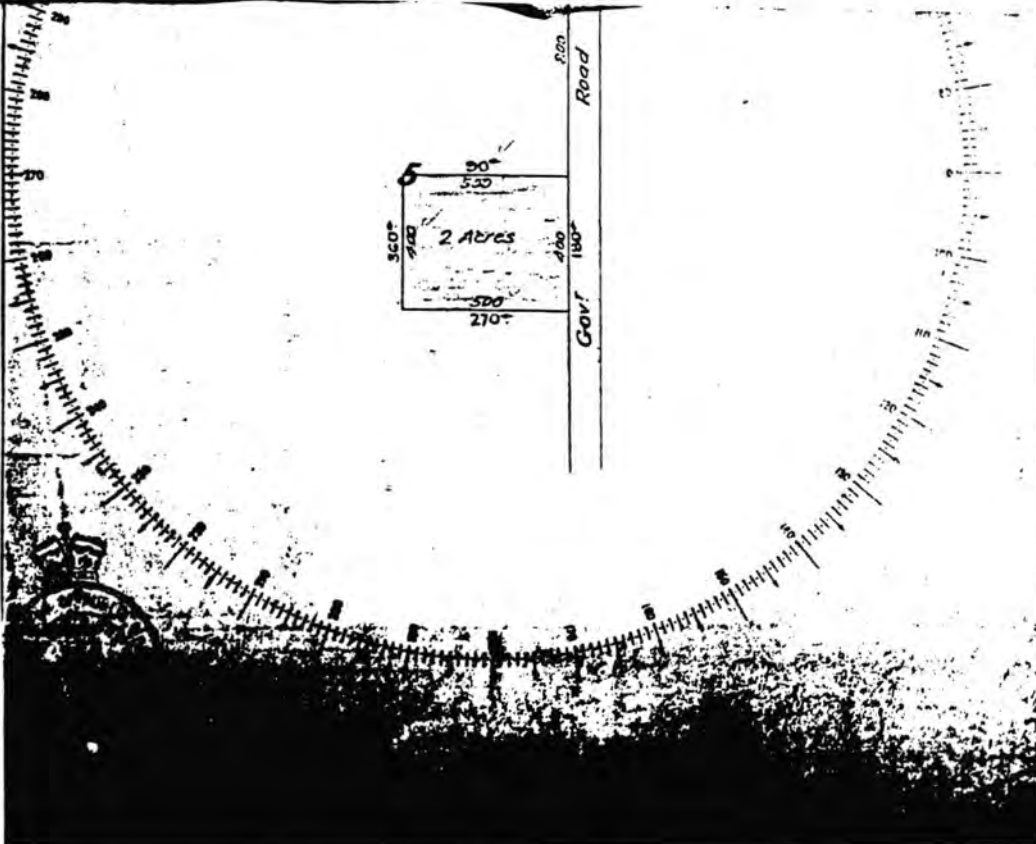
Tracing enclosed, showing by plan color the land transferred



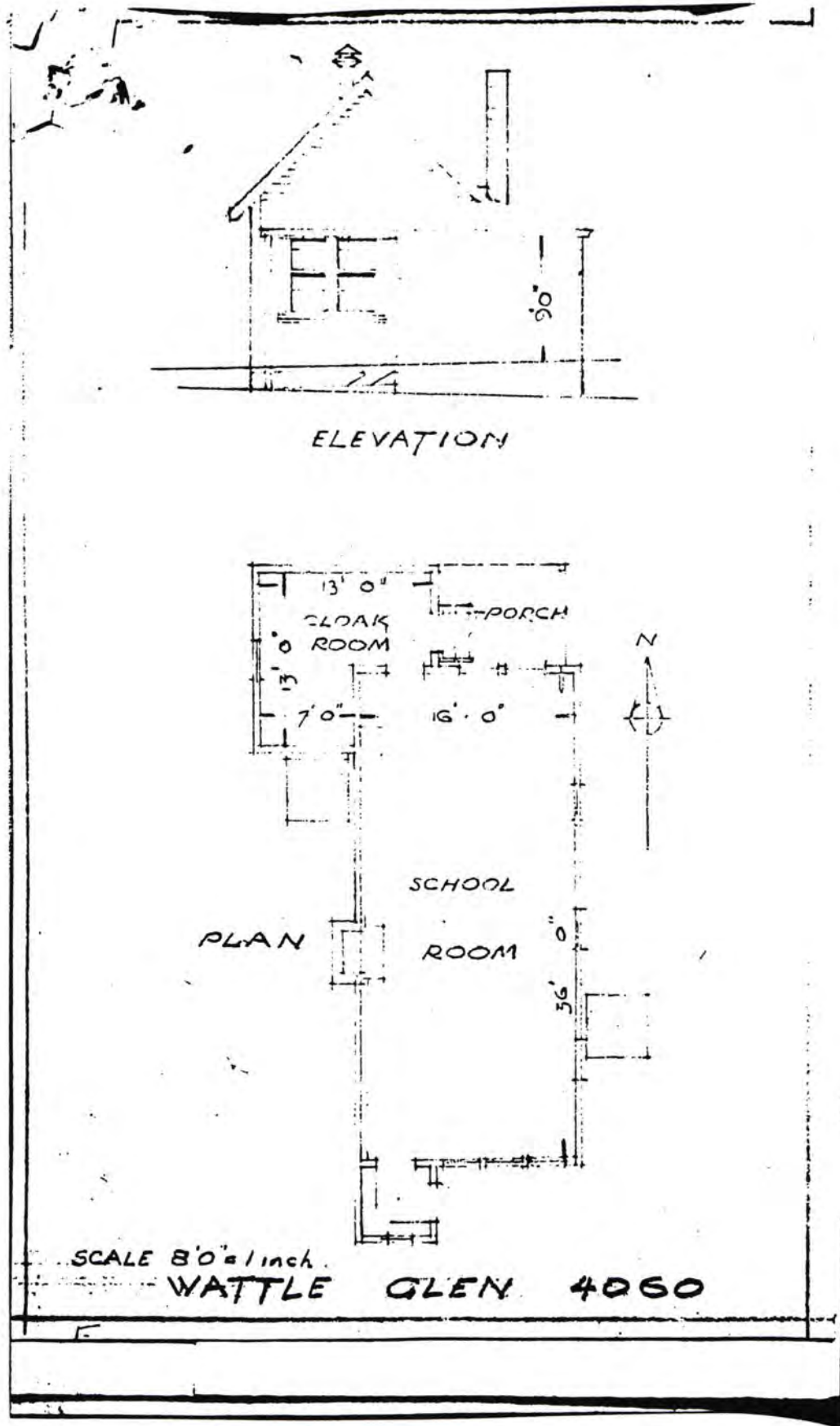
Yours obediently

W. C. ...
Secretary

The Secretary
Education Department
Melbourne



Memo re transfer of land and plan of site, May 1921.



School and block plans.

In accordance with the local Railway Station and the Post Office the school's name was changed to Wattle Glen in November 1922.

Having raised £10 locally (for labour) the Committee requested financial assistance from the Department to erect a shelter shed for £30. *See Photocopy of Plan.* At the same time correspondent Mrs. M. Jones asked for a lightening conductor to be provided; a number of trees had been struck during storms. A subsidy for the shelter shed was granted but the lightening conductor was considered unnecessary.

In March 1930, the Committee requested the supply of a new tank. Inspector of Works, W. H. Williams considered the school well supplied with water – 2,600 gallon tanks. In his opinion the low attendance (14) did not warrant the supply of a new one.

The first major renovation to the school suggested by the Committee in 1931 was effected in 1933. Mr. W. H. Everard was instrumented in expediting the proceedings as the Committee had appealed to him for assistance in August 1932.

In 1935 H. T. Louis Jacobi reported that “the school was broken into on 9th November, 1935, several things taken” The offender was apprehended and taken to Court on 19th November.

Correspondent A. Keenan wrote in December 1937 that “the school needs attention, the foundation blocks need attention and the inside needs painting fifteen years since it had been done.” On inspection of the school in 1938 Inspector Elijah concurred with the above. The average attendance for September 1938 was 26. The work was carried out in late 1939 and completed in January 1940.

By 1944 according to Inspector Caldwell's annual report, the average attendance had dropped to 12. In August 1946 Inspector Le Couteur found that the average attendance had increased to 16.

Further repairs were necessary by 1947, (average attendance 24) as Correspondent J. W. Graham pointed out “. one wall of the school building is caving in owing to the sinking foundations of the chimney There is no water available one bank completely rotted through; the other is empty the shelter shed has no seating.”

By 1949, all the above had been corrected during major renovations which included reblocking.

Two years later, increases in the local population rendered accommodation of the school insufficient. The Committee felt that some action towards provisional of additional rooms was of great importance. Net attendance for February was 56 and expected to rise to 60 by July. The 30' x 16' schoolroom intended to accommodate 48 proved inadequate. *Rel. Photocopy.*

Proposed erection of the new school building on a site was under review. The option suggested by Correspondent A. Keenan on behalf of the Committee, it was promised, would be considered pending the outcome of consultation between the Head Teacher and the District Inspector.

In the meantime H. T. C. Cummins forwarded a request for agricultural pipes to be provided. Built on a hilly site there was little provision for physical activities. The pipes to be used for a newly levelled hill intended for a basketball court and a level place for sports.

Additional land (*see Photocopy*) was being purchased in March 1952. The site improvement plan, estimated to cost £520 envisaged the construction of a terraced area of approximately 1,000 square yards. Approval for the above was given, but in answering enquiries made by Mr. Ireland, M.L.A. in May 1952 the Department claimed it was unable to specify a commencement date as the financial situation was uncertain.

In order to provide adequate arrangements for projection of films, black out shields were requested by H. T. Cummins in July 1952. Also in the same year, extra sanitary conveniences were provided and a maypole installed.

In a letter to the Department dated 14th September, 1952, Correspondent J. North stated, "As the extra land has finally been purchased, some thought ought to be given to a site and erection of a residence for the H.T. This district is rapidly expanding and in order to attract the most suitable teachers, a residence is an essential feature."

On compiling his annual building report on November 1952, District Inspector J. Lyall apparently included a special report on accommodation. In reply to his suggestion, a letter from him, the Department replied as follows:

"Regarding the need for additional classroom accommodation at Wattle Glen S. S. we have to inform you that the P.W.D. is being consulted in regard to your suggestion that the Eltham North S. S. Be removed to Wattle Glen as soon as the new pre-fabricated building is ready for occupation. Further correspondence received from Inspector Lyall in December 1952 emphasised the need for a speedy solution to the problem. Net attendance is now 56. Next year 58+. There are two teachers who have to teach in one crowded room I recommend further that if removal of the Eltham North S. S. is not practicable, a pre-fab room or on-site additions be provided. *See Photocopy.*

A letter written by E. L. Morrissey, M.L.A. on behalf of the Committee in June 1953 also made reference to the acute problem of accommodation. *Rel. Photocopy.* In a letter of reply dated 6th July, 1953 (pupils and teachers residence). The Minister, A. E. Shepherd assured Mr. Morrissey that a state wide survey was proposed to ascertain the needs of teachers, included in such a survey would be the Wattle Glen School. At the same time the following instructions were issued to the R.W.D.

Since 1950 the enrolment at this school has increased from 30 to 63 and a further increase is expected during the next 3 years. It is proposed to provide an additional classroom to this school.

In view of the rapid development at this school, it is suggested that a further inspection of the site be made and any work considered to be of an urgent nature be carried out."

However, the old Eltham North School building was unavailable for removal to Wattle Glen. The P.W.D. furnished an estimate of the cost:

- a. A standard sized classroom.
- b. A 20' x 20' classroom in light timber construction.

The net enrolment in November 1953 was 58, Staff 1 Head Teacher, plus Assistant. Construction of a new pre-fab building began in June 1954 by which time the net enrolment was 64. The new classroom was occupied on 1st February, 1955 by 28 pupils of Grades 1 and 2. *See Photocopy.*

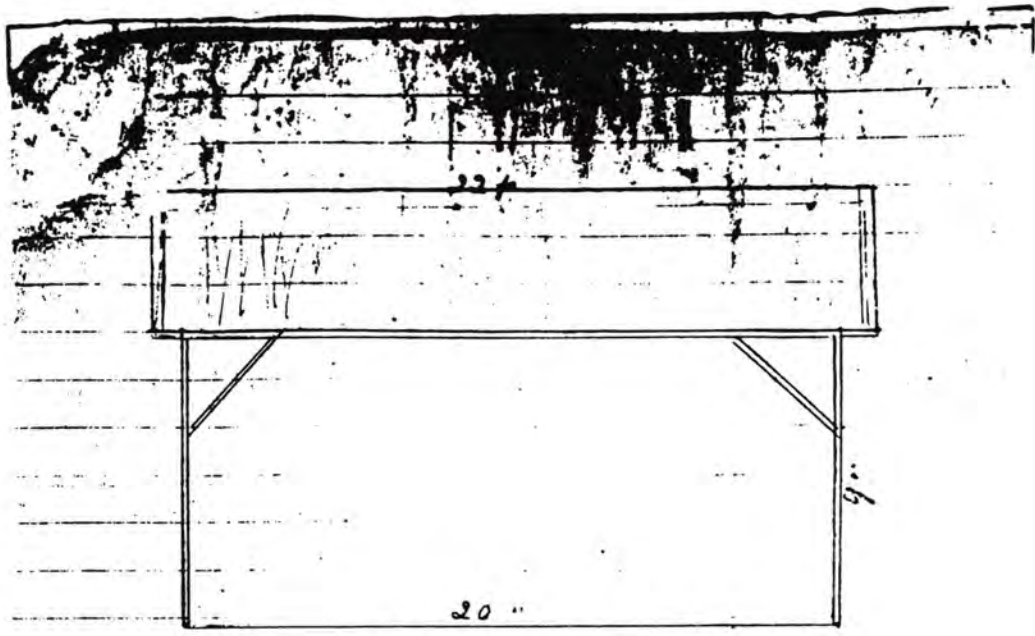
As requested by H. T. Haines in August 1955 wiring of the school for electricity was completed in August 1956. Tender £130.00 submitted by W. S. Heard accepted in July.

On 2nd October, 1956 fire destroyed the old building and damaged parts of the new structure. *Ref. Photocopy.* D. I. Krieger visited to assess damage and organise temporary accommodation.

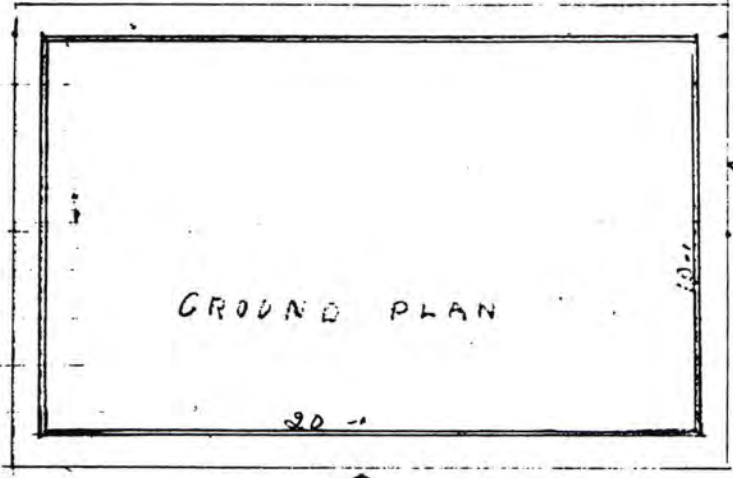
He praised Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge C.F.B. for their efforts "without their help, we could not have saved any part of the building"

The children were accommodated in Methodist Church Hall. Rental £1-10 per week.

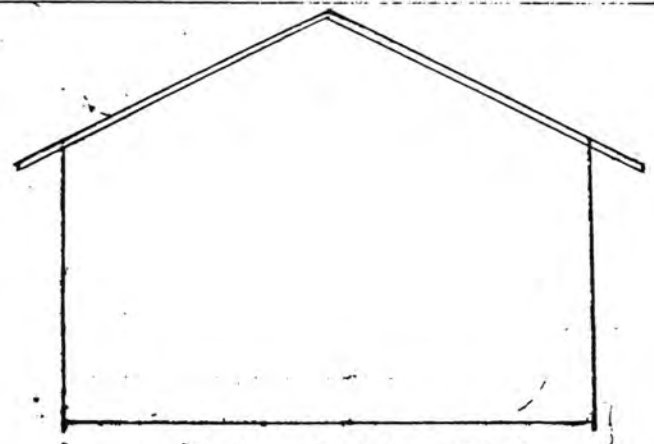
Rel. Notes supplied from History Section of Education Department.



FRONT ELEVATION



GROUND PLAN



END ELEVATION

Plan of shelter shed.



JG

PARLIAMENT HOUSE,
MELBOURNE. C.1.

30th June, 1953.

The Hon. A. E. Shepherd, M.L.A.,
Minister of Education,
Public Offices,
MELBOURNE, C. 2.

Dear Mr. Minister,

Representations have been made to me by the Committee of the Wattle Glen School, relative to problems which exist at that school.

There is need at this school for additional accommodation as there are now 63 children attending and there is only one class room. It is possible in another 3 years to have more than 80 children attending which would necessitate 3 teachers. This would present enormous problems in one class room.

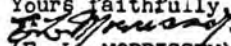
Mr. Lyall inspected this school in December last and recommended additional accommodation and this was verified by Mr. Hunt some two months later, and he drew up the plan of location for the new room.

Children are actually to be refused admittance to this school in July.

There is also the problem of levelling the playing area. The children have less than 300 sq. ft of flat area to play in and the Committee are anxious to know if something can be done in this direction.

The problem of a teacher's residence also exists. Mr. Haines is to be commended on a magnificent job under great difficulties. He works long hours at this school to keep faith with children and parents. He travels daily from Montmorency and back, and this adds further to his difficulties.

Trusting you will give favourable consideration to this problem and early reply to same.

Yours faithfully,

(E. L. MORRISSEY)

Letter of E. L. Morrissey, M.L.A. urging that some measures be taken to solve the problem of accommodation, June 1953.

(This space is for Office use only)

No. of School 4060
Name of School Wattle Glen

NOTES.—This form is to be used for official letters from all types of schools.
A head teacher, when writing in reference to a teacher on his staff, should state the record number (immediately after the name) of such teacher.
Communications respecting different subjects must be made on separate sheets of paper.
All letters posted on the same date must be placed in the one envelope.

Name and Office of Writer A. Keenan, Headmaster
Subject-matter of this letter Creation of new school on a new site.

Record No. (if a teacher)

Date and Reference Symbols of Department's last letter (if any) on this subject

Date 16 June 1950
Reference Symbol EGF 25W

Date of Writer's letter (if any) on this subject 12 June 1950

(For Office use only)

in letter as per copy

Copy to [unclear]

Postal Address of School (in full) Wattle Glen

2, 2, 1951

SIR,

I have been instructed by our Committee to study your proposals for school accommodation.

Your previous correspondence on this subject shows that you wish the provision of additional school accommodation to be placed in the present premises. However, your plan for this is the provision of a new school as you understand it; and, possibly, your wish will be to build a new school on the site.

- (a) Needs of the school at present and future.
- (b) Verbal information from the Public Works Inspector that he intended to recommend that no further additions be made to the present premises.

The Secretary,
Education Department,
Melbourne C2

Correspondent A. Keenan's letter urging some action be taken towards improving accommodation.

List of Children attending S.S. 2059.

Name	Distance from 2059	Direction	Nearest School	Distance (miles)
Crayford Marie	1 1/2	East.	Hurstbridge	2 1/2
Crayford Lena	1 1/2	East.	Hurstbridge	2 1/2
Burton Doug (boy)	1 1/4	East.	Villambik.	2 1/2
Burton Emma	1 1/4	East.	Villambik.	2 1/2
Burton Arthur	1 1/4	East.	Villambik.	2 1/2
3 Haley Arthur	1	S. East.	Hurstbridge.	1
2 Haley Maude	1	S. East.	Villambik.	2
6 Foggie Arthur	1 1/2	South.	Hurstbridge	1
4 Hoffman John	1 1/4	East.	Hurstbridge	2 1/2
4 Sheehan John	3/4	West.	Hurstbridge	1
4 Mahony Lila	1	South.	Villambik.	2
7 McKee Doris	1/2	East.	Hurstbridge	1 1/2
A McKee Herbert	1/2	East.	Hurstbridge	1 1/2
11 Wale Arthur	1/4	South.	Hurstbridge	1
4 Mc Millan Ernest	1 1/2 (1 1/4)	North (S)	Hurstbridge	1/2 (2)
7 Mc Millan Willie	1 1/2 (1 1/4)	North (S)	Hurstbridge	1/2 (2)

J. T. R. Woodson
11/8/19. N.J.

List of children attending S. S. 2059 Upper Diamond Creek, August 1919.

(This space is for Office use only)

No. or Type of School 4060

Name of School WATTLE GLEN



NOTE: This form is to be used by District Inspectors of Schools for all official letters. Communications respecting different subjects should be made on separate sheets of paper. All letters posted on the same date should be placed in the one envelope.

From John R. Lyall District Inspector of Schools

Subject-matter of this letter need for additional class-room accommodation

Date 21 Dec 1952 Reference Symbol W 1270-1

(For Office use only)

Post Address 34 Hopetoun Grove Ivanhoe Vic. 31
Date of letter 21 December 1952

*9
G 1270
1272*

Net attendance at the above school is now 56. Next year it will be 50 or higher.

The school building is approx. 16 ft. by 36 ft. Official accommodation is estimated at 47. There are two teachers who have to teach in the one crowded room.

I recommend that a report be obtained from the P.W.D. as to the possibility of removing to the site the building at School No. 4212 Eltham North, which next year will be vacant when the new school of two prefabricated rooms is erected on the new site.

I recommend further that if removal of the Eltham North room is not practicable a prefabricated room or on site additions be made at Wattle Glen.

Yours faithfully,



2 *with care*

3 *to see*

4 *closed on t.c.*

9.11.52
9.9.54

REQUISITION

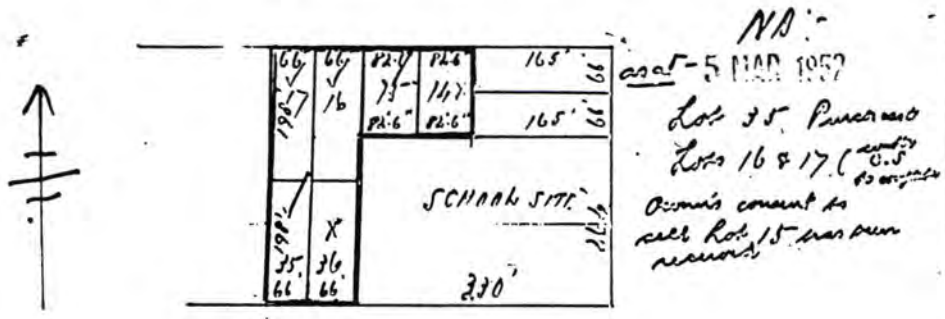
RECOMMENDED
The Secretary,
Education Department,
Melbourne, C.2.

District Inspector J. Lyall's report, December 1952.

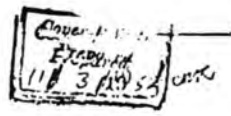
School No. 4060 Dated - 5 MAR 1952
 WATTLE GLEN Registered 1951
 1951 /

Land file checked

additional land Lots 14, 15, 16, 17
 35 & 36 on P/S. N° 15637 being part
 of Crown Portion 5 Parish of Melbourne
 as being purchased.



P. W. L. (P.P)



Ref. O.M. 39910, site improvement works, please
 note that the 6 blocks of ~~land~~ ^{land} bordered
 by red on the attached sketch plan are
 being purchased for the purpose of extending
 the school site at Wattle Glen.
 It is noted that the approved site improvement
 plan submitted to cost of £520 envisages the
 construction of a fenced area of approx 1000
 sq. yds.

Please advise whether the addition of the land
 contained in Lots 14-17 and 35-36 will cause
 any alteration to the hearing proposal and
 if necessary please advise what

Plan showing additional land purchased in 1952.



PARENTS PROTEST FOR NEW CLASSROOM

In 1969 the children from two grades were accommodated in the Methodist Church taking chairs, books, etc., with them.

As more families moved to the area and numbers increased the school was "bursting" at the seams".

As a final protest the parents removed their children from the school and petitioned their local member to get a new room from the Education Department keeping their children at home until some action was taken.

Soon after a tender was accepted by the Public Works Department to build a new classroom. Cost \$6,329.

During this time away from school the children had lessons in the homes of local parents.

REPORT OF THE WATTLE GLEN PRIMARY SCHOOL TREE PLANTING AND BACK-TO-SCHOOL FUNCTION HELD ON

Saturday, 19th April, 1975 at the School Grounds is as follows:

Following suggestions from Diamond Valley Shire President, Mr. A. Goldsworthy and some teachers, a meeting was held on 25th February to discuss replacing trees which had been removed from the school grounds in the course of enlarging and improving playing fields. From that meeting a planning committee was formed to trace old scholars and plan the days activities and raise the necessary funds to run the function. This committee comprised – Mesdames Billie Wiseman, treasurer, Marj. Mendelson, Shirley Lewis, Janet Jordan, Muriel Gallacher, Joan Sly, Margaret Smith and Joyce Atkinson. Fund raising efforts were – a very successful cake stall, a raffle, (the prizes for which were donated by Margaret Smith as a result of a tupperware party) and a trash and treasure stall at St. Andrews market. As well as this quite a number of donations in cash were received, the whole amount totalling as stated in the treasurers report \$386.86.

The day commenced with people arriving at the school around 11.30. Many brought picnic lunch and spent the time looking at old photographs and renewing friendships. Most were amazed at the change in the surroundings generally. At 2.30 p.m. Mr. Anderson (Head Teacher) welcomed the visitors to his school and introduced Mr. R.M. Vale, the State Member for Diamond Valley, who gave an address on the values of education and the place in our lives for loyalty to our old school and district and the part the Government is hoping the new style of community use of school grounds will play in the future. Mr. Kirkbride, on behalf of the School Committee thanked Mr. Vale for attending.

Mr. Anderson presented bouquets of flowers to Mrs. Vale and Mrs. Blanche Shallard, the daughter of Mr. W.H. Everard, the Member of Parliament who originally opened the school. He thanked those who had taken part in planning proceedings and called for members of families of the original School Committee to plant a tree in honour of that Committee.

Trees were then planted by Mr. Vale, Mrs. Shallard, Mr. Ted Pepper, Mrs. Elsie Graham (nee Lorimer), Mrs. Edna Jones (nee Jones) and Mrs. Hanna who represented the original Mothers' Club. In all, 40 trees were planted.

Afternoon tea was then served and the ladies who worked in that capacity at lunch and afternoon tea estimate the number of visitors ranged between 350 and 400 people over the whole day. We have over 140 signatures in the visitors book including 4 past Head Masters. Several people travelled long distances to be with us, some we know of were Morwell, Foster, Kyabram, Mt. Beauty, Euroa, Benalla and Wangaratta. Mr. & Mrs. Hanna came from Southport in Queensland especially for the occasion. These things seemed to make the work worthwhile.

The Committee had souvenir drinking glasses produced with a spray of wattle on one side and a souvenir stamp on the other and they looked most attractive. 240 of these were sold and realised a profit of almost \$28.

Visitors seemed reluctant to leave when the time came to go and many people have said it was one of the happiest days they have experienced.

The Committee have much pleasure in thanking everyone who helped make the day such a success in whatever capacity they did so, and are proud to be in the position to pass on to the Head Master the sum of \$100 to be used to purchase something which will help the teachers in their job of teaching the children.

APOLOGIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM:

Mrs. K.R. Smith (Bernice Jones)
Jon A. North
Mrs. Barbara Huggins
Glenn Marshall
C. R. Harrington (Eileen Bunnett)
Horace Qualtrough
Gorst Family
Mr. David McKenzie, M.H.R. for Diamond Valley
Mr. Ken Bassett
Mrs. R. Pemberton (Maude Haley)
John Brown
Mrs. E. Hawker (Evelyn Bassett)
Mr. Rod Bassett
Mr. & Mrs. Les Jones
Cr. A.L. Goldsworthy, President Diamond Valley Shire
I. McKenna & M. Haywood
Mr. D. Oliver, Past Head Teacher
Cr. Ray Rooke
Mr. Frank Thompson
Malcolm Inglis
Frank Keenan
Ruth Bassett

Most of the above sent their good wishes in some form or other and also sent greetings to old classmates.

Frank Keenan

I REMEMBER WATTLE GLEN SCHOOL DAYS

My brother, Jack and I (Bessie) started school the same day. I remember wearing a fur coat, cut down no doubt from an old one of my Aunt's, who made our clothes. It was 1929. We had to walk about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, as we lived towards Hurstbridge on a property now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Rintoull.

It was the original wooden school which had been shifted from Upper Diamond Creek as it was then called. The school house which was attached to the school is still there in Hurstbridge Road. I often wondered how they got it up the school hill as we called it. Mr. Tanner was the teacher. In winter he always had a fire going when we arrived and the desks were arranged in a semi-circle around it. I think there were only about nine children. I can't remember exactly when Mr. Jacobi came; it was the early thirties, and he was Head Teacher all my school life at Wattle Glen. Mr. Jacobi was always immaculate. He wore a navy blue suit, white shirt and tie every day in the Winter. In the Summer he wore a light black jacket.

My own wedding was held in the Methodist Church at Wattle Glen and the reception and kitchen tea were held in the school. Ida Duncan also had a kitchen tea in the school. It was the centre of our social life.

There was one water tank which was always full of wrigglers, but we took no notice and drank the water with no ill effects. On Monday morning Mr. Jacobi blew the whistle, and we lined up to salute the flag and recite the oath. We marched into school. He had eight grades with a couple of pupils in each. Spelling was our first lesson every morning; ten words starting with Grade 1 and 2. He put each word into a sentence and we exchanged books to correct the words; then tables – we really learned our tables. We had singing each day for about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour before lunch while Mr. Jacobi played the piano. We loved singing and learned all the old songs; Grandfather's Clock, Old Black Joe, All Through the Night and many others.

You have to have the bright one's in every school, and one of the star's in my day was Ida Fowkes nee Duncan, at least she was my idol; but there were other clever ones like the Lorimer girls, the Bassetts, my brother, Jack, the Del La Lands and quite a few others. The only things I learnt were to read and write, tables, long division, what a noun and a verb was, but very little else. I did get my Merit Certificate which I sat for at Hurstbridge.

We had religious instruction every week when Mr. Daws came from Diamond Creek; I loved it and always learnt my text. The children were well behaved as Mr. Jacobi sat in on the lesson. We also could learn elocution from Mrs. Howard Pepper, who held a class after school at 6 d a lesson; there were about six of us in the class. On looking back, I think Mr. Jacobi was quite a good teacher. He had a leather strap, and gave it to girls and boys as necessary, but never unfairly. He kept very good order; I can tell you that the strap was a great deterrent. I remember getting it, but I forget what for, but I didn't like it. He had a box of chocolate frogs in the cupboard for the good pupils.

School doctors came and all the girls had to undress to their pants. We were very shy, and the boys were kept well away. My mother received a letter from the school doctor saying I was too thin, but all she said was "rubbish". Anyway the doctor cost 10/6 and who could afford that.



1923

At lunchtime we all ran at full speed down the hill to Mrs. Keenan's shop. I think Mrs. Keenan was a kindly and lovely lady who was quite often robbed of a lolly out the halfpenny or one penny box. She sold vegetables and we did not mind eating a few raw peas. I never heard her growl at one child and believe me she had a lot to put up with.

The great day each year was egg collection day. We walked miles with all farms and houses being visited and we collected dozens of eggs for the Austin Hospital. People were wonderful as they never refused us eggs. Most people had a few fowls although they were poor.

The settled people who had farms and orchards appeared better off, but people on sustenance were desperate. Children did not know what it was like to go to a dentist. I had my first filling when I started work at sixteen years of age. Shoes were worn until there was nothing left. Although my father was never out of work, he only earn't £3 per week and with five children it was always a battle.

Kindness was abounding and when a family house was burnt down, £100 was raised and locals built a new house.

My sister May and I walked to school with Lena Henderson daily and her father came with us. They lived on a steep hill opposite our home. They seemed to be wealthy. Lena had a wrist watch which I envied all my school days.

When we reached the corner past the station, we would be able to see if the school door was open. Mr. Jacobi was very seldom sick, but if the door was shut we were thrilled. We continued to school, waited ½ an hour and the good children went home. But some of us with Ida as leader explored the creek looking for birds nests, leaves, flowers, an apple from an orchard, or a swim in Pepper's pool in Summer. I have been told although I do not remember it, that I went swimming in a singlet which was pinned between my legs. My mother would have been furious had she found out.

My sister (May) broke her arm at school and cried all day. Next day my mother took her to Dr. Cordner (Snr.) at Diamond Creek who set it and put it in a sling. Mr. Jacobi was very sorry.

School games were great fun. They came in rotation, allies, skippy, chasey, jacks, kick the tin, hoppy, hide and seek, or climbing a wattle tree at the back of the shelter shed. I fell out of the tree once and was winded.

People took no notice of children complaining as they had too many problems of their own, mostly money.

All functions were held at the school. Mr. Heddle played the piano for dances. School and Sunday School concerts were a real treat – beautiful dresses made out of paper. I was a snowdrop and also Red Riding Hood.

I loved every day of my school life. The established families like the Bassetts, Keenans, Jones', Herberts and Peppers were good to us as kids. My mother was on the school committee for many years and Mr. Keenan was president.

I wish I could say I was a brilliant student. There were beautiful spots to walk on our way to school; some are still there. I hope it never changes. It is a beautiful place.

– BESSIE WADESON
1922

I am afraid that time has erased most of my memories of early school days. However, an odd event does come to mind.

I was six years of age when I commenced my schooling at Upper Diamond Creek in 1920 and can remember the one mile walk to school and its situation on the side of a nice property on Main Road and railway line to Hurstbridge.

The year previously my family including my two younger brothers John and Arthur had moved to Wattle Glen where my parents opened the new General Store, Newsagency and Post Office.

They immediately became active in petitioning for a school in the neighbourhood and had the support of the Local Member of State Government, Mr. William (Bill) Everard, later to become the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

The little township was developing around the new railway station formerly known as Ballee and renamed Wattle Glen.

It appeared logical to the residents that the school in Upper Diamond Creek sited 1 mile from Hurstbridge and 3 miles from Diamond Creek would be better situated midway and adjacent to the railway station, general store and post office.

I can still remember the school building on its timber jinker being hauled up the hill through the Pepper family property to the site of the present building. Apparently the gravel road of Reynolds Road was too steep and the contractors had to select a more gentle gradient.



Wattle Glen S. S. — 1928.

While the shift and the re-fitting was taking place we children of Wattle Glen became temporary students at the Diamond Creek State School until the opening of the new school in late 1922.

In 1926 the new Higher Elementary School was opened in Eltham and I and a limited number of other children left the Wattle Glen State School to enrol

in this new establishment as first form or as it was known in those days F form students. Classes were held in the original Eltham State School and also the Eltham Public Hall until late 1928 when the new school was opened in its present situation.

From the time that the school was moved to Wattle Glen it also served as the Community Hall and was the venue for many forms of entertainment.

I can remember hearing proposals to build a Public Hall in the neighbourhood and a fund was established. However, the only purchase was a piano which also served the school. An independent hall never eventuated and like many other communities of today and tomorrow school buildings will continue to be used for community recreation purposes when not required for Education.

— *FRANK KEENAN*
Student 1922

I remember when Mr. Frenchman took us each Friday to the football in the truck.

— *ELAINE & PAMELA KERR*
Students from 1922



Wattle Glen S. S. — 1935.

The Pepper family were pioneer farmers in this district.

There were seven children in the family, five of whom attended the new school in 1922. The two older twin brothers were apprenticed to their uncle to learn the building trade.

Mrs. Pepper Senior kept a store in her home in the early days.

The day the school was moved from Upper Diamond Creek to Wattle Glen, Ted and Ern Pepper spent the day watching the horse team bring the school up the hill on a long timber jinker (instead of going to work).

The school was moved in one piece including the porch.

The great grandchildren of this family are still attending local schools in the district.

— TED PEPPER

MRS. KATHLEEN GRAHAM (formerly Kathleen Bassett) has happy recollections of the beautiful individual gardens the children had when she attended the school in the mid 1920's. These were situated between the school and Reynold's Road gate, and had beautiful roses and penstemons, in particular. As was the fashion then, she had very long plaits, and recalls that the boys sitting behind her took great delight in tying her plaits to the back of her desk.

Some male ex-students too shy to be identified recall various events such as trouble with Mr. Tanner when they went swimming down in the creek in 1924.

Another remembers the excitement in the early 1960's when Wattle Glen won the Football Premiership, defeating Sutherland Homes by a good margin.

Then there was the day boys and girls joined forces to chop up Mr. Tanner's strap, which had previously had plenty of use.

Several 'ladies' remember the trouble they caused when they went all round the surrounding areas collecting eggs for the annual October egg appeal for the hospitals.

MRS. JOYCE ATKINSON (formerly Joyce Lorimer) has pleasant memories of the school break-up concerts at the end of the year with all the parents participating. Mothers worked for weeks making the fancy costumes. She remembers a dashing number one year when Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter were dressed in appropriate dresses made of frills of coloured crepe paper. The coffee was boiled in a copper outside for the adults, raspberry vinegar made in a bucket for the children and Mr. A. Keenan and his sister were always happy to entertain on the piano and violin.

Miss Rigby and Miss Hastie – 2 teachers at Wattle Glen School – what beautiful writers they were – and the copy books we had. They were about 6" x 4" in size. We used them to help us in our letter forming.

The gardens we had around the school. All the students worked on these and how proud we were of them.

The lovely open fires we had in the school room where we were allowed to warm ourselves on the cold mornings.

The lolly shop at the house where Mrs. Lacey lived until it was pulled down in the last week or so. We entered it by the side door facing the road on the east. This was before Keenan's store was opened, but I remember the musk sticks they sold – we didn't often have them, as we or our parents could not afford to give us the money for them. If my memory is correct Mrs. Keenan conducted this shop.

– STELLA GRAHAM
1922



Wattle Glen S. S. – 1955.

1927–1934 approx.

MRS. ELSIE GRAHAM (formerly Elsie Lorimer) was another student of Head Teacher Mr. Tanner's time. She recalls that Arbor Day was observed each year by the students planting trees, and one particular year she took part in planting the cyprus trees inside the boundary fence next to the Methodist Church. She, like others, connects the school with the social life of the community, one outstanding event being the wedding reception of Miss Jessie Pepper when she married Mr. George Hirst, which was held in the school.

1929–1936

Each person seems to remember something different to the other about their school days and *MRS. BETTY BASSETT (nee Betty Lorimer)* remembers Head Teacher Louis Jacobi's liking for chocolate royals. According to Betty, Mr. J. use to buy them by the box full, but on Friday the student who in his eyes had done a good week's work was rewarded with one of the prized 'Royals'. Sounds if Betty sometimes got the reward! She also recalls the difficulty one teacher had in preparing and teaching the work for from six to eight different grades. To help keep up the standard, the older children helped out. One example was when older students such as Ken Bassett, took the younger ones out into the Cloak Room to hear them reading aloud. Ken moved it along at a great pace!!!



Snow in school grounds, June 1951.

From time to time the "film man" would come to school and for most of us that was very exciting. We'd pack into the tiny shelter shed, the flaps at the windows would be lowered and we'd view the films. The rewinding apparatus fascinated me – clamped onto one of the fixed seats it was cranked by hand and made a strange whirring noise.

We used to play football and basketball matches against the neighbouring schools and one day there was a "special". Whether it was a match between 2 combined schools teams or an early version of football clinics I'm not sure, but this particular day the excitement was at Panton Hill ground – the great Murray Weideman was to be there. All of grade 6 were taken there, squashed into Mr. Sheehan's car. The best part was I managed to get Murray Weideman's autograph!

When the football and basketball matches were at Wattle Glen we used to each take an orange which was duly cut into quarters for "half-time" refreshments.

On Friday afternoons we had what I guess today would be called craft. The girls sewed huckerback hand towels and babies bibs during Summer. During Winter it was felt toys. The boys made painted freestanding cutouts from plywood. I always enjoyed those afternoons and the sense of achievement.

One of the favourite games was "houses". It was played under the group of pine trees in the far north west corner of the school. We labouriously swept the shed pine needles into long lines around the trees to make the "walls" of the house. The pine needles swept into piles formed beds, chairs or whatever else our imagination wanted. Many happy hours were passed that way – maybe a broken cup was brought from home, that made the game even better.

– *NANETTE GRIFFITHS (nee ATKINSON)*
1953–59



Wattle Glen S. S. – 1950.

The thing that stands out in my mind is the time that the school burnt down in the 1950's. I remember being woken up by fire sirens and seeing a huge red glow over the pine trees that line the northern side of the school boundary. Also going to school the next day and seeing destruction caused by the fire.

– *PETER CUMMING*
1956–1960

I remember when the fun and fitness track was built and we had a working bee. We do our Physical Education on it. Some times for a warm up we run around the fun and fitness track. It's fun and if you can't make it you are not healthy. When we made the fun and fitness track it took a whole weekend.

– *AMANDA BEYNON*

In Grade Prep we had a pet huntsman spider and the huntsman was on the tap.

– MICHELLE HOLL

I remember when Grade 4 got Mr. Watts' keys and put them in some ice and they were the school keys. We had an ice block of keys.

– CAROL BAKER



Wattle Glen S. S. – 1954.

The greatest moment of my years at Wattle Glen Primary School was the day Grades 2 and 3 walked into their new classroom that their parents had worked so hard to get.

The children while at home had been taught by parents including Hilary Gailbraith, Don Vidler and Ria Strutt. It took two years to get the Education Department to build the new room giving the children a better education.

It was a great team effort of many parents and hard working mums. It was one of my happiest memories of Wattle Glen Primary School.

Good luck and best wishes for your 60th Anniversary.

– RIA STRUTT
Ex-Mother's Club President



Wattle Glen S. S. – 1954.



Premiers – 1961.

I well remember the feared punishment that Mr. D. Oliver dealt out to his students when he was in command. We were sent up to the shelter shed, in disgrace, usually 2 or 3 of us at a time. Armed with a tennis ball, up to the shelter shed we'd do, sometimes accompanied by the beat of 3XY on a transistor, ready to begin another of our downball tournaments.

I suppose it never struck him as odd to have 3 of his 8 sixth grade pupils eagerly awaiting punishment!!

— ANDREW BYRNE



Wattle Glen S. S. — 1966.



Wattle Glen S. S. — 1968.

1955–1961

HELEN CORBETT (formerly *Helen Atkinson*) recalls the enjoyment she had in Grades 1 and 2 from the School Band. This consisted of triangles, tambourines and cymbals. There always has to be one, and Helen was, the conductor.

Friday seemed to be the 'social' day over the years and Helen says they had lots of fun with folk dancing and maypole dancing in the assembly area on Friday afternoons.



Wattle Glen S. S. – 1965.



Wattle Glen S. S. – 1968.

A visit to the school from inner suburban school children – Hike up Wilson's Road – Picnic at the Picnic Ground then back to school where they gave us a talk about life in the city.

The feeling of absolute sadness and loss when looking towards Wattle Glen and seeing the fire when the school burnt down!

The great fun and experience we had when we had our lessons in other people's homes when our parents were striking to achieve the new room for our school. The best part was going to Mr. Vidler's home as he was teaching us all art. We also went to Mrs. Hilary Gailbraith and Mrs. Ria Strutt's homes for other lessons.

– ADELE KIRKBRIDE
1966–1973



Wattle Glen P. S. – 1972.

1966–1973

On a hot dry Monday morning in 1969 we made our way to school as we had in every past year; a half mile walk down the hill through an unfenced paddock, past the dam and onto the old winding main road. At the bridge a bus stopped to pick up the "Sacred Heart", kids and we continued on foot, crossing the creek by the more daring route of a water pipe stretched from bank to bank about six feet above the water. This safely crossed, we ran the last few yards to the local Post Office, where we waited under the verandah for friends coming along the Kangaroo Ground main road. Then it was a steep walk up the dusty

school road to the little wooden building on its island of asphalt. On mornings as warm as these there was a general rush for the bubble taps by the tank stand, and we stayed cool in the shade between the school building and the tall tank as we waited our turn for a drink.

Our school was wooden, cream and black with two classrooms and a staff room. It was rather a squeeze for all the Grades, and this was why Grades 2 and 3 began school in an unusual way. Each Monday morning we went into the school building a little earlier than the other children and picked up a chair each from the neatly stacked row in the corridor. We marched outside again with our cloth bags around our necks and our chairs held awkwardly out in front. In single file we followed our teacher down to the old iron gate and out of the school grounds. A strange procession of seven, eight and nine year olds tramping down the rugged path towards home, except we weren't going home. Half way down, just below the school grounds was the little church, and this was where Miss Kenny was taking us. The creaky arched door unlocked; we clattered in, the high ceiling and unvarnished floors echoing with our noisy voices. We dumped our chairs and bags in rough formation of a classroom.

In a little room at the back of the church were stacked the heavy wood pews. On Friday nights or Saturday mornings, the pews were carried out from that undignified back room, to resume their proper role as church pews, and before Monday morning arrived they had always been mysteriously shoved out the back again to make room for us.

In the church we drew and wrote, sang and played charades, and did all the things we would do in a normal classroom. We even painted on large sheets of butcher's paper laid flat on the wooden floors, with warnings from Miss Kenny not to be messy as we were not supposed to use paint in the church building. At the end of the day we packed up our paints and pencils and put them neatly on our chairs, ready for the next morning. When the old school bell had been rung, we crowded out of the church to meet the others coming down from the school. On Friday afternoon's packing up time began a little earlier to give us time to carry the chairs back up to the school.

To us that year seemed little different from other years, except that it was a novelty being different from the rest of the school; we were not really aware that our parents were upset over lack of classroom space that had forced us into the church building. After all, school was basically the same whether in a classroom or the church, hot in Summer, cold in Winter, and not as fun as being outside and free!

The following year the parents of Wattle Glen stood up and fought for a new classroom. They went on strike, taking the children out of the church for two weeks where they were taught in the homes of two of the parents, by qualified, but non-practising teachers. A deputation of parents went to the city to visit a Minister for Education and he could only show them a list with the names of hundreds of schools who wanted the same thing.

Eventually it happened and the foundations for a new classroom began to go in. Wattle Glen Primary was in the news! Photographs of the kids trundling

down the narrow path with their chairs, had been taken in the past, and now a television crew had arrived. The Headmaster Mr. Oliver read out aloud the names of the students and as they heard their name each child got up with his, or her belongings and walked out of the church building for the last time.

– BRIGID KROHN
1966–1973

My first day at school disillusioned the innocent child that I was. The classroom was large and my peers sat cross-legged around me.

My mother had given me a bag of peanuts which I was happily munching on, excited that this was my first day at school. Sadly, I was to be disillusioned. I was told eating peanuts wasn't allowed in school time and my peanuts were taken off me.

I was then talking to the little kids around me when I felt a clout over the head with the roll book from my other preps. teacher; talking in class wasn't allowed either.

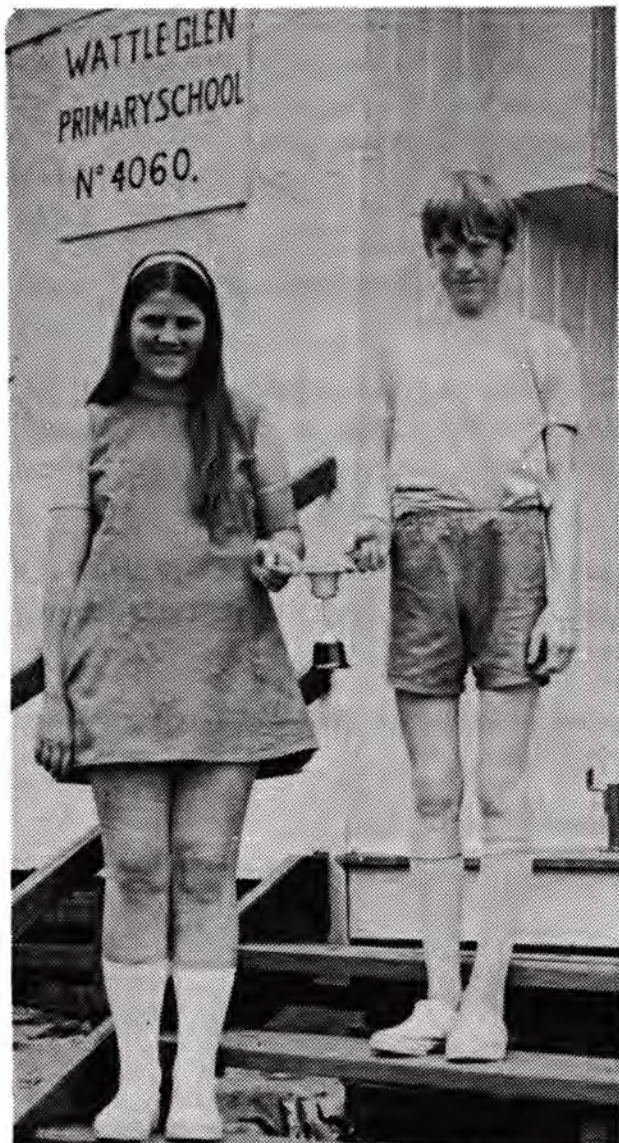
Since then I haven't looked back and I remember my primary school days with regret.

P.S. Thanks Wattle Glen for the chances you've given me.

– SHARON CORBETT
1970–1976



Wattle Glen P. S. – 1972.



*School Captains – 1972.
Brigid Krohn – Dale Booth.*



*Sports Champions – 1972.
Mark Gillett – Gail Pepper.*

Early this year members of the school Committee decided that it would be a good idea to build a fun and fitness track for the use of the school children.

Many parents over several weekends contributed their time and effort and donated many materials to build the fitness track. The features of the track consists of pipes, a balancing pole, sit ups, chin ups, a climbing net, hurdles and probably a couple of other things. The school children had a lot of fun out of it and I think a lot more children still to come will get a lot more enjoyment out of it.

The track was named after Mr. Geoff Miller who passed away shortly after the completion of the track, and a sign was put up in his memory.

My grandfather, Charles Belot, also attended Wattle Glen State School.

*– CARRIE PATTERSON, Year 6 (1976–1982)
– KATE PATTERSON, Year 5 (1977–1982)*

One of my greatest memories at Wattle Glen P. S. was the opening of the new school. It was a mid September day and the new school was completed. I had seen each bit of progress take place from the old school which was burnt down, right through to the magnificent school it is today. My Grade 3 teacher Miss Buehler chose our classroom on the northern side of the building next to a huge pine tree which was later chopped down. It was really exciting moving into a school building compared to a portable which I had been in for 4 years of my primary school life. It was a palace.

Pauline Toner, Member for Diamond Valley, was the official opener on the 17th of October, 1979. That day will always be a great monument in my school memories.

— KATE RINTOULL
1975–1981



Wattle Glen P. S. — 1974.

The Christmas Break-up at Sherbrooke Forest when the crimson rosellas flew down to feed near the children.

The Spring Hat Parade with all the children modelling their own hats.

The Christmas Fairy (alias Mr. Watts).

The marvellous response by the public to our fete to raise money for our new school after we were burnt out. The community spirit that came about as a result of the fire.

The chaos when we tried to cook chips for a lunch day.

— BARBARA & RON KIRKBRIDE



Wattle Glen P. S. – 1974.

One day I will always remember was the first day I went to Wattle Glen Primary School. It was when I was a new boy in Grade 4 1980. The thing I will always remember is the way everyone was so nice to me. Especially Mr. Watts, the Headmaster and Mr. Walsh, my teacher. I have since noticed that all new children have been treated in the same way.

– JAMES YOUNG

Over the years the teachers and I have had great moments. I haven't been cheeky enough to get the strap but I have been pretty close though. Wattle Glen Primary School is a good school. Good teachers (Mr. Gill and Mrs. George). Good friends. Great school!!

My old school wasn't so big!!

Wattle Glen is a small suburb (not as big as Diamond Creek or Hurstbridge). Wattle Glen has no station – well hardly. The school has burnt down twice. 1982 is Mr. Watts' last year at Wattle Glen Primary, and we are getting a new Principal. We all like Mr. Watts and all the staff.

Thanks Wattle Glen.

*– RICHARD BAKER
Grade 6*

The day we remember about our school was the day we all moved into the new school after the old one burnt down. It was good to get out of the portable and into a proper classroom.

– NICOLE LOVELOCK, Grade 6
– KYLIE LOVELOCK, Grade 4
– SIMONE LOVELOCK, Grade 1

When I first came to Wattle Glen Primary School I kept going to sleep and between the times I nearly went to sleep; some kid kept calling me pumpkin but the teacher heard and that smartie got words.

– DUNCAN SINCLAIR
Grade 4



Wattle Glen P. S. – 1975.

Our school is great because we have good teachers. I remember when we moved into the new building. I wish we had a canteen here because I like them.

– JANE MANZONY
Grade 5

I remember every month the “nuns” came to check our hair and said yes or no if we had nits.

– KERRI RAINSBURY
Grade 2

I remember the camp at Halls Gap when our teacher Mr. Kersings tent fell down when he was in it and everybody laughed.

– GLENN DONNELLY
Grade 4

One of my favourite highlights at school was making show bags. We made biscuits with icing. Mrs. Gemmell's Grade 2 made toffees. So we had great fun that day. I hope we make them again.

— LARISSA WAZNIAC
Grade 5



Wattle Glen P. S. — 1976.

When the phone rings and I'm told to report to Wattle Glen Primary School for six weeks, many thoughts flash through my mind. The first printable one is how close the school is to home and how small this month's travelling cheque will be. But once the shock becomes reality and I on the way to school, memories flood back about past experiences at this haven of learning. Foremost is the memory of the community atmosphere generated by the physical set up of the school, parent involvement (they're everywhere) and the friendly 'family-like' interaction between staff members and pupils.

The pupils stand out in comparison with many others I've encountered because of their friendliness, happiness (willing to share jokes) and positive attitude to learning. One first impression about the children at W.G.P.S. which has lasted through my frequent visits is how good looking, well dressed and healthy the children are.

— M. B. KERWIN
Staff Member 1982

My fondest memory of Wattle Glen was courtesy of Paul Walsh. It was during my first week at W.G. and I received a note signed by Mr. Watts requesting an up-to-date work programme immediately. With work programme tucked under arm I marched up to the office – no Mr. Watts. However, there were a few teachers in the staff room – killing themselves laughing. You see – NO ONE ever prepares a work programme at W.G.

– *BILL KERSING*
Teacher at Wattle Glen, 1981

MOTHER'S CLUB

My recollections of days in the Mother's Club S. S. 4060 are mainly that there were never enough hands to do the work. I started to attend meetings in 1952 and held office as Secretary from 1955–59 – other officers I believe were Muriel Gallacher, President and Kath Pepper, Treasurer – Mrs. Janet Bennett (now Jordan) may have preceded Muriel Gallacher as President.

Other members during this period were Stella Logan, Rose Murphy, Mrs. Collier, Joy Lake, Grace Jones (at one stage held office but not sure what), Mrs. Bateson, Billie Wiseman, Mrs. Dick Rose, Irene Marshall, Ann Melton, Mrs. Thompson (Steven's mother), Mrs. Gladys Kerr, Eileen Voce, Freda Gibbs, Thelma Ashworth, Joan Talbot, Dove Jones and Andrey Baertschiger. (I hope those I have omitted will forgive me).

o Our main source of fund raising was by the usual yearly fete, cake stalls, trading stalls at monthly meetings, raffles, etc. Also twice a week hot lunches in the form of hot dogs and cocoa, etc. were held at the school. Round about 1955–56 a Social Club was formed and the 3 main Committees in Wattle Glen joined together holding square dances and social evenings and the proceeds were divided between the school, fire brigade and hall Committee. After a couple of successful years the Education Department put an end to this arrangement which had worked well with only the same few people working for all Committees. We had an enjoyable time really with the Mother's Club members taking part in sketches, etc. to entertain visitors at least once a year.

One of the things that stands out strongly in my mind was the feelings that were shown to us after the first fire. This was before the days when school fires became commonplace and our loss was publicised in newspapers and on radio.

Mr. Bill Haines was determined, as Headmaster, that we would have the school rebuilt as soon as possible and was supported by the community. Parcels arrived by rail and post for some weeks afterwards, and they contained books and little odds and ends that schools throughout the whole State had donated from their own schools and sent to us to help us get it all together again. As I had to deal with all of these letters and donations I found it a very touching experience which I have never forgotten.

Mrs. Janet Jordan tells me one of the most enjoyable and profitable fund raisers were "Beetle" afternoons – alot of fun was had by all. Office-bearers to follow me would possibly have been Monica Hayes, Secretary and Joan Talbot, Treasurer.

I hope this small amount of information will be of some help. I am open to correction on specific dates and names but believe it is fairly accurate after all these years. I cannot remember specifics as to equipment purchased after the fire except for a *very* antique typewriter on which I did the Headmasters typing.

– JOYCE ATKINSON

My happy memories of Wattle Glen Primary School are working with the school children with their special efforts over the years and the "surprises" we prepared for the teachers and the principals.

Also the friendships I have made with my years in the Mother's Club and the way we all worked together as a group. Being part of the Back-to-Wattle Glen Committee and involved with the 60th Anniversary Committee.

The 60th Anniversary Committee are hoping you get a lot out of this book remembering your old school days and Wattle Glen.

– MARJORIE MENDELSON

This history is incomplete. The school records were destroyed in 1956 and again in 1976 and we have gathered this collection to build a framework that can be added to and enlarged as more information comes to hand.

Missing from this is a history of a very active Mother's Club that worked together over the years and from which the children gained in equipment and support for their school and its endeavours.

Also missing is the history of the School Committees that were formed and sought to get the best education for their children.

These are some areas for someone else to put together.

Our school has always been the centre and a focal point for this community and part of the people who lived and shared its life over the years and the people who started it all.

WATTLE GLEN PRIMARY SCHOOL TODAY

Education certainly has changed in style and content since the opening of the first school to service the populace of Wattle Glen, then known as Ballee, in 1912. From a small school of 23 pupils and one teacher, Miss Rigby, it has grown slowly in numbers until today; 157 pupils are cared for by a staff of eight.

At the beginning of the 1970's our housing was a three-roomed building of light timber construction (commonly referred to as an L.T.C.) with a single portable classroom tucked away under the nearby pine trees. Four staff attended to the daily requirements of ninety children.

This quiescence was soon to be shattered – our rural school on the outer edge of Melbourne's sprawling suburbia was to be razed yet again – 2 a.m., Wednesday, 18th August, 1976 – and despite the stolid efforts of our local fire brigade and residents, the local community was deprived of the physical structure of its school as had happened once before.



School fire, August 1976.

Many could remember the disappointment and despair of 1956, but immediately all gathered their resources, newcomers and settled residents alike, along with a score of outside organisations, and a new era was to begin.

Fortunately, one room had been salvaged, and during the years of reconstruction became the administration and staff amenities unit. It now serves

primarily as a general community resource centre and is utilised as a library and photographic dark-room by the children during school hours. Because of the dexterity of all concerned no major casualties were suffered by staff or students during the demolition of the old building, the re-siting of re-locatable classrooms or the construction of today's building. While conditions were at times inclined to be primitive and you required the agility of a mountain goat to move from the classrooms to the administration block, the staff and children proved their adaptability by coping magnificently under great difficulties.

From the ashes has arisen a structure of modern design; a building which by its very nature has made necessary different approaches in educational thought. The staff has worked patiently and conscientiously for the fruitful overall development – emotionally, socially, physically and academically – of all its students. Mother's Club and School Council members along with many individual parents have donated their time and expertise to the well-being of the Wattle Glen children.

Some other aspects over the last decade could be mentioned. The shelter shed, still standing, now as an art and craft storage area, has seen duty in its original capacity with seats solid against the walls and mesh gates which allowed the weather full rein; as a small library in the middle 1970's, as a meeting place for the Mother's Club with office-bearers seated at card tables and as an office and staff room following the 1976 fire.



Re-building after 1976 fire.

The school's first venture into camping activities on the "Train of Knowledge" with Montmorency Primary School and headed towards the Grampians and each year since a trip to a place of interest within Victoria – Swan Hill, Bright, Warrnambool and Halls Gap. Our national capital could be a future consideration. Swimming is another area which has proved very popular with the children, and many certificates have been gained over the years – a recognition of the children's water safety abilities and hopefully to be of great benefit to them in future years. The Fun and Fitness Track developed recently with many items suitable for the physical development of Primary School children and named in memory of Geoff Miller, a stalwart worker for the school.



Wattle Glen P. S. – Today.

And our most recent project; the mosaic under construction near the Principal's office. The interest generated by the children, staff and parents in this project has been most commendable and a very worthwhile result is sure to ensue.

The future holds great prospects for continued development of Wattle Glen Primary School based upon continued mutual support between children, staff, parents and the community at large.

– PETER WATTS
Wattle Glen Principal, 1976–1982

STAFF DEPLOYMENT 1982

This year with an enrolment of 157 pupils, there is a staff of eight teachers. The Principal, Mr. Peter Watts, distributes his time between administrative duties, assisting children through learning programmes and by taking classes providing classroom teachers with administrative and planning time.

The infant children are instructed by Miss Athena Papadimitropoulos, ("Pappas"), Mrs. Anne Gemmell and Mr. Edward Gill using a team teaching approach which utilises the principle that children learn best through direct experiences in a caring and encouraging environment.

The same effort is evident from the upper school staff, Miss Alison Courtney, Mr. William Kersing, Mrs. Wendy Germech, Mrs. Janet George and Mr. Maurie Kerwin, teaching years 3 to 6 respectively. Working in the new open-planned building has made necessary harmonious staff and children relationships. That this has occurred is a tribute to all concerned.

Miss Papadimitropoulos has worked also each afternoon as the Librarian, allowing an important utility maximum usage. We have been most fortunate in the assistance we have received from Education Department advisers, namely Mrs. Maureen Ferry (Library), Miss Sue Lee (Art and Craft), Mrs. Joan Stevens (Music), Mrs. Helen Davidson (Special Education Unit) and Mrs. Jenny Ellis (Psychology and Guidance Officer).

Finally, we are most fortunate to have Mrs. Marjorie Mendelson as our cleaner. Her efforts have resulted in the school always being very well maintained, giving staff and children a well kept environment in which to work.

— PETER WATTS
Wattle Glen Principal 1976–1982

STAFF 1982

In the old days no one could spell very well – it was said that the teachers taught the “3 R’s”, Writing, Arithmetic and Reading. We all know, because of the good teaching methods nowadays, that this really spells “WAR”. Today at Wattle Glen we have realised this basic error of the past, and we have changed the teaching style from “WAR” to “PEACE”. – i.e. Peter, Eddie, Anne, Courtney and Everyone else on the teaching staff.

PUPILS LIST 1982

YEAR PREP.

Girls

BEYNON, Melanie
CLARK, Kathryn
COOK, Sarah Louise
DISHER, Elise
PAULKE, Catherine
RICH, Bianca
SOSBEY, Meagan

Boys

ALVES, Andrew
ANDREWS, Robert
BINGER, Paul
BRANAGAN, Samuel
EUSTACE, Ben
McLAUGHLAN, Daniel
MANN, Gavin

MEHMET, Dean
SINCLAIR, Graham
THORNTON, Andrew
WILSON, Keith
WRIGHT, Alan

YEAR ONE

Girls

ALLISON, Samantha
BOSKOVIC, Selina
GARDAM, Tarma
KLANJSCEK, Prudence
KLEIN, Stefanie
LARKIN, Naomi
LOVELOCK, Simone
MAURER, Sharon
NORTHCOTE, Vanessa

Boys

CLARK, Benjamin
CLARK, Travis
CORBETT, Adam
DONNELLY, Greg
RITCHIE, Ossian
ROWE, Jonny
RYMAR, Matthew

YEAR TWO

Girls

BINGER, Diane
CUMMING, Narelle
EUSTACE, Nicola
GEORGE, Nina
JOYCE, Joanne
MILLER, Karen
MURRAY, Kristen
RAINSBURY, Kerri
SHAW, Marnie
SINCLAIR, Rachel
THOMAS, Kim
WILSON, Jenny

Boys

ALVES, Timothy
ANDERSON, Kirk
BAILEY, Mark
BLANCH, Colin
BURGESS, Rayce
DE VISSER, Richard
FRISKIN, Bradley
HAY, Jason
HUXTABLE, Darren
KAY, Benjamin
KENNEDY, Jack
MANZONEY, Jonathan

McLAUGHLAN, Luke
NORRIS, Brendan
SIMMONDS, Brett

YEAR THREE

Girls

ANDREWS, Sally
BOXER, Cassie
BURNSIDE, Sascha
DICKSON, Joanne
DEVLIN, Kerry
FINDLAY, Krista
REID, Carly
SKENE, Brenda

TRAOZYNSKI, Janine
WHITE, Michelle
WOODWARD, Tracy

Boys

CORBETT, Dean
GENTSCH, Dale
HILL, Michael
HUGHES, Jarrod
PAULKE, Mark
REYNOLDS, Paul
RICH, Craig
WRIGHT, Greg

YEAR FOUR

Girls

ATHERTON, Michelle
BAKER, Carol
BEYNON, Amanda
BLANCH, Kerrie
BOSKOVIC, Colette

DE VISSER, Michelle
DOWLING, Fiona
GEORGE, Heidi
JOYCE, Julie
KENNEDY, Susan

LOVELOCK, Kylie
MILLER, Jodie
RICH, Rebecca
ROWE, Lisa
WISEMAN, Sharon

Boys

BOOTH, Leigh
BULLOCK, David
DEVLIN, Glenn
DONNELLY, Glenn
DUCKWORTH, Rhys

FORD, Leighton
FRISKIN, Dean
GAUCI, Jason
KASTEEL, Paul

SINCLAIR, Duncan
RYMAR, Cameron
WALKER, Shane
WATTS, Mark

YEAR FIVE

Girls

BARDWELL, Susan
BURT, Michelle
DONNELLY, April
FINCH, Danielle
GARDNER, Barbara
GRASSER, Bettina
KUYPER, Karen
MANZONEY, Jane
MARGARSON, Tanya

PATTERSON, Kate
REID, Dianne
SKENE, Wendy
WOZNIAK, Larissa

DUNN, Lyell
FORD, Clinton
GROVES, Matthew
HAY, Simon
HILL, Jeffrey
KLEIN, Martin
McDONALD, Michael
SMILIE, Daryl
VAUGHAN, Matthew

Boys

BAXTER, Philip
CAINE, James
CHETCUTI, Joseph

YEAR SIX

Girls

BLANCH, Nicole
CAINE, Narelle
CHETCUTI, Margaret
DICKSON, Jackie
FINLAY, Donna
GEORGE, Kelly
HENDERSON, Joanne
JENNINGS, Kylie
LOVELOCK, Nicole
NEWNHAM, Jo

PATTERSON, Carrie
REYNOLDS, Julia
TROTMAN, Kerry
WEGNER, Samanta

HARKIN, Sean
HAY, Steven
NICKSON, Shaun
PARK, Stephen
RYMAR, Darren
RAYMOND, Brett
SHAW, Justin
WALKER, John
YOUNG, James

Boys

BOXER, Garin
BAKER, Richard
CRIDGE, Stephen
CROSS, Nathan

TEACHERS LIST 1982

Peter Watts	Ed Gill
Wendy Germech	Anne Gemmell
Janet George	Athena Pappas
Bill Kersing	Maurie Kerwin (District Reliever)
Alison Courtney	

STAFF SINCE 1971

Peter Watts	Alison Cummins
Maura Cole	Susan Wilson
Janet George	Colin Regan
H. Nink	Myrna Iorio
Alison Courtney	Kathryn Patford
Athena Papadimitropolous	Julie Baldwin
Sabina Buehler	Wendy Germech
Sally Polkinghorne	June Beecham
Elizabeth O'Ryan	Susan Treble
Eliana Stavagna	Colleen McQuillen
Bill Kersing	Karyiene Hassall
Janis Bullock	Jennifer Kennedy
Margaret Chapman	Lesley Beltrame
Paul Walsh	Alfred Frankland
Janis Conley	Alan Henderson
Judy Moscrop	Helen Tendeson
Deborah Rotheram	Marie Laging
John Briggs	Cheryl Lowther
Barbara-Ann Gemmell	Anne Lockie
Edward Gill	Wilfred Anderson
Jennifer Beattie	Frances Mary Morgan
Geoff Richardson	Veronia Dobson



Staff and students at Wattle Glen P. S. - 1982.

LIST OF HEADTEACHERS

Elizabeth Rigby	1.9.22—9.1.1926	Retired in 1926
Margaret Hastie	1926—27	Retired in 1933
Frank C. Tanner	1927—30	Retired - Deceased 1936
Louis W. Jacobi	1930—50	Resigned in 1950
Cyril R. Cummins	1950—53	S.S. 4935 Watsonia Heights Greensborough
William F. Haines	1953—59	Retired in 1975
Francis P. R. Sheehan	1959—63	Retired in 1975
James L. Bergin	1963—68	Retired in 1969
Douglas J. P. Oliver	1968—72	Retired in 1972
Allan D. Henderson	1972—73	S.S. 1712 Pyramid Hill 3575
Wilfred B. Anderson	1973—76	S.S. 5037 Diamond Creek East
Peter M. Watts	1976—82	

60TH Anniversary Edition Compiled by Judy Rintoull

1997 - 75TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is with great pleasure that I can add a little of the recent years' happenings to this fond collection of photos, stories and information about our beloved Wattle Glen Primary School.

Since the last edition of our history, education has certainly been through some far reaching alterations. School Council and Parents' Association groups have continued on with their normal role through time of assisting our children's education in so many and varied ways, but have now been given a wider range of responsibility.

In curriculum, the "Gum-tree" book set out new directions, the Green Papers and White Papers added to this, "Frameworks" came and went, "Curriculum Standards Framework" has arrived, computerised reporting is underway, and teachers have their hands full in developing new skills in areas unheard of in schools in modern technology. We have had a teacher exchange with Jefferson Elementary in Minnesota and the internet is connected.

Various governments have meant new directions, opposing funding ideas, different accountability exercises and ever changing areas of emphasis.

But through all of this, Wattle Glen Primary School continues to concentrate as it has always done, on developing each child in its care to their very best levels academically and socially.

It is indeed a very special environment.

We all look forward to the continuation of the spirit that shines through in our unique community based school.

Peter J. Scannell.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Wattle Glen Primary School celebrates 75 years of State Education this year. The advent of Schools of the Future and the move toward greater school autonomy has brought with it many changes to the educational experience of our children. It is with great admiration and respect that as School Council President, I congratulate the staff of Wattle Glen Primary School on their commitment and competence at providing curriculum programs of excellence.

Wattle Glen has a reputation for a comprehensive curriculum including specialist programs of music, art, Italian and physical education. Exposure to additional dance, gymnastics, musical and literacy programs further enhance the rich experience of the children at Wattle Glen.

The support Wattle Glen receives from its parent body and the local community contributes greatly to the friendly spirit of the school. Participation in fundraising events, working bees, uniform support, and ground maintenance reflect the commitment local families have to the school. Sponsorship from the wider community, particularly local small business is assuming increased importance in school functioning. The support of our current sponsors is thankfully acknowledged.

Wattle Glen has recently undergone a major maintenance works during which classrooms were recarpeted, repainted, refurbished and airconditioned. In addition to it's pleasant semi-rural setting, Wattle Glen Primary School can now be enjoyed in all weather.

Congratulations Wattle Glen on 75 years of Education. May there be many more.

JILL TAIT
SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

In 1996/97 I was the President of the Wattle Glen Primary School Parents Association. A position made so much easier by the assistance and enthusiasm of the people who contribute to this group.

Parents Association/Clubs, whatever you like to call them, are an extremely important part of a school. Not only are they an important source of fundraising, but also they are a forum for discussing the needs/welfare of our children, voicing opinions, meeting staff and other parents, organising social functions, and, perhaps the most important, working together to help make this school great for OUR children. The Parents Association is a valuable tool and resource for parents, children and staff alike.

In 1996/97 we raised over \$5,000.00 for the school. This money was raised through specific fundraisers such as a bulb drive, lolly drive, grape picking, "smash the jaffa", toothbrush drive, family portraits and cake stalls. We also raised money through activities such as lunch order days, mothers and fathers day stalls and some social events.

The Parents Association organised and ran the Dinner Dance which is the major social event of the year, and we organised the end of year picnic for the children. We also participated fully in events such as Yellow Day, 75th Anniversary Picnic, Twilight Market, the Art Show, and the Diamond Creek Town Fair.

Money we raised this year was spent in many areas including new computer equipment, a new BBQ, the fitness track and After School Care. Just to name a few.

This year I handed the Presidency over to Julie Pritchard, whom I am sure, like me, will have a busy but rewarding year.

We are very lucky to have a school like Wattle Glen to send our children to. I feel that a lot of the credit for our great school needs to go to the years of work and support by the Parents Association and School Community. We are also lucky to have staff who are caring and committed.

Congratulations Wattle Glen on 75 years of learning. It is great to be a part of this wonderful achievement.

SHARON KANDELL



NEWER MEMORIES

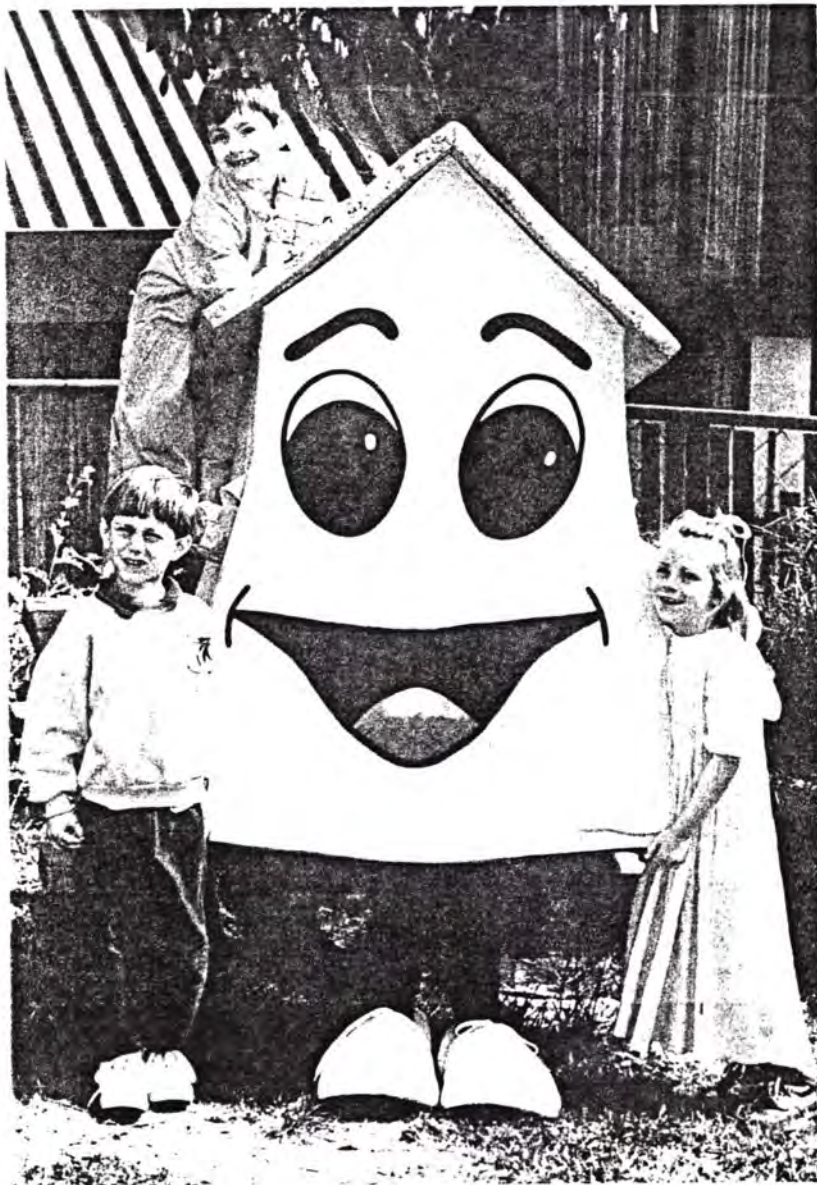
Some of the more interesting events and additions to Wattle Glen are spread of a wide range of areas. Here are a few upon which to ponder and remember.

1. The Internet is now operating and we are in contact with Minnesota on a regular basis, and in finding information from all over the world.
2. Italian is our language area at Wattle Glen and our cultural awareness program has been highlighted by our special event days of "Carnevale" and "La Festa".
3. The "Geoff Miller Memorial Fitness Track" has been resurrected and recently we added new equipment to make it even more interesting.
4. The Concert has offered many special moments and memories, especially for "ABBA" and "Village People" fans.
5. Modern Technology has been added in a very effective way with all grades now using either 486 machines or Pentiums, CM roms attached and a digital camera and scanner being purchased this year. Satellite Television is available and speedy efficient photocopiers have replaced the old "Spirit Duplicator" and "Gestetner" machines. Video cameras are used regularly and we have keyboards that the children use as well as the piano.
6. Major Maintenance and Building Upgrades have made a significant change to the buildings and our parent groups have certainly developed our grounds significantly over the years with new equipment and planting.
7. School Camps have developed with a very special place in our hearts for our Grade 6's at Wilsons Promontory.
8. The Art Show has added a fine touch to the total district and certainly places the importance of cultural activity to the fore.
9. School Uniform is now compulsory and the children, staff and parents worked together to choose a useful and colorful outfit.
10. After School Care, Bike Education, Safety House programs, our "Travelling Troubadours" concert group and Junior School Council are among other more recent additions to our school history.

11. Special Days such as Pirate Date, The Teddy Bears' Picnic, La Festa, Book Week all add a little extra vitality.
12. CFA History continues to grow also with many of our mothers now also joining the ranks as fully fledged fire fighters.

We expect that this list will continue to grow, and it will be interesting at the 100 Year Celebrations to see totally unheralded additions to our history. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to any of these special moments.

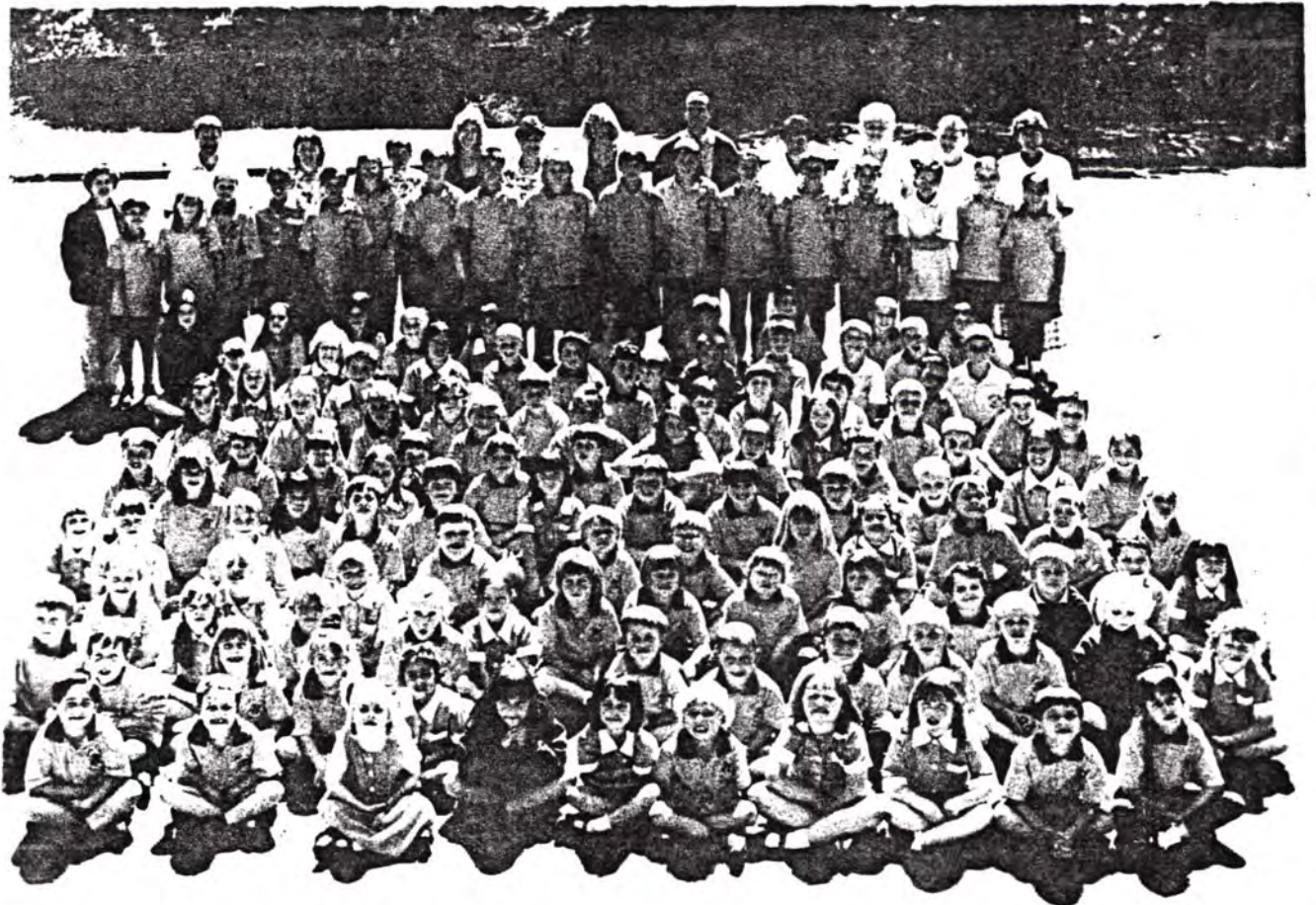
PETER SCANNELL



Safety House Program re-established 1995 - Glynn Taylor, Jorja Preusner, Barry Adams and "IMA" Safety House Mascot.



1989 GRADE 6 CAMP - SOVEREIGN HILL



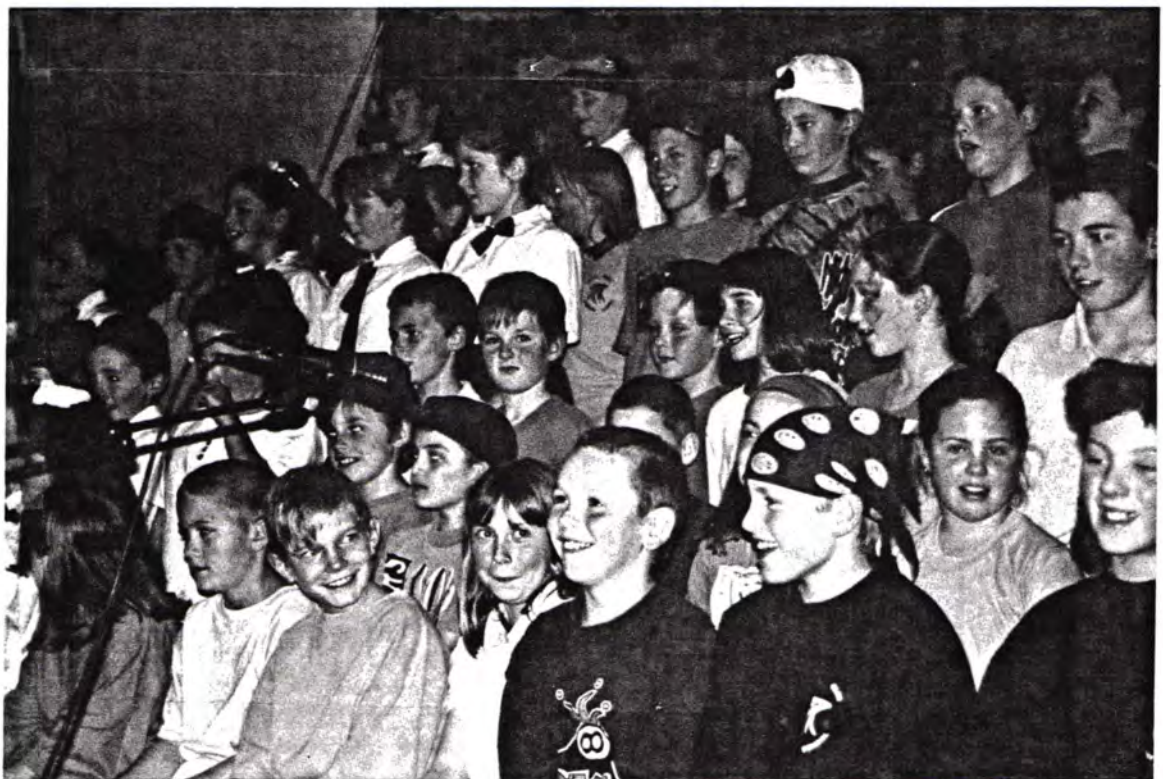
1997 STAFF & STUDENTS



1997 SCHOOL CONCERT - TEACHERS Y.M.C.A.



1997 SCHOOL CONCERT - PREP / 1 C LINE DANCING



1996 SCHOOL CONCERT

COMPUTERS AT WATTLE GLEN

The introduction of Computers to the School occurred just prior to 1990. Wattle Glen was very proud of its set of three Apple 2E Colour Computers, printers trolley benches and a large number of programs. These Computers were moved about the school on portable trolleys and used in activities that included story writing, maths and Social Studies.

In 1990 the School acquired its first Administration Computer and it was used side by side with the electronic typewriter. This Computer was a monochrome IBM - with one megabyte of information storage.

In 1992, a colour IBM 386 Computer with 10 mb of storage replaced it and new administration word processing programs arrived from the Department.

The School Secretary, Jura Lubinas had a very difficult year as she changed the office financial accounts from the hand written cashbook to the new Computer system. By 1993, School Council approved the purchase of another more modern 486 IBM Computer by 40 megabytes of storage. This appeared to be the answer to all our School Administration needs, however, the Department had other plans.

In 1994, the Secretary, Marilyn Wilson, took delivery of a leased IBM 486 Colour Computer and Laser Printer all networked. These were connected by a Modem telephone line to the Department. An amazingly complex computer program was supplied to the School by the Department and as a result all School student, staff and financial management is now done with the use of the Computer.

While these amazing changes were taking place in the Office, the rest of the School had even greater events taking place.

The timeline of events looked like this:

- 1991 Three Apple 2E Computers shared by 6 grades.
- 1992 Macintosh Classic Computer purchased for class word processing use.
- 1993 First stage of Library computerisation and the purchase of three colour IBM 386 Computers with two megabytes of RAM and 40 megabyte hard drives.
- 1994 Upgrade of Computers to CDROM technology and purchase of a 486 Colour Computer for classroom use.
- 1995 Purchase of three 4876 IBM Computers with 250 megabyte hard drives for classroom use.



- 1996 The School connected to the World Wide Web Internet and purchased 2 colour printers for classroom use.
- 1997 Purchase of two Pentium 133 Computers. Purchase of a Scanner. Purchase of a Digital Camera. Upgrades of all school computers to bigger memory and Windows 95 programs.

The 1990's some have seen a revolution in the way Computers have changed the classroom. In 1996 students at Wattle Glen used the Internet to correspond with a class in the United States. The use of Computers in the School has opened the world of information technology to the students. Almost any imaginable piece of information is now at their fingertips within their own classroom. Students also use the Computers to publish their written work and to write for the School Newsletter as well as exploring stimulating and challenging ways to learn.

Within one decade, we have seen an unimaginable revolution in the way students are using existing technology to gain information. These students however, are just the pioneers of the changes which are yet to come at Wattle Glen in the years ahead as it maintains its reputation of providing the best up to date technology for its students.

COLIN GREENWOOD
Computer Co-Ordinator.



Mathew Grech, Jenna Kirby, Martyn Browne and Leigh Taylor - Cross Age Tutoring - Computer Studies

PAST TEACHERS 1983 - 1997

PRINCIPALS

Peter Watt
Peter Broben
John Manfield
Peter Scannell
Colin Greenwood

SECRETARIES

Betsy Dere
Jura Luibinas
Marilyn Wilson

ITALIAN TEACHERS

Maria Santburn
Diane Padalini
Filomena Mascia

TEACHER AIDES

Shirley Skwiecinski
Grace Bradbury
Sue Taylor
Karen Caulfield
Lyn Wilson
Linda Thomas
Diane Upton

TEACHERS

John Briggs
Alison Courtney
Wendy Germech
Ed Gill
Athena Papadimitropolous
Bill Kersing
Judy Bell
Kathryn Patford
Paul Walsh
Janet George
Maurie Kerwin
Yvonne Henry
Gary Milburn
Sharon Collier
Sharon Goodman
Anita Eastop
Dianne Stritesky
Kim Morrison

Mark Thompson
Jim Symanski
Anne Keogh
Denise Doerner
Jackie Richardson
Anne Gemmell
Alan Fairweather
Sue Taliana
Gemma Whyte
Leanne Brooks
Jenny Easterby
Dianne White (Craig)
Pam Siostrom
John Manfield
Mandy Walters
Jeannie McLiesh
Jan Conley
Lyn Haynes

Linda Hill
Zita Webb
Colin Greenwood



1997 CLASSES

Prep/1H - Teacher Lyn Haynes

PREP

Kate Adams
Harley Adcock
Bryce Atkins
Martyn Browne
Daniel Daraxoglou
Bethany Doherty
Courtney Edmonson
Chrissy Harrison
Simone Jones
Glen Jones
Sean Larkin
Caitlin Mankey
James Owen
Tara Singh
Sarah Stankus
Leigh Taylor
Eleanor Thomas
Lauren Manning

GRADE 1

Holly Francheschi
Candice Schultz
Romy Tait-Hoffman
Amanda Walker
Madeleine Wilson
Emily Windisch



Grade 1 / 2C - Teacher Jan Conley

GRADE ONE

Meaghan Ashdown
Timothy Cumming
Brenton Fry
Phillip Gelling
Dylan Greenhalgh
Christian Grech
Daniel Grose
Ashleigh Hanna
Hanna Hodges
Sam Johnston
Ashlee Lawrance
Dale Lovelock
Carli Norman
Georgia Schrader
Helender Singh
Jordan Strafford
Luke Sturmfels
Shannon Swift

GRADE TWO

Emma Blackmore
Jessica Briggs
Hannah Gott
Jessie Grant
Alicia Manning
Kara Pritchard
Michelle Sibenaler
Jessie Tozer
Holly Windisch



Grade 2/3H - Teacher Linda Hill

GRADE TWO

Barry Adams
Michael Brozic
Huw Cannon
Andrew Craigie
Clinton Edmondson
Warren Jones
Leigh Jones
Paul Kandell
Glynn Taylor
Timothy Wilson

GRADE THREE

Jarrad Adams
Tim Atkins
Belinda-Jane Bartholomeusz
Donna Fry
Michelle Hampson
Amy Larkin
David Sibenaler
Avril Stanley
Jessica Stubbs
Sophie Tait-Hoffman
Jeremy Taylor
Ashley Teague
Joel Wittner

Grade 4/5W - Teacher Zita Webb

GRADE FOUR

Dylan Adcock
Shasta Blackmore
Sarah Craigie
Zoe Gott
Dylan Grant
Justin Hanna
Amanda Harrison
Edward Heckes
Peter McMahon
Ned O'Loughlin
Gillian Pollard
Corinne Phillips
Kira Reed
Matt Ring
Ella Roeg
Courtney Schrader
Jayde Schultz
Laura Shorter
Kate Sklifas
Jarryd Strafford
Steven Swift
Nicky Tozer
Shane Verso
James Wolstencroft

GRADE FIVE

Daniel Ashdown
Tim Rowsthorn
Toby Parsons



Grade 5/6G - Teacher Colin Greenwood

GRADE FIVE

Becky Acott
Aaron Byrne
Charlotte Dollimore
Jacqueline Grech
Andrew Hill
Ryan Larkin
Joshua Reed
Stephanie Roth
Zoe Sharp
Sarah Shorter
Benjamin Teague
Carrie Teichelman

GRADE SIX

Joel Adcock
Paige Branagan
Melina Draper
Ashlee Greenhalgh
Matthew Grech
Cohen Grant
Jenna Kirby
Michael Knight
Kim McMahon
Siobhan O'Loughlin
David Pike
Maxine Putland
Dale Ring
Lauren Schrader
John Wilson
John Wood



MEMORIES - KATHLEEN CUXSON

I remember well my many years of hard work with the Mother's Club raising money for School amenities. Fun too.

I was Secretary of the Mother's Club for eight of those years.

Well remembered are the old fashioned Fetes. We so enjoyed them. Specially the Spinning Jimmys, on which I lost money. Never did win anything.

No, I don't play the Pokies.

Sir Eric Pierce opened the Fete one year. Before he was a "Sir". Such a gentleman. I was the only mother to vote one year against buying a Monkey Frame for the youngsters. My husband Ian, having a truck, picked it up and helped erect it. Two weeks later, one cold frosty morning, our son Paul slipped on it and broke his wrist. Our daughter Diane never did get to use the new basketball court as that year she started at Eltham High.

Those were the good old days.

KATHLEEN CUXSON



After the first fire of 1956, School was held in the Church building next door.

WATTLE GLEN STATE SCHOOL REUNION 1997

MEMORIES OF WATTLE GLEN STATE SCHOOL - THE DE LA LANDE BROTHERS

Our father was one of many who fled the city in the 1930's depression to seek a living by gold mining and for a number of years equipped and reworked the abandoned Nillumbik mines located about a mile to the west of the "town" of Wattle Glen in a property owned by George Herbert. As a result, we three brothers (Ralph, Ivan and Geoff) except for an interlude at Diamond Creek, spent upwards of four happy years at the Wattle Glen State School between 1932 - 1937. Throughout that period there were about 20 pupils mainly from farms and orchards. All grades from the first (5 year olds) to grade 8 (14 year olds) were taught in a single large room under the benevolent rule of Louis Jacobi. He was a dedicated teacher who managed what was a difficult assignment with a sense of humour. He seemed to have almost infinite patience (except when Ivan carved his initials on the School mantelpiece) and to be impartial in his attitude to individual pupils (i.e. no favourites). We three believe we were fortunate to have such a teacher and to have been at a School which was small enough to give one the sense of being part of a family.

Pupils whose names come to mind are: Bessie and May Pimm, Elsie, Betty and Joyce Lorimer, Kathleen and Shirley rite, Valda and Eddy Ellis, Lindsay and Shirley Bassett, Ray and Phil Fowkes, Bruce and Alfie Hatch, Jack Mills and his cousins Gordon and Mary Mills, Dougal Robertson and younger sister, Lloyd Williams, Shirley and Ted Flower, Bonny Hollibone and younger sister. Many of these are in the 1935 photo in the 1982 commemoration booklet.

Anecdotal recollections abound - the whole school sitting on the verandah and singing choruses at the tops of voices, and on one of the rare occasions when Mr. Jacobi was away during a lunch recess; of sneaking out with other boys during lunch hour to go swimming in a water hole in the Diamond Creek (where it joins Watery Gully Creek) and on our return to be taunted by the girls that they would tell on us (which they never did); Miss. Campbell playing the School Piano (her repertoire being confined entirely to Scottish ballads).

Ivan, now in his early 70's says that he regrets not making greater efforts as an adult to seek out and thank those particular teachers, secondary as well as primary, who he believes have been major influences for the good of his social and intellectual development. However, while a young PhD student at Melbourne University, he heard that Mr. Jacobi was running a small bookshop in Richmond and made a special point of visiting him one day, and describing his pleasant recollections of school days at Wattle Glen. Mr. Jacobi's obvious pleasure made the visit a very rewarding one.

Other memories are of the small Wattle Glen General Store and Post Office, with its kindly propriety, Mrs. Keenan at the foot of Reynolds Road facing the Kangaroo Ground Road. Our grandmother de la Lande (1857 - 1952) lived in a house called "Quamby" directly across the road from the store. Her friends included Mrs. Warrington and Mrs. Pepper who lived nearby. Both the store and the house have since been demolished. (Grandfather de la Lande who was born in 1841 in the Channel Island of Jersey died in 1913).

Times were tough in the 1930s. For much of our time at Wattle Glen we lived in an improvised home in the bush constructed by our father on the Nimmo Road reservation (i.e. Crown Land) near Wilson Road and not far from the time. Then as now, Nimmo Road was merely a planned road on a map. Home comprised a large hut made from bush timber with earthen floor and a large open fireplace. Two attached tents functioned as bedrooms. Rain water was collected in 44 gallon drums. Kerosene lamps were used for lighting. Our mother, who lived to 99, made our own bread using home made potato yeast. At other times we lived in rented houses, one being opposite the Pimm property on Hurstbridge Road and another in Mannish Road.

Where are we now ? Ralph 73, now a retired Engineer lives in Beaumaris; Ivan 72 an Emeritus Professor at the University of Adelaide and Geoff 70 is a Businessman in Dubbo NSW. We all share pleasant memories of our schooldays and of growing up in such a beautiful location as Wattle Glen.

RALPH delaLANDE,
14 Haywood Street
BEAUMARIS 3193

1935 Photo

Ralph - 3rd from right back row

Ivan - 2nd from right back row

Geoff - At right hand end of front row.



Ralph

Audrey Wadeson
(nee Bradbury)

Ivan

Geoff

MEMORIES OF CYRIL CUMMINS

Principal Wattle Glen Primary School 1950-1952

Cyril Cummins would ride his bicycle to the Ivanhoe Railway Station and catch the train to Wattle Glen. School children would meet him at the station and together they would walk to school

Apart from the duties of a Principal he was to become School cleaner, sanitary man, plus a variety of other tasks. I remember him making little beds for the tiny tots, whom he found tired very quickly.

He introduced the School Uniform.

To raise funds for the School, a Fancy Dress Ball, Fetes and Folk Dancing were conducted and there were enjoyable sports days arranged to include the Schools surrounding Hurstbridge.

Cyril was President of these sporting occasions and the Maypole dancing was a highlight of the day, the pole having been built by the Pepper brothers.

Children's studies were first and foremost and the excellent results were very pleasing.

The parents formed their own Square Dance group and many enjoyable evenings were experienced by the participants.

When a Committee meeting was to be held, Cyril would have dinner with the Pepper family and on many occasions he would help Dave with the milking of the cows at David and Kath Pepper's Dairy.

We made many friends with the families of the school and amongst them were the Lakes, Peppers, Jones, Norths, Cummings and others who made us very welcome.

The community recognised Cyril's dedication to the Wattle Glen Primary School and on his departure in December 1952, he was presented with a beautiful Silver Tea Service. This gesture was very much appreciated as Cyril was sad to leave the School that he loved so much.

At the present time, our daughter Julie-Ann lives in Hurstbridge. Cyril died suddenly in February 1991.

Contributed by his wife Dorothy.

1997 MEMORIES

I came to Wattle Glen Primary School in 1992. I had already been to school in Geelong for a couple of months, but then my sister wanted to go closer to the City, so my family moved here and started looking for schools. They picked Wattle Glen Primary School. STEPHANIE ROTH 5/6G

Last year in June we moved to Melbourne. We moved to a quiet suburb called "Wattle Glen". We had a look around at some schools and finally we chose a nice small school called Wattle Glen Primary School it was also the closest School. I made friends quickly and did not want to move schools. SARAH SHORTER 5/6G

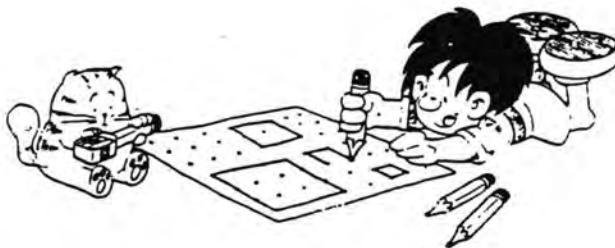
My greatest memories was when I went to Wilsons Prom, I liked it there, it was great. All the Grade 6's from 1997 including me, walked up Mount Oberon and Ashlee nearly fell off but Mr. Greenwood saved her (Dont worry its a joke !!) MAXINE PUTLAND 5/6G

I had to go to Wattle Glen because my sister was already there. In Prep it was fun because we did not have to do any work only a bit like two times two and so on. Same in Grade one. In Grade Two it was a bit harder. And we had to read harder books. DAVID PIKE 5/6G

My best memory was when I was in Grade one in the Teddy Bear Picnic play in the School concert. One of my other best memories is when I was in Grade three and we did Little Red Riding Hood by Roald Dahl. Kim got to kill the wolf. ASHLEE GREENHALGH 5/6G

I think my favourite memories at Wattle Glen would have to be all of the three camps. But the best one would have to be Wilsons Prom because only the Grade 6's went on it. The funniest memory there would have to be when Mr. Greenwood ran into the chair with his car. MELINA DRAPER 5/6G

The best memories I have of Wattle Glen Primary School are when I visited Camp Malden, it was the best camp I ever went on. My fondest memory was riding a bike down a steep hill with my school mates close behind. MATTHEW GRECH 5/6G



I have been here since Prep. I have good memories of when I went to Maldon. It was the best camp. The second one is when the teachers at the concert did YMCA. AARON BYRNE 5/6G

I remember when I first ran past the switch that makes the bell ring and actually pressed it. "What a rush!". That is just one of the wonderful fun and exciting memories I've got from Wattle Glen ZOE SHARP 5/6G

My funniest moment was in 1995 at Wattle Glen, at last years concert when Mr. Scannell, our principal, dressed up in an Indian outfit. He looked really funny. LAUREN SCHRADER 5/6G

When John Wilson and John Wood, Michael Knight and I made a fire engine book with a tape and everytime I go into a bigger grade. ANTHONY BROZIC 5/6G

I like the friendly atmosphere here at Wattle Glen, we've got basketball, netball, football, cricket and soccer areas and a lot of shade. DALE RING 5/6G

One of my memories of Wattle Glen is when we went on a camp to Maldon. The camp had a basketball court, a mini soccer oval, a lolly shop down the street and BMX Bikes. MICHAEL KNIGHT 5/6G

My best moment was when I first saw Charlotte, Carrie, Zoe and Jackie. We played our first game and we became friends forever. We fight now and then, but we are still friends forever. BECKY ACOTT 5/6G

I think Wattle Glen is the best school. It has lots of nice people. My best moment was when I went to camp Maldon. They had a golf course that me and my friends all liked. The teachers are very good at Wattle Glen. JACKIE GRECH 5/6G

When I was in Grade 3 we had a concert and our grade did Little Red Riding Hood by Roald Dahl. It was a great day, I was Little Red Riding Hood and I got to shoot the wolf (Daniel) in the head. After we had all done our acts, the light dimmed and an ABBA song started, all of the teachers came out dressed up. The men were all wearing dresses. We all had a great laugh. KIM McMAHON 5/6G

My best memory was when I beat Tighe Patching in the times tables challenge. I was in Grade 3 and he was in Grade 4. My other favourite moment was when I went to Wilsons Prom. Mr. Greenwood blamed Ashlee for driving into the chair. JENNA KIRBY 5/6G

My favourite memory is going on the flying fox at camp Tallawalla and seeing Mrs. Webb go on it and saying something bad. Me and my friends have fights but we become friends again. At my old school I had one friend here I have 6. I have been on two camps so far and I liked them all. CHARLOTTE DOLLIMORE 4/5W

I remember two things when Jack Hanley fainted and when a girl locked herself in the toilet and Becky saved her. I have one regret from coming here. You dont want to leave. CARRIE TEICHELMAN 5/6G

My best memory was when I was at camp and Mr. Greenwood cursed all of the Grade 6 boys because we would not go to sleep. Also when we went to Tallawalla and Mrs. Webb went on the flying fox and she said “*#@?” JOHN WILSON 5/6G

One of my memories that sticks in my mind is of Grade 5 camp at Tallawalla where we had to climb up a wall that was made out of wood and fake rocks that you use to grip your hands on while you climb up and it was good to watch people try and get up. JOHN WOOD 5/6G

My best moment was getting elected football captain. I loved Maldon Camp. JOSH REED 4/5W.

When we were on the 4/5 camp, Mrs. Webb said a rude word as she came flying down the flying fox. On camp this year at the pig farm a piglet pooed on Ella and we saw two pigs doing something yuck. At the concert in Grade 2, all the male teachers came out in women's clothes. ANDREW HILL 5/6G

I can remember when I was in grade Prep. I made lots of friends that year and in the first week I got a pupil of the week. I felt good. When I went up to get my pupil of the week, I didn't know what to do so I walked away and it was very funny. BEN TEAGUE 5/6G

My most favourite thing about Wattle Glen Primary School is my friends and the camps. The camps I've been on so far are Maldon, Tallawalla and Wilsons Prom. (I liked the rock wall at Tallawalla).I also like the equipment and programs (eg: Bike Ed) at school. JOEL ADCOCK 5/6G

My favourite moment is when the teachers did the YMCA at the concert. Mr. Scannell the Principal dressed up as an Indian I remember when we had to do teddy bear picnic. RYAN LARKIN 5/6G

When we had our concert in 1994, we did Old McDonald and I was a dog and my mum kept on taking photos of me and I got embarrassed. SARAH CRAIGIE 4/5W

Another time was when we went to Science Works and Mr. Greenwood took a photo of me. ZOE GOTT 4/5W

One of my favourite memories of Wattle Glen was when we had the school painted and Ella, Courtney, Gillian, etc., kept going up to the painter and saying "Hi Santa Claus" when his real name was Tom. CORINNE PHILLIPS 4/5W

When I got my pen licence, I thought I was dreaming. COURTNEY SCHRADER 4/5W

My favourite moment was when I got my pen licence. I even started laughing and all that day Mrs. Webb treated me like I was a Queen. AMANDA HARRISON 4/5W

"Who is she Mum?" I asked. Now it turns out she's a good friend. It was Ella and I was standing with our mums looking for our badges with our names on it on our first day of school. GILLIAN POLLARD 4/5W

My memory is the 1994 concert when I had to dress up as a pig. I felt really embarrassed and stupid. We were doing Old McDonald had a Farm and we were with Mrs. Conley. JARRYD STRAFFORD 4/5W

In a few weeks Prep and Grade 6 had a needle. I was 9th in line, when I had my needle I shut my eyes. At the end we got a few lollies. KIRA REED 4/5W

I had to get up on to the skip and tip in the rubbish, but when I tipped it in, I also went in. I stunk BAD !!! ELLA ROEG 4/5W

I still remember when we were at Currawong Bush Park and we were trying to catch little fish and someone nearly fell in the water and we caught heaps of little fish and little red bugs. KATE SKLIFAS 4/5W

I can remember when I first walked into the school. When my mum left I started to cry but my teacher, Mrs. Haynes, gave me a badge. JAYDE SCHULTZ 4/5W

When I was in Grade 3 we went to play Teeball. There were two Groups A and B. I was in Group B. We played 5 schools. My group won the fair play award. LAURA SHORTER 4/5W

When I went on my first camp at Camp Tallawalla; on the day we went to Healesville Sanctuary an emu kept following us because we could tell that it was the same emu !. The band on it said 2. DANIEL ASHDOWN 4/5W

My favourite memory is when Matt Ring and Toby Parsons grew their hair long and then they cut it really short as they looked like escaped convicts. EDWARD HECKES 4/5W

I remember when I went to Tallawalla for camp and I fell off the trampoline and hurt my feet. Mrs. Webb went on the flying fox and she nearly swore. TOBY PARSONS 4/5W

I remember at the start of the year, our room was getting fixed. We had to work in the music room when it was 30 degrees. The music room didn't have an air conditioner so we were boiling. The music room got air conditioning when we moved out. SHASTA BLACKMORE 4/5W

One day in Music I had to play a song "Wild Thing" with Mr. Scannell's guitar and "Peter Gunn". SHANE VERSO 4/5W

I got a new lunch box the day I went to school and it had Humphrey on it and I got a donut and my first prima. JAMES WOLSTENCROFT 4/5W

Sovereign Hill - I got lost in the lolly shop. TIM ROWSTHORN 4/5W

I can remember when I caught a frog at Currawong Bush Park. I went on the video tape because of that. DYLAN GRANT 4/5W

Tee Ball - The songs we sang were 1,2,3,4 who do you think we barrack for, 5,6,7,8 who do you think we appreciate 9,10 Wattle Glen. NICKY TOZER 4/5W

I have millions of memories of the things I did at Wattle Glen PETER McMAHON 4/5W

My new teacher, Mrs. Talliano said "he" and sat me down on a seat out the front of the room and introduced me to the grade and by then I'd stopped crying and made heaps of friends.
DYLAN ADCOCK 4/5W

One of my memories of Wattle Glen Primary School is when the last class Mr. Manfield was taking ever was my class. When Mr. Scannell was reading out the pupil of the week he said "For Mr. Manfield's last pupil of the week award ever is to Ned O'Loughlin". NED
O'LOUGHLIN 4/5W

When it was Billy the Punk day, everyone dressed up as punks JUSTIN HANNA 4/5W

My favourite memories of Wattle Glen are some of the school concert. I did the Wally Wombat Shuffle. STEVEN SWIFT 4/5W

My favourite memory was when we went to the zoo and when Mr. Greenwood was taking a photo of the lion and it did a wee and that was on my birthday. MATT RING 4/5W

I remember when I first came to school that I had no friends. I had Mrs. Conley in Prep, Mrs. Haynes in grade 1 and 2 and Mrs. Hill in 1997. I remember when I hid Jarrad's poem and Joel's scissors DAVID SIBENALER 2/3H

I remember my friends from school are Michael Brozic, Leigh Jones, Tim Wilson, Huw Cannon and Andrew Craigie. GLYNN TAYLOR 2/3H

I remember when I met Leigh Jones on the second day. Then we played footy with Jarryd Stafford. It was fun! He was my only friend in prep but now I have lots more friends like Michael Brozic, Andrew Craigie, Huw Cannon, Jeremy Taylor, Jarrad Adams and Ashley Teague. TIM WILSON 2/3H

Mrs. Hill Mrs. Conley and Mrs. Haynes have been my teachers. We had Tim's birthday at mini-golf with my friends from school. MICHAEL BROZIC 2/3H

When I first came I thought that my best friend Avril wasn't there. I was so sad I cried and when I got there, Avril was painting a picture and then I stopped crying and I said "Avril".
AMY LARKIN 2/3H

I remember when I was in prep and I had a tutor called Reid. I like making green pancakes. Avril, Michelle, Amy, Emma and I made a cubby and started making stairs and they still aren't finished. SOPHIE TAIT-HOFFMAN 2/3H

I remember when I played kick-ball with the grade. I remember when I played cars with Warren, Tim Wilson, Leigh, Huw, Jarrad and Tim Atkins. ANDREW CRAIGIE 2/3H

I remember the first time I play "gang" tiggy. I was the one "TT". Tim Wilson wanted to be first so he was. It was fun. I played it for two weeks in a row. HUW CANNON 2/3H

I remember the first day I came to this school, when Mr. Scannell tripped over my bag in prep. When I leave I'm sure I'll never miss it when Mrs. Hill "chucks a wobbly". My best friend is Tim Atkins and always will be ! JARRAD ADAMS 2/3H

I remember when I played a game of rugby. I played with Jarryd Strafford and Barry Adams. The oval was very muddy. I can't remember the score but I can remember we won !. We made sticks for the "try line". I scored five goals. LEIGH JONES 2/3H

I can remember some of the teacher's names that I had. I had Mrs. Padalini, Mrs. Conley and Mrs. Haynes. PAUL KANDELL 2/3H

I remember Dylan and I were running down the oval and I pushed him over and he broke his watch. I remember Jarrad and I fell down the stairs on our first day at school. TIM ATKINS 2/3H

I do remember my teachers. They were Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. Conley and Mrs. Hill. I also had Mrs. Walters, Mrs. McLeish, Mr. Scannell, Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Padalini. JEREMY TAYLOR 2/3H

I've got Belinda. She's really nice to me. We help each other and most of all we do everything the same. DONNA FRY 2/3H

The teachers have changed and the school's got different things. When I first came to this school I was scared. The day I planted a plant I got dirty. MICHELLE HAMPSON 2/3H

I remember swimming lessons we jumped off the deep end, it was really fun. SHANNON SWIFT 1/2C

My favourite memory was when we buried tiger the fish. HELENDER SINGH 1/2C

I remember when the eel escaped and Mr. Scannell had to get it. SAM JOHNSTON 1/2C

I remember when we went to Scienceworks. There was a big blue jumping castle. DYLAN GREENHALGH 1/2C

When I was at school, tiger died and I was very sad. EMMA BLACKMORE 1/2C

I like it when I'm with friends. DANIEL GROSE 1/2C

I remember when we got fish. ASHLEE LAWRANCE 1/2C

I remember when Brenton bought the eel and it jumped out and Mr. Scannell had to get it. All the children were laughing. PHILLIP GELLING 1/2C

I remember when we got the fish. GEORGIA SCHRADER 1/2C

My favourite memory was when the eel hopped out of the tank and onto the car park. CHRISTIAN GRECH 1/2C

My favourite memory is when I started my new school. ALICIA MANNING 1/2C

My memory is when our chickens hatched. JORDAN STRAFFORD 1/2C

My favourite memory is when we had the chickens and when tiger the fish died and when we went to Scienceworks. HANNAH GOTT 1/2C

I remember when we went to the swimming pool. LUKE STURMFELS 1/2C

My memory is when we got our eggs. TIMOTHY CUMMING

I can remember we had the yabbies and they died. MEAGAN ASHDOWN 1/2C

I remember when we went to Scienceworks. DALE LOVELOCK 1/2C

I remember when we hatched the chickens out of the frying pan. HANNAH HODGES 1/2C

My memory is when I did a cartwheel then the splits. JESSIE GRANT 1/2C

I remember when the eel got out and Mr. Scannell had to pick it up. JESSIE TOZER 1/2C

My memory is when we went to Scienceworks on the bus. My favourite part was the blue jumping castle and the moon. KARA PRITCHARD 1/2C

My favourite memory is at the school concert when the whole school sang "We Are Australian". HOLLY WINDISCH 1/2C

I like the Cubby I built and I love show and Tell. LEIGH TAYLOR P/1H

We went to Scienceworks and I liked the Air Cart the best. GLEN JONES P/1H

When I first came to school I was scared. MARTYN BROWNE P/1H

I like Macca. I like doing computer best and maths. HARLEY ADCOCK P/1H

My favourite part of school is playing on the monkey bars. SEAN LARKIN P/1H

I liked swimming. ELEANOR THOMAS P/1H



Crossage Tutoring is the best. I like Maths. My tutor is Melina. SARAH STANKUS P/1H

I like it when we do art. I like clay. DANIEL DARAXOGLOU P/1H

I like art. I like painting and drawing. BRYCE ATKINS P/1H

I like making friends. Friends can help you. My best friends are Emily, Amanda, Candace, Romy and Madeleine. HOLLY FRANCHESCI P/1H

My favourite memory is making friends. My friends are Holly, Amanda, Romy and Madeleine. EMILY WINDISCH P/1H

I was happy when we won our first basketball game. ROMY TAIT-HOFFMAN P/1H

JAMES OWEN and SIOBHAN O'LOUGHLIN are overseas.



1997 - 75TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

To all those who have been so helpful with photographs, time and their memories, for the good advice and computer skills in putting this update together, my grateful thanks.

Compiled by Naomi Windisch with the help of many.

