

HISTORY OF STATE SCHOOL 1403

(now Dandenong Primary School)

Foster Street Dandenong

1851 - 1972

[Inside front cover hand written notes as follows:

**History of Education in Dandenong and particularly of State school 1403, Dandenong
This first book covers the period 1851 - 1908 approximately, first entries made 1970.**

**The title is something of a misdemeanour - It is not in fact in any way a complete history
of education in Dandenong. the focus is centred on State School 1403]**

FOREWORD

In Dandenong it is most evident that there is a feeling of real affection for the old Dandenong School. "The East" as it is so often incorrectly called. Perhaps this brief history of the school may assist in explaining why this feeling exists.

Anyone with an inborn love of the past cannot help but feel some thrill at being associated with a school with history behind it a school which claims amongst its treasures an herbarium (the plant specimens preserved were prepared by pupils under the guidance of the head teacher, Mr. Herbert B. Williamson) fifty years old, and early copies of the school paper dating back to 1898.

As school records were found to be incomplete, some minor inaccuracies may have occurred in the compilation of this history, but in the main it is considered to be an authentic history. There is always the faint hope that some in the future may read it, and perhaps that some may even enjoy it!. May it be added to from time to time so that the record of the school's progress may never be lost.

THE FIRST SCHOOL

There is a legend concerning the first school opened in Dandenong. How much of it is legend and how much fact is difficult to estimate because there are contradictions. An analysis of what has been written may make our picture of the situation clearer.

The centenary issue of the Dandenong Journal refers to the first school in terms somewhat similar to the following:

Although, naturally enough, Dandenong grew slowly at first, it was obviously 1851 that a school was needed, and in that year a school was held - according to local report - in a tent on

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the Church of England grant of land in Langhorne Street, midway between the present church and Laurel Lodge.

The tent measured 24 feet by 12 feet and was divided by green baize curtains into three compartments. "Two rooms" comprised the "domestic establishment", and the third the schoolroom. The head teacher was Mr. H.H. Valiant Roberts, and some of his first pupils were John Dobson, William and Edward Potter, William Blackmore, David and Peter Bowman and Mary Ann Currie (from near Pakenham). A Board of Advice looked after the interests of the children. Mr. G. H. Dunbar was the first Correspondent of the Board, and he was succeeded in this position by Mr. J. D. Cadle.

In her little booklet, "Dandenong - From Slab Hut to City" Mrs Jean Uhl adds that a caretaker of the school, William Johnston, met his death by being thrown from a horse.

The story would appear to contain a deal of truth, for actual names are given, dimensions are recorded, and there is some description. Where are the inconsistencies! From the dimensions recorded the area of the schoolroom would have been less than one hundred square feet if the three compartments were all more or less the same size. If the schoolroom was any larger, then the "domestic establishment" would have been very tiny indeed.. The employment of a caretaker for such a small school must have been an extravagance. His job would not have been an arduous one.

The tent school could not have been on the Church of England grant of land in Langhorne Street, because this site was not appropriated until July 28th 1855. However, the statement in the legend could be taken to read as "on the land which later became the Church of England grant".

The centenary booklet of St James' Anglican Church, Dandenong, makes a mention of the tent school, but records that Mr Hugh Valiant Roberts had been conducting both day school and Sunday school since 1853 on the site which was eventually to become Church of England property. Mr Roberts occupied an imported house on this land. He was assisted in his work by his wife.

Might not the legend of the tent school have arisen from Mr Roberts's imported house, or did he use a tent while awaiting the arrival of his imported house! The dates referred to, 1851 and 1853 suggest this possibility.

On July 16th 1855, the Rev. T Taylor, Church of England Minister at Brighton, made application for an iron school house for Dandenong, and in February of the next year applied for a building grant of £150, the Vicar General recommending the application, and the trustees guaranteeing an amount equal to that granted by the board. Trustees had also been elected for the purpose of having conveyed to them the site of the school when the land grant should come.

A letter from the Chief Secretary on July 28th informed the committee that a site of two acres for Church of England purposes had been appropriated on the corner of Langhorne and Wilson Streets, and extending to McCrae Street (the southern portion of Crown Section 13 Township of Dandenong).

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- English reading and Spelling 10/- a quarter or 1/- a week
- Reading and Writing 15/- a quarter or 1/6 a week
- Reading, Writing and Arithmetic 20/- a quarter or 2/- a week
- English Grammar and Geography were included in the course

Included in a summarised reply from Reverend J.C. Grylls to Mr Latrobe concerning Church of England schools in 1839 was the following:- "The schoolmaster was paid from tuition fees and voluntary subscriptions, aided by the Colonial Treasury"

Local subscriptions totalling £165 having been collected for the building fund, this amount was paid to the Bishop, as sole trustee. Mr. A. C, Walker was a very generous contributor to the amount collected.

That much is certain, but there is some doubt about the actual size of the old schoolhouse. Correspondence kindly provided by Mrs Love shows that on the first of March 1856 Messrs. A.C. Walker, G. Dunbar, A.W. Bowman and E. Kirkham entered into an agreement with

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A.W. Bowman to erect a brick schoolhouse at Dandenong for the sum of £330, the building to be thirty feet by fifteen feet with wall ten feet high.

However, the Church of England booklet states that the building was to be of local hand-made bricks and to measure 40 x 20 x 18 feet to the top of the open roof. The contractor was Mr. Alex Bowman. The bricks were made at a spot between Messrs Wilson's cordial factory and Mr H. Orgill's timber yards, the foundations being of red gum. Trouble occurred when, the foundation having sunk, the walls were in a dangerous state. An architect was called in and advised the use of iron rods to prevent the walls spreading.

The point of difference concerns the actual size of the building. Probably we should accept the first statement, as on 11/7/1861. Inspector John J Miller reported "Buildings - Brick, slated, thirty feet by sixteen, unceiled, plastered inside....."

The building was completed in August 1857, the total cost being as stated, £330.. It was opened by the Very Reverend Dr. McCartney, who also addressed the assembled people. The Rev. S. Taylor and Mr J Goodwin were also present.

Day school classes were held in the schoolhouse, with Mr. Hugh Valiant Roberts in charge. He also continued with the Sunday School classes. His original cottage on the property had by this time been moved across Langhorne Street to the site of the present Police Station, and was later occupied by Mr Henry Powis, one of the pioneers of the church. Mr Roberts's death occurred shortly after the opening of the school. His place was taken by Mr. Mudge.

Amongst the earliest scholars were Mrs Henderson, Mrs Bartlett, Mr. W. Blackmore, Mr Kirkham and Mr. W. Masters.

The schoolhouse was used also for church services, the first service in 1857 being conducted by Rev. J.H. Gregory, who from then on held Divine Service once a month. On other Sundays the services were taken by Mr. Guillaume and Mr. Mudge.

The only information available from the Education Department's records re the staffing of this Denominational School, School No. 186, is that at one stage Mrs Mary Roberts, the widow of the late Hugh Valiant, was the Head teacher and that Miss Catherine Masters was employed as Work Mistress from 9/8/1864 until 30/4/1874. Miss Masters was later on the staff of Dandenong State School for three months.

In 1872-3 the staff consisted of a Head Teacher, a Work Mistress and a Pupil Teacher. For the year 1872 school No. 186 had an average attendance of 41, while in 1873 its average was 63.

In 1873 an agreement was drawn up whereby the trustees of the building (Sydney Smithson, Joseph Chandler and John Dobson) agreed to lease the building to the Education Department from 1/1/1874 to 30/4/1874 at the rate of £20 per annum.

The school closed officially on 30/4/1874 because of the opening of the first State School, Dandenong 1403, less than a week later.

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The following recollections (published in a book of reminiscences of early Dandenong and recounted in the centenary issue of the Dandenong Journal) shows how Miss Shaw's school came into being.

It would appear that the building which accommodated School No. 186 was immediately put to further educational use, for a "school for young ladies" opened in 1874 in Laurel Lodge in the Church of England grounds where "the young ladies of the town sat under the guidance of Miss Shaw". A resident of Dandenong who was later librarian at the Mechanics Institute said that she well remembered how Miss Shaw looked over her spectacles every Monday morning and demanded of the girls, "have you brought your penny? - the school fee of the era".

Obviously this raised some queries. It assumes that Laurel Lodge and the schoolhouse were identical, which certainly was not so. The location of the Historical Society has accepted that Miss Shaw's school was indeed held in Laurel Lodge, and with this we must agree. In that case it was not conducted in "the building which accommodated School No. 186" unless this building was used temporarily prior to a transfer to Laurel Lodge.

In my mind there remains a suspicion that Miss Shaw possibly did not use Laurel Lodge at all.

This is incorrect Miss Shaw did use Laurel Lodge from 1869 until 1884. **NB:** See note 1.

Secondly, how did Miss Shaw make the school pay on a fee of a penny a week per pupil (even in those early days)?. She could not have had many pupils. The standard fee of other private schools of the era was one shilling per week. School No. 186 had charged 1/- per week. It has been suggested that she was subsidised by the Government, but this could not have been so as Dandenong School No. 1403 had opened. (she could have been subsidised until 1874).

The Education Act stated:- Free, Secular and Compulsory

- (a) (The Education Act 1874 Victoria Government Gazette, 20 Dec 1872, supplement) No. CCCCXLVII.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO EDUCATION 17TH DEC 1872

This act provided amongst other things that 'the trustees, committee of management, or correspondent as the case may be of every non - vested school receiving aid from the Board of Education at the commencement of this act shall be entitled to receive for the free education of children attending such school in the subjects specified in the First Schedule hereto a sum equivalent to what such school would receive if it were a State School until the first of January 1874 and no longer.

Miss Shaw's school then could not always have been only a "school for girls". Mr. L. J. Blake (president Royal Historical Society of Victoria), in an address to the Dandenong Historical Society on 16/7/1969 dealing with the life of the actor Oscar Asche, related how Oscar attended Miss Shaw's school in Dandenong in 1878. At the time Oscar was living (or

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staying) in Carlton Road. Another who attended Miss Shaw's school was Geoffrey Syme from "Rawdon Hill". Of course he was a member of the family publishing the Melbourne morning newspaper, "The Age". So, was Miss Shaw's school a school for young ladies, or did it's attendance expand to embrace both sexes later?

Miss Shaw conducted this school for many years and then built a two-storey school in Wilson Street in 1884. This school later became a private hospital, and later still was converted into flats.

This necessitates further thinking, was it the two-storey school that Oscar Asche and Geoffrey Syme attended? Was Miss Shaw able to afford to build a two-storey school after "amassing a fortune by charging a penny a pupil per week!! Maybe she was a wealthy person not dependant on the school income.

Back to 1864 and School No. 186 for a moment:-

Further support for the statement that the salaries of teachers were supplemented by the Government comes from the letter written on June 20th 1864 by A. C. Walker, "Dandenong Grange", Local Correspondent for the Dandenong School Committee (note this early use of the term "School Committee") to B. F. Hose (?), Secretary, Board of Education, Melbourne.

"I am directed by Miss Ann Monger, the work mistress of the Dandenong School to apply to you for the necessary pay forms upon which to furnish the Board of Education with the amount of allowance she claims for the months of April and May. She wishes me further to enquire if there is any pay due to her for the month of March"

At the foot of the letter appears these additions:-

- Minute - Allotment from 1st March for Master only. She should send her claim to 18th March.
- Memo 14/10/64 The enclosed form is forwarded for Miss A Monger to claim salary as a work mistress for such period as she was employed at the Dandenong school from 16th Nov.

In 1856 Bishop Perry had referred to school No. 186 as the only school within ten miles of Dandenong.

WHAT A CHANGED SITUATION TODAY!!!

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THE FIRST STATE SCHOOL

On April 18th 1873 a public meeting of Dandenong residents was held under the chairmanship of a Mr H. Sutherland. At this meeting a letter was drafted and sent on April 22nd to the Minister urging him to take steps "to have a State School erected in the town of Dandenong.

A letter signed by Mr Cadle as Correspondent of the local Board of Advice on 29th September 1873 urged that two acres of Dr. L. L. Smith's land in Foster and Walker Streets' be purchased at £75 per acre. However, the Education Department had other ideas, and on October 1st made an application for a grant of Crown Land (for school purposes) west of Robinson street and north of Foster street. The Board of Advice (this Board was elected by the local ratepayers) then protested that the land was unsuitable because it was too small (portion had been granted for a temperance hall, leaving only 3 roods 36 perches - less than one acre) and "was situated very near the hotels and proposed railway station and slaughter yards". Nevertheless the Education Department must have secured the land applied for. because the first State School was indeed built at the corner of Robinson and Foster Streets. The Beau Monde factory recently occupied this site until 1967. It was allotment 6 of section 3 Township of Dandenong.

By the 25th November 1873 plans were ready for a brick school 60 feet by 20 feet - the original Dandenong State School No. 1403 - and tenders were being invited. On December 22nd the Board of Advice forwarded a communication requesting the Minister to receive a deputation on Monday 29th at 10.30a.m. re the proposed site of the school. The Minister was "out of town".

On November 22nd 1873 J. D. Cadle, correspondent, Board of Advice, had written to the Education Department asking, "Will you please inform this Board if they have any voice in the appointment of teachers in the new school at Dandenong?" it is doubtful whether the Board had "even a whisper".

The successful contractor for the building was Henry Powis (of the Dandenong timber yard, Main Street) who had tendered £497/18/6. Tenders received ranged as high as £785. On 26th December 1873 (evidently Boxing Day was a normal working day) extra works were approved in connection with the building-for the porches 9 inch paving tiles were to be used to provide a good foundation for the wooden floor, while white brick plain arches were to replace the red arches specified previously. The extra amount allowed to the contractor for this work was £29.

Work proceeded steadily, but was reported as being in a backward state on 28th March 1874, as the building should have been finished by March 9th. On April 25th the Public Works Department Inspector reported that some bricks were of an incorrect colour.

Finally it was decided that the school should open on Monday, May 14th. Then came the realization that there was a great need for a water supply, as the nearest water was in the creek half-a- mile away. Mr. Powis offered to sink a brick tank for £30, but evidently the school opened without a water supply, as Mr McIntyre (Public Works Inspector) reported on

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May 29th that it was essential for the brick in the tank to be set in cement to overcome seepage.

But the first Dandenong State School did officially open its doors on May 4th 1874. Alexander Allan of Keysborough School had applied for the position of Head Teacher, stating in his application that he had secured a high percentage of passes with his pupils at Keysborough. However, the first Head Teacher was Malcolm MacPherson. In fact he was the only Head Teacher of the school whilst it occupied the original site.

Early days in Dandenong were not very happy ones for Malcolm MacPherson for he had much difficulty in finding a suitable house to rent, and the house that he did secure eventually was most unsatisfactory to say the least. In a "heart-broken" letter to the Education Department on July 9th 1874 he stated that his youngest child, twelve months old, had died from pneumonia and convulsions due to the damp state of the house in which he was forced to live. He also requested that salary and maintenance expenses owing be paid, as he had been without money since moving from Allan's Flat three weeks previously. Allan's Flat School No. 11 was near Yackandandah in the North East of Victoria. Malcolm MacPherson must have seen some gold-mining activity there.

On May 2nd 1874 the Dandenong Board of Advice had urged upon the Education Department "the necessity of erecting a residence for the teacher of State School at Dandenong" No residence has ever been built.

What do we know of Malcolm MacPherson? He had come originally from Scotland where he had taught agriculture in schools. He was very keen to have this subject introduced into the curriculum of Victorian schools, and offered to teach it himself if allowed. His interest in farming he retained, for one he applied for a lease of 320 acres of land (somewhere in the Carrum Downs district). In his application he stated that he would have "no difficulty in running his school, managing the 78 acres he was working already and preparing another 320 acres. He might also inspire his neighbours to use modern scientific methods!" this application was probably not successful, but it did apparently bring him into conflict with a difficult local character by the name of Mr. Beilby who had also applied for the lease. MacPherson was later a sworn valuator in Dandenong - a versatile man!

We know also that during the "sixties he had been esteemed as a teacher at St Stephen's School, Bathurst, New South Wales, and that he had evidently come to Dandenong from Allan's Flat. He was certainly a Rechabite, as on one occasion he applied for, and was granted, leave to attend a Rechabite conference at Kilmore.

Malcolm MacPherson continued as Head Teacher until 1888 when evidently he resigned and conducted his own private school, the Dandenong Grammar School, for many years. In a 1906 advertisement for his Grammar School he advised that the subjects taught were Reading, Writing, English Grammar, Geography, History, Arithmetic, Bookkeeping, French, Latin, Greek, Algebra, Geometry, Measuration, Trigonometry and Agriculture (if required).

One of his sons, Jeffrey MacPherson, was one of the founders of the firm of MacPherson and Kelly (solicitors), and also assisted his father on Saturday mornings by teaching at the Grammar School when there were sufficient pupils to warrant his assistance. One of Malcolm

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MacPherson's daughters married into the well-known Keys family. The name MacPherson is still in evidence in Dandenong and it is perpetuated in the name of one of Dandenong's streets.

This, briefly, was Malcolm MacPherson - the first Head Teacher of 1403 and a very forthright person, as seen in his letters published from time to time in old copies of the South Bourke and Mornington Journal. Once he "took to task" a speaker who had praised Napoleon Bonaparte during a lecture delivered in Dandenong, and on another occasion he wrote in scathing terms of the activities of the Boers in South Africa.

But back to State School 1403! The staff of 1874 consisted of :-

- M MacPherson - Head Teacher - Salary - £219/0/10 per annum. Appointed 1/5/1874 resigned 31/7/1888
- Catherine Masters - Work Mistress - 1/5/1874 to July 1874
- Flora Newman - Assistant - Salary £85/15 per annum. 11/6/1874 to 29/4/1876
- Jane A MacPherson - Pupil Teacher - Third class teacher - £24 per annum - 1/7/1874 to 18/10/1880
- George Dunbar - Pupil Teacher - Four class teacher - £20 per annum - 19/12/1874 to 16/1/1880

It was soon realized that the school building was unsuitable and that the accommodation provided was inadequate. As early as August 24th (less than four months after the school had opened) the Head Teacher advised the Department that provision must be made for at least two hundred pupils. And Malcolm MacPherson's troubles continued, for six days prior to writing this letter concerning accommodation, he had communicated that he was unable to rent a house in Dandenong and was forced to live in a "miserable, damp and small house one and a half miles from the school".

A study of the correspondence of the next four years reveals the problems. On 8/2/1875 Mr Searle, for the Board of Advice, asked how many children the school must accommodate. The reply received was that it should accommodate 150 without inconvenience if the building was 60 feet by 20 feet. A letter on 26/2/1875 reported on the "insufficiency of the accommodation". On 6/2/1876 the stifling atmosphere was reported upon. It had been necessary to take some children out of the room and to send them home in a fainting condition. Mr MacPherson advised, on 17/3/1876, that he could not find a suitable room to accommodate 30 to 50 children.

Evidently at least one local resident was displeased with the building, for on 16/5/1876 a firm of solicitors in Collins Street, Melbourne, communicated with the Education Department desiring inspection of the building. This was on behalf of a client who was considering legal action against the contractor.

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On 11th August 1876 the Head Teacher stated that there was no ceiling to the school, which was in a cold, draughty condition. (Evidently fainting children in February, shivering children in August). In 1875 there had been 195 children enrolled (average attendance 135), but this number had risen to 229 by 3/5/1877. A request was made for more accommodation, particularly in view of the fact that Eumemmerring school was to be moved towards Berwick by about four miles. This would naturally increase the attendance at 1403.

On 4th October 1877 Mr McIntyre, Public Works Department, recommended the building of a new school. The old school was covered in shingles, and in a few years' time would have to be covered with iron. This alone would cost £165. He recommended that the existing school building be sold. In his opinion it would bring £600. How wrong he was to be!

Another 1877 letter provides interesting information about the types of desks used. Most of the desks in the school were nine feet long, but two were ten feet six inches and one was twelve feet long. The desks varied in height from 1 foot 9½ inches to 2 feet 4 inches.

In May 1878 further overcrowding was reported, while in December of that year Henry Powis received a contract price of £14 for painting and cleaning the school.

THE NEW SCHOOL

The move for more adequate accommodation was finally successful, and Mr McIntyre's recommendation that a new school be constructed was adopted. Perhaps the first deciding factor was that the Dandenong Railway Station was opened in 1878. The existing school site was considered too dangerous as the children would run down to the station to see the train come in.

By May 1880 tenders were being received for a new brick school to accommodate 200 pupils, this building to be erected on the new site in Foster Street, (the present school site). The site consisted of two acres purchased in February 1878 from Mr. William Masters. The family home, a quaint old cottage by today's standards, was demolished only in 1855, and two old iron sheds on the Masters' property still stand in the school ground. (One of these was demolished during 1971). These are used for storing junk (how better can I describe the contents!).

The successful tender was Thomas Corley of Carlton, the price £1,444/8/-. Mr Corley later claimed that he lost £300 on the work. The building was to be completed early in 1881. Originally the foundations were to have been of granite, but bluestone was allowed as a substitute when the contractor reported that granite was not obtainable locally and the work would be delayed if he had to wait for it to be brought. In spite of this concession there was the usual report of unsatisfactory progress at one stage. Nevertheless the work was completed reasonably early in 1881.

On 26/1/1881 the Shire Secretary, John Keys, wrote to the Minister of Public Instruction, Hon. W. C. Smith, inviting him to perform the ceremony of officially opening the school on March 4th. Some doubt has been expressed locally whether this ceremony ever actually took place, as there is no foundation stone to indicate that it did. Readers may be assured that the

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official opening was carried out, and a detailed account of it was written in the "Dandenong Advertiser" of 6th March 1881.

The first notice concerning the official opening appeared as follows in the "Dandenong Advertiser" of 2nd March 1881:-

"New School! The new and handsome building for State School purposes, Dandenong, is now all but finished and will be formally opened on March 4th next. The Local Board of Advice have taken advantage of the occasion to give the children a treat on ;that day and have a little enjoyment themselves. The ne2w school will be opened at 2 o'clock by the Minister of Education, Major Smith, M.L.A., and after the ceremony the children will be regaled in the park with tea, cakes etc., and prizes for athletic exercises given away. In the evening at 5.30 am (sic) a banquet will be given in honour of the occasion. About 50 invitations have been sent out. Tickets may be had from the worthy corresp9ondent, Mr A. W. Rodd, for the small sum of 5/-, including wines"

The above has been written exactly as it appeared originally. It is interesting to note that the "Advertiser" has referred to Major Smith as the Minister of Education, whereas Departmental correspondence titled him as Minister of Public Instruction.

Following is a full, if not entirely complete, reproduction of the official opening of the Foster Street School as reported in the "Advertiser of 6/3/1881. This has been reproduced at considerable length, because it does record early opinions on the school building itself, it certainly reveals the thinking of 1881 on educational and local problems, while the phraseology has a "delightful old-world charm". Some speeches have been omitted, but no words have been altered.

"Official Opening"

On Friday, March 4th, 1881, the Minister of Education (Major Smith) accompanied by the Minister of Railways, Monsieur Montmahou (Inspector-General of Schools in France), Messrs Keys and Harris (M. A.) and Mr Bolan of the Education Department came by special train.

The building is of the Gothic order of architecture, consists of three rooms (one for boys, one for girls and a gallery or classroom). It is fitted with every modern convenience, having a lavatory in the porch, a hat rack in the hall, and the ventilation is first class, the ventilation being on the most improved principle. The building is very prettily ornamented outwardly, and having been built in a commanding eminence just behind the Catholic chapel, it forms a pleasing addition to our local architecture and cannot fail to catch the eye of the visitor to our township.

Thomas Corley, the contractor, of Carlton received £1,400 for the contract but lost £300 on the work.

The school, which holds about two hundred scholars, was nine months in the course of erection.

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Children from Dandenong, Keysborough and Springvale schools collected in the Agricultural Society's yard. They then marched to the school, headed by a large banner, nicely painted by Thomas Walkley. The banner contained a bust of Minerva, Goddess of Wisdom, in the centre. On either side were the figures of a boy and a girl, the former with his hand on a globe, the latter with her hand on volumes of books. In the centre was a scroll, "Learning is free to all". It was carried by six big boys. The masters of the various schools. Messers MacPherson, Kerr and Allen - were in charge. At the new school the children formed double rows and sang a verse of the National Anthem. They then entered the building.

In a neat little speech the Minister of Education declared the school open. He was "much pleased with the tasteful little building", he complemented the Board of Advice (Messrs Keys, Powis, Greaves, Hemmings and the correspondent Augustus Willoughby Rodd) on securing such an edifice; and hoped that the children would be attentive to their studies and get on as well as they could. He introduced Monsieur De Montmahou who had come out here to study the working of our Education system.

The Minister of Railways, (Mr. J. B. Patterson) indulged in a humorous little speech. He had been in Dandenong before to lay the foundation stone of the new post and telegraph office. If the children behaved themselves well and attended to their books he would see if they could not give them a cheap railway trip to town to see the exhibition. (loud cheers from the boys). [there are several references to the exhibition which was evidently being staged on Melbourne at the time.]

Mr. John Keys M.L.A. passed a vote of thanks to the Minister.

The children sang very creditably some nice little selections under the conductorship of Mr. MacPherson.

The proceedings closed with the last verse of the National Anthem.

The children marched back to the showgrounds and were freely fed with cakes, tarts etc this went on until evening.

In the evening at the mechanics Institute the banquet was held. The catering was in the hands of Dawson and Friedman who catered "with their usual taste and bounty".

After an attack had been made upon the turkey, duck, fowl and joints, and the pastry and fruit glanced over, a few bottles of ale and portes discussed, the was introduced and the speech-making commenced.

Lt Col. Hutton, J.P., occupied the chair. Mr Thomas Attenborough, J.P., occupied the vice chair.

The loyal toasts were drunk.

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Mr. Rodd proposed the health of the Minister of Education, Mr. W. Collard Smith. He stated that he did not altogether agree with the Education Act, and thought that parents should pay a small sum towards the education of their offspring.

Toasts were drunk with musical honours.

Major Smith responded. He stated that there had been some criticism of the expense incurred by the Department. One article alluded to the cost of school furniture. This was the first criticism - the Department was asked to provide backs to the children's seats - this would cost an extra quarter of a million pounds. He compared the cost of schools. In France generally £20 head, in England £25 head, in this colony £7 head.

With regard to furniture the cost in the colony was 4/6 per head compared with Belgium 12/- or 15/- head and Sweden 22/- to 25/-. In 1879 there were 1873,934 children attending our schools. If these 25,199 were under six years of age. The second criticism as that money was being wasted by having children under six at school. If these children were not required to attend, only fifty or sixty schools in the colony would be affected.

He believed that children should go to school as early as four years of age. By the time they were six they would be ready for the next class, and the plastic mind of youth was quite ready to receive good impressions at four years of age.

He would like to make the school days forty days per quarter instead of thirty. This would lead to better results. He was opposed to the payment of costs by parents.

Mr Bolan proposed the health of Monsieur De Montmahou.

Monsieur De Montmahou, in reply, said he was assured, by their usual courtesy, they would certainly excuse his bad English, but it would be very wrong of him, after so many proofs of unexhausted kindness, not to profit by this opportunity to express to Mr. W. Collard Smith all his feelings of thankfulness.

He came to Victoria to study the rules and management of the schools.

At the last Paris exhibition it was shown to the old world that in this new country they appreciated in a high degree the necessity of informing the growing generation of the profit of the community, and to make good citizens in a land where everybody enjoyed citizenship. In their Education Act they had the most liberal groundwork he knew of, unparalleled in Europe, with, perhaps, the exception of the Netherlands.

Mr Joseph Clarke proposed the "Parliament of Victoria"

Mr John Keys, member for the district, responded.

Mr Joseph Harris, member for St Kilda, also acknowledged the compliment they had opened that afternoon, but thought there was too lavish an expenditure on State School buildings in this colony, and considered that if more unpretentious buildings were erected it would be better, and devote the money saved in this direction to the erection of schools in

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sparsely populated districts, where at present schools were too far apart. He thought they were going to extremes also in education and if they taught only in State schools the three R's they should be satisfied, without going into singing, drawing, euclid etc.

Mr. Henry Powis J.P., proposed the "Ministers of the Crown" coupled with the name of Mr. J P. Patterson.

Mr Patterson had done much for Dandenong. He had helped to give Dandenong its first school, a new Post Office, now another school, had promised a new courthouse which Dandenong would have received ere this had Mr. Patterson not been put out of power for a short time. He had made some slight blunders, perhaps, but he could not be blamed for the mishap to the Dandenong Bridge, or to the unfortunate affair of a big flood coming down and washing away the bridge over the Carrum Swamp Outlet.

(Toast was drunk with musical honours).

Mr. Patterson spoke.

Then Major Smith proposed the health of the Board of Advice coupled with the name of Mr. John Keys, M.L.A.

Mr. Keys responded.

Mr Walker proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the honorary correspondent of the Board, Mr. Augustas W. Rodd (Captain Rodd).

Mr. Rodd responded. The Board had certainly done a considerable amount of good in the district, but they could not enforce the compulsory clause owing to the limited accommodation provided in schools; in the old school, Dandenong, room for 150 scholars had been provided and there were 180 on the rolls. He would ask how could the Board, in the face of these facts, compel the children to attend. They simply couldn't attempt it, and one of the most useful objects of the Board was thereby frustrated. He thought that while ratepayers were in affluent circumstances they should be made to contribute towards the education of their children.

Mr. Patterson proposed the toast of the Dandenong Shire Council coupled with the name of Colonel Hutton, the President.

The factiously stated that if a person wanted to enjoy many little favours, all they had to do was to get into the Shire Council. (cries of No! No!). This was not the case in the Dandenong Shire Council, where the Councillors never showed favours to anyone; he said if they had a few more like Colonel Hutton in Shire Councils, some of these bodies would be different to what they are at present. He referred to the Carrum Swamp business. He might say that he and Colonel Hutton had inspected the locality together, and now they were going to be summoned for £12,000 damages, and on this account he had a kindly feeling towards the Colonel (laughter) and wished them to drink his health in flowing bumpers (musical honours).

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Colonel Hutton felt flattered.

Mr. Malcolm MacPherson proposed the Dandenong and South Bourke Agricultural Society, coupled with the President, Mr. Joseph Clarke. He said that something should be done in the Education Department to foster agriculture, this most-to-be encouraged art. He had taught the science of agriculture in Scotland and he was willing to teach it here in Victorian schools. If he had his way, he would have several agricultural colleges in different agricultural districts over the colony.

Mr. Clarke replied briefly.

Mr. Thomas Attenborough of Dingley Grange proposed the Army, Navy and Volunteers. Colonel Hutton responded.

After singing "God Save the Queen" the company separated after having enjoyed a very pleasant time."

Thus was the new building of S.S. 1403 launched - obviously a memorable occasion, and all for five shillings, including wines!.

During the speeches there was also some reference to the "payment by results" system for teachers and the consequent disadvantage suffered by teachers when children did not attend regularly. There was also some references to teachers obtaining their positions by favour or privilege.

The "payment by results" method in use in Victorian schools during the last century and early in this century was based on the number of passes cored by the children taught at the District Inspector's examination during his visit of inspection. We can imagine that the teacher used "considerable drive" to make sure that his pupils were prepared to pass this examination, and we may be sure that results varied according to the strictness of the District Inspector and some of them were very strict indeed - the "annual visit" caused much "fear and trembling."

An illustration of how passes were scored for "payment by results" is on page 96 of "The School Paper or March 1899. It reads as follows:-

Circular to teachers - Result Examinations.

Teachers are hereby informed, in connection with future result examinations that:

1. An individual pass will be awarded for drawing in all classes above the Lower Division of the First Class.
2. One pass will be awarded on the class examination of all classes above the Lower Division of the First Class in recitation, singing, and drill - one-third of a pass for each subject.
3. The pupils in Class 1, Upper Division, will be examined in spelling from the Primer and as far as page 44 of the First Book.

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4. The pupils of Class 1, Upper Division, will be required to read from any part of the Primer or The First Book.
5. The pupils of Class 1, Upper Division, will be required to show specimens of hemming.
6. The Class V, may be required to work an easy example in interest and also to solve problems of a similar character to those given in Class IV, but of somewhat greater difficulty.

NB: Revised geographical and derivation lists will be issued shortly.

It is also interesting to note that the local Board of Advice of the time of the opening of the Foster Street State School differed considerably in function from the School Committee of 1970. The Board of Advice asked not only for Dandenong, but was a district board serving also the schools at Springvale and Keysborough. It had the power to approve minor works to be carried out at these schools, to grant holidays and to grant short leave to teachers. One of its functions, too, was to ensure that children attended school regularly - this is now the responsibility of attendance officers. In the 1890's the neighbouring Board of Advice east of Dandenong was at Berwick and this board served schools at Narre Warren and Eumemmerring.

Augustus Willoughby Rodd (Major Rodd, later Lt. Col. Rodd) was a family grocer whose business was titled the Post Office Store. It was near the old Post Office.

What did the new school building consist of? You will notice that the Dandenong Advertiser reported that it consisted of three rooms, and had a lavatory in the porch and a hat rack in the hall. Many have puzzled over the location of the three classrooms and others have queried the "lavatory in the porch". However, the report was quite correct. The present office is situated where the lavatory was located originally. There was no office in the original building (the Head Teacher was too busy teaching). You will read later in this story (if you are still plodding through it) when the office was established. The largest classroom (the present rooms 1 and 2 a partition was inserted much later), measuring approximately 36 feet by 25 feet, was the Infant Room and had a gallery rising in tiers to the back wall. The mark of the highest part of the gallery is still visible on the wall. The gallery had been removed from the old school building on 17th March 1881.

An ex-pupil, and later a teacher at the school, Mrs M. Lilley (formerly May Griffiths), has described to me how a gallery was entered. She remembers the first day at the Foster Street School, probably because she earned praise for the manner in which she entered the gallery. It was necessary for the first children to march into the room to move across the room, up the steps and into the back row of the gallery.

One former student recollects that each of the two main classrooms had a gallery. An examination of the wall of room 4 rather confirms this.

The second classroom, now room 4, measured approximately 34 feet by 20 feet, while the third was smaller, being only 19 feet square. This was the present "former staffroom" and part of the present porch combined. The two larger classrooms must have accommodated approximately eighty children each.

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Water from the roof was directed into a well behind the infant room on the New Street side. To obtain water from the well an old-fashioned hand pump was provided and no doubt it clanked furiously at recess periods. The well itself was covered by a brick dome and was a feature in the school grounds until 1956 when it was filled in.

The grounds were enclosed (probably sometime after the official opening) along the Foster Street and New Street boundaries by a six foot (?) picket fence with a wooden gate in Foster Street opposite the main door of the school. Was it only a six foot picket fence as reported?. The flagpole was erected to the right of the school and quite close to Foster Street. Assemblies were conducted in front of the school near to the flagpole. To the north-east the grounds extended to Masters Lane, the traditional battleground for those who wished to settle disputes after school outside the jurisdiction of the Head Teacher. In fact Masters Lane has been referred to as "the bloodiest strip of territory in Dandenong" because of the number of bleeding noses received there. The Dunbridge property adjoined the school grounds on the south-east side.

Mr MacPherson and the boys planted trees inside the fence. there was much correspondence between the Education Department and Mr MacPherson over payment for these trees, as the Head Teacher had planted first and asked for permission and payment later. As he had not sought prior permission to incur this expenditure, his claim was rejected several time. However, he was a persistent Scotsman and it seems that his claim might have been met later.

After a number of attempts to sell, the original site was auctioned on 21st March 1882. The result was a return of £300 - just half of Mr McIntyre's purchase, but the name of the actual purchaser appears clouded in obscurity.

The school must have been progressing satisfactorily, as the Dandenong Advertiser of May 10th 1882 reported on the visit of the District Inspector. "Charles Tynan Esq B.A. L.L.D. (perhaps this should be L.L.B.) paid a casual inspection to the Dandenong State School yesterday. His report is as follows:-

Organization - The classes are kept well employed, under good supervision, and accordance with the management detailed in the timetable.

Instruction - Good methods are adopted and the instruction generally is of a satisfactory character.

Discipline is satisfactory. Records are made up to date. During the day Mr. A Harmer, pupil teacher, was examined in the art of teaching for the first class, and passed, thus completing his pupil teacher's course.

In 1884 a request was made for a bell to be supplied. The application was granted, and this bell was hung from a sturdy post quite close to the well. No doubt his bell is the same as that is suspended today in the bell quadrangle, and is used in case of emergency - a relic of days gone by!

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When Malcolm MacPherson resigned on 31st July 1888, he was succeeded by Gustavus A. Swan who had been teaching at Elsternwick. We have no accurate description of Mr. Swan, but various references made in paper reports indicate that he did face problems during his stay of some eleven years.

Children (and adults) do not alter materially with the passing of the years. In a letter to the Education Department on 16/9/1889 Mr Masters (you will remember that he lived on Foster Street next to the school) requested that a paling fence be constructed on his side of the school ground, as the children would trespass on his property. He advised that he was usually away on Tuesday, and on this day the children used to "rob his garden and leave the gates open". Evidently the Education Department finally agreed, for there is a record of a contract being let to E. Powis for the erection of a paling fence at the price of £14-10 (13/2/1891). Obviously people living in the vicinity of 1403 have been complaining about the misdeeds of its pupils from at least 1889 until 1970, and no doubt will forever more.

Before we leave behind completely the era of Malcolm MacPherson, we should look back over his life so that we may know him more intimately. As the first Head Teacher of Dandenong State School he was an important figure in the community. After his resignation from the Education Department in 1888 he continued to conduct his Grammar School, probably until close to the time of his death in 1910. His advertisements in the local paper appear under the addresses Gordon Cottage, and later Clifton Villa. He offered a wide range of subjects, including tuition for pupils who desired to pass the matriculation examination at Melbourne University, and in the hard times of 1900-01 reduced his fees "to suit the times".

His obituary was published in the Dandenong Journal of 2/2/1910. Amongst the facts published in the obituary were that he was born in 1834 in Hillin village on the shores of Loch Tay, Perthshire, and that he always remembered Scotland with affection. He spent some time at the University of Edinburgh before taking up teaching, becoming a schoolmaster in a remote district in the north of Scotland. He possessed great vigour and energy in addition to an independent spirit. Shortly after coming of age he left Scotland for New South Wales. There he embarked on various businesses, being a merchant, wine grower and farmer, but always returning to school. On one occasion he came into possession of a small vineyard near Orange in New South Wales. He was determined to make wine from that season's grapes himself rather than see them waste. He procured a pamphlet on wine-making just then published in France and slavishly followed every direction. This wine turned out to be the best in the district and made the record price.

In Sydney he met William Charles Wentworth and John Dunmore Lang. He taught in schools at Parramatta and Bathurst and taught Sir Albert Gould, President of the Senate of Australia.

More the half his life was spent in Victoria, for he entered the State Service as soon as the Education Act was passed. Malcolm MacPherson came to Dandenong in 1874 and opened the new State School. The old school was described as an old barn-like brick building and the bathing place was in the creek. He was a vigorous master inspired with a love of literature, but did not spoil the child by sparing the rod. The old school was visited by "Jimmy" and "Liza" [?] and other remaining aborigines of the Mordialloc tribe.

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Mr. MacPherson's retirement (more probably, resignation) from the Education Department occurred on 31/7/1888. He was always interested in agricultural and pastoral pursuits and farmed several properties in the district. He was one of the original settlers on the Carrum Swamp, and was also a councillor for the South Riding of the Shire of Dandenong. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Prince of Wales Light Horse Regiment. He was secretary of the Mechanics' Institute in Dandenong, also a foundation member, and later Master of the Freemans.

Malcolm was buried in the Dandenong Cemetery by Rev. G. G. Veal with the Masonic Service conducted by Brother R. J. Tuff.

The grave record in the Dandenong Cemetery register shows:-

Malcolm MacPherson	-	died 28/1/1910	-	aged 76 years
Mary MacPherson	-	died 9/4/1913	-	aged 76 years
Grace Essie MacPherson	-			aged 7 1/2 years
Jane Eckford, sister of Mary	-	died 23/1/1899	-	aged 76 years
Geoffrey [?], son of Mary	-	died 8/11/1938	-	aged 69 years

GROWTH AND PROBLEMS

From the date of its establishment Dandenong State School suffered accommodation problems. Remember that the new building was designed to house two hundred pupils. ON 2st January 1891 Mr. Swan advised the Education Department of overcrowding. On that day (yes, school had resumed in January) there were 257 children present from a total enrolment of 289. His plea must have received some kind of sympathetic hearing, for on 11/6/1891 he wrote to the Education Department advising that he had visited the Church of England schoolroom (the old School No. 186) some three hundred yards from the Foster Street school. He had ascertained that it could be rented at a cost of £1 per week. There was one fireplace, a few forms, also some desks, one tank and two out offices. Some playground area was available.

Just when we cannot be sure, but shortly after this report classes began in the Church of England schoolhouse in Langhorne Street.

Only some ten years after its construction had been completed the new 1403 was facing problems. On the 15th July 1891 the wall on the west side of the school building was described as being very damp. On the 17th December in the same year rain entered the porch, while in 1892 rain entered all three rooms on October 11th. Strange to relate, this still happens in 1970.

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In the mid nineties the water in the underground tank was causing headaches. There must have been some complaints, as Mr. Swan reported in a letter written on 17/12/1896 that the remains of a rabbit were found in the tank. It "must have entered by the outlet pipe. The water was ruined." This brings back memories of happy days spent in small country schools. Who has not "fished" a dead possum out of a drinking water tank? Country children must be fussy in their taste. Some had even complained that the water had a "funny" taste".

At this time the school was fortunate to have the services of a Mr. J. C. Rennie as music master. Obviously he was both enthusiastic and talented, as the children performed in the Dandenong Town Hall a number of operettas and cantatas under his guidance, with Miss Rennie as the pianist. I have some doubt as to whether Mr Rennie was a full-time teacher at the school or merely conducted singing classes there. At any rate he achieved some fame in April 1897 when the South Bourke and Mornington Journal reported that Mr. J. C. Rennie, singing master at Dandenong State School, appeared in the role of Mac Gregor in the Caledonian Society's performance of "Rob Roy" in Melbourne. The reading of this would lead us to assume that he was a full-time teacher. His pupils produced the operetta "Princes Snowwhite and the Seven Dwarfs" to aid the Dandenong Brass Band (18/11/1896), and the cantatas "Day in the Woods" (7/12/1896) and "New Year's Eve" (20/12/1897 in aid of "The School Fund". On these programs also were individual and group vocal numbers, club swinging and wand drill.

In December 1896 a meeting of the Board of Advice was reported in the local press. I have included it to give an indication of what happened at these meetings. Present were Mr. Thompson in the Chair, Messrs Rodd, Rogers and McLean. A letter from the Head Teacher at Springvale was received. This letter advised that he had spent 7/6 on repairs to the underground tank. The Education Department notified that painting and repairs costing £51-10 would be carried out at Dandenong School. The Board of Advice agreed to pay £3 towards the cost. Mr R. A. Titcher was recommended to fill the vacancy existing on the Board. A recommendation was made also that the Berwick Board of Advice be written to asking for its co-operation in having the Eumemmerring School reopened in the higher classes as twenty children had to walk five or six miles a day to and from their homes. In addition Dandenong was overcrowded.

Information on the Eumemmerring School has proved rather elusive, but it does appear that at this particular time only its infant grades were operating to save the little one from the long walk into Dandenong.

That underground tank! During 1897 the drinking water was again causing concern. There was a report of "drinking animal matter" in the water. That rabbit again! The Education Department had advised that the water supply was not liable to pollution, and it could see no reason why the children could not organize some sort of function to raise funds for the purchase of a couple of filters rather than request financial support from the Department.

During April 1897 money was collected to aid the India Famine Fund.

Queen Victoria was to celebrate her jubilee during June of that year, and a public meeting decided that tree planting should be carried out at 10a.m. on Thursday June 24th. Forty trees were to be planted, followed by a procession to the showgrounds where lunch and tea would

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be provided and sports would be held. Six hundred children from Dandenong, Keysborough, Springvale, Eumemmerring and Lyndhurst were expected. Expenditure planned was £6 on a fence and tree planting, £7 on fireworks and £7/15 food.

The procession that succeeded the tree planting must have been quite an occasion. It began at 12.30p.m. and was described in the following terms in the South Bourke and Mornington Journal of 25th June:-

"It was truly a brilliant pageant, the local brass band heading the way, succeeded by the Dandenong fire brigade and Piper's band of Darktown fire fighters. The children attending school at Dandenong, Lyndhurst, Eumemmerring and Springvale made a formidable array (marshalled four abreast) numbering between 400 and 500, following then being representatives of a local friendly society. Next came a lorry bearing a bevy of maypole dancers, who presented a pretty sight with their garlands, flags, and festoons of ribbon and ferns. The lorry was lavishly decorated and was drawn by a white horse gaily caparisoned for the eventful occasion in red, white and blue, and bestrode by a diminutive postillion attired as Jack of Diamonds in a brilliant costume of scarlet and white. Then followed private vehicles containing many prominent citizens, Shire Councillors and members of the local Board of Advice."

Part of the description of the sports afternoon records that "treacle buns attached to a tight rope caused much amusement, while the race for the lolly bags attached to Joseph's coat proved a great attraction for the boys, so much so that it had to be repeated for the girls to their great delight"

Thus was the Jubilee of Queen Victoria (1837-1901) celebrated in Dandenong, although a Fete for the Jubilee was assembled at the school on 30/6/1897 in addition.

An outbreak of diphtheria hit Dandenong the following month and the Board of Advice decided to close the school for a period of one week late in July. There had been a proposal that this closure should be applied the previous month.

Gustavus A. Swan remains rather an obscure character, for evidently he avoided the limelight. I have hinted previously that he had his problems, and this view is confirmed by conversations with some of the very oldest Dandenong residents who can remember him as their Head Master. Obviously these are few in number, because most of the elderly citizens of today began their schooling under Mr White. Evidently Mr Swan had some mischievous boys in the school to keep him alive. Both Mr Swan and Miss Griffiths were farewelled at a prize-giving ceremony in July 1899. Mr Swan had previously asked the Department for a transfer, stating that since coming to Dandenong from Elsternwick he had suffered from rheumatism. He obtained approval to transfer to Footscray where no doubt there were more mischievous boys. A report indicates that Mr Swan was in charge of Somerton School later.

With the departure of Gustavus A. Swan the era of William White commenced. After his arrival from Rushworth Mr White was in charge at Dandenong for only seven years (not a long period at that time, although Head Teachers are changed much more rapidly today), but he must have had considerable influence with the young people of his day. James Swords has described him as "a very fine gentleman with swarthy chin and a close-cropped beard. He was a strict disciplinarian and went a long way towards moulding the characters of children

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who attended the school". His house was in McCrae street just before McCrae street enters the bridge over the Dandenong Creek. This old house has been demolished recently (1970?). And so another old Dandenong home has fallen to the wreckers! Did William White stir a little uneasily in his grave as the bricks came tumbling down?

The new Head Teacher had one son, Thomas White, teaching at the school with him. The records of the Education Department show that H. W. P. White and Thomas were appointed temporarily in 1889. The H. W. P. White was not a son of William White. One ex-student, Albert J. (Bert) Brown has in his possession an old photograph of the Sixth Class. Included in the group, in addition to himself, are two of Mr. White's boys. The sixth class was what we would call the old grades 7 and 8.

Why was William White generally known as Captain White? Well, after his arrival he wasted very little time in establishing a school Cadet Corps, part of a developing state-wide movement. Remember that during the '90's there was a growing nationwide tension about lack of defences. The French were in Tahiti and the Germans in New Guinea - both were somewhat feared. Moves towards Federation seemed to highlight a need for self-defence. Even the young were trained within the flamboyant, patriotic spirit of the times. Federation bought hopes of Australia dominating the Southern Seas.

Approval for the School Cadet Corps was given on 8/9/1899, Captain White was to be Officer - Commanding, and 25 Francotte rifles were to be forwarded. These were received during October, and the Cadet Corps was to be part of the Gippsland battalion under Major Eddy. No boy under four feet six inches in height could join, and former pupils have described how they had to wait anxiously for a year or two until they had grown tall enough to be admitted, in the meantime endeavouring to speed the process by practising standing on their toes for some time each evening.

After reaching the desired standard of efficiency members of the Cadet Corps attended each fortnight a big parade at Albert Park, where the "Head Military Officer" (for want of information concerning his correct title at that time), Major-General Head, directed operations. On one occasion the cadets took part in a big military parade (a review) at Flemington racecourse to mark the visit of an American fleet.

A rifle range was needed, so one was constructed along the eastern boundary of the school, where the flats facing New Street are situated now. Practice in firing at targets was "one of the joyous highlights" (James Swords). Later a larger rifle range was built near Kidd's Road, across the Dandenong Cree,. Or did the cadets use the gravel pits where Doveton West Primary School is now situated? I have heard both versions. The later, I think, is correct.

Once a week rifle range practice was held, but the new range was destined to tell a tale of tragedy, for a lad name George Bellett was shot in the leg there by a wad during a mock battle. Mr Thomas Carroll senior owned the adjoining farm and he drove the unfortunate lad on a stretcher placed in a hay wagon to the Dandenong Railway Station. As there were few steam trains operating, there was a considerable delay before the boy reached Melbourne. His stretcher was then placed in the van of a tram and was transported to the Alfred Hospital where the lad's father was an inmate, having had a leg amputated. Unfortunately tetanus set in

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with George and he died several days later. This incident occurred after the time of Captain White.

During 1899 the erection of swings in the school ground was being suggested. A local police constable proposed that a levy of 1/- per family be requested to defray the cost, and the approval of the Board of Advice was being awaited. Perhaps the Board in turn was awaiting the arrival of the new Head Teacher at that time, for the Journal does not appear to report the outcome. However, it is fair enough to suggest that the swings were installed as, in her letter of reminiscences, Mrs Ruby McKay (nee Ruby Williams) remembers that her youngest sister, Amy, as hit in the mouth by one of the school swings. As she resided some three and a half miles from the school, she was taken home by Jim Swords who brought along his pony cart. Incidentally, Amy had to be fed with spoon for a week. She also recalls that one boy was jailed for a few hours for stealing eggs.

Speaking of the Board of Advice, I am reminded that there was an unusual resignation of Board members late in 1899. It happened his way. Board elections were due to be held during November. Retiring members, Rodd, Rogers, W. Thompson, McLean and Titcher sought re-election, but were opposed by Mr. A. W. Pearson. The retiring members considered that their services rendered entitled them to be returned unopposed, so to show their resentment forwarded notices of resignation to Mr. John Keys, who must have been Chairman at that time. This was not a very hearty welcome for Mr White, or was the Head Teacher a more or less disinterested party as far as Board of Advice elections were concerned in 1899? The dispute lasted some six months, for we find that the vacancies were filled at last by May 16th 1900, the members being Mesers Hutton, Renfree, McLean, Pearson and Rogers. It seems as though Colonel Hutton came to the rescue once again as he did so often in local affairs.

School politics, especially in country areas, have caused some unusual situations, but this must surely have been a novel one. Our school committee today operates much more harmoniously, and we certainly do not suffer from a surfeit of nominations. More often a percentage of the members has to be "leg-roped" before the committee is complete. Once persuaded to join the team, these members invariably give invaluable service.

In September 1899 there was a report that Dandenong 1403 was still using the old Church of England schoolhouse as classrooms.

Some interesting names appear in the reports of members of staff commencing and ceasing duty in the period late 1899 to early 1900. In August Walter Scott resumed, on the same day H. Orgill ceased duty. There was a Mr Mills on the staff. In the following month Mary Frederick applied for leave for twelve months as she was leaving the country. On 3/10/1899 J. H. Barling applied for a position as Pupil Teacher, but did not stay long, ceasing on 12/10/1899. His name appears later. Surely this was the James Hartley Barling who was one of Victoria's most "dynamic" teachers in the days before the word "dynamic" was applied to people. He was my first Head Teacher when I began my teaching career at North Brunswick Training School No. 3585 at the beginning of 1931. Fiercely determined, yet capable of breaking into the loudest and heartiest of laughs, he travelled around his school at the fastest of speeds. Often I was instructed to follow him up the stairs only to find that he had reached the top, completed his business and was half-way down again when he met me with the enquiry, "Where have you been?" Tragedy struck his only two sons, Jack and Bill.

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Bill died of Paralysis in the throat when sixteen years of age. Jack quit teaching to join the Forests Commission. He was burnt to death in the bushfires of 1939. Two married daughters, Nettie and Kath, live on.

Back to 1899-1900! Mr. M. Snodgrass was appointed temporary monitor; J. Hearn ceased duty; H. Orgill commenced again as monitor on October 19th; Mr Snodgrass ceased. Changes were coming thick and fast. Amongst the ladies mentioned were misses Block, Liddell and McNeill. This Miss Liddell would certainly be the right age to be the Miss Liddell who was later a most respected grade 6 teacher at Moreland State School and who was my teacher in that grade. Silver-haired and nearing retirement when I knew her, she bustled almost two miles to school every day, taught fractions with pieces of coloured tiles, and rewarded out successes with gifts of lollies and biscuits no doubt we passed for our Qualifying Certificate in all subjects except Care of the Teeth. The actual Qualifying Certificates had been arranged by the School Committee for presentation to us. They were quite large and most colourful, pupils being given the choice of birds or flowers as an attractive border. I chose birds. The Merit Certificates (completion of Grade 8 or Form 2) came from the Education Department and were much plainer.

An interesting report appears in the South Bourke and Mornington Journal on 19/12/1900 concerning a break-up at the private school of the Misses Beasley in Dandenong. This is the only mention of this particular school that I have unearthed - Dandenong must always have had private schools.

THE FIRST ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS

Space for the children was needed urgently, and additions to the building were contemplated. On the 14th July 1900. Captain White requested that the lavatory inside the front door be converted to an office for the Head Teacher when the additional room was added. In his correspondence strove desperately to persuade the Department that a door leading to the classroom behind (now room 4) should be provided to allow him easy access to this room. He was not successful; there is no door.

By August a decision had been reached that work on the additions proposed should be proceeded with, and on 23/10/1900 a contract was let for the addition of a classroom, conversion of portion of the lobby (the lavatory) into the Head Teacher's office and erection of a new lavatory. The South Bourke and Mornington Journal reported also that the gallery was to be removed from the Infant Room, and probably this was correct. The contract was let to H. Hunt and Co., the amount £789.

The new classroom, the room to the rear and to the north-east of the original brick structure, is now divided by a partition into two rooms - Room 3 and Room 9. It measured 41 feet by 25 feet and had a door facing Foster Street. It was evidently during, or perhaps just prior to construction that a decision was made to build a small porch, seven feet square, outside the door to stop the south wind. It is interesting to note that on 29th July 1902 the door of the porch was blown in and rendered useless by heavy gales. It must have been repaired, as today there is a heavy, old door that will no doubt continue to creak for many years yet.

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The new classroom, like the older section of the building, had the "band" of cream bricks around its middle, also around the base just above the bluestone foundation.

Additions and alterations were completed sometime in 1901, and so State School 1403 had a real Head Teacher's office - the same office that is used today. The Head Teacher could not have spent many hours of school time there as he was also in charge of a grade. A plan of the school forwarded to the Department in 1901 is reproduce on the next page.

(Sketch plan of school included) Either the plan was drawn before the new office was completed or else there is an obvious fault in it, for the porch and classroom behind are sketched in the old form. Letters from old students indicate that the plan is incorrect and that the office and cloakroom have been the same size as at present since 1901. "Additional" accommodation was provided by separating the three large classrooms into two rooms each by the use of curtains, thereby making six rooms altogether.

Where the Cadets stored their riffles at this time I do not know. In 1906 they were to lose their Officer - Commanding, Captain William White, who was promoted to Bendigo. As some copies of the South Bourke and Mornington Journal are missing, it is difficult to decide just when Captain White left, but it does seem that there was a gap between the time of his departure and the time of the arrival of his successor, for on January 24th 1906 a public meeting was called to arrange a complimentary social to William White. The report indicated that news of the promotion to Bendigo had come very suddenly and that an attempt would be made to organise the function on a date suitable to the guest. This meeting was particularly well attended and it is obvious that the departing Head Teacher was held in high esteem. Apart from his influence at school he had done much for Dandenong. Amongst the organisations he had been connected with were the Church of England, the Bowling Club, the Rechabites and the Masonic Lodge. He had been largely instrumental in lifting the Bowling Club from its struggling state.

Whether this social was held we cannot be sure, but William White must have departed early in the school year, and his successor, Mr. George W. Talbot, arrived at the school on the 24th April 1906 according to official records.

Before we leave Captain White, an interesting local report reveals how Arbor Day was celebrated on the 12th July 1905. Mr White and Mr Parsons, his assistant, were in charge. The rooms were decorated with flowers and evergreens awaiting the arrival of the Board of Advice at eleven o'clock. Appropriate songs and recitations were rendered. At approximately midday forty trees and shrubs were planted, then school was dismissed. "The girls indulged in a game of cricket, whilst the boys undertook the more exciting game of football, all thoroughly enjoying themselves".

George Talbot's welcome to Dandenong must have been a dry one as on March 9th the Education Department was advised that there was no water and that bucketfuls of water were being brought from the homes of neighbours.

Mr Talbot was to settle in Dandenong for thirteen years at least. This term was little short of Malcolm MacPherson's term of office, and it meant that the new Head Teacher had charge of the school through the difficult years of the First World War. He built a fine house at the

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corner of Foster and McCrae Streets - the house with the dragon on the roof at the front. This house has escaped the wreckers to date and is occupied by Dr. Stewart (house sold for demolition April 1972).

George Talbot is described by those who remember him as a different type altogether from his predecessor, but nevertheless a very able administrator and a capable teacher. "A fine old gentleman", writes Ruby Williams. "Probable was" adds another who remembers him, "but he was a very hard old gentleman at school". Mr Talbot wore glasses, and in photographs his face appears somewhat pointed, probably due to his beard. He wore a moustache also. His son, Norman, was later a well-known doctor. Head Teachers in early times seemed to possess the power of incorporating their children into the staffs of their schools, so it does not surprise us to learn that May Talbot was immediately appointed as a junior teacher. May later married Mr. Les Keys who was Shire Secretary at Dandenong, and later at Berwick.

The weather must have been really not early in 1906 as an old pupil, Mr. A. Paydon, recalls that the temperature was over 105 degrees for about a week, and that, when the temperature passed the century mark, all were sent home. The swimming holes in the Dandenong Creek must have been crowded. A very popular hole was known at the "Watts" because wattles grew there.

Miss Sally Carroll, herself a pupil in Mr. Talbot's time and later with a record of long and noteworthy service as a teacher at 1403, recalls that the new Head Teacher was a strict disciplinarian. There was a "six-foot picket fence" around the school with only one gate - where the present front gate is. When the bell rang at 9.15 a.m. two senior boys locked the gate. After the other children had entered the school, the latecomers were marched to the office and received "something on the hand" (and "it wasn't a lolly", re relates). Sally says that Mr. Talbot was blind in one eye and on one occasion she took advantage of this to dodge out through the door while his blind eye was towards her. We all have to turn a blind eye at times, but it seems that George Talbot did so all the time. Miss Carroll now lives in a flat in Foster Street opposite the school which owes so much to her. Perhaps by so doing she can follow its fortunes and see that its standards do not decline. Her affection for 1403 is still most evident.

Mr. Reg Hunt also recalls that Mr. Talbot used to confuse the would-be sleepers in a class by looking in one direction and pointing in another. Was this another result of his Lord Nelson touch.

The Cadets had to be drilled and Mr. Talbot and Mr. Alf Homes, who had commenced as a junior teacher, carried out this work. Mr. Homes was later to become a Head Teacher of considerable repute at a number of schools including Springvale. The children marched into school to the accompaniment of a drummer boy and two buglers. Bob Tuff was a bugler, and Jack Todd was "either a drummer or a bugler". Mr Talbot, it appears, did not become Captain Talbot and probably Mr. Alf Homes was responsible for most of the drilling.

Along with the name of Sally Carroll must be written that of Jane Austin who also had a long and noteworthy record as a teacher at 1403, first from 1907 to 1913 and latter from 1934 to 1952. Miss Austin, whose sister, Maud, also taught at the school, has provided much valuable information for this history. She resides in Power Street today and her memory is

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still good. As a junior teacher she taught a class in a small hall down near the station - whether the Temperance Hall or the Fire Brigade Hall; the former, she thinks. The school was certainly spread out. Miss May Talbot had her class in the Church of England Sunday School. Jane Austin remembers that at Foster Street there were only three large rooms with two classes in each, a curtain separating the classes. The curtain was still there when she returned in 1934, but later a sliding wall was constructed between the Prep and Grade 1. She relates that there was a small coatroom where the old staffroom is located and that the office was "where it is now"

On the 11th May 1906 an entertainment was held at the Town Hall for the benefit "State School Filter Fund". Were they still trying to raise money for the "couple of filters"?

In the same month at the Dandenong Showgrounds a function was held involving district schools from as far away as Pakenham in the east to Springvale in the west. On Friday the eighteenth the work of the scholars in our State Schools was displayed. That evening at the Town Hall was a program of songs etc, while on the Saturday afternoon an athletic sports fixture was held. Major Eddy, the District Inspector, organized the function. So the Major Eddy, in charge of the Gippsland area Cadet Corps was the District Inspector!

On the cover of the autograph folder supplied to visitors on the occasion of the "Back to Dandenong 1403" held on November 19th 1966 appears a copy of a photo of the school taken in 1906. It is indeed a memorable photo, for a study of it reveals much information, although posing some queries. It show the original brick building erected in 1880. At the time the photo was taken the third classroom built in 1901 had been erected of course, but, as it was to the rear of the room on the left of the picture, it does not appear.

Notice the "six-foot picket fence" (as it so often been described) along Foster and New Streets and erected much closer to the building than the present fence - the fence on the New Street side seems somewhat lower. If this was truly a six foot picket fence, ladies and children at that time were very, very tall, as the ladies tower above the fence (their hats do not account for all the difference) and many of the children appear to be nearly as tall as the fence is high. Could they have been six-foot palings sunk to a depth of eighteen inches, leaving a fence four feet six inches in height?.

The bell on the post does not appear. Remember that a bell was supplied in 1884 and was said to hang on a bell post near the well. Why can it not been seen?, had it been moved to another position?, students of later years can remember it near the well however. There is a difference in the front entrance to the school. The roof over the doorway is different and the office window varies a good deal from the windows of today. The monumental school name above the front entrance is not there; it was donated later by Mr. Thos. Carrol senior. The original round name plate could not be located when members of the Carroll family endeavoured to find it to present to the Dandenong Historical Society. The door is in the middle of the front entrance section; today it is to one side.

The season is obviously summer as we judge from the wide-open windows (perhaps this photograph was taken during that spell of very hot weather mentioned previously), the light dresses worn in the main and the flowering shrub in the garden.

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The cadets are on parade, with the girls of the school assembled behind them, and some parents are watching. We must not forget the black dog. Obviously it is some special occasion. There are at least fifteen cadets, possibly sixteen. Twelve at least carry rifles, while at the rear are a drummer and bugler. There may well be two buglers. Some of these cadets appear to be below the required height of four feet six inches. In front is their officer. It is generally believed that this is Captain White. However, I cannot agree. This is a youngish man, and his appearance does not tally with that of Captain White as given by James Swords. At any rate, the Captain departed for Bendigo early in 1906. It is more likely that this is Mr Alf Homes who assisted Mr Talbot with the cadets. Mr Talbot seems to have had less enthusiasm for the Corps than had William White. This is understandable probably he felt that he had "the Nelson touch" more applicable to the Navy than to the Army. He was also somewhat lame which would militate against his drilling the Corps.

What are the long poles that some of the small girls in front are carrying? Were these in some way connected with the wand-drill that we have read about previously? They are smallest and are dressed alike.

As the school is approached along Foster Street today, the towering pine-trees (six in number) attract attention. Rough, gnarled and knotted, they seem to have been standing since the beginning of time. This illusion of timelessness is shattered by a perusal of the photograph, as in 1906 they were quite young trees, estimated at six to seven years old. This makes it likely that they were planted either in the time of Mr Gustavous A. Swan or of Mr. William White. Whoever the planter he deserves the thanks of posterity. The pine needles may cause a mess when the wind blows, but these pines are part of the character of the school.

A spanner in the works! Are these trees the present pine-trees? Are they not too close to the school building.

Why has the school assembled? It is some special occasion and apparently the school is preparing to march somewhere. There is a notice in front of the windows of the school - possible this would give us a clue if it could be seen in its entirety, but part is hidden. Two letters F E show out, so maybe it is only an advertising sign for a coming school fete such as we have today.

A very enlightening photograph! A pity that we haven't many more photographs taken in different years.

Records of the complete staffing and classes at the school in various years are all too rare, but the situation as at 13/6/1907 is available in correspondence, fortunately. Remember that these are classes, not the grades of today. The class would correspond to the grades 7 and 8 that we can recall in not-so-far distant years, so the fifth class would align itself with our grade 6. Just how the other classes dovetail with our present arrangement I am not sure.

At any rate in 1907 Mr James O'Shea was in charge of the sixth class, Mr Talbot taught the fifth class and Miss Ahearn(?) the fourth class. Miss May Talbot, who was in control of the third class, had Miss Orgill as an assistant, while Mill Cook was assisted by Mr. Alf Homes in the second class. The first class was divided into three divisions - upper, middle and lower,

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and these may well correspond with our grade 2, grade 1 and preparatory grad of today. Teaching these divisions were Miss Mackay (upper), Miss Cox (middle) and Miss Neville (lower).

Amongst the names above are some that we have not met before, and several of these people have left indelible impressions on the minds of ex-pupils. Mr James O'Shea, who built a home in New Street near the school, was a fine teacher - this has been emphasized so many times by so many old scholars that it must indeed have been very true. James Swords writes, "One outstanding teacher I recall was Mr. James O'Shea. He was, indeed, a splendid teacher, who was dedicated to his job and obtained some excellent results. He was very strict but very fair, and he had a way of putting things that most of his class could comprehend" James O'Shea conducted scholarship classes after school for the more ambitious, and his pupils enjoyed success in this field. Mrs Ruby McKay (nee Ruby Williams) was presented with a nice book entitled "The Queens Favourite" for proficiency in the sixth class, Christmas 1910. This presentation was made by Mr. O'Shea, which suggests that it was his own personal gift.

A characteristic of Jimmy O'Shea was to stand facing the blackboard, looking up and twisting the ends of his moustache. Suddenly he wheel around on a offender. Students were rather slow to discover that he had the pictures above the blackboard arranged at such an angle that he could see reflections.

Miss Kate Ahearn receives many mentions, too, but unfortunately personal details concerning her are lacking.

THE FINAL BRICK ADDITIONS

Throughout its span of life Dandenong 1403 had often suffered from a disease known as "bursting at the seams" - fortunately, not an incurable disease. George Talbot was to know the school in one of these periods of ill-health, and he was to see a remedy effected.

All must have been very wary of the overcrowded conditions with classes being taught on each side of curtains dividing the three classrooms into two divisions each. To prevent "peering in" these curtains might have done, but they certainly could not have obviated the distraction caused by the noise in the next room. Classes might have worked more quietly than is the case with one modern "freer" methods, but teachers generally had loud and commanding voices, and the swish of the strap must have demoralized children on the other side of the curtain, even more so than in its own room.

Think back! In 1907 there were eight classes including the three divisions of class 1. These eight classes were being taught by ten teachers in three classrooms plus the use of the Sunday School Hall and for time the Temperance Hall.

Relief was coming. Brick additions to the school were planned - four classrooms each 26 feet 6 inches by 24 feet, a total of 2544 square feet (the present rooms 5, 6, 7 and 8). These additions were to be completed by 16th March 1909. It is almost certain that at the same time

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a store room and an armoury were constructed on the New Street side and that a large cloakroom was built. The store room is the present staff toilet, the armoury is now the store room, while the large cloakroom is the present staffroom, formerly used as a projection room. There was no wall between this large cloakroom and the corridor. In the armoury the cadets stored their rifles in safety. Where they had been stored previously remains a mystery.

The lowest tender received was £2,665 which was £189 above the Public Works Department estimate. Tenders ranged up to £2,720-11-6.

Work must have been well up to schedule on this occasion, for in 1909 the school was closed until the eighth day of February to enable the contractor to finish the work. On the 16th December in the previous year three months notice had been given to the Church of England of the termination of the lease of the Sunday School premises. The letter stated that these premises had been in use since 25th May 1907.

What of these additions - the last in brick made at the Foster Street School! The two rooms on the New Street side housed Infant Department grades. There was a folding partition (still there, but inoperable today) so that this section could be made into one room fifty three feet by twenty four feet. This was most useful for infant assemblies. According to the architectural principle of the time another gallery was installed, extending almost the whole length of the infant room and rising in tiers from about halfway back from the chalkboard. Wrong! Chalkboard is a modern term; it was a blackboard. The idea of the gallery was, of course, to provide each child with an uninterrupted view of the blackboard, but what a rattle there was when a child at the back of the gallery upset his tin of marbles! It is known that this gallery was still there in 1927 but when it was removed is not known. The two classrooms on the other side of the corridor were separated by a brick wall.

It is also a characteristic of this old building that many classrooms have their own private doorways, complete with stone steps, leading directly into the school ground. The old stone steps which served the far end of the Infant Room and the corridor exit were used for many class photographs in earlier days. Today we prefer a background of trees and shrubs for our photos.

The new cloakroom measured 27 feet by 20 feet. This room has had a varied and interesting career, having witnessed many changes in the propose of its use. At times cloakroom, sometimes emergency classroom, general purpose room, projection room, and now multi-purpose room serving a staffroom, projection room, meeting room and assembly room, it has also housed children of another school awaiting the completion of their own school building.

An unusual sideline on the erection of the new classrooms was that the Public Works Inspector at the time, Mr Radden, had children attending the school (as related by Jane Austin). No doubt he ensured that the workmanship was of good quality.

Miss Austin also states that she is unable to remember any wash basins at the school in Mr Talbot's day, although another old scholar has told her that there were some. Both are probably correct, as "Mr Talbot's day" extended into some thirteen years. Certainly there was no water laid on when Mr Talbot arrived, but in 1910 the Dandenong Waterworks Trust was

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threatening to cut off the water because the Education Department refused to pay the £3 annual rate. This argument went on for some time. Who won? probably the Waterworks Trust.

Mr. John Orgill advised the Education Department on 22/8/110 that he had granted half-an-acre of ground near the school for experimental photos.

Amongst the Education Department and Public Works Department correspondence of the period is a faded letter dealing with additional land adjoining the school and offered for sale to the Educations Department. It seems that it is linked with the above, as the sketch is like this: (sketch included)

The letter advises that the land was offered previously for £325, but that the price has now been reduced to £225. Bargain rates! Names and other details are indistinct.

At about this time (probably 1910) a sloyd centre was built in l the school grounds, a wooden building directly behind the brick building and just behind the line made by the rear walls of the two shelter sheds. The original sloyd teacher was Mr George Slater. In addition to the boys from senior classes of Dandenong 1403 and from St Mary's registered school (after this school was established in 1912) boys from Clayton 734 later renamed Clayton North, from Springvale and Noble Park travelled to this centre for woodwork instruction. The old sloyd centre building was moved to the grounds of the Dandenong High School after the establishment of Dandenong's first State Secondary School in 1919. This building (i.e. the old sloyd centre) is still there, but its days appear to be numbered, for public outcry has ridiculed the existence of such an outmoded building at a modern High School. The ceiling of one of the old buildings at Dandenong High School collapsed recently. Was it the ceiling of our old structure ? (Mr Ken Mitchell, Principal, Dandenong High School, says that it that it was not, but also advises that the old sloyd centre is to be pulled down in a couple of months - 9/7/1970).

Miss Sally Carroll was in attendance from 1908-1912. "The senior boys had the use of a piece of ground near where Ronald Street is now. Here vegetable were grown", she writes. This appears to agree with the granting of half-an-acre of land to the school by Mr John Orgill for experimental plots.

Sally also remember vividly the whole school, let by the bugle band, marching to the Town Hall to receive their souvenir medals on the occasion of the coronation of King George V in 1910.

Mr A. Paydon, who spent seven years at the school as a pupil has advised that somewhere about the years 1906 to 1908 a Mr. McLean used to come from Melbourne to teach singing to all scholars willing to learn. His charge was one penny for a one-hour lesson. Another setting out to make his fortune in easy stages - at a penny a time!.

A very popular figure was Major Stewart who owned Oakwood Park property. He use to allow picnics to be held on ;his property, and one December, near Christmas time, he came to State School 1403 and gave each child, in one class at least, a Christmas box. Ruby Williams, as she was then, received a work box which was in her possession until recently.

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Another incident related was that of one of the big boys deciding to climb over the picket fence only to find himself caught - by the pickets, not by the Head Teacher. Somebody raced to Mrs John Orgill to stop his bleeding. Mrs Orgill conducted a hydropathic hospital (water treatment) on the corner of Foster and Langhorne streets. The old hospital, in which Dr Hutson lived for some-time, has recently been demolished to make way for the modern Langton Medical Centre. The hospital was part of the dwelling, of course. Mrs Orgill was a well-known figure and has been described as a Welfare Officer for the school. At least she used to examine the girls' sewing work at the school in addition to patching up "big-boys who endeavoured to scale picket fences".

Ruby Williams was the recipient of prizes once again - two of them from Mrs John Orgill. The one of these that she can remember particularly was a lovely handkerchief for her work in producing a hand-sewn man's flannel shirt. I feel that I should have written "a man's hand-sewn flannel shirt". That only complicates matters - was he a "hand-sewn man" or did the man hand-sew the flannel shirt? Neither, really. At any rate the finished article had been hand-sewn by Ruby Williams.

The name Orgill features prominently in the development of Dandenong, so it is not a matter of wonder that there is a Orgill Street where some of our present pupils live. Mrs John was one of the originators of the swimming pool project, if not the outright originator. Relations of this lady attended the school.

The construction of "bits and pieces" at the school in 1908-09 left the building with its unusual quadrangle (generally referred to today as the bell quadrangle) in the centre. Whether the bell post was in its present position always is problematical, could well have been, although a few ex-students claim that they can distinctly recall it as being near the well. However, memory does play tricks. In any case its present location would not be so very far from the old well. The quadrangle was not enclosed on two sides. Frequent visits by intruders who climbed over the low part of the roof into the quadrangle and so into the building itself caused its enclosure later. When?

The large cloakroom constructed had no wall originally separating it from the corridor (wooden floor in this part). A wall was erected very much later.

Correspondence of 1912 refers to the plastering of the walls and the removal of the oil paint before this was done. Surely the walls had been plastered previously!. It is not clear whether this correspondence refers to the oldest section of the building only, but probably it does.

On 22/2/1913 Mrs Mason and Mr Walker (both school committee members) tendered £84.12 for the erection of a shelter shed. Obviously their tender was made on behalf of the committee, and A Kingsbury carried out the erection.

Mr. Reg Hunt, now a most loyal instructor in religious education at the school each Tuesday morning, attended Dandenong School from 1914 to 1918 - the family had moved to Dandenong late in 1913. He has been able to provide a most valuable sketch of the school ground and its surroundings as he remembers in 1914. A copy of it is produced here along

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with Mr Hunt's comments. How many will remember the golf course on Mr Masters's property with the golf house and the first tee in unmade Wilson Street?. Mr Hunt's memory is very good, so it seems that we must accept his positioning of the bell post even though we cannot see it in the 1906 photo. That photo was of course taken some eight years before Mr Hunt commenced his schooling here. He also recollects clearly the shape of the path in front of the office as produced in his sketch.

This is a most valuable sketch and our thanks are due to Mr. Hunt. It is probably the only plan of State School 1403 and envisions in earlier days.

The story of overtaxed accommodation at this school continued. The opening of Noble Park State School No. 3675 in 1911 provided some relief, as did the establishment of St Mary's Registered School in 1912. However, as the town of Dandenong itself continued to develop, numbers rapidly built up again after each exodus and it became apparent that nothing short of the erection of second school in Dandenong itself would solve the recurring problem of accommodation.

But do not be too hasty, for this second state school was not to come for many years. The building of many educational establishments was not to be thought of during the dark years of the First World War 1914-1918, or for many years after. Yet, were they such dark years?. The war was far away and communications were slow, so for the first year or two of the war it was regarded in much the same light as the Boer War earlier. But, as the years rolled by and more and more reinforcements left this country, the seriousness of the conflict became more obvious. Casualty lists were long, and there was great rejoicing when the Armistice was signed on November 11th 1918.

What was the effect on 1403?. The school has a proud record of service in all fields and it was not found wanting on this occasion. Vegetable grown on the plot of land near Ronald Street were sold and the proceeds forwarded to Patriotic Funds. The senior girls knitted scarves and socks for the soldiers. No doubt the school organized functions to raise funds for the war effort. All in all, much money was raised, many comforts were provided for the troops, and certainly ex-students of this school did not fail to volunteer for service overseas. Some did not return.

The school possesses two records of the service of its ex-pupils during this troublesome period - one is the Roll of Honor Board which hangs in the hall, and the other is the strongly-bound Honor book. The former shows the names of those who served in gold letters, the latter gives a brief account of the service of each and indicates those who died on service. The board does not show the name of F. G. Toy which appears in the book, while the book contains no details concerning A. Kelley whose name is on the board. We can take it that each served.

Those who did not return were:-

Private William Weeks Ball, Private Victor Stanley Burns, Private James Ernest Ballot, Private Herbert Wallace Griffiths, Private Oswald Donald Green, Private Herman Michael Kolschier, Lance-Corporal Henry John Hunt, Private Stanley Male, Private Herbert Victor Masters, Corporal Carden Patrick Gose McLean, Private John McConnell, Sergeant Ernest

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Alfred Orgill, Sergeant Arthur Garfield Orgill (these two were brothers), Lieutenant Reginald James Pickett M.C. and Private Charles Wilfred Williams.

Returning safely to their homeland were:-

Corporal Robert Bruce Brock, Private James Henry Brock, Private Charles Frederick Bellett M.M, Private Charles Henry Groon Cooper, Petty Officer William Wentworth Fink, Private Samuel G C Fawcett, Private Francis Joseph Green M.M., Sergeant Michael Joseph Green, Driver Frederick Thomas House, Private William Joseph Keating, Private Frank Alexander Kingsbury, Private Charles Edward Leigh, Private Frederick Charles Male, Sergeant Albert Ernest Masters, Private Henry Bignell Mitchell, Major Kenneth Arthur McLean M.C, Private David James McFarlane, Private David McDonald, Private William Newsome, Private Frederick Charles Newsome, Private Henry Newsome, Private Percy James Orgill, Private Joseph Ordish, Major Harold Ordish D.S.O., Private Frank Husband Paydon, Private Malcolm Reginald Purdy, Private William Osborne Purdy, Driver Rupert Hamilton Rodd, Private George Harvey Roulston, Sergeant James Walter Swords, Sergeant Oswald Henry Todd, Sergeant Alan Keith Titcher, Sergeant Harold Edward Tullock, Lieutenant Harold John Edward Veal, Private Reuben George Vizard, Private Ernest Howard Williams, Warrant Officer John Thomas Reedy M.M., Flight Lieutenant Frank G Toy and A Kelley (no details available).

The war was over but, whilst Australia was awaiting the return of most of its servicemen, an epidemic of pneumonia influenza struck Victoria. Dandenong was affected to such an extent that in February 1919 the school was being used as a hospital to house patients while the children enjoyed a prolonged vacation. So our old school has served as a hospital as well as a school!

The long period of service of Mr George W Talbot was to terminate in 1919, almost certainly at the end of the year, for the incoming Head Teacher did not arrive until the beginning of 1920. When walking down Foster Street, I seldom fail to look closely at the dragon on the roof of Mr. Talbot's former house, and, as I do so, I wonder what were the thoughts of this "fine old gentleman" when his teaching days came to an end and no longer could he call a child who did not comprehend a "muft". Some informants have persuaded me that he retired from teaching in 1919, and, although I am wary of relying entirely on statements given from memory, this was probably so. I understand that there is a photograph of George Talbot in the Dandenong Bowling Club room. Mrs Love has kindly provided a photograph taken at a Board of Advice outing.

Herbert B. Williamson was to be the fifth Head Teacher of State School 1403 and was to be in control from 1920 until 1925.

NEW SCHOOLS RELIEVE PRESSURE

From this point onward the history will become less detailed. Is the writer becoming weary of his task? Not really, but detailed information is "lacking". Correspondence from this period is not yet available in the archives of the State Library, while, as Dandenong has grown in size and now schools will soon be opened, the local press gives less publicity to the doings and personalities of 1403. Certainly there are the school records, but these are cold and

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impersonal. They provide names and statistics, but they do not make personalities live and they do not make the school busy with activity.

Forgive me, then, if the story proceeds a little hastily to a conclusion. (later-I have discovered that it has not "hastened" but has pursued its weary way again).

Why not use the memories of ex-pupils to find more vital information? This method sounds logical, but it is indeed fraught with danger, for memory is a very tricky vehicle when it is stretching back over so many years. Too often a vivid picture presented is shattered by the final remark. "But then I am not sure about all this; it happened so long ago".

Herbert B Williamson served Dandenong State School for five years only, but indeed he left behind one of the school's treasures - the herbarium that so many people have walked past without being aware of its existence. Mr Williamson was a member of the Melbourne Herbarium and carried his enthusiasm for plants, shrubs and trees into his school work. He encourages the children to collect specimens of as many native plants of the district as possible and to bring them to school. These were dried and pressed, were glued to sheets of paper which were then formed into books, and were named with both the common names and the more impressive botanical names. The name of the child carrying out the work and the date of the operation were both shown.

In the paragraph above the word "glued" was used advisedly as the following notice handwritten on a card is still to be seen in the Plant Catalogue book.

"The H.T., S.S. Dandenong will gladly furnish to enquirers hints on the method of mounting here adopted - (by boiling - hot glue) which is easily learned by children, and which has stood the test of frequent handling by children".

The Plant Catalogue contains details of some 403 species and is accompanied by a smaller book which has these species indexed in alphabetical order. In the front of the small book is written:-

Dec 13th 1922

In half an hour 76 species (underlined in pencil) were collected in Foster St.

Probably all that one can collect in Foster Street in 1970 is an overdose of petrol fumes.

The Plant Catalogue open with the remarks:-

Plants are brought and discussed in the morning.

Allowed from within radius of 10 mls of Dandenong provided they are gathered by the one who brings them.

Plants proclaimed under Thistle Act marked", for whole State P. State.

All the plants were pressed and mounted by pupils, the following being most diligent in collecting.

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1920		1921-22		Girls who mounted the specimens in 1921:-
Elvie Cadle	124	Daisy Bond	50	Irene Turner
Cliff Brown	30	Dorothy Walden	33	Dorothy Walden
Mavis Marsham	26	Eileen Buckingham	27	1922
Charles Coleman	20	Ron Marsham	15	Marion Bignell
Ivy Miller	20	Dudley Chalmers	14	Bessie White assisted by
Lizzie Audsley	17	Maurice Brakswell	11	Ruby McPherson
Gwen Newton	16	Grace Voumard	11	Phyllis Corrigan
Lorna Charman	15	Florrie Tharle	11	Miriam Lawrence
Maud Gorman	13	Frank Cooper	8	Ruby Cadd
Venie Breeden	13	Elvie Weller	7	Ivy Miller
Ruby Cadd	12	Clive Clarke	7	Lavinia Bressen
Keith Walker	12	Charlie Cooper	7	
Fred Boehm	12	Maud Gorman	8	
Daisy Burrows	11	Richd Barnett	7	
Millie Harden	10	Ivy Miller	6	
		Arthur Butler	6	
		Miriam Lawrence	6	
		Meriyane Elmore	5	
		Peggy Jones	5	
		Myra Bond	5	
		R. McPherson	5	
		G Wade	5	

After some fifty years this collection of Plants of the Dandenong District is still in very satisfactory condition along with its index. Truly a valuable asset, although few today regard it with the esteem it merits. As Herbert Williamson himself was keen enough to belong to the Melbourne Herbarium, we may be sure that the naming of the plant was indeed accurate.

What manner of man was he? He or she who loves plants is of necessity a lovable character, and this appears to have been true of the new Head Teacher, for he has been described as a just, unobtrusive person who earned the respect of the children without instilling any fear into them, and of course as a person greatly enthusiastic about plant studies

James O'Shea had moved on before this time, but pupils of this era remember both miss Teresa Morgan and Mr Harry Hartley, the latter a small man with plenty of vitality who had some difficult big boys to handle but who was generally equal to the occasion.

The second primary school planned for Dandenong opened on the 28th September 1925. This was Dandenong West State School No. 4217 situated in Birdwood Avenue. This school has now grown much larger than 1403 and it has had a fine record of achievement both scholastically and on the sporting field over the years.

The opening day for Dandenong West must have been quite an occasion at Foster Street, too. Approximately one hundred and eighty children and a proportion of the staff were transferred to the new school. One of these staff members was Miss Teresa Morgan who has

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supplied us with some details. Such was the disruption at Dandenong 1403 that the children were given a half holiday.

Mrs Hunt recalls that Herbert Williamson used to call the children to assembly with a musical instrument. She thinks that it was a cornet.

Mr Williamson completed his service at the school some time during 1925. No doubt he was missed by both the children and the plants of the district, although the latter probably felt some relief from the constant removal of the small pieces that were taken to school.

I say that Mr Williamson departed "some time" during 1925 because changes of staff have not always been made at the end of the school year, and the years as Head Teacher of his successor Mr Percival F Ewers, are recorded as 1925-1927. Yes, the plant man was followed in quick succession by Mr Ewers and Mr William E Hall (1927-28). Few details are available concerning either of these, although Mr Hall transferred to Pender's Grove School, Thornbury.

Arthur A Besant is remembered better for he stayed for quite a time 1928-1939. A snapshot of Mr Besant has been forwarded by Miss Down. It shows him standing on the path in front of the steps leading up to the front door of the school. He stands with his head tilted slightly to one side, and gives the impression of being grey-haired and with a face that suggests a firm but kindly manner. Mr Besant, who was the cousin of Mrs Hunt of Power Street, was later called back into the teaching service during the years of the Second World War, but later still lived in retirement until he had reached his mid-nineties. His death occurred in recent years, and his widow is alive still.

Mr Besant was in charge of the school during the days of the depression and certainly must have seen a good deal of hardship amongst the pupils. He must have suffered some hardship, too, for the economy measure, just as were the salaries of so many wage earners in the community. Very few escaped the effects of the depression. The number of teachers being trained was negligible, and it was considered a major step forward when, about 1933, the Melbourne Teachers' College stepped up its intake greatly to train some three hundred students per year. Compare this with the thousands of teachers in training today. These young teachers, who had spent up to four or five years as junior teachers on £80 a year (male rate) rising to a maximum of £100 a year, received no allowance at all during their year at year at Teachers' College. They felt like millionaires when, after the completion of their training, they received the magnificent annual salary of some £200.

During the depression years free meals for the very needy children were provided in most centres and soup queues were a common sight. This must have applied to Dandenong as well as to the city.

The depression must have been one of the factors causing the net enrolment of Dandenong State School to be stabilized for many years.

This and the establishment of Dandenong West were undoubtedly the major contributing factors.

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Depression was followed by war - World War II 1939-1945. Again came the call for service in the various theatres of war, and again came the call for support of the war effort and for the provision of comforts for the servicemen. Dandenong State School was well to the fore. There is no complete record of the ex-students and ex-teachers who saw active service, although some of the name are mentioned in letters written by ex-pupils.

Inspectors' Report Books reveal that pupils attending the school purchased War Savings Certificates to the value of £1793 (\$3586) that £1843 (\$3686) was raised and donated to War Relief, and that over three thousand articles of various kinds were made at the school and forwarded to those on service. And all this from a school with an enrolment ranging from 350-400 pupils.

Mrs R A Titcher (Margot Pegg) has provided some interesting recollections of life at 1403 during the war period. She writes, "This was a time of air-raid drills when we used to lie in specified positions under the pines along New Street, - Knitting assignments were always khaki sock, mittens and balaclavas - the boys spent many hours in their vegetable gardens behind the house opposite (now flats) as their victory effort - fancy dress parades on Market days through the main shopping centre organised by Mr Towner, with selected pupils leaving the ranks with collection tins"

Miss Jane Austin (what a wealth of information she has come forward with!) remembers that, "The parents were wonderful. Whatever we asked for out tuckshops and bazaars they responded generously with great trays of home-made cakes, jams etc. The school girls and some boys also knitted beautiful sox, scarves etc. for the troops. Children collected paper, bottles and other wastes to be sold." All so typical of the people of the locality!

Another former pupil recalls slit trenches dug under the pine-trees. Actually, according to School Committee records, no slit trenches were dug, although such a step was contemplated.

Having been carried away by memories of the depression days and the war years, I find that my sequence of events has been lost, so the clock must be turned back. Without doubt very annoying to you but, if you have been brave enough to venture this far, you have become accustomed to annoyances.

A "Back to Dandenong School" had been held in 1933. The Dandenong Historical Society has a framed picture of a section of the gathering on that occasion.

On 18/3/1935 Mr Gill, District Inspector, wrote his report after inspecting the school. The area of the school ground was still two acres and there was mention of a girls' school. This is something of a mystery. Mr Roy Brown has queried whether, this indeed was a class for girls and Dandenong West School. There were two pianos in our school.

In October 1935 the garden was being replanned and a new fence erected. The following year a new fence was constructed on the southern boundary. In April 1937 the school received the A.N.A. Prize won during 1936. The A.N.A. Prize, usually a large attractive print, is presented annually to school in the inspectorial district with the most improved school ground. So the replanning of the school garden had been effective!

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In March 1938 Mr H Green, now the District Inspector, reported on new drains at the school and the asphaltting of some areas during 1937. Twenty three children had proceeded to High School and two to Junior Technical School (probably Oakleigh). At about this time the outbuildings were renovated.

Let me quote Miss Jane Austin again. "During Mr Besant's reign we organized several frolics. The children rehearsed on the basketball area. They were held in the Town Hall and once in the Drill Hall. A prize was given for the best quadrille and for fancy costumes"

Mr Besant retired in 1939 - the year during which the world conflict began. We have discovered previously that his retirement was interrupted by a recall to teaching during the war years when teachers were scarce. Many young teachers were in the services. Mr Besant did not return to 1403, however.

The incoming Head Teacher was Mr. Richard J Keddie (1939-1941). Surely the Mr Keddie of Young farmers' Club fame! All students in training at Melbourne Teachers' College during the nineteen thirties spent one whole day in visiting The Notting Hill State School to see Mr Keddie's Young Farmers' Club in action. The children had at school cows, sheep and poultry and delivered lectures to the visitors on their respective interests. Mr Keddie was, of course, the Head Teacher at Notting Hill. If memory serves me correctly, it was a one-teacher school at that time.

Mr Keddie's ability must have earned him promotion to Dandenong. The Inspector's next report rather confirms my thoughts - a Young Farmers' Club was formed at Dandenong in 1940. In the same year the A.N.A Prize was won again, visual education equipment to the value of £25 was purchased, and £25 was raised for the Comports Fund.

Mr Fred Green was District Inspector at this time. He dressed very casually and often was not recognized as the Inspector by young teachers who had not met him previously. He told many good stories against himself. Two of these I can remember. On one occasion he arrived at a small country school only to be told by the young Head Teacher, "Go away my man, I am expecting the District Inspector at any time and he won't be happy to find you here.

News of the impending arrival of the District Inspector often came by "bush telegraph" in country areas. Two youthful pedagogues in charge of small rural schools boarded together in the nearest town. The story goes that one morning they set out together on their motor cycles, finally reaching the point where their roads branched. The District Inspector was following in his car. Each glanced back over his shoulder to see which motor cycle the car would follow. Then one rode on his way feeling rather tense, the other was able to feel relaxed, for that day at least.

Mr Green's other story concerned his visit to a small school which had a lady Head Teacher. This young lady had met him before. He arrived to find that the children had moved all the desks out into the porch and were busily applying wax to the school floor. The young female Head Teacher requested Mr Green to sit down and she would make him a cup of tea. Here was to be a "hop" in the school building that evening. Patient and good-natured as he often was Fred Green suffered in silence for a time before remarking, "Are you aware, young lady, that I might wish to inspect this school?" The reply was instantaneous, "And are you

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aware, Mr Green, that I am to marry one of the local farmers and will be resigning at the end of the month?"

In April 1941 Mr Green reported that the patriotic fund total at Dandenong stood at £190, the value of War Savings Certificates held at £264, and that 19 garments had been forwarded to the centre.

Mr Keddie departed at the close of 1941 to be succeeded by Mr Harold Hughes (1942 - 1944), although Mr Towner was acting Head Teacher for a time. Mr Keddie had left his mark on the school in two ways at least - one of these was by the establishment of a Young Farmers' Club, the other was both initials and surname scratched by somebody on the wet concrete around the school's gully trap. This is still clearly visible, although so many art palettes, and brushes have been washed there recently that it is probably hidden at the moment under various layers of red, yellow and blue paint.

The war was such a highlight in newspapers at this time that we know few details concerning Mr Harold Hughes. He had been at the school only a short time when a neighbour placed a quarter-acre area of land at the disposal of the Young Farmers' Club members. In this year Mr Green reported that "the school is overtaxed as to accommodation". The old story again! Figures produced showed the Patriotic Fund total at £625, War Savings Certificates at £507, while one thousand garments had now been forwarded to the Central Depot.

In 1943 the Military had taken possession of the school projector. Patriotic Fund total now £1,100, War Savings Certificates £853, number of garments 1,528.

Mr Fred Green's last report on Dandenong 1403 was in April 1944. Mr Hughes had left and Mr Charles A. Kilpatrick was to be in charge until 1949. Mr Kilpatrick was to bring the war to a successful conclusion to see Dandenong breathing more freely again and the school able to develop in peace.

Mr Curtis was the incoming District Inspector and it did not take him long to pay an official visit on August 7th 1944 he indicated that the net enrolment had increased to 416, and it must be remembered that these pupils were all accommodated in the brick structure. Today we house some 440 in the brick building plus two rooms in the Bristol prefab plus four classrooms in the two L.T.C.'s. In this report appears also the first mention of the Mothers' Club, although this had been established much earlier. We must have a separate section later for these very worthy ladies. On this occasion the Mothers' Club had given library support.

There were bus transport problems in 1945. It appears that some seventy - one children were being transported to the school for the Dandenong North locality.

Later in 1945 the asphalt was reconditioned and new drinking fountains were provided. Some additional areas were asphalted in July 1946

Mr Harry Weir became District Inspector in 1947, in which year tenders were called for renovations. The Inspector's Report Book indicated that Mr Kilpatrick ceased duty at the end

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of 1948, although Departmental records show him as Head Teacher until 1949. Considering with the departure of Mr Kilpatrick was the completion of the painting of the school.

Mr Lindsay R.G. Smith became the next Head Teacher and remained until 1952

The 1949 report contained mention of a proposed schoolground extension. A sound system had been provided by the Mothers' Club. During 1950 negotiations for purchase of additional land continued.

1951 was an exciting year in several respects. The net attendance had risen to 484, and the Education Department completed the purchase of five acres of land from Mr Masters to overcome overcrowding and congestion in the schoolground itself. This purchase brought the total acreage of the schoolground to seven acres, an unusually large area for a primary school. Along with the land purchase went the old Masters house (intended to house teachers), the two old sheds (still surviving) and the paling fence that had separated Master's Lane from the schoolground. No more old scores could be settled in this lane.

To add to the excitement of 1951 the Education Department erected the Bristol pre-fabricated unit to the north of the old building (12/9/1951). The Bristol now provides an introduction to primary school education to our two Preparatory grades and also contains the Sick Bay. The sound system provided in 1949 was extended to the new unit.

In 1951 also a sixteen millimetre Sound and Film Unit was purchased through local effort. The Victor Pyrox has had its ups and downs, being left hidden away for some time, but it is in regular use today.

The year 1951 is notable for other reasons, too. It was the year of the first mention in the Inspector's Report Book of the influx of New Australian migrant children. We have many of them today and they are happy members of our school community. The first mention of the Bird Club was included also. Thanks to people like Miss Sally Carroll and Mr Peter Schmutter Dandenong State School has ranked very highly amongst schools supporting the Gould League of Bird Lovers. More of that anon!

Mr Fawcett D. Head had arrived as Head Teacher in February 1952 and Mr. D. C. Streades was now the District Inspector. The net enrolment was mounting steadily - now 509 by 1953 this had increased rapidly to 574 pupils. New timber seating had been provided, probably under the peppercorns; there had been a visit by a member of the Visual Education staff, the first mention of the Dandenong Combined Schools' Sports was made; free milk distribution had commenced. Many a bottle of has been emptied into a parched throat since then, and many a bottle has been rejected by children who did not feel like consuming milk that day. Many a grey hair has appeared on the heads of teachers endeavouring to cope with the milk problem and trying to anticipate which children would be thirsty and which would not "feel like it".

The bicycle shed was built in 1953. The riding of a bicycle along the roads was very much safer in 1953 than in 1970, but there are still some heroes who prefer to defy death daily rather than walk half a mile. Thank goodness for the infantry - one learned not to be afraid to walk.

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The seams were really bursting in 1953 - the enrolment had grown to 613. Part of this increase must have been due to the arrival in the district of many newcomers from other countries. A class of children was accommodated in the Presbyterian Sunday School Hall in Foster Street as a temporary measure of relief. Old 1403 had twelve classes averaging 59 pupils each.

However relief was at hand. On the 4th of October 1954 Dandenong North State School No. 4723, situated on the corner of Cleeland and David Streets, opened and seventy one pupils were transferred there from Foster Street. In its sixteen years of functioning Dandenong North has enjoyed a proud record in all fields. We acknowledge another very worthy neighbour.

Dandenong School was able to breathe even more freely when in the next year the construction of the first two-classroom unit in light timber construction was completed in its grounds (1/2/1955). Undoubtedly this was the one nearer to Foster Street, The new area of schoolground that had been purchased previously was drained through the provision of an open drain on each side. There is mention of the partitioning of a large classroom (It was the room opposite the office - Mrs Hamilton). An opportunity grade at Dandenong West receives mention also.

Dandenong continues to grow: Increased Accommodation Problems at 1403

In 1955 the old brick residence in the north-eastern corner was demolished. The old Masters' home was gone. As the bricks crashed down to earth, did they remember that the children used to "trespass on the property" and "rob the garden and leave the gates open"? It is only in the last twelve to eighteen months that it has been necessary to convince a Government Officer from Melbourne that the residence is really not there any longer and that the school is truly not entitled to receive a Works and Buildings allowance for its maintenance.

The Head retired in 1955, probably at the conclusion of the second term, to be succeeded by Mr David D Williams. Mr Williams later retired after becoming Head Teacher of the large Overport School in the Frankston district and still lives in retirement. Tall and grey-haired, Dave delighted in pressing a point at considerable length at any meeting he attended. It is now legend that he could really crack a stockwhip. His old stockwhip rests now in the school office. It must surely have been the school stockwhip, for many schools possessed these to frighten away stray dogs, but it is generally known "affectionately" as Dave William's stockwhip because he could really make it crack. Many a dog fled yelping long Foster Street at the sound of this adroitly wielded whip. On mornings when yapping dogs invade the schoolground in large number I curse my inability to use this relic. On these occasions how I long for the ability to emulate Mr Dave Williams.

Mr Hamilton has related a good story that Dave Williams told against himself. He had the habit of walking in a somewhat stooped manner and with his hands behind his back. On one occasion he required six boys to follow him to carry out a job. On the way he stopped and turned to see the six boys all walking in a stopped manner, hands behind back.

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Soon after the arrival of the newly-appointed Head Teacher, erection of the second light timber construction had commenced (October 1955 completed 9/5/1956)

Mr C. G. Stocks was to arrive as District Inspector in 1956. His influence on the Dandenong and district schools over the past fourteen years has been considerable. He has had to contend with numerous problems, of which certainly not the least has been the tremendous increase in the number of young people in the area requiring education both at the primary and secondary levels. His great interest in Dandenong itself, plus his never-failing cheerfulness, despite some of the hard knocks that life has given have been fine assets. He is to leave his present position later this year to become Staff Inspector South-Eastern Division. In this position he will still be able to keep a helpful eye on the district. The respect with which the schools of the district are regarded is due in quite a degree to the efforts of Mr Croft Stocks.

Did we say that the Foster Street school was breathing again? Not for long! There were 651 enrolled in June 1956. The underground well had been filled in (rabbit and all) and a new park rail boundary fence and entrance gates were erected.

It was Mr Williams who introduced a school uniform (not compulsory) in 1956. The familiar grey jumper with its band of dark blue and white has been worn proudly, with justification, by many children in the ensuing years. The school even boasts an "old school tie in dark blue and white.

At this time an class of pupils from Doveton was accommodated in the Projection Room while awaiting the completion of the school building in Laurel Avenue Doveton. Judging from correspondence, our School Committee was not really happy. It expressed the viewpoint that the school was over crowded, and that relief provided by the opening of Dandenong North was offset by the necessity to accommodate Doveton children. The sick bay was in use as a classroom and the intake of new pupils had to be restricted.

When Mr Stocks visited in 1957, the attendance, on the up and up, had reached 671, the asphalt area had been resurfaced and extended which caused the bicycle shed to be re-sited, the conversion of the cloakroom to a permanent Visual Aid room was recommended (obviously the Doveton children had moved to the Laurel Avenue school), equipment added included a typewriter, duplicator, record player and motor mower, and block time-tables received mention.

Seven hundred and eighteen pupils was the enrolment figure in April 1958. Forty treed had been planted on the west, north and east boundaries, but, if we are to judge from the number of trees to be seen on those boundaries today, vandalism took a very heavy toll as ever. The Infant School area had been filled and gravelled, the Projection Room had been renovated, steel shelving had been provided in the store room, and an Aldis film-strip projector had been purchased. One hundred metal stacking chairs had been purchased to provide seating when meetings or functions were held at the school. Having played "put and take" with these chairs on more occasions than I care to remember, I can vouch for the fact that there are indeed one hundred of them. Specialist teachers in Physical Education and Music were visiting the school, and tubular steel playground equipment had been purchased by local bodies.

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A highlight of 1958 as the success of the School Choir, under the baton of Mr Gil Byrne, at the Dandenong Festival of Music and Art. The Choir earned first place in the section for Primary School Choirs. Mr Byrne later became the first Principal (no longer Head Teacher or Headmaster) of the new school, Chandler, at the beginning of 1970. His daughter emulated her father some ten years later by conducting a winning choir at the Dandenong Festival. However, this choir was not from Dandenong School.

Mr Dave Williams moved on to Frankston East at the end of 1958. Later he transferred to Overport. His stooped walk was missed around the school, and dogs returned to yelp and snap at the playing children. Apart from introducing a school uniform, Mr Williams had also originated the custom of the children consuming their lunches inside under supervision. This has remained a regular tradition at the school.

There was a new peak in attendance of 749 by June 1959. Mr James G Pash had taken charge of the school. At our Inter-House Athletic late in 1968 we were delighted when Mr Pash, now living in retirement, came along and made himself known. He impressed as a friendly and sincere person and certainly still maintained an interest in the doings of the school he had been associated with for some four years.

The New Street fence had been renewed in cyclone, there was a new flagpole and sand pits had been built for the young children. There were seventeen "classrooms", with the Sick bay and Projection Room in use as classrooms. There was some mention of a projected school at Dandenong South.

There were 760 pupils in attendance early in 1960, so the previous "new peak" had been surpassed. Some seventy pupils were being transported by bus each day to the newly opened Yarraman Park School in Liege Avenue. Still there was overcrowding in the classrooms.

A new floor was provided for the entrance hall. No "hatrack in the hall", no "lavatory in the porch" New lighting had been authorized and the provision of heating units recommended.

Real relief was near Dandenong South State School (in Kirkham Road) opened in April 1961 and a total of 287 pupils transferred there from Dandenong 1403. Net enrolment dropped to 510 and accommodation problems were solved once and for all. The school seemed empty.

When the Stocks arrived in November, the shelter sheds had been repaired and repainted, there was a new incinerator, and party boundary fences (except one) had been erected. The school was completely renovated with internal papering and painting, at a cost of \$10,000. Fluorescent lighting was installed in the main building. The old floppy lights that hung from the ceilings on long leads and which swayed perilously backward and forward when struck by paper pellets were no more. Their glowing light no longer dazzled the eyes of pupils!

The story of '61 continued with the purchase of tools for handwork and the erection of a display cabinet for trophies. The school had been successful in gaining a number of trophies.

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The Bird Club Record Book compiled by Grade 4^a under the leadership of Miss Sally Carroll, won first prize in the Gould League competitions- quite an achievement.

By June 1962 Mr John Mc Lachlan was in charge, and Dandenong State School had been proclaimed a training school for training students from Frankston Teachers' College. Many young people from this college have studied the practical techniques of educating children here over the last eight years. How much longer the school will continue as a training school is in doubt, for a recent report on school experience for teachers in training has recommended that "outmoded school buildings" are not suitable location for training. Old 1403 will bristle when this comes about. "Outmoded am I, indeed! Well you may know that, although my walls are old, the spirit and the education within these walls are young and new."

New goal posts were obtained from the Victorian Football League, both sink and sink heater (electric) were provided in the Projection Room and a replacement duplicator was purchased.

Dandenong School had new problems in 1962. It had too many classrooms. This was indeed a change. The District Inspector, Mr C G Stocks, solved this one with aplomb. The large classroom immediately behind the office was equipped to accommodate a Rural Training School, with Mr G Begg in charge, and an Opportunity Grade was established in the L.T.C. nearer to Foster Street, under Mr G Stanley. The Rural Training School has enjoyed moments of glory and moments of eclipse and will disappear eventually, as these establishments are to be placed out. The Opportunity Grade was converted to an Opportunity/Remedial Centre in 1968.

Miss D. Russell, Infant Mistress, retired in July 1962 and was eventually succeeded Miss D. Jukes. The enrolment was only a modest 500 in 1962 and 504 in 1963.

Another pupil had been found by 1964 - total 505. Fifty additional shrubs had been planted and garden seats purchased. Additional equipment included a replacement motor mower, globes of the world, a piano and six electric fans. All of these, of course, were provided by local effort, the fans to cool the classrooms in the Bristol and the two L.T.C.'s. These rooms became very hot during the summer months.

Was this motor mower the machine used by teachers to cut the grass on the front lawn and on the nature strip?. It must have been. Teachers carried out this work for quite some time until... that brings to mind another good story, and a true one. It was Mr Tom Houlahan's turn to use the mower. Tom is now senior assistant at Knoxfield Primary School (indeed he was to become Principal of 1403 in 1973). The story as related to me was that, as Tome was mowing away merrily, the motor mower threw up a stone which sailed through the window of the butcher's shop opposite. When I checked the story with Tom, he quietly corrected me by stating that he did not put a stone through the window, but a blade of the mower. As he continued busily on with his job, blissfully unaware that anything was amiss, a lady approached from the direction of the shop. She was carrying the blade and enquired "Is this yours?". Mr Houlahan was quite taken aback. After that incident teachers no longer used the motor mower on the lawn and nature strips. Ray Penman, the butcher, has often advertised blade steak, but on this occasion it was rather a case of blade mistake.

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Mr Jack McLachlan was promoted to Lyndale State School at the opening of the 1965 school year and was succeeded by Mr Roy W. Brown from Heatherhill State School. Roy Brown was, of course the originator of a school history at Dandenong - a task to which he devoted much time. Jack McLachlan had been in ill-health for much of his stay at Dandenong, and Ron McPhee (now at Doveton West - later first Principal of the new Wooranna Park Primary School) had to act in the capacity of Head Teacher quite often. Mr McLachlan's ill-health continued at Lyndale and he was superannuated early in 1966.

Mr Roy Brown soon made his presence felt. A most thorough person who has never been afraid to work long hours, he devoted much energy to the task that he faced and, as usual, gave excellent service.

In 1965 a "House System" was introduced. Perhaps re-introduced would be a better term, as there is little doubt that the "House System" had been used before in the school at some time. However, in 1965 pupils throughout the upper school were divided into four teams at "Houses" to encourage team spirit. The names of some of the early settlers were chosen as "House" names - Clow (Red), Lonsdale (Gold), Hawdon (Green) and Langhorne (Blue).

Ground improvements are a feature of the years 1965, 1966 and 1967. In 1965 the Public Works department laid down a barrel drain from the L.T.C. nearer Foster Street right through to Masters Street. All drainage from roofs and school utilities was conducted underground to this barrel drain. Previously it had, in the main, flowed above ground in storm drains. This was a major improvement. In 1966 also all previously asphalted areas were re-surfaced and new asphalt laid on the New Street side of the brick building. Gravelled areas were also resurface and guard posts erected to protect asphalted areas against heavy vehicles.

In 1967 the much-outmoded toilets were renovated, a three inch water main was laid from Foster Street, around the two L.T.C.'s and through to New Street to provide water reticulation service was renewed with copper piping, and stainless steel washing and drinking troughs were erected to replace the old unhygienic cement troughs.

In 1967 also saw the culmination of many years of effort by the School Committee and the Mothers' Club when the school oval, laid down on about four of the five acres of land purchased in 1951, was regraded and reseeded with grass. This was indeed a major effort and it was a project very dear to the hearts of the parent bodies. The entire project cost approximately \$2,200. Of this amount the Mothers' Club provided \$1,000, the Education Department \$1,000 and the School Committee, under whose management the entire project was completed, the balance. Unfortunately a very severe drought followed the completion of the work, but the oval has recovered well and is now well-grassed.

When Mr Stocks arrived in November 1965, he was able to report that gas ventral thermes had been installed (during 1964) throughout the school replacing the old wood fires. For eighty-four years the faithful old fires had sent smoke (and most of their heat) up the chimneys. They had tried in vain to provide warm classrooms during the winter, although often they must have warmed the seat of the teacher's pants when he was feeling the cold. The attendance was slightly on the down grade but stood still at 500.

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Progressive and hard-working parent bodies were supplying the school with a good deal of modern equipment. Between 1965 and 1967 items provided included a Phillips tape recorder (\$167), a second record player (\$76), an automatic-feed Banda duplicator (\$193), a storage cabinet for charts (\$44) and the school's first television receiver (\$220). The Education Department, in addition to subsidizing the above, supplied a completely new sound system for the school, replacing that provided by the Mothers' Club in 1949. Lino was laid also in the Projection Room and along the main corridor extension.

The first television set did not last long. It was installed actually in March 1960 only to be stolen in May of the same year. It was replaced eventually by another set early in 1969.

The support of parent bodies recorded above is typical of the support that has been given to the school throughout its lengthy history.

BACK TO DANDENONG 1403

In 1966 it was decided that the time had arrived to conduct another "back to School" function. Arrangements were made by a sub-committee of the School Committee, member being Messrs. K Synot and K Cadd and Mesdames M. Murdoch and J. Sweetman. The Head Teacher, Mr R. Brown, was an ex-officio member.

Approximately seven hundred ex-teachers and ex-pupils attended of whom some five hundred signed the Visitors' Book made available. As far as could be ascertained, the honour of being the oldest ex-pupil present went to Mr Hugh Moodie, aged 83. On a sad note - Mr Moodie was to die shortly after this function. Mr Moodie, together with Messrs Ted Mitchell (82), Arthur Blackmore (82) and Herbert Blackmore (80), planted a golden elm to mark the occasion.

An exhibition of historic records of various kinds was a feature of the celebration. Undoubtedly the most remarkable exhibit was a work book compiled by William Masters when he attended school in 1867. The writing, the arrangement of work and the standard of work done was a revelation to those who had the privilege of reading through it. Another book which attracted great interest was the 1897 homework book of Alice Little. Written in copperplate handwriting, with the figuring in sums matching the standard of the writing, it, too, amazed the moderns. Mr Dick Turner brought along the medal won by his brother, Mr Ted Turner, in 1893 when the latter was Dux of the school. A surprisingly comprehensive collection of old and not-so-old photographs ranging from 1896 to 1966 - also excited intense interest, the older folk peering at them and naming their former classmates and recalling almost forgotten incidents in which they were perhaps the central figures.

In one room the Dandenong Historical Society arranges an exhibition of photos of early Dandenong.

Among the many former teachers present probably the one with the longest connection with the school was Miss J Austin who taught here from 1907 to 1913 and again from 1934 to 1950. The oldest former Head Teacher present was Mr C Kilpatrick who administered the school from 1944 until 1948.

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During the afternoon opportunity was taken to farewell Miss Sally Carroll whose first connection with 1403 was as a scholar from 1908 to 1912. She was a student teacher at her former school in 1920, and, after years of service in various parts of Victoria, returned in 1950 to serve until her retirement from the Education Department. Although "retired", she now teaches at St Gerald's School in Dandenong North to assist in overcoming staff shortages there.

Bright music was provided throughout the whole afternoon by the Dandenong R.S.L. and Citizens Band. The Victorian Baton Twirlers and Drum Majorettes in their colourful uniforms added a touch of brightness to the generally animated scene.

This was a wonderful day, one which would never be forgotten by those who had the good fortune to be present. To see the faces of the older folk light up as they recognized and spoke to their classmates of days gone by was an unforgettable experience.

This complete description of the Back to Dandenong 1403 was as written by Mr Roy Brown.

The Social Service League had been very active and the total amount in cash and goods donated to deserving institutions during the period 1958 to 1966 reached the total of \$4,624.

Social Service afternoon at the Foster Street School is an afternoon once experienced, never forgotten. The children use all their wiles in coaxing others to spend their money so that charities will benefit. Stalls are manned, billycart rides are freely available, mysterious fortune-tellers operate behind closed doors and competitions of every kind, fair and unfair, are conducted.

His job very well done, Mr Roy Brown moved on to State School 1464, Davey Street Frankston, at the beginning of 1968 to take up a well merited promotion. After three years at that school he is to retire at the end of 1970 to enjoy a period of relaxation.

His place was to be taken by Mr Syd Reed from Dandenong North State School. He arrived to find that there was a spirit of adventure in the school, that his task was to be made easier by the support of a most competent staff and that the parents generally were interested and co-operative. The School Committee and Mothers' Club were to gain his admiration.

UPS AND DOWNS

There is much truth in the statement that, in Dandenong, one has not really lived unless one has been associated with the Foster Street School in some way.

1403 is a friendly soul; he bids you welcome; mostly he smiles on you, he is rich in history; but never forget that he can be a hard taskmaster. When you make an error, as we all must do at sometime, be sure that you will be made to know that you have erred, for he possesses the ability to rap knuckles.

The old school must have been trying out the new arrival, for many things went wrong early in 1968. The 2880 section of the building scowled. Unhappy about the period of severe

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drought it decided to widen a minute crack that had first developed late in 1967 on the outside of the wall near the Foster Street/New Street junction corner of the school. With the continuation of the drought the clayey soil contracted, the crack opened, spread to the foundations of the building (the old bluestone foundations), then began to appear prominently inside Room 1, accompanied by falling plaster. One classroom was to be out of use for almost two years. Underpinning of the affected section of the building was carried out early in 1968 but the plaster was not patched internally until the before school commenced in 1970.

Unhappy about being underpinned on one side, the old structure decided to "open up" on the other front corner facing the Bristol. Since then numerous smaller cracks have developed. the Public Works Department Structural Engineer felt that the entire cracking may have been due to water running back under the school, so the drain near the office door was redug to carry the water away.

The situation today! The cracks are opening slowly, but there is to be no more underpinning at present. The policy is to be one of "patch and observe". Is the old building doomed? time alone will answer the query.

Further trouble was at hand. There had been over the years frequent cases of illegal entry into the school at night, the intruders often climbing over the roof into the bell quadrangle to gain entry. Often the entry was annoying rather than costly but the theft of the television receiver in May was most disheartening.

In the credit side 1968 saw the change of the Opportunity Grade into an Opportunity/Remedial Centre. The children concerned became member of grades in lthe school and attended the Remedial Centre only for assistance, just as did any other children in the school experiencing difficulty.

The year 1970 dawned full of hope, but yet it seemed that the troubles of 1969 were likely to repeat themselves.

In the early hours of the morning of April twenty-eighth fire damaged the two classrooms in the first L T C - the one nearer Foster Street. The fire was obviously started deliberately by intruders who had first entered and searched the main building. They then broke glass in the door of the L T C to force an entry, and set their fire on top of a steel cupboard near the switchboard to give the appearance of a blaze caused by an electrical fault.

There is probably no more depressing experience than to be awakened in the early hours of the morning by the ringing of the telephone bell, followed by the advice that fire has damaged two classrooms. Mr Croft Stocks, who had been notified first, was already on the scene, estimating the damage and, in his typical manner, accessing what assistance would be needed later in the morning when the children arrived.

Fortunately, thanks to the efforts of the Dandenong Fire Brigade the damage was not nearly as extensive as it might well have been, but two classrooms were out of action, some losses had been suffered, and there were many disheartened children. Thanks to the offices of the Education Department and the Public Works Department repairs began immediately, so

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that the grades affected were able to resume activities in their normal classrooms after the May vacation. However, a scar had been left.

Suddenly the clouds began to lift. Past troubles were left behind and the school became a happy, active place once again. Experiments were conducted with new ideas; there was a thoughtful approach, there was confidence and optimism

It was early in 1969 that one State Schools became Primary Schools and the correct title became Dandenong Primary School No 1403. Also the term Principal was introduced. Earlier he had been the Head Teacher for a long, long time, and then the Head Master (also written Headmaster) for very short period.

The year 1970 was to be an exciting year. The new Science course was being implemented, and Max Bennett often arrived with such offerings as sheep's heads, lambs' livers, carcasses and a white rat (to be dissected). Chickens were hatched in classrooms and experiments in cooking were carried out. How the slaters must have cursed the introduction of the new course! For a time they were the favourite creatures for close study.

Dandenong 1403 was selected as one of eight schools in Victoria to conduct trialling of a proposed new English course. This brought regular visits from Mr Brian Mc Quillen and Miss Lorraine Wilson, It also brought early headaches to staff members until the initial problems were overcome.

Then came the news that the corner of the schoolground facing Foster Street, almost opposite Rudduck Street, was to be the site for a most modern Psychology and Guidance Centre estimated to cost a least \$100,00. The school was to lose some five-eighths of an acre from its large playing area, but Dandenong was surely to gain considerably.

This also was the year when the foundation of a central library at the school promised to become a reality. Parents had worked so hard for any years to make this dream come true. Mr Max Young, who was possibly the staunchest advocate of a library used his mechanical train unsparingly in many places to raise funds for the venture. "No charge, but don't forget to send a donation to the Dandenong School Library Fund". It is so typical of life that the library is on the move just when Max's youngest son, Stan, is about to advance to secondary education.

Determined that something should happen, the Mothers' Club President, Mrs Jan Hill, and some of her stalwart supporters raised the question of the library at a rally held by the Minister of Education, Mr Lindsay Thompson, at Lyndale on May 13th. He wrote, "Mr Reed's application approved".

The wheels are turning. Hopes are high. It is pleased to convert Room 4 into a Central Library. The Library Fund stands at \$1,000.

The story of 1970 is unfinished (5/8/1970). There will be so much more to be written of the year and of future years. NBlut is cannot be written now, for who can foretell future events? May be the fortune-tellers during our Social Service League afternoon next week, but certainly no one else!

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HEAD TEACHERS THROUGH THE YEARS	
Malcolm MacPherson	1874 - 1888
Gustavus A Swan	1889 - 1899
William White	1899 - 1906
Herbert Williamson	1920 - 1925
Percival Ewans	1925 - 1927
William E Hall	1927 - 1928
Arthur A Besant	1928 - 1939
Richard J Keddie	1939 - 1941
Harold Hughes	1942 - 1944
Charles A Kilpatrick	1944 - 1949
Lindsay R G Smith	1949 - 1952
Fawcett D Head	1952 - 1955
David D Williams	1955 - 1958
James E Pask	1959 - 1962
John Mc Lachlan	1962 - 1965
Roy W Brown	1965 - 1967
Sydney J Reed	1968 - 1971
Thomas Houlahan	1972 -?

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MEMOIRES OF PAST STUDENTS AND STAFF

OF CABBAGES AND KINGS

During research many stories and many accounts of incidents have come to light. Some of these can never be written, they will remain secrets in my memory. It has been a lost of fun, interspersed with periods of very steady work

The following can be related.

One lunch-time Lionel Dawson in company with three other boys went to the creek bird-nesting (no Gould League at that time!). Whilst thus engages, they noticed a grass fire start up on the property of Mr Thos Carroll senior. The three boys and Mr. Carroll all armed with tea-tree branches, were still busily engaged in fighting the fire when the school bell rang. Great panic! After the fire had been extinguished, Mr Carroll insisted on driving the boys back to school and explained to the Head Teacher (Mr White) how well the boys had fought the fires. He also rewarded the lads with ten shillings to be shared amongst them. So typical of the Carroll family!

Mr Aleck Paydon had good reason to remember the final brick additions. The bricklayers, while at lunch one day, offered two shillings to any boy who could lift a hod of bricks (twelve bricks each weighing nine pounds). Aleck Paydon was the only one who succeeded. Two shillings was a large sum of money to a boy in the early nineteen hundreds.

Amongst Miss Jane Austin's memories! Jim Watson (grade 2) was an avid reader at seven years of age. Miss Austin was questioning the children about Christmas Day and not one could tell her that it was Christ's birthday. She knew that Jim had a book under the dist and was reading, so she challenged him with, "Jimmy Watson, you should know, as you told me that you read the Bible every night", "yes", said Jim, "so I do, but you don't read about Christ until the New Testament and I haven't yet finished the Old Testament".

THE YEAR 1971

On January 19th 1971 work began on the Psychology and Guidance Centre in the corner of the schoolground on Foster Street facing down Rudduck Street. This Centre was to reduce the size of the Dandenong School's playground by approximately three quarters of an acre, leaving a total area of some six and a quarter acres. The School Committee had agreed to this corner of the schoolground being taken over for a Psychology and Guidance Centre as it felt that such a centre would be of great value to the Dandenong schools as a whole.

The commencement of work marked an important stage in a struggle that had been carried on for many years with Mr Croft Stocks in the vanguard. He had realized that this was indeed a great need in Dandenong and had suffered many disappointments before it became a reality.

The new Centre was completed, except for the site works, on Friday, 30th July. Mr Alan Farmer was in charge.

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The first section of the old building suffered a further decline during 1971. The cracks on the northern corner (Room 4) widened slowly and caused concern amongst P.W.D. officers. Responsibility was thrown on the Structural Engineer who first contemplated using long bolts to bolster the walls.

On July 6th 1971 a letter from the Regional Supervisor Eastern Division P.W.D. advised: - (This was a letter from one branch of the P.W.D. to another. A copy was forwarded to the Principal for information).

"It has now become evident that Classrooms Nor. 4 and 6 (P.W.D. numbering) including the Principal's office have now reached the stage where extensive restoration or complete demolition is necessary.

It is considered that immediate action is necessary to vacate these two classrooms and fence off the dangerous areas so as to completely minimize the possibility of accidents to students and other persons legally within the school grounds".

And "fenced off" it was - on 8/7/1971 - with three strands of wire extended between angle iron posts.

A portable classroom arrived in the schoolground on 29th July and was prepared for occupation the following day. The Opportunity/Remedial Centre was moved into the "portable", leaving Room 1 unoccupied. The future of the central library was in considerable doubt.

When the Buildings Branch of the Education Department was asked whether, in view of the condemned front section of the old building, the school could expect a replacement library instead of the converted classroom promised previously, the reply was unfavourable. In short, because of the changed situation, the school could expect no library at all, unless the parents were prepared to contribute to the erection of a new building.

As soon as this information became known, the blood of the local Dandenong folk was on fire. They had the written approval of the Minister, yet now there was to be no library. The parents, headed by Mrs M Matthews and Mrs P Martin of the Mothers' Club and Mr M Stone and Mrs M Matthews and Mrs P Martin of the Mothers' Club and Mr M Stone and Mrs K Anthony, Chairman and Secretary respectively of the School Committee, went into action.

A meeting of parents was called and an extensive press and publicity campaign was launched. The local claim was that a promise made had been broken. A further cause of dissatisfaction was that the old building, so much admired and respected locally, was to be demolished and replaced by - well, what?

Finally, at a most amicable meeting between parent representatives and P.W.D. officers, the matter was ironed out satisfactorily. The old building was to be restored, and demolished, and the classroom originally promised was to be converted into a central library.

How long would the work take? That is part of the story of 1972m, and so it is over to Mr Tom Houlahan, incoming Principal for 1972. A former teacher at the school returning as

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Principal to replace Mr. Syd Reed who is moving on to Heatherdale Primary School. Mr Tom Houlahan was acting - Principal at Harrisfield Primary School before his arrival, having taken over that position after the unfortunate death of Mr Norman Solomon.

1403 is in good hands under Mr Tom Houlahan.

The Psychology and Guidance Centre was finally occupied late in 1971. Occupation had been delayed pending progress with the site works.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following ex-pupils kindly forwarded letters, photographs and old school books. Most have received mention in this history, but here is a more complete and rational list. God bless them all!

Mrs Jane Austin, 2 Power Street - pages and pages of most valuable information
 Miss Sally Carroll, Foster Street,- many names and memories
 Mr. Lionel K Dawson, 190 Warrigal Road, Mentone
 Mr Aleck Paydon, 14 Stud Road
 Mr James Swords (now deceased), 303 Nepean Highway, Frankston
 Mrs Ruby McKay (Ruby Williams), 2 Olympic Avenue, Springvale South
 Mrs A M Griffiths (Amy Williams), Flat 7, 12 Stephen Street, Footscray
 Mrs M Marshall (nee Mitchell), 1 Bank Rd, Edithvale
 Mr R (Dick) Turner (deceased since writing), 21 Westall Rd, Springvale
 Mrs E Hunt (deceased), 33 Power Street, Dandenong
 Miss D Russell, 43 Rosella Street, Hughesdale
 Margaret E Shout, 355 Nepean Highway, Frankston
 Mrs Down, 15 Burton Avenue, Clayton
 Mr Albert Brown, Box 391, Red Cliffs
 Miss Teresa Morgan, 161 Foster Street
 Mr Louis Jones, Flat 1, 1 Gratton Street Hawthorn
 Mrs Amy Bowman, Flat 6, 79 Cleeland Street
 E H Mitchell, 6 Finley Street, Frankston
 Mr Leslie Geo. Williams, Box 33 Piangil
 Mrs Myrtle Young, 49 Potter Street
 Mrs R A Titcher (Margot Pegg). 86 Herbert Street
 Mrs E R Love, 63 Yarrbat Avenue, Balwyn - Most valuable historical information
 Mrs May Lilley (May Griffiths), - deceased - card of thanks following visit to school in 1969
 Mr Brad Tharle, telephone call to Mr R Brown

And remember that this history belongs as much, or more, to Mr Roy Brown than to anybody.

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AND NOW TO 1972

Several blank pages followed the preceding story before this proceeding section.

THE GOULD LEAGUE OF BIRD LOVERS

"Thanks to people like Miss Sally Carroll and Mr Peter Schmutter Dandenong School has ranked very highly amongst schools supporting the Gould League of Bird Lovers. More of that anon."

The above extract appears previously in this history. Now is the time for that "anon".

The Gould League of Bird Lovers was name in honour of a noted "bird man", John Gould, and was developed to encourage in our children a love of our native birds with an associated desire to protect them. Gould League activities include field excursions, bird discussions, the establishment of Bird Clubs, purchase of Gould League materials and the annual Gould League competitions in sketching, written expression, verse, art and craft and the keeping of Bird Record Books. On joining the League, each child receives a bright certificate showing many bird illustrations. The child must also sign his pledge to assist in the protection of native birds.

A branch of the Gould League was originated at Foster Street in 1947 under that most enthusiastic bird-lover, Miss Sally Carroll. Her influence in this field was just as great, if not greater, than her influence on the lives of young people generally. Dandenong School was constantly to the fore in Gould League work and became reconized as a leading "bird" school in the state.

Over the years, until 1966, the school had gained first prizes in the essay section, the bird record book section (four firsts and a special merit certificate), while many special merit and merit certificates were gained for poems, art and handwork. In 1966 the school gained a special certificate awarded to the school gaining the highest points of all the schools in Victoria. One boy, Michael Barbaray, won second prize for a bird sketch when in grade 6. This lad proceeded to Dandenong Technical School later and was successful in the Australia-wide competition for a design for a poster for the Empire Games held in Perth.

Truly an imposing record! It is obvious that the school later assisted materially in enabling the Dandenong Inspectorate to gain highest points in competition work for the State for three successive years from 1967 to 1969.

The Inspectorate received the Ingram Trophy for this success, and, as a tribute to the part the school had played in the triumph, the trophy was brought to Foster Street to be handed over during 1968. Mr Stocks, Mr Alan Mudge (Gould League Vic - President) and Mr Victor Jacobs (a former teacher at the school and then the District Organizer) attended to make the presentation, and naturally Miss Carroll, then teaching at St Gerard's, was the guise of

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honour. A miniature of the Ingram Trophy - it features the red-capped robin- became the permanent proud possession of the school.

Miss Carroll has carried her enthusiasm for bird-life to St Gerard's and has developed this same love in her children there.

With the departure of the founder of the Gould League Mr Peter Schmutter stepped in to take over. His enthusiasm and his inspiring manor with children have combined to make him the success that he has been in so many other ways. Good results continue to be achieved.

Australian native birds fly over Dandenong Primary School with feeling of safety and hope.

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Much of the success achieved by any school is due to the parent bodies, and 1403 has been indeed fortunate in this respect.

The old Board of Advice had given way to a School Committee in 1911, so that each school had its own committee in place of a local board.

Historical records produce some unusual twist. We are able to trace the name of all the members of the Board of Advice in certain years yet we have not the names of the original School Committee. However, E. M. Orgill has the honour of having been the first Correspondent, succeeded by Mrs May Mason in 1912.

Committee records have not all been retained, but we pick up the threads again in 1932 when the members were Mr R Corbel (Chairman), Mr W A Hopkins (Correspondent), Mrs J G Smith, Mr and Mrs T W Hope, Mr G W Higgs and Mr R H McLennan.

In April 1933 this Committee decided that the local press should be notified that "our school is, and has been since its inception, known only as Dandenong State School 1403, and that the use of the name - Dandenong East School - is entirely incorrect, as no such school exists". The letter was to be lodged for publication in the following week's issue of each paper, and was to be endorsed - By Order of Committee of Dandenong State School 1403. There was a tone of indignation about this motion, but I doubt whether it produced the desired effect. The nickname "The East" still remains, sad to relate.

A picnic was arranged for February 1937 and each parent was requested to contribute threepence per week for twenty weeks. It was planned to hold the picnic on the Beswick's property at Parkvale.

The cabinet for displaying the school trophies was erected during 1933.

At the elections on 7th March 1934 Mrs A Little and Mrs D Little were elected to fill vacancies caused by the retirement of Mr and Mrs Kope. Mr Corbel remained as Chairman until his resignation in December 1935, when Mr R.K. McLennan took over the chair.

The Mothers' Club notified the School Committee that it had decided to purchase lollies for distribution amongst children on Empire Day 1934. This is now a lost occasion - Empire

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Day. Children really looked forward to it at one time. It has now been replaced largely by Commonwealth Youth Sunday.

By June 1935 the Public Works Department had commenced asphaltting portion of the schoolground, also some paths. The 1936 School Picnic was held at Edithvale on Saturday March 7th. Mr Armstrong and Mr De Graff were appointed to fill Committee vacancies.

In June 1936 the Committee was successful in persuading the Education Department to provide six additional drinking taps.

And so the work of the School committee continued! It would be another history in itself to record the many improvements effected in this school by the efforts of this body, but it is very true to say that every Committee has struggled hard to persuade the authorities that improvements were required. Sometimes these efforts met with quick success, but more often the battle was long and hard. The fact that the members were determined to achieve success generally was the secret of their eventual triumph. The school is so much better because of its various School Committees.

In the remaining years of the thirties we find the names of Mrs R Warburton and Messrs Cloke and D. Little appearing.

The forties opened with some new Committee members in Rev T. Hadley (Chairman), Mr W. Schoon (Correspondent), and Messrs. K. Phillips and K. Mc Kenzie.

In March 1942 a motion was passed advocating the digging of slit trenches in the schoolground as a precaution against possible air raids. No progress was made in consultations with the Shire Engineer, and the matter was eventually "held over".

In 1943 the Chairman, Rev. T. Hadley, tendered his resignation to become an Army Padre and Mr D. Little became Chairman. In the same year Mrs Clucas and Mr E Hill became Committee members. Two pine trees were removed early in the year.

Messrs. Stork and L. Godfrey were welcomed as members in July 1944.

On 9th March 1945 a combined meeting of parents resolved to advise parents that "Your School Committee supported by the Mothers' Club has decided to approach the Government to have erected a new building to replace the present one that is now completely out of date and quite unsuited to meet the demands of modern education. We visualize a structure that will contain a self-contained Infant school, an assembly hall which can also be used for School Domestic, a well-equipped lunch room, a gymnasium with facilities for showers, a handcraft room, air-conditioned classrooms etc. We confidently invite you to support us in our request by signing the petition".

Such were the dreams of 1945. More than twenty-five years later the old structure still stands - with additions. And parent thoughts have changed. The retention of the old building is desired.

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Mr J. Stork became Chairman in 1946, while new names to appear were those of Mr G. Trainor (Correspondent), Mrs J Hogarth Scott until replaced by Mr Beswicke in 1947, and Mr A Kent.

As is the case today, requests for contributions to school funds were necessary in 1948. A circular was forwarded to all parents.

Elections in 1949 resulted in the addition of the names of Mesdames G. Caithness and G. Lewis and Messrs. A. Uhl and A. Gibson to the ever-growing list. Mr. a. Kent was Chairman and Mr A. Uhl Correspondent.

Three years later Mrs G Caithness was elected to the Chair, and Messrs. G. Maslem, R. McPherson, J. Rolls and K Kavanagh joined the Committee.

Time moved along to 1955 when Mr R. A. McPherson became Correspondent and a new face on the Committee was that of Mr G. H. Andrews. In August of this year the Committee was advised that the P.W.D. Inspector had recommended the erection of a covered way to connect the three pre-fabricated buildings. There is still no covered way.

Mr Hreum became a new Committee member when Mr A. Gibson found it necessary to tender his resignation. During 1957 Mr C. W. Taylor was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr K Kavanagh.

The 1958 elections saw Mrs A. D. Mills, Mrs S. Foster, Mr W. H Norfolk and Mr J. Bryan begin their periods of Committee service, while Mr R. Crabtree joined during 1959 and Mrs J. Toogood and Mrs Ferries during 1960. Mr. Anderson's name appeared first in the minute book late in 1960.

Elections were conducted again in 1962. Messrs. D. Gale, J. Synot and M. Winstanley became members for the first time, and Mr. W. Norfolk began his long period of service as Correspondent, succeeding Mr C. W. Taylor who had held the position for three years.

The long term as Chairman of Mrs Caithness came to an end in March 1963 and she was replaced by Mr C. Taylor, while Mr A. Griffin was added to the Committee. Mr Gale was replaced by Mr. H Cadd in the same year. Mrs M. Matthews also joined the School Committee at this time.

The March 1964 elections added Mr. R Wagstaff to the Committee. The personnel were much the same as I was to meet on my arrival at the school in 1968, the only alteration being that Mr M. Young had taken over from Mr Winstanley in the meantime.

Who could forget Committee meetings with Mr Charles Taylor as Chairman, Mr Bert Norfolk as Secretary, Mr Max Griffin (replaced later by Mr Maw Young) as Treasurer, Mrs Doreen Mills, Mrs Joyce Toogood, Mrs Melva Matthews, Mrs P Taylor, Mr Bert Cadd, Mr Kevin Synot, Mr Peter Wagstaff and the Mothers' Club representative, Mrs Stella Byrne?

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And then came Mr Norm Pascoe as replacement for Mr M Griffin. On Mr K Norfolk's retirement (after many years) from the position of Secretary, Mr Pascoe was to take over these duties. Nothing at all has been a trouble to him, as was the case with his predecessor.

The business-like procedure of Committee meetings, combined with a most definite sense of humor, is being continued by the present Committee (considerably changed as a result of retirements). Mr Malcolm Stone is the new Chairman, Mr Norm Pascoe Secretary, Mr Phil Smallwood Treasurer, while other Committee members are Mrs Doreen Mills, Mrs Helen Anthony, Mr Vern Walters, Mr Boyd Williams, Mr Fred Squires and Mr Bill Brooks. The Mothers' Club representatives are Mrs M Matthews and Mrs G Hatwell.

Mrs Helen Anthony was later to take over the position of Secretary and to fill the post most capably.

Much indeed has been achieved by the various Committees. The present Committee hopes to see the School Library established very shortly.

THE MOTHERS' CLUB

In all schools many words of thanks are expressed (sometimes they may be unexpressed, but certainly felt) to those "guardian angels", the Mothers' Club members. One hesitates to think of the likely state of one school without their untiring efforts.

Again, in this respect 1403 has been most fortunate, for its Mothers' Club is rated very highly throughout the district.

Once again records are incomplete, and the date of formation of the Club and the names of its first office bearers are not available. The earliest information is that there was a bank balance of £19.6.1 on 4th July 1929. However, it is certain that the Mothers' Club was originated before this, for Mrs Down has produced her invitation to the 11th Birthday of the Club to be held on Saturday, August 20th 1938 at 8 o'clock. This means that the foundation year must have been 1927.

A fairly complete list of office bearers from 1933 to the present has been compiled and appears later.

Certain stalwarts have held office for quite lengthy periods. Mrs M. Hopkins held the office of President from 1936 until 1939. Records for 1940 and 1941 are not available, and it is possible that Mrs Hopkins held office throughout these years also. Mrs Wilmott was President from 1944 until 1950, while Mrs R Little was Secretary. Treasurer from 1936 to 1939, and possibly also during 1940 and 1941. Then Mrs Stork held this dual position from 1942 to 1953. For six of these years she served with Mrs Wilmott, and for at least two of the succeeding years with Mrs Rolls, who was President from 1951 to 1955.

It would appear that the offices of Secretary and Treasurer were separated for the first time at the election of office bearers in 1954, when Mrs Allen was elected Secretary and Mrs Norris Treasurer. Also from 1954 onwards no office bearer has held the one office for longer than two years. This appears to be Mothers' Club policy now.

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A study of Mothers' Club activities over the years makes one realize what a debt of gratitude the school owes to its members for their interest and steady financial support. The earliest record available shows that in 1930 the Mothers' Club paid £8 for the construction of concrete paths. In 1932 the sum of £26 was expended on a piano, perhaps the second provided for the school. In 1963 another piano - this time costing £100 was provided.

The first mention of the purchase of library books comes in 1936, and from then on this item appears with great regularity, the amounts made available growing as the school enrolment grows. In 1938 £16-8-09 was provided, £35 in 1936, £133 in 1962 with a similar amount allotted in 1967.

Expenditure on equipment looms large in Mothers' Club financial statements. The first film strip projector was bought in 1939 at a cost of sixteen guineas. In 1949 the Mothers' Club paid £70 for the school's first sound system which served the school until 1967. A spirit duplicator was purchased in 1965 at a cost of £96, a tape recorder in 1966 valued at £84, and in 1967 a second record player cost \$74. (The change in currency occurred in 1966).

Close liaison has always existed between the Mothers' Club and School Committee. The Mothers' Club has made almost annual donations to the Committee, dating back to 1949. The highlight was the donation of \$1,000 to the School Committee in 1967 towards the cost of regrading and regrassing the school oval, a project costing in all just under \$2.200, including subsidy.

The Mothers' Club has paid for the purchase of linoleum for rooms for which it was not provided by the Education Department, and it has ensured that the school's sporting teams have always appeared in suitable attire. Football Guernseys were provided in 1954 at a cost of £38. Basketball tunics cost £25 in 1959, and in the same year marching uniforms were valued at £22. More attractive uniforms were purchased in 1966.

Much more equipment and many additional amenities have been provided, but the details listed above indicate general trends in expenditure and reveal quite strikingly the extent to which the school is dependent on the generosity of the Mothers' Club.

Office bearers change, members come and go, but the interest of the Mothers' in the children and in the school is unchanging.

Here is the list of office bearers. Perhaps it may yet prove possible to complete it.

Date	President	Secretary/Treasurer
1927 - 28		
1928 - 29		
1929 - 30		
1930 - 31		
1931 - 32		
1932 - 33		
1933 - 34	Mrs Jones	Mrs Smith
1934 - 35	Mrs Bell	Mrs Smith

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1935 - 36	Mrs Bell	Mrs D. Little
1936 - 37	Mrs Hopkins	Mrs R. Little
1937 - 38	Mrs Hopkins	Mrs R. Little
1938 - 39	Mrs Hopkins	Mrs R. Little
1939 - 40	Mrs Hopkins	Mrs R. Little
1940 - 41		
1941 - 42		
1942 - 43	Mrs Godfrey	Mrs Stork
1943 - 44	Mrs Godfrey	Mrs Stork
1944 - 45	Mrs Wilmott	Mrs Stork
1945 - 46	Mrs Wilmott	Mrs Stork
Date	President	Secretary/Treasurer
1946 - 47	Mrs Wilmott	Mrs Stork
1947 - 48	Mrs Wilmott	Mrs Stork
1948 - 49	Mrs Wilmott	Mrs Stork
1949 - 50	Mrs Wilmott	Mrs Stork
1950 - 51		Mrs Stork
1951 - 52	Mrs Rolls	Mrs Stork
1952 - 53	Mrs Rolls	Mrs Stork
1953 - 54	Mrs Rolls	Mrs Stork

Date	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1954 - 55	Mrs Rolls	Mrs Allen	Mrs Norris
1955 - 56	Mrs Foster	Mrs Allen	Mrs Norris
1956 - 57	Mrs Mills	Mrs Green	Mrs Alexander
1957 - 58	Mrs Patchell	Mrs Thompson	Mrs A. Hamilton
1958 - 59	Mrs Patchell	Mrs Ferries	Mrs Norris
1959 - 60	Mrs Green	Mrs Ferries	Mrs Lanhan
1960 - 61	Mrs Green	Mrs Parker	Mrs Lanhan
1961 - 62	Mrs J. Taylor	Mrs Lindsay	Mrs Young
1962 - 63	Mrs Lindsay	Mrs Mattingley	Mrs Sweetman
1963 - 64	Mrs Parker	Mrs Preston	Mrs Sparks
1964 - 65	Mrs P. Taylor	Mrs Turnbridge Mrs Byrne	Mrs Trenfield
1965 - 66	Mrs P. Taylor	Mrs Eden	Mrs Trenfield
1966 - 67	Mrs Cooper Mrs Poxon	Mrs Pascoe	Mrs Sweetman
1967 - 68	Mrs Murdoch	Mrs Spencer	Mrs Cadd
1968 - 69	Mrs Mills	Mrs Pascoe	Mrs Cadd
1969 - 70	Mrs Hill	Mrs Dillon	Mrs Squires
1970 - 71	Mrs Matthews	Mrs Martin	Arndt

I have known the office bearers and Mothers' Club members over the past three years and can confirm their friendly outlook, their willing assistance and their determination to make the school a better place.

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DISTRICT INSPECTORS

The D.I. (District Inspector) has always been an important figure in the Victorian education system. At one time he was really powerful, causing considerable trembling amongst the children and holding the salaries of teachers very much in the palms of his hands during the "payment by results" days. It is a far cry from the fearsome personality of early times to the present day District Inspector who aims to act as "guide, counsellor and friend" and who is a leader in progressive educational thought. This statement is intended as an indication of change and is not meant as a condemnation of all the early Inspectors, many of whom were most human and most helpful. They had risen from being classroom teachers and realized the problems of teachers. However, the image of the early Inspector was one of strict authority.

It is difficult to compile a complete list of inspectors - those incomplete records again! Nevertheless we can name most of those who have officiated in the inspectorate. This is possible partly because of the records that are available and partly because of the recollections of ex-pupils and ex-teachers.

Thanks to an early copy of the Dandenong Advertiser we know that Charles Tynan Esq. P. A. L.L.D visited the school on 9th May 1992. This would make him one of the early Inspectors. By 1899 Major Eddy was in charge. Do you remember that he was the officer commanding the Gippsland Battalion of the Cadet Corps and that he organized the display of work and the athletics sports fixture in 1906?.

Other names that have been recalled are those of Messrs Curlewis, Bothroyd, Cavanagh, Bethas, Aheroyd, Curtis, and W Henderson, the last-named in 1926.

Mrs Cavanah's signature appears on a Merit Certificate of 1911. Mrs Curlewis, Bothroyd, Cavanagh and Bethas were Inspectors between 1903 and 1917 (Mr Dick Turner).

From 1935 on the information is much more definite, and the years during which Mr Gill, Mr Green, Mr Weir, Mr Streader and Mr Storks were in charge of the inspectorate have been listed in the general story.

As this is being written, the district is awaiting the arrival of the new District Inspector - Mr Brian O'Neill.

THOSE WHO HAVE TAUGHT AT DANDENONG 1403

The names of some of the teachers who have served at this school must be missing from this history, simply because no information has been forthcoming. Possible amongst these will be some who have had a considerable influence. Maybe further details will come along when it is realized that these people have been overlooked.

The story has contained particulars concerning the various Head Teachers and some of the Infant Mistresses and Assistant Teachers over the years, but indeed there have been many others. The aim of this section in the main is to endeavour to do some justice to those who have not yet rated a mention. Shall we try a series of brief pen pictures! Chronological order

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will be abandoned; the characters will appear haphazardly as they are introduced in various letters. Do any of them bring back memories to you?

Mrs Nunwick was the Infant Mistress of 1899.

Remembered on the staff during the years 1904 - 1909 are Miss Katie Ahern (actually she was on the staff as early as 1895), Miss Wilkins and Miss Mitchell. Miss Ahern became Mrs Matt Storan, who was an uncle of Miss Sally Carroll.

Miss May Griffiths (Mrs Lilleyj) remembers the opening day at the Foster Street school. She was then in an infant grade. After completing her schooling she became a pupil teacher at the school. Mrs Lilley visited her old school in 1969.

Miss Alice Little was on the staff in the early years of this century. Miss Little, now deceased, became Mrs Larry Quigley. One of her daughters taught at 1403 later.

Mrs Federli served at the school at about the same time.

Miss M. Arnold fits into the same period. She arranged cantatas for the school concerts and, taught singing. She won prizes for singing in competitions at Ballarat. Miss Arnold married a Mr M Cartney who later helped out as a "Head Teacher, when things were in a bad state, and there was a shortage of teachers owing to the war.

Along with Miss Arnold we come to Miss Elsie Cook who became Mrs Roy Westaway.

An older correspondent remembers these staff members from 1895 to 1908 - Mr Tom Mills, Miss Block (became Mrs Nick Bowman), Mr Walter Scott, Miss Liddell and Miss Braithwaite.

The name of Miss Lindsay has been mentioned in one letter

Reverend E. G. Veal (1900-1925 at Dandenong) of the Church of England conducted Religious Instruction classes for many years early in the century. Rev. Veal was a remarkable man. After retiring from the Church, he passed advanced examinations in Theology when he was over 80 years of age and was acting Librarian of the Molliison Library at St Paul's Cathedral when he was over 90 years of age (Mrs Jean Uhl).

Miss King, Miss Kelly (or Kelley) and Mr Frank Pocknee are remembered as teachers. Mr Aleck Paydon recalls that they taught his children, along with Miss S Carroll and Miss J Austin.

Additional names recalled by Miss S Carroll are those of Miss E. Neville, Miss Riddout, Miss Jones, Mr Radden, and later Miss Florence Kale (Infant Mistress), Mr Dan Maher, Mr Bill Ruth, Mr Jim Sutcliffe, Mr Geo Woodhouse, Mr Jack Electon, Miss Isobel Mitchell, Miss Grace Curren and Miss Eileen Shortell. She also remembers a number of junior teachers. Miss Clive Carpenter, Miss Agnes Kelley, Miss Maisie Rigby, Miss May Herbert, Miss Myrtle Jones, Mr Wallace Kashett, Mr Roy Harvey and Mr Len Keating.

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Mr Len Keating, himself an old pupil of the school and residing very close to the schoolground, will retire from his post as Principal of Ferntree Gully School at the end of 1970. Previously he was Head Teacher of Greenslopes School.

Miss Teresa Morgan was a Junior Teacher at the same time as Sally Carroll. Do you recollect that she was transferred to Dandenong West when that school opened? Many of the names she recalls are mentioned above, but she has added those of Mr. Lanyon and Miss Edgerton.

Mr. R (Dick) Turner died recently (June 1970). He was a pupil from 1903 to 1911 and a teacher from 1911 until 1917. Teachers he remembers are Miss F Orgill, Miss Tarrant (Infant Mistress), Mr Trenoweth, Miss Jones (Infant Mistress), Miss Dulfer, Miss L. Orgill, Miss E Cox, Miss S Anson, Mr C Fisher (Junior Teacher) and Miss E Kearns (Junior Teacher).

Miss Margot Pegg (Mrs R. A. Titcher) was both pupil and teacher at Dandenong 1403.

Mrs Agnes Hamilton, now our Infant Mistress, began her teaching career at 1403 as a Junior Teacher late in 1926. She was then Miss Agnes Rice. An additional name that she can remember is that of Miss Kagen who was in control of a Third Grade. With her (Miss Hamilton) were three other Junior Teachers - Mr Charles McCord, Miss Thirza Quinn and Mr John Rice. In the following year Miss Irene Lome and Miss Jean Wallis (from Hallam) became Junior Teachers. When Mr Besant arrived, three of his staff members were Miss Agnes Kelly and Miss Ruby Llewellyn (locals), also Miss Margaret Mc Partland.

Mrs Hamilton can also name many members of staff when she returned to the school in 1952 - Mr Fawcett Kead was the Head Teacher, Miss Marion Roberts became the new Infant Mistress during the year, while the other names were those of Mrs Lynch, Miss Margot Pegg (for part of the year), Miss Margorie Bell, Mrs Ellen Athorn, Mrs Win Dunlop, Mr John Derrick, Mr Gil Byrne and Miss Sally Carroll, Some significant names in that lot! Mrs Lynch resided on Walker Street until very recently when she moved because her house (the land, rather) is to become part of the new Myer establishment. Mrs Ellen Athorn, well known in the Dandenong area as a basketball umpire, has taught at Dandenong North for a number of years. Mrs Dunlop retired from teaching while at Dandenong North (1966 or 1967j). Mr John Derrick became the first Head Teacher of Dandenong North when that school opened in 1954. He died some years later; the local branch of the R.S.L. conducts annually a John Derrick Memorial Scholarship. Mr Gil Byrne became the first Principal of Chandler Primary School at the beginning of 1970.

Mrs Down has provided the names of Miss Dixon, Miss Buckley, Miss Kerrick, Mrs Douglas, Miss Armstrong and Mr Pottney (should this read Pochnee?) between the years 1928 and 1937.

Mrs Alan Thomson, now Principal of Lyndale Primary School, became Acting Head Teacher when Mr Dave Williams departed on 16/5/1958.

Mr Ron McPhee has now received the appointment as first Principal of the new Wooranna Park Primary School due to be opened early in 1971. Ron taught Grade 6 here for a number of years and acted as Head Teacher during the illnesses of Mr Jack McLachlan.

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Mr Vic Jacobs, now first assistant at Heatherhill Primary School, has shown great enthusiasm for Gould League activities.

Mr Steve Brown retired from teaching in June 1969 after serving as Head Teacher of Noble Park State School for a number of years. He is a brother of Roy Brown, of course, and taught senior pupils at Dandenong 403. His home is on the corner of Cleeland and Herbert Streets.

Some additional information has come from Miss Sally Carroll. During her final period of seventeen years at the school she was associated with Miss Annie Martin, Miss Bell Martin, Mr Rowley Nash (later at Doveton 4784), Mr Bob Cameron and Mr Les Gartside (both became lecturers at Frankston Teachers' College), Mr Ray Alsop (Richmond footballer), Miss Maureen Allen, Mr Peter Reibaegger, Mr Jack Matheson, Miss Kit Lowie, Miss Jan Hyde, Mrs Judith Houghton, Miss Nell Griffin and Miss May Griffin.

From Miss June Austin's exhaustive list come many additional details. She would be unhappy if we were to forget Miss McKay (Infant Mistress), Miss King, Miss McGregor, Mr Culbie Fisher (enlisted during World War I when a Junior Teacher - served in the Camel Corps in Palestine), Miss Kerr, Miss Merna Slathery (now Infant Mistress at Greenslopes), Miss E. Dawson, Mr Chandler, Miss Longmuir, Miss Marj Taylor, Mr Prendergast, Mr Cravino, Mr Birchell, Mr Curran, Miss A. Martin, Miss B. Martin, Miss Martindale, Mrs Reid, Miss Garnar, Mr. Stephens, Mr Drummond, Miss Leek, Miss Sutherland, Miss M Neil, Miss Keating, Miss Davies, Miss Wells, Miss Black, Miss E. Ryan, Miss E Llewellyn, Miss Gleeson, Mr Hardy, Miss E Sevice, Miss Jean Wallace, Mr Edward Wallace, Miss M. Butler, Miss D. Kerrick, Mr Cornish, Mrs Murname, Mr Aisbet, Mr Parossien, Miss S. Taylor, Miss Gascoyne, Miss Webb, Miss McFarlane, Miss Sinclair, Miss May, Mr. Melvin, (now Principal Norwood Primary School, Ringwood), Miss Nina Thomson, Miss Pembroke and Mrs Taylor.

Mr Frank Pochne, when a Junior Teacher, proved to be very artistic - he adorned the walls of the Infant Room with nursery rhyme drawings.

Mr George McLaren is now Principal of Dandenong South Primary School.

Teachers of today, listen carefully! Miss Austin, as a Junior Teacher, usually had charge of a grade of forty or more; once she had eighty pupils. She was then earning £1 per week. She had begun teaching at the generous salary of 6/8 per week, but, after passing written and practical examinations each year, her salary rose by a few shillings each time until at last she received "four golden sovereigns at the end of each month". (yes teachers were paid in cash - drawn by the Head Teacher - until the mid nineteen thirties or just prior). When Miss Austin went out to a small rural school as Head Teacher, she received £110 per year, rising to £120 in the second year and £130 in the third year, but with no further increase if she stayed on for seven years. When she returned to a suburban school as assistant, her salary was decreased from £130 to £110.

Miss Austin reminisces on other occupations. "What of the farmers who have made good? They probably had greater obstacles to surmount than teachers, lawyers etc. Drought, mice and locust plagues, crop failures. Some who went to the Mallee after World War I were truly

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pioneers, having to chop or roll down big Mallee trees before they could cultivate, and chop posts to fence their areas". Pretty

Teachers of more recent years have been Mr Jim Mason (Deputy Principal), Mr John McKimlay, Miss Diane Mitchell (Mrs Kierce), Mr Arthur Sanley, Mr Neil Vague, Mr Peter Schmutter, Miss Lesley Pretty, Mr Ron Gilchrist, Miss Margaret Bray, Mrs Ann Tucker, Mr Ken Laddington, Miss Kirsty Phillips, Mrs Wendy Lyons, Mrs Gwen Bendle, Mr Trevor Archdall, Mr Malcolm (Blue) Aeschlinsin, Mrs Rosalie Martino, Mrs Jan Walters, Miss Brenda Fry (Mrs Gabe), Mrs Lesley Hawkins, Miss Gaye Matthews, Mr Joe Dora, Mr George McIvor, Mrs Anna Sevi., Miss Veronica Bartasha, Miss Helen Toouli, Miss Louise Warburton, Mr Rod Burt, Miss Alte Martini, Miss Renata Garnsworthy, Mr Brian Smith, Mrs Bev Archdall, Miss Elwyn Gibson, Mrs Sandra Boughlan, Mr Max Bennett, Mr Max Stephenson, Mr Peter Slate, Miss Pam Worthy and Miss Margot Hargrave.

Amongst those who have served on the staff of Dandenong State School are the cleaners.

Mrs Down (now Mrs Smith) has written to us advising that she was school cleaner from 1928 until 1936. When she left, the parent bodies and staff gave her a surprise supper. She was presented with an auto tray from the Mothers' Club and School Committee and with a set of cutlery from the teachers. She adds "I will never forget their kindness to me and my children".

Mrs P Langwell has been cleaning the old building since 1941 and is a prominent figure in the life of the school. Her daughter is now a teacher on the staff of 4784 Doveton.

As the area to be cleaned increased, two cleaners became necessary. For a time Mrs Langwell had the assistance of Mrs Sharman. After Mrs Sharman's resignation Mrs E Zelley took over these duties.

Miss Jane Austin remembers Mrs Golding and Mrs Fyfe as cleaners, also...

PRODUCTS OF THE SCHOOL - THE EX-PUPILS

It is fitting that I should leave until "near last" the most important people in the story of 1403-the "children", many now finished with this earth, many now grown much older and much wiser, but yet many new, boisterous souls replacing the personalities of yesteryear.

A school can be really judged only by the type of citizen that it has produced. Can Dandenong State School pass the test? This is not for me to decide. Read what follows and then reach your own decision.

The current number in the school register is 10,475. If taken at its face value this figure would seem to indicate that that number of "living beings" has passed through Dandenong's original school. There are complications, however. Early registers have suffered considerably because of the Healthy appetite of numerous silverfish, but it does appear that the register was begun anew during the school's early history and that the numbering commenced once more at number 1. That was in 1912 apparently. Counteracting this effect, there was obviously for some years a custom of recorrecting the register each year or two, omitting the

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names of the children who had transferred or who had completed their schooling. Thus the name of a particular child might appear two or three times under different numbers.

Allowing for all this, we should be reasonably safe in calculating that between 9,00 and 10,00 pupils have been school at 1403 during its ninety-six years of operation.

It is obvious that all these cannot be mentioned, as again inclusion in the list is based on relevant information provided by those who knew "these children" and more prepared to notify us. To all the other we apologize you have certainly been a vital part of this establishment, whether your name is recorded in this history or not.

Where do we begin? Random jottings will supply the only satisfactory answer.

In April 1913 a John Mc Ewen arrived from Hawksburn School and was in attendance until the close of the school year. He was destined to become an Australian Prime Minister.

Lionel Dawson, who was born in "Westwood" (now the Returned Soldiers' Club in Walker Street) attended Dandenong School from 1898 until 1902. He became an electrical engineer in Africa and participated in the Zulu War. Later he held important posts in Tasmania, and was responsible for setting up the big electric cranes that were used to place the huge fort ton blocks of concrete into the Burnie deep sea breakwater. During the Second World War he joined the R. Aust. F. and commanded a large workshop

Mrs M Marshall (nee Mitchell) attended the school in 1918, 1919 and 1920. she had the responsibility of caring for her neighbour who was none other than Lou Garlick, later Chairman of the Teachers' Tribunal until his resignation due to ill-health several years ago. She had to sit in the babies' class with him, or else he had to sit in the first class with her.

George Walker 1913-1915 had a brilliant passage through the school, gaining his Merit Certificate at 10½ years. Unfortunately he was killed during World War 2.

Gordon Abbott 1903-1912 became a doctor in Western Australia.

Warren Titcher senior became a chemist, as did his son, Warren junior 1939-1945. The younger Warren now conducts the well known Titcher's Pharmacy, is a councillor (Mayor of the City of Dandenong 1972-73) and is the most capable Secretary of the Dandenong Historical Society. His brother, Mac, another ex-pupil of course, has served on the School Committee of Dandenong North State School.

John Leppitt 1919-1925 became Principal of Trinity Grammar School.

Bernard Bolch 1951-57 became the Boy Quiz Champion of Australia when he had advanced to Dandenong High School.

Mrs Down had six children in attendance - Lawson, Mary, Jessica, Mary, Aggie, and Bertie. The last mentioned now has his own factory (Plastictool) at Box Hill South.

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Alexander Clark Scott, a prominent auctioneer in Dandenong for many years, attended in 1905 at the same time as Robert Noel Warren Titcher senior.

Bart Tharle, whose name has been to the forefront in the butchery business in Dandenong, was on the register in 1907.

Len Keating commenced his schooling here in October 1910.

Previously we mentioned that Mr William Radden was Public Works Department Building Inspector at the time the last brick rooms were added. He had three children at the school - William Horace, both enrolled in 1909, also Charles, who commenced in 1911.

Captain William White believed as a rule in giving his children three Christian names. The old school register shows that four of his children attended, three of these being admitted in July 1899. We can be sure then that Mr White took over the school at that time. Thomas H the oldest, was almost fifteen on arrival. He became a student teacher the following year. Reginald A. A was eleven years of age in 1899 and left early in 1902. Actually Horace L. L. was older by twelve months. Horace finished the third quarter of the year 19-2. Rita S. G. was the youngest, commencing her school career in January 1900. As she attended only seventeen days in 1906, it is evident that her father moved on early in that year.

Surely the children of Malcolm Mac Pherson attended Dandenong State School. Amongst these would be Jeffrey, one of the founders of the firm of Kelly and Mac Pherson, solicitors. Time and the silverfish prevent further information being given.

Thomas Carroll, so well-known as Councillor Tom (he has just retired from the City of Dandenong Council), was enrolled in May 1896. This brother of Sally Carroll has been farmer and auctioneer and Mayor of the City of Dandenong.

Alfred Homes, so well known as a teacher here and as a Head Teacher at several other schools later, was himself a pupil at 1403 from 1903 to 1905. He was then sixteen so obviously became a pupil teacher early in 1905. His sisters, Bertram and Emma, also attended.

The name Snodgrass has been made famous by Charles Dickens. However, Dandenong State School has its Snodgrass family, too - Peter W. C., Ida D. and Kenneth J. D. joined the school in August 1898. You will possibly recall, also, that a Mr M. Snodgrass was appointed temporary monitor in 1899.

Several ex-students have commented on the fact that Hubert Opperman, formerly M. H. R. and famous cyclist, and now Australian High Commissioner in Malta, was a pupil here. A check of the register reveals the name Opperman, and the age rather agrees with that of Hubert Opperman, but the Christian name shown is Adolphus. Is Hubert's real name Adolphus? That could be the answer to the riddle. If so, he had a twin sister, Bertha, sharing his schooling. The family arrived from Hallam in October 1919 and lived in Power Road, Adolphus left in 1922, Bertha in 1923.

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James Swords 1908-1917, of Dandenong Advertiser Fame, was an ex-pupil. He has provided valuable details for this story. The old Swords Family home has been purchased recently by Wallara School for Mentally Retarded Children as an addition to its premises.

Lambert Rogers 1908-9, 10 was a school pal of James Swords. He later became an outstanding surgeon in England, his services being obtained by the Australian Government during the Second World War. He practised in Cardiff (Wales) until his death (Mrs Ruby McKay).

One of Lambert's pals, Charles Sutherland, became a doctor, served in England and later returned to Victoria, establishing a practice at Armadale. His father, K. M. S. Sutherland, was the first manager of the Commercial Bank at Dandenong.

A brother Kenneth McLean 1921-26, became a doctor, served in the First World War, returned and established a practice as a specialist in Collins Street. He was Vice Chairman of the Victorian Amateur Turf Club and raced several horses with success, including a winner of the Caulfield Cup.

Another brother, Camden McLean, was killed in action during World War 1.

Incidentally, the father, A. T. McLean, was on the Board of Advice for many years. His photograph appears with a group at the Board of Advice outing in Mr. Talbot's time.

Ronald Lowenstern, whose father conducted a large general store here, was an outstanding scholar, obtaining his Merit Certificate at nine years of age. Ronald later became a prominent solicitor, practising in Hamilton (?). Another Lowenstern became City Engineer at Prahran.

Harold Ordish 1924-25 served in the Boer War and later was in charge of the Duntroon Military College.

Mrs E Hunt arrived in Dandenong in 1913. Her three children attended the Foster Street School. Reg has become a stalwart Religious Education instructor in Dandenong schools, his sister, Doris, went to China as a China Inland Missionary nurse for eleven years, and the youngest of the family, Cliff, changed from banking to medicine. He is now in General Practise at Stawell.

Albert (Bert) Brown, now living at Red Cliffs, commenced his schooling in 1896. He remembers that there were "some big fellows" in attendance at that time, including Harry Reedy, Otto Lowenstein and Perc Matthews.

Margaret Shout was enrolled between 1905 and 1909.

Aleck Paydon commenced his schooling about 1903

Cr Maurie Jarvis, Mayor of Dandenong at one time, is an ex-pupil.

Louis Jonas has forwarded two of his old school books, He remembers the first Arbor Day when "he planted a nice rose which grew well".

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Amy Bowman entered Dandenong State School in 1891.

Ted Mitchell will be remembered by some of the older brigade. He now resides at Frankston.

Leslie Geo. Williams, living at Piangil and a justice of the Peace for Midland Bailwick, entered the school in 1895. He can recall the names of all his class teachers with the exception of his teacher in the First Class. Mr Williams has memories of Alec Henderson, Ken McLean, Mr and Mrs Gordon Steward, Emily Masters, Albert Crump, Vic Nash, and Tom Carroll. Vic Nash was a noted veterinary surgeon in the district later. According to Leslie Williams, Miss Francis Orgill was a "copy book writer" and did Mr White's writing. Secrets will out! Mr Williams describes himself as "only a deregistered rubber stamp J. P. now".

Ruby Williams, who became Ruby McKay after marriage and who now resides at Springvale South, has proved to be a most "chatty correspondent". At school with her were her two sisters, Rose and Amy, and her brother, George Wesley Williams who now owns Williams's Electrical Store in Lonsdale Street,. These children lived some three and a half miles from the school and had a governess until they begged their parents to allow them to attend the Foster Street School. Ruby was something of a giggler, so Mr Alf Homes used to sit her amongst the boys. She doubts whether that cured her. Mr Homes used to teach Geometry, Drawing, Science "and other lessons".

Later in life, when Ruby Mc Kay had three children of her own, the family moved to Springvale South. Her son then attended Springvale State School. It is typical of the pattern of life that his Head Teacher should be Mr Alf Homes.

Which ex-students are remembered specially by Mrs Ruby McKay? Lambert Rogers we have met before. Cecil Carter 1908-10 became Secretary to the Attorney-General and Minister of Education in December 1916. He married another ex-pupil in Flossie Crook. Gordon Abbott, son of the late Mrs John Abbott of Mason Street, became a doctor in Western Australia.

Clarence Stafford 1907-8 (?), son of Rev John Stafford, Methodist Minister in Dandenong, became Judge Stafford. He was a good actor in school concerts.

Bert Vizard became Station Master at Dandenong, and Ronald Lowenstern entered the legal profession – lawyer.

Mrs McKay's own children, Winsome, Dorothy and Ivo, also attended here for three years. Dorothy, jumping over some desks one day, fell and sent some of her teeth through her bottom lip. Mr Towner, acting Head Teacher, took her home.

May Rodd is described as a friendly girl. "I guess you will still find some pens up in the ceiling of the school that I put there", she has been known to quip.

Brad Tharle has provided some more clues. He states that Art Blackmore attended the original school near the station. He mentions also Bertie Blackmore and Reuben Vizard.

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According to Mr Brad Lambert Rogers became Professor of Surgery at Cardiff University and that Dr Williams, of the Highway Medical Centre, trained under him.

Myrtle Purdy (new Myrtle Young) was a pupil from 1899 to 1907. She has memories of “quite a few of the boys who went away to the first world war later”, including Alan Titcher, Wally West, Will Purdy (died later from the effects of gas), Reg Purdy, Harold Tulloch, Eric Martin (killed), Ken Martin, Jim Bellett (Killed), Wally Griffiths (killed), Dutchy Couve, Tom Couve (both sons of Jason Couve, chemist – both killed), Harold Veal, Aleck Kelley (blinded) and Charlie Williams (killed). Three or four of these names do not appear on the Roll of Honor Board or in the Roll of Honor Book. These records, although co0mprehensive, may not be really complete, as James Swords also recalls a lad named Martin, from Keysborough, who was killed at the Gallipoli landing.

Mrs A. M. Griffiths, formerly Amy Williams, is now resident in Footscray. In the Third Class she was taught by Miss Talbot, and received an award for proficiency in that class in 1907 – “Strangers in the Land”, endorsed “G.W. Talbot [Head Teacher] 1403” and presented in the Dandenong Town Hall. In her autograph book she has a verse written by G. W. Talbot 13/10/1910, original lines (drawn) by j. O’Shea 12/9/1910 and a verse by J. Ahern 3/3/1911.

Glenda McAlpin attended the Dandenong State School. As Sister McAlpin, she nursed Sir Winston Churchill during the late years of his life. The Sun of August 25th 1962 says, "Sir Winston Churchill is not one to make friends easily - and it took him three days even to say hello to his new nurse. Melbourne girl Glenda McAlpin. But that was last February and now Sister McAlpin, who helped nurse Sir Winston through his critical illness during the past two months, is an accepted friend. Along with two other personal nurses and three from Middlesex Hospital, she has helped Sir Winston back to health and won the admiration of Britain". Glenda's parents previously ran Dandenong House. She left our school in 1943, having enrolled in 1938.

Steve Brown, acknowledged earlier as a teacher, had also been a student here from 1918 to 1922.

Ted Swords (now deceased), brother of James, was a pupil from 1913 to 1920. He was prominent in the Boy Scout Movement and with the Dandenong Advertiser.

Back to Miss Austin and her memories, so much treasures!. Her list is really exhaustive.

Cyril Lowenstern became the City Engineer at Prahran.

Girle Lowenstern became a doctor and went to lecture at the University of Tasmania.

Duncan Blackshaw was employed by the Myer Emporium. He rose from being a counter hand to the important position of liaison officer between customers and management. He was Mayor of Moorabbin for one year.

Elvie Cadle is now Mrs Love, wife of Professor Love of Melbourne University. Herself an enthusiastic historian, she is senior Vice-President of the Dandenong Historical Society.

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Her sister, Doris (the late Mrs Eric Hill) was Mayoress of Dandenong. Her daughter, Marie (Mrs Campbell) was acting Mayoress when her mother became ill.

Another of the Cadle girls is now Mrs Stan Prior of Foster Street. Mr Cadle senior owned a good deal of land in this area. It was he who had Rudduck Street cut through his property.

Thoughts move naturally to Gordon Hill, a partner in Beaves Photographic. Himself an ex-student, he has three lads, Wayne, Richard and Andrew in attendance now. His wife, Jan, Mothers' Club President, has promised details of a family at 1403.

John Burgess became a lawyer, Merle Godfrey a kindergarten teacher, Ian Henderson a draughtsman, while Bill Tonkin, Keith Mitchell and Graham Wilkie joined the banking fraternity. Ian Henderson was at one time Chairman of the School Committee at Dandenong North, while Keith Mitchell was a member also.

Reminds me that one of 1403's present Committee members, R.K. (Bill) Brooks attended here during Mr Williamson's time.

Noel Stone became a Church of England minister, Bryan Hill a surveyor, Russell Hill an industrial chemist, and Lucy Keys, Derek Prior and John Hadley became teachers.

Glen Prior, teacher and musician, played the trumpet (?) in orchestras. He lost his life in Queensland when trying to save somebody from drowning.

Graeme de Graff became a graduate of Melbourne University and Oxford. Lawyer he lectured at Melbourne University and became Vice-Master of Queens College. He lectured in Philosophy

Jim Dunlop became a supervisor electrician with the P.M.G.

Douglas Austin was assistant station master.

Ken Austin was a radio announcer for many years at Warragul, and is now at Shepparton.

John Wiltshire is also a radio announcer at 3UZ.

Naturally enough Stirling Hogarth-Scott was destined to be a veterinary surgeon. He won a Churchill Fellowship.

Elaine Wanke, University graduate, has become an interpreter overseas.

Judith Cornish is a nursing sister, as is Zola Pearson.

Clive Warnbraven is an electoral returning officer.

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It was to be expected that Stewart Scott would become manager of the auctioneering firm of Alex Scott and Co.

Reg Singleton, now retired, was a secondary school teacher. Amongst other schools he taught at Essendon High, Kyneton High and Geelong High. His father was a prominent identity in Dandenong.

Chris Walker lost his life during World War 2 when a war correspondent for one of the Melbourne newspapers.

Excelling at Drawing at school, Stan Thomas has continued his interest and is an Art teacher at Dandenong Technical School.

Mary Carroll, nursing sister, Sylvia Harmer, postmistress, Tom Tonkin, postmaster, Bill Daffey, electoral returning officer, and Errol Norris, now assistant manager of the Melbourne office of the S.E.C., are other former pupils.

Remember Bob Tuff, the bugler. While serving in World War 1, he was given credit by some for shooting down a German air ace who had caused so many British casualties, although as one can be really certain who fired the effective shot. Bob Tuff's name does not appear on the Roll of Honor either.

Barry Simon became a schoolteacher, then a lawyer, while Tim Holt has distinguished himself in the Boy Scout movement locally. Graeme Simon is a school teacher.

Reg Hunt, Michael Hunt and Morgan Field were policemen, the latter probably an Inspector before his death. Angus Sutherland was an inspector of Soldier Settlements after World War 1.

Bruce Wilmott joined the staff of the Dandenong Journal, but now publishes his own paper in a country town.

Other ex-students are Grace Douglas, nursing sister, Alex Luxford, accountant and secretary of engineering firm of Kelly and Lewis, and Robert Ross, employed at a Melbourne radio station.

Jack O'Meara is now Principal of the reasonably new Wellington Primary School.

Harvey Roulston became Administrator of Thursday Island.

Bill Radden, Doctor of Dentistry, went to lecture at Perth University.

Clarence Stafford had two brothers and a sister. One boy was Basil and the girl was christened Elma. She became a teacher, one of the boys a doctor, while the other was Head Teacher of Moreland State School until his death in recent years.

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Frank Field, lawyer, member of the Legislative Assembly, once Minister of Education, assistant to Judge Fraser of the Licensing Court, is an ex-pupil. He was the local member at one time.

Other ex-pupils are:-

Fred Turner	Inspector at Victoria Market
Bob Watson	Stock Inspector at Dandenong Market
Wilfred Brown and Albert Tharle	Master builders
Kevin Meehan	former Dandenong councillor
Ray Williams	President of Dandenong Shire Council
Stephanie Swan	For a time acting Shire Secretary, Dandenong
Vic Tharle	President Dandenong Shire Council, member Dandenong Sewerage Authority
Jim Sharkie	Manager of State Savings Bank branches
Keith McClure	Brilliant scholar of Mr Talbot's time. Graduated as assayer at Melbourne University. Further study in America
Valda Robertson	Nursing Sister
Peter Verey	Manager Shoe Store
Pauline Verey	Miss Victoria & Moomba Queen
Betty Whitehead & Lorna Westaway	Policewomen
Gordon Norris	Estate Agent
Mervyn McLennan	Estate Agent
Walter Fox	Television, Radio & Electrical goods business
Bob Fox	Brother to Walter
Len Godfrey & Son Ken	Large plumbing business
Cecil Carter	In Prime Minister's Department for years
Geoff MacAfee	Now deceased - Metallurgist. Lectured at
Kevin Lynot	Men's drapery business. Member of School Committee
Sidney Harmer	Development technician with P.M.G.
Jack McFarlane	Dental Mechanic
Charlie Masters	Deceased now. Won D.C.M & M.M. during World War 1
Clive Figgins & Don Figgins	Boot Shops
Ruby Hopkins	Teacher Dandenong High School
The Hopkin's boys	Hugh, David, Harry & Gilbert are also sons of Mr K Hopkins, Inspector of Schools. All have distinguished themselves.
Rating a special mention in recent years are the Edney triplets.	Gayle, Heather & Vicki the first triplets born in the Dandenong Hospital
Peter Wagstaff	Mayor of the City of Dandenong
Melva Latten	(Mrs Peter Wagstaff) was Mayoress
Angus Facey	Estate Agent
David Jeason	Hairdressing business for many years
Merle McKenny	Ex-student to become President of the Mothers' Club (1968)

The list must be never-ending. May it continue to grow.

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