

wonderful foundation to my whole teaching career. The teachers were so caring and helpful, and Miss Simpson gave up some of her lunch times to give me tuition in Methods of Teaching, Nature study etc. I gave sample lessons to her class and she told me where I'd gone wrong so I could do it correctly the next time. There was a shortage of teachers, I guess because of the war, so Mr McDonald the Head Teacher gave me Grade 5 to teach. It was in the room next to his, so he could give me any help. Some afternoons I had to go to Sunshine Tech. School to do curriculum needlework and PE, so I used to prepare the afternoon work for the class, write on the board the lesson and who was the monitor, and they worked without a teacher. Mr McDonald had the sliding door open between the 2 classes so he could keep an eye on things. Then I came back after school and corrected all the books, which would be left in a pile on my table. The teachers had to sign on every morning when we arrived, so we couldn't be late!

In 1949, still a student teacher... I taught Grade 3... over 30 pupils. Towards the end of that year I was sent as Acting Head Teacher to a rural school over on the Sth. Australian border, so someone else must have finished the year with my Grade 3. In 1951, after one year at Teachers training College, I had my Trained Primary teachers Certificate, and was appointed back to Albion S.S. as a trained assistant for 3 years. Mr Heffernan was the Head Teacher. I had a little Prep class over in the nearby Church Hall, and had to walk the children over each morning and back to school for the lunch break and to be dismissed in the afternoons. During that year, Miss Hard, the infant Mistress retired, and I was asked to take over her grade 1 class in a demountable classroom. There were 60 children in that class... we had to move a desk to get in and out of the room. There were windows along each side and it was stifling hot as the summer came on. The class had a majority of boys, and many of the children were "New Australians". Teaching reading was a big problem... we had reading all day, every day and every lesson. I learnt to hear 3 children read at once ... all at different stages of their reading books. We had art or craft every day and I remember staying behind every afternoon to get craft ready for the following day. We didn't have much help with equipment or materials for teaching aids, and my mother wouldn't dare to throw away any boxes or cardboard, or anything I could use for craft or making aids. Most Saturdays I spent making reading or math's cards. I used to paint lacquer over the cards so they would last longer. That was a very difficult year for me and finally Mr Heffernan agreed to give me a Grade 6 child, a different one each day to help me to hear reading.

After teaching Infant classes at Albion for 3 years I transferred to a Consolidated School in country Victoria. I had a long and varied teaching career, finishing as Head Mistress of a Special School for Autistic and severely Disabled Children in Surrey, England. But I have not forgotten my happy and rewarding years as both a pupil and teacher at Albion State School

