

*Strathfieldsaye Primary School*

*125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations*

*Welcome to  
Strathfieldsaye  
Primary School*

*'Back To'  
Celebrations*

*21<sup>st</sup> March 1998*

*1873*

*1998*

## PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

By Gail Godber

The song "Pathways to the Future", was written by Gail Godber especially for the 125th Anniversary of Strathfieldsaye Primary School .

Gail has a son attending the school and has worked with the school choir for the past three years. She has also worked with class groups of children to write songs for a whole school concert.

As a school community we feel privileged to have Gail's expertise and willing assistance.

### PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

#### VERSE 1

Bridle ways to footpaths,  
Buggy tracks to tar,  
Leading into Strathfieldsaye,  
From homes both near and far.  
Pathways to the future,  
Leading from the past,  
Our history is our signpost  
To who we were and who we are.

#### CHORUS

Here we are, side by side,  
Shoulder to shoulder we'll stand, we'll stand.  
(We're standing)  
Here we are, side by side,  
Shoulder to shoulder we'll stand.

We're making paths to the future,  
Leading from the past.  
Paths to the future,  
We're standing firm and fast  
In our dream of new beginnings  
Shaping one and all,  
In our dream of new beginnings,  
We're standing tall.

#### VERSE 2

From telegraph to internet,  
Slate to microchip,  
Communication leads the way  
To knowledge and friendship.  
Our path is to the future,  
Our link is with the past  
Sending out our plans and hopes,  
We'll make memories that last.

(Repeat chorus)

(Repeat first section of chorus X2)

*Strathfieldsaye PS 'Back To' 1873 - 1998*

*Program*

- 12 noon Registration / lunch*
- 1:00pm Official Welcome - Mr. Peter Campbell, President, School Council.  
Opening and Memories - Mr. Alf Ryall*
- 1:30pm Tours of School  
View static and video displays*
- 2:30pm Choir and Multi-instrumental performances*
- 2:45pm Tree Planting  
Naming of School Houses*
- 3:00pm Roll Call  
Group Photos*
- 4:00pm Conclusion of Activities*

## EARLY STRATHFIELDSAYE

The Shire of Strathfieldsaye originally comprised four stations, the Campaspe Plain Station, Axedale Station, Sutton Grange Station and Mount Alexander North Station (the Ravenswood Run).

In 1852 the area became known as Strathfieldsaye, the first Shire President being appointed in 1866, when there were 915 ratepayers in the 148,500 acre shire. The name Strathfieldsaye, is that of the country home of the Duke of Wellington in England (the Duke was Prime Minister of England in the 1830's and died in 1852.) Wellington and Wellesley Sts. were named after the 'Iron Duke' (he being named Arthur Wellesley), Blucher (Street) commemorates the Prussian General who fought at Waterloo and Apsley is the name of his London home.

The area of Strathfieldsaye was an important **agricultural area** in the Bendigo District, sustaining ensilage farms, grazing of sheep and cattle, pigs, dairy and cheese industry and apiary. However the most important industry, and one that was thought to be the eventual mainstay of the district, was viticulture. Agricultural statistics of the 1890s show that there were 658 acres of vines in the district yielding 14,800 cwt. of grapes for the table and for winemaking. Strathfieldsaye produced 1/8 of Victoria's wine at this time, i.e. 60,979 gallons of wine. The vineyards were established along the creeks in the area, the Emu, Axe and Sheepwash primarily by German settlers. Local wines won many national and international exhibitions and were exported to Europe for sale. However in 1893, viticulture in the area was decimated. The Phylloxera aphid was discovered and panic measures taken by the government ordered the district's vines to be uprooted. After this disaster, the local farmers took to developing dairy herds and orchards. Apples, pears and cherries were all grown extensively in the area, some leading to export and international awards.

**Early buildings** of the area were:-

- 1.) The brick Shire Hall - June 1869.
- 2.) Churches - St. Stephens 1888 Emu Creek.- Uniting Church 1872 S'saye destroyed by a storm in the 1940's
- 3.) Hercynia Vineyard - Patons Rd. 1870
- 4.) Hotels - established before 1884 - South Atlas, Homebush Hotel, Farmer's Arms Hotel along McIvor Rd, Campaspe Hotel, Great Eastern Hotel, Drover's Arms Hotel, Raglan Hotel and Perseverance Hotel along Axe Creek, Waterloo Hotel, Pieper's Hotel, Strauss's Hotel, Duke of Wellington Hotel, Strathfieldsaye Hotel at Strathfieldsaye, Early Bird Hotel and Mandurang Hotel along Sheepwash and the United Kingdom Hotel at Emu Creek.
- 5.) Schools - Strathfieldsaye No. 1211 est. 1873, Homebush McIvor Rd State School est 1875, Mosquito Creek State School est. 1877, Native Gully State School, Upper Axe Creek State School, Mandurang State School est. 1877 and Longlea State School est 1877.

## STRATHFIELDSAYE STATE SCHOOL NO. 1211

Until 1872, education in Victoria had been conducted by a range of independent and religious schools. However, at this time the majority of the community came to the belief that "education in the colony was to be universal", which led to the introduction of the Education Act 1872. This Act made education in the State of Victoria: 1. Non religious 2. Free and 3. Compulsory - children of not less than six or more than fifteen must attend school for 60 days in each half year.

Exemptions were illness, there being no school within 2 miles of the child's residence or if a child had been educated up to the standard

Thus, the Department of Education was formed and the first Minister for Education was a well-known Bendigo identity, Mr. Angus Mackay.

Schools needed to be supplied and teachers found to service the scattered population of agricultural settlers, and it is in this setting Strathfieldsaye School No 1211 came into being. "The schoolmaster must follow the free selector."

The Strathfieldsaye State School No 1211 was opened in the Strathfieldsaye Shire Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1873, with the Mr. John Goodchild as head teacher and his wife, Rebecca, work mistress. The average attendance was 41 pupils in the first year.

The school moved to its present site in January 1875, when a weatherboard school with house attached was constructed. In 1884 an extra room was attached, and a detached kitchen and fence were added in 1887. By 1906 the schoolhouse was badly ant eaten. Many repairs were carried out over the years but the building was demolished and a new schoolblock built in 1960. An extra room was added and the block brick veneered in 1970. A toilet block was built after much public outcry in 1984, and in 1988 a library and administrative block erected. In 1995 a new administrative block was built, sewerage and gas were connected. The new building consisting of classrooms, multi purpose room and canteen was completed in late 1997.

The Abbott Room is all that remains of the early days of school no. 1211. The room was shifted to this site from Diamond Hill in 1934 to be used as a shelter shed. Over the years this room has had many uses – for the school as a shelter shed, classroom, library, art room, temporary staff room and now as a technology and LOTE room, and for the community as a table tennis room and kindergarten. In 1994 the Abbott Foundation donated \$10,000 towards its renovation and after much work by skilled volunteers and trainees, the room has been given a new lease of life and renamed the Abbott Room in recognition of the Foundation's contribution to its renewal.

The school has the use of the original 3 Strathfieldsaye tennis courts and the local oval for recreation areas, together with the newly sealed netball courts at the front of the school. In 1955 and 1960 the school won the ANA prize for the most improved garden, and in recent years, since the combination of the drought, the gas and sewerage connection and the construction of the new school, the garden has seen many upheavals, but the school is endeavouring to return it to its past glory, gaining an environment award in 1997.

#### **Items of interest around the school :-**

- World War 2 Honour Roll - foyer of the office.
- Commemorative Quilts:
  - 1995 - for the opening of the administrative block (hanging in the office)
  - 1998 - for the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday of the school. ( new junior school block foyer.)
- The School Bell – this bell was donated by Mrs. W. Somerville in 1934 and was used for over 50 years.
- Memorial Rose Garden - Located at the front of the new school block - This garden has recently been completed to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school. Donations towards establishing the garden have been given by present students or to remember past scholars ( see the board inside the main entrance.)

Should you have any further information, photos, memorabilia or memories to share with us, we would love to hear from you in the hope that a book can be compiled with the information obtained for this 125<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

## Strathfieldsaye Primary School Guided Tour

1. Foyer of 1998 classroom block. 125<sup>th</sup> Quilt, artwork.
2. Memorial Rose Garden
3. Foyer of Administration Building. 1995 Quilt, Honour Roll, Drama Award.
4. Library (1988). Children's slide shows on computer, videos of school events.
5. Library Foyer. Bruce Hetherington plaque.
6. Library garden. Adam Sexton plaque.
7. Classroom block 1964 opening plaque, 1973 Centenary plaque.
8. Abbott Room
9. The School Bell

