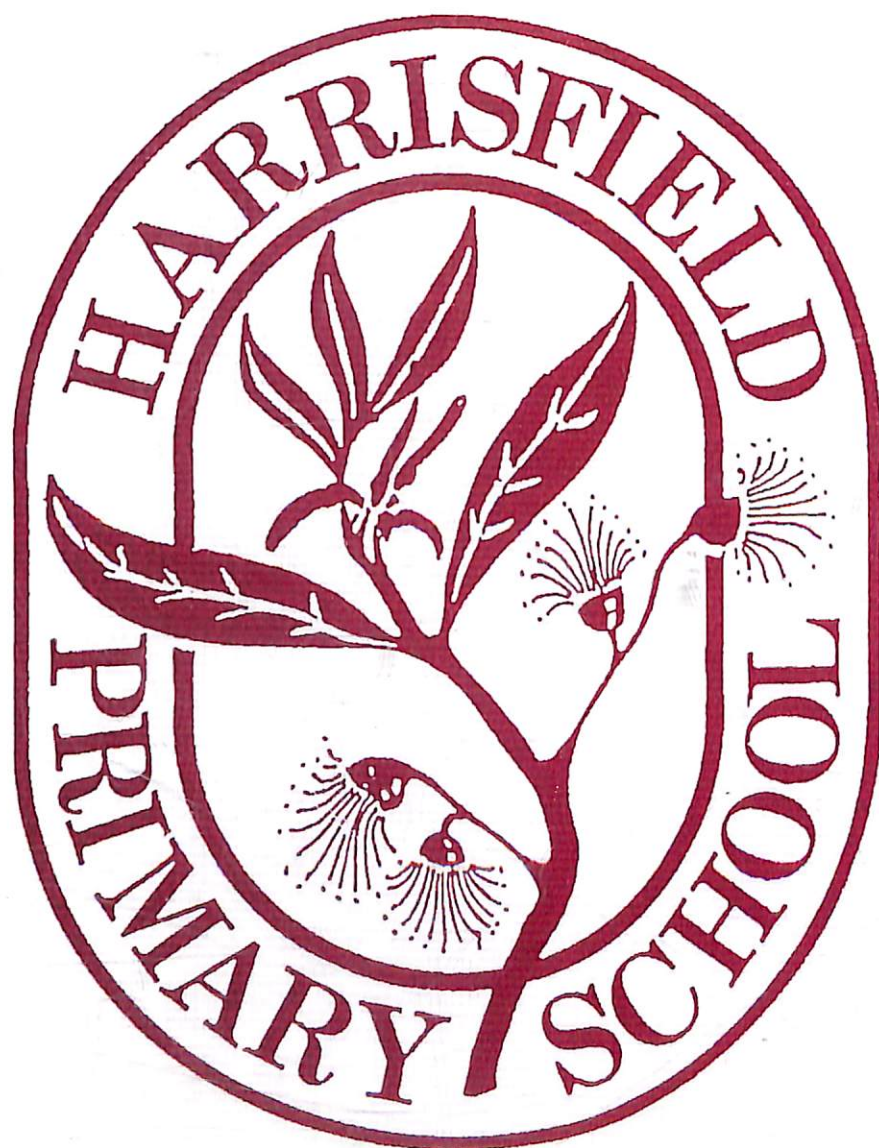
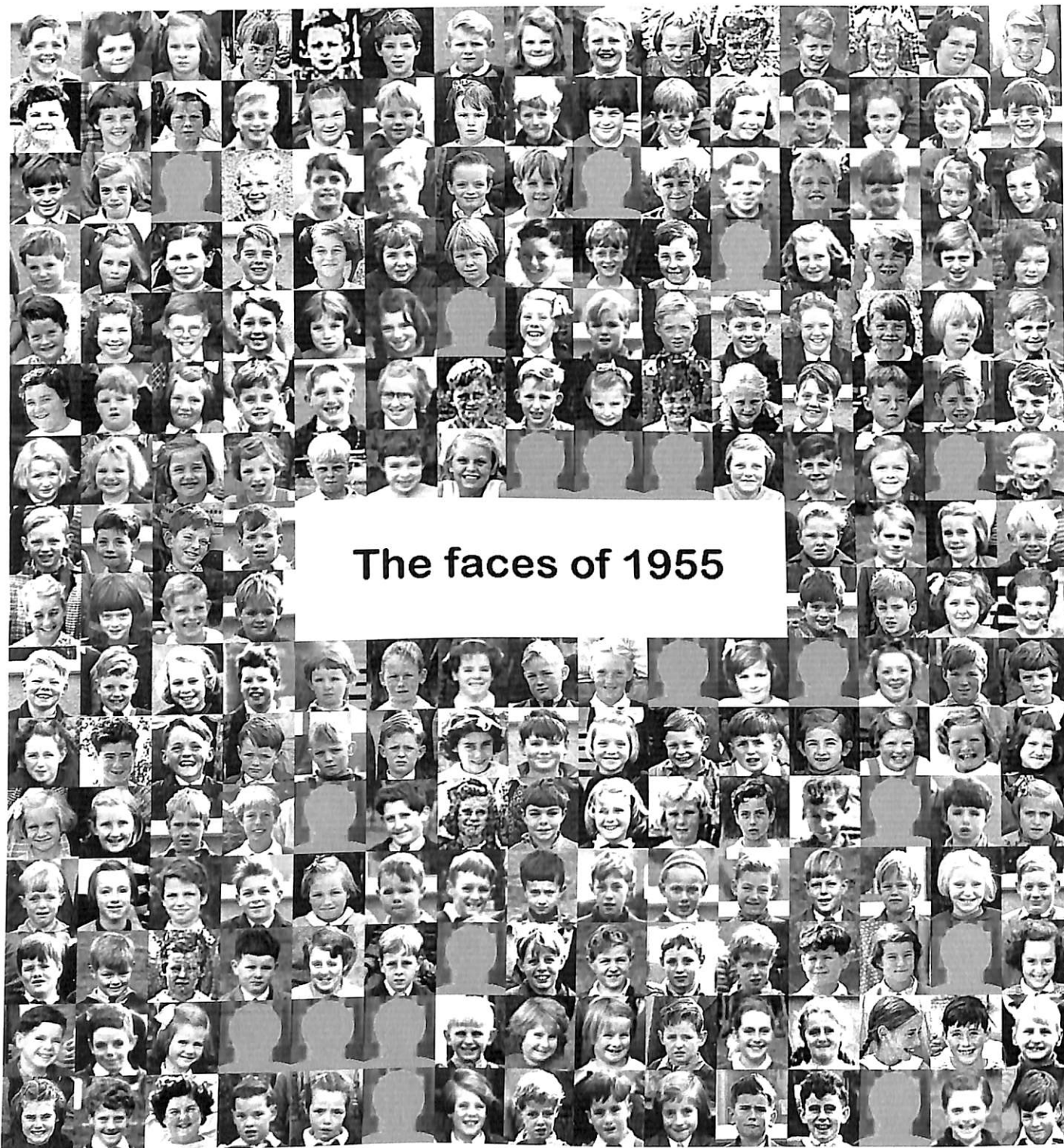


*50th Anniversary
Commemorative Book*



*Educational Excellence
Since 1955*



The faces of 1955

Aitken Alan, Aitken Wendy, Anderson Margaret, *Andrewartha Russell*, Anfruns Peter, Armitage Denise, Armstrong Charles, Armstrong Edith, Armstrong Warwick, *Babiczuk Marusia*, Banks Gary, Barrand Albert, Barrand Shirley, Bartlett Helen, *Berton Lilian*, *Black Jeanette*, *Black Susanne*, Bradford Janis, Brittain Alan, Brooks Pamela, Brown Lawrence, Brown Sandra, Bryceland Graham, Buckley Jillian, Bushfield Peter, Caldwell Barbara, Cameron Charles, Campbell Norma, Carpenter Sue, Cheney Eric, Cheney Gary, Cheney Venice, *Christie Rhonda*, *Christofferson Gary*, Clarkson Alan, Clarkson Colin, Clarkson Neville, *Cleary Michael*, *Clothier Malcolm*, Cogley Kevin, Cogley Lawrence, Cogley Michael, Collie Albert, Cumberland Beverley, Cumberland Gloria, Cumberland Robert, Dachiw Anna, Dackuv Alesia, Dalton Bruce, de Cartaret Carolyn, De Cartaret Christine, De Silva John, Dillon John, Dinger Victor, *Doyle Elizabeth*, Dunn Gloria, Evans Jennifer, Farmer Marian, Foster Denise, Fraser Jennifer, Fraser Maureen, Fry Robert, Gilchrist Barry, Glascott Kaye, Goldsworthy Pam, *Goodall Paul*, Gregson Heather, Groves Brian, Groves William, Hagan Tom, Hamilton Sandra, Harris Kathy, Hayes Helen, Hayes John, Hee Barbara, Hocking Grahame, Hocking Janet, Holloway Graham, Holmes Barry, Holt Lynette, *Horowyj Michael*, Howlett Kevin, Howlett Lynette, Hunt Susan, Hutchings Rhonda, Illman Robert, Ilton Phillip, Jackson Haydon, Jackson Murton, Jeffreys Carole, Jeffreys Faye, Jefimenko Halina, Johnson Marcia, *Jones Denis*, Jones Kaye, *Jones Valerie*, Kilpatrick Graham, Kirmos Efsthalis, *Kivakernaat George*, Knight Lorraine, Knight Ronald, Krywiak Anna, Krywiak Michel, Krzywokulski John, Krzywokulski Thadeus, Lacey Glenn, Lacey Robin, Lacey Stephen, Lees Brian, Legge Geoffrey, Legge Isabel, Legge James, Legge Sylvia, *Logan Geraldine*, *Logan Michael*, Lucas Doug, Lucas Ken, Lucas Leslie, Lucas Valma, Mackintosh Laura, Mackintosh Logan, Manning Paul, Marshall Janice, Martinson David, Martinson Sandra, *Massier William*, Masson Diane, Matheson Geoffrey, Matheson Janice, *May Stuart*, Mayers Jean, Mayers Shirley, McCombe Cavell, McCombe Lionel, McGregor Robin, Meyers Dawn, *Munday Anthony*, Munn John, Munn Paul, Mur Pieter, Nichols David, *Nicholson Janice*, O'Gorman Colin, Oldenberger Berendina, Oolep Peter, Panasewycz Bohdan, Panasewycz Maria, Paterson Mary, Paterson Sue, Pearce Julie, Perry Dianne, Perry Elaine, Perry Ian, *Peterson Femke*, *Peterson Gera*, Puppa James, Ratcliffe Carolyn, Rich Edward, Robertson Carol, *Rooman Jeanne*, *Rooman Roger*, Rupprecht Herbert, *Sanderson John*, Savage Maxwell, Schramchenko Anna, Schubert Bernard, Schubert Glennis, *Sharman Lois*, Sherratt Ron, Sherratt Rosalie, Shoemsmith Colin, Shoemsmith John, Sidor Bogdan, Sidwell Arthur, Sidwell Max, Sidwell Trevor, Slobodiuk Michael, Slobodiuk Wasyl, Slym Anna, Smith Dennis, Smith Ian, Smith Keith, *Stancliffe Lynette*, Stark Allan, Stebbing Eleanor, Stebbing Stanley, *Szlosek Irene*, Taylor Arthur, Taylor Ian, Taylor Kenneth, Taylor Laurence, *Thane Graeme*, *Thane Lorella*, *Thomas William*, Thorne Sandra, Tilley Dennis, Tilley William, Tippet Barbara, *Tonkin Judith*, *Trounson Joan*, Turczyn Michael, Turner Glenys, Turner Judith, Van der Steen Alfred, Van Wonderen Johanna, Van Wonderen Margaretha, Veal Christine, Veal James, Veltheer Peter, Ward Beryl, Ward Francis, *Warne Diane*, Welbourne Brian, Westbury Irene, Whiter Geoffrey, Wickham Lynne, Williams John, Williams Keith, Wilson Glenyse, Wilson Graeme, Wilson Kelvin, *Woodyard Maureen*, Wright David, Wyatt Peter

Alphabetical ordering has been attempted. Those italicised are unlikely to have been in the original intake. Apologies for any omissions and mis-identifications.

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Introduction

At a High School Class reunion in October 2000 I realised that four of us in attendance had been Grade 2 foundation students of Harrisfield State School (as it was then known), when it opened in July 1955. This triggered an interest in appropriately recognising the School's 50th Anniversary on July 4, 2005. Most of the School's early records had been lost due to age and the fire, and others have privacy embargos, so I set up an Internet site in late 2003 to attempt to recover the lost information and to locate ex-students in time for the 50th. With the encouragement of the School's Principal Fran Luke, a Committee was formed in February 2004 and set about organising a celebration day for July 30, 2005. A Committee priority has been to produce a DVD, but there was also demand for a book and that seemed to me an appropriate way to permanently record the information I had collected.

What follows is designed to give a glimpse of the school through half a century, in a way that most readers should find something of interest. It does not pretend to be a definitive "History of Harrisfield Primary School". That would require ten times as many pages. Rather, it is a collection of snippets about the school, gleaned from the archived records and contributed information. Interspersed are many reminiscences and photos, mostly provided by individuals associated with the school during its lifetime.

Being primarily about the school and school days, the curious reader should not seek "life after" tales here. Some ex-students have led lives of bliss, others lives of tragedy, some have gone on to be self-made millionaires, others self-made criminals. Others have lived lives of fulfilment, inspiration, or nonentity, but this book is not a platform for comparing one with another. Sadly many are now deceased; one for every 10 to 20 ex-students located.

A separate section of this book had been planned, devoted to "Parent Participation", as modern parlance has it. In fact the school has been so closely dependent upon the participation of parents throughout its life that it proved impossible to separate the numerous references to their enormous contribution from the yearly summaries within.

The same applies to the rich multicultural history of the school, which flavours the text, but could occupy chapters.

Some information within is incomplete or unconfirmed because of Privacy Laws. The inhibiting costs and complexities of FOI applications prevented clarifying research.

Without question many individuals and events are simply not recorded in the available archives, so miss out on mention in this book. The Committee, Mothers' Club and School Council have held 500 to 1000 formal meetings over the years, not all documented, indicating the scale and difficulty of the task. Information is unlikely to have been included within unless a source document was available, be it just an emailed reminiscence. Calls for recollections were widely promulgated but, as one correspondent put it, obtaining information has been "like pulling hen's teeth". Much that was promised was not forthcoming and much more arrived in a last minute rush, too late to be incorporated. Budgetary and time constraints limited not just the size of the printed book as you see it, but the ability to chase after promised content. A special attempt has been made to include all reminiscences received in time that related in some way to the school. Editing was otherwise limited to anything that might cause offence or embarrassment. As the editor I accept responsibility for the content finally selected, but apologise for omissions and inaccuracies and reassure readers that all editing has been done in good faith.

Unless otherwise acknowledged, photos and documents used may be assumed to be from the school's collection.

Allan Stark, June 2005

Acknowledgements

Before proceeding, particular acknowledgement must be made of the following for their contributions to the book:

- The "page donors" appearing throughout the book, whose donations enabled the printing to proceed.
- Mrs Cathy O'Brien, the primary author of the 1990s & 2000s sections of this book. Without her enormous contribution generally, it is unlikely either the book or celebratory events would have reached timely fruition.
- Mrs Fran Luke for her trust in allowing me free access to the school's records. I hope it proved well-founded.
- The Federal Government for a last minute "Living in Harmony" grant that will alleviate some expenses.
- The many people who provided so much information.
- Those given so little time, so late, to proof the book.

The 50th Anniversary celebration events would not be happening without the work of the Steering Committee (*photo page 41*). Already mentioned are Cathy and Fran. Particular mention must be made of members Barry Aitken for leading the DVD and Publicity Group, Jenny Tandberg and Cathy for the catering arrangements and Bev Hansen for coordinating the outside events. Meredith Iaconese, Glenda McCabe, Mick Turczyn, Sylvia Stollery and Georgina White have been in for the long haul, putting in many productive hours, with the final month still ahead. Vic Dinger, Glenys Forbes, Les Lucas, Marg Patterson-Vic Dinger, Glenys Forbes, Les Lucas, Marg Patterson-Gray and Rebekah Smithett all assisted on the Committee in 2004 and Warwick Armstrong, Jan Dalzell and Julie Dickson lately. Thanks to family members who helped and to the school staff, council and helpers for their support.

In addition to those individually page-acknowledged we thank the following general expenses donors of \$10 or more (as received by publication date): Barry Aitken & CC, O'Brien, Sue Melling, Merna Slattery and Jenny Tandberg.

Hundreds of others contributed in ways big and small, from supplying old records, photographs, their own details or memorabilia, to contacting other interested persons, delivering notices or offering help on the day. Thank you!

Special thanks to Pam for tolerating this distraction and to Keith Brereton, Jenni Reiffel and my mother, Dorothy.

Allan Stark, editor and chair of the Steering Committee.

The Principal's Message

Harrisfield Primary will be fifty in July 2005. This significant event is certainly a cause for celebration. Anniversary plans commenced in February 2004 with the formation of a Planning committee, ably led by Mr Allan Stark, who commenced as a Grade 2 student at Harrisfield in 1955. As with any celebration, the preparations have become as important and as special as the event itself. The motto selected for the anniversary is 'Educational Excellence since 1955'. This signifies the continual striving made by any particular group of participants within the Harrisfield Community at any given time over the fifty years of its existence.

As the time of the anniversary draws closer, there has been an increasing number of visitors to the school to assist with the planning or to enquire about the planned festivities. It has been my great privilege to meet and talk with these former teachers, students or parents. It has been wonderful to hear the colourful stories of times gone by. The common theme that emerges is of success, humour, comradeship and of course the occasional tragedy. As I compare the stories that arise of early days with our current day activities, it is amazing how the 'similarities of purpose' are highlighted. The parents who established the initial links with the Education Department and urged ministers to approve plans for the building of Harrisfield, demonstrated the same strong commitment as our current parent group who have worked hard to improve the standards of our aging buildings and grounds. The marching team and sports teams of the 1950s were just as determined to achieve success as are our current Choir, Chess Club and sporting teams. Without the aid of administrative staff, the teachers of 1955 extended energy and enthusiasm to provide the best education for their pupils, just as the staff certainly does in 2005.

A school is only ever as good as the people who contribute to it. Judging from the anecdotes that I have been fortunate to hear and read about, from people who have had close connections to Harrisfield over 50 years, I am left in no doubt that this ordinary state school has been blessed by the many extraordinary people who have combined to make the school what it is today. Of the contributors so far to Harrisfield's history, students and teachers alone total nearly 8000. This is a substantial number over a relatively short 50 years. One can only wonder at the impact Harrisfield has had on the lives of each of these 8000 people. Whilst there will be many changes that will undoubtedly occur in the next 50 years at Harrisfield, I have every confidence that 'educational excellence' will continue to be the driving force that links the future to the past.

I commend this 50th anniversary commemorative book to you and I am positive that you will find much to enjoy as you read of Harrisfield's journey so far. Harrisfield's 50th birthday on July 30th 2005 will be a truly memorable event (the actual date of Harrisfield's commencement was July 4th 1955) and I thank most sincerely all members of the planning committee who have worked tirelessly to bring this celebration to fruition.

Fran Luke, Principal October 1999 to present.

















Logos and sportswear symbols



"Linking Home - Linking School"

Head Teachers and Principals

Permanent appointees and those who acted between, not including those who acted during an incumbent's absence.

-  Mr S. T. Dare
July 1955 - September 1955 (temporary)
-  Mr W. H. Garnet Collins
September 6, 1955 - July 5, 1957
-  Mr R. Geoff Charlton
July 1957 - December 1957 (acting)
-  Mr John Watson
1958 - March 31, 1963
-  Mr Wally J. Smith
April 1, 1963 - October 1974
-  Miss Dorothy Jukes
1974 (acting)
-  Mr Sydney J. Reed
1975
-  Mr Robert (Bob) Macdonald
February 1976 - February 1980
-  Mrs Maureen Hagan
early 1980 and early 1981 (acting)
-  Mr Walter P. Burston
April - December 1980
-  Mr John J. Harris
June 1981 - 1986
-  Mr Bruce Thomas
1986 - 1989
-  Mr William S. (Bill) Thomson
1990 (acting)
-  Miss Christine Dalton
1991 - 1994
-  Mr Glenn Staunton
1994 2nd term only
-  Mrs Lynne Williams
1994 - August 1998
-  Miss Jan Banks
Aug - September 1998 (acting)
-  Mr Ray Heathcote
October 1998 - September 1999 (acting)
-  Mrs Fran Luke
October 1999 - current

School Pride

1950s and 1960s

At Monday morning assemblies, standing to attention "with right hand on left breast", the student population sang "God Save The Queen" and recited:

"I love God and my country
I will honour the flag
I will serve the Queen
and cheerfully obey my parents, teachers and the law"

before marching to their classrooms in step to martial music.

1970s and 1980s

Teacher Keith Brereton, the driving force behind musical appreciation and development at the school, composed the original school song in 1977. Teacher Judy Skinner assisted with the words:

*We are the children of sunlit Australia
Mighty land where the people can be free
Where children come from so many lands
To live and work in harmony
Here at school we play in open spaces
Midst the peaceful green of Harrisfield*

(Chorus)
*From the joys we share
With the friends who care
And the helpful words that are said
We learn to live and we live to learn
For the changing future ahead.*

1990s and 2000s

The current school song is "The Spirit of Harrisfield"
Words and music by Mr J. Labrooy.

*We are strong and we're free
And we live in harmony
There's so much here we learn
As we grow and grow each day*

*Loyal friends
We've made here right at school
Best friends
We'll be forever more*

*Through the years that we spend
Let us make each day count bright
As we work and we play
Let us join in and all say*

*Best friends
We'll be forever more
It's the spirit of Harrisfield*

The School's Values (established 2001)

Harrisfield Primary School Agreed Values (ACE)

We all agree to engender trust and respect between all members of the school community through agreement, communication and equity (ACE) as described below.

Agreement

Agreement means:

- Supporting necessary change
 - ♦ Making decisions together
 - ♦ Keeping up to date with current initiatives, policies and programs
 - ♦ Reviewing policies regularly
 - ♦ Participating with enthusiasm
 - ♦ Meeting individual needs
- Providing the best learning environment
 - ♦ Educating is our priority
 - ♦ 'Loving our Kids' is a necessity
 - ♦ Observing all school rules
 - ♦ Providing a safe learning environment with uniform classroom management

Communication

Communication means:

- Integrity in all situations
 - ♦ Communicating openly and honestly
 - ♦ Responding to requests in Newsletter or notices
 - ♦ Using humour appropriately
 - ♦ Involving and acknowledging others
 - ♦ Encouraging an open door policy
 - ♦ Showing a friendly and caring attitude
- Positive Interaction
 - ♦ Listening without interrupting
 - ♦ Participating in school activities
 - ♦ Using diaries regularly
 - ♦ Providing translations or interpreters
 - ♦ Ensuring all messages are clear and succinct

Equity

Equity means:

- Fair processes
 - ♦ Considering individual needs
 - ♦ Maintaining confidentiality
 - ♦ Showing empathy
- Clear expectations
 - ♦ Encouraging the community to have input into school charter and policies
 - ♦ Informing community of school goals and policies
 - ♦ Members feeling able to express themselves and be heard by others
- Flexibility
 - ♦ Effectively using support services within the school and beyond
 - ♦ Purchasing resources to improve knowledge of other cultures
 - ♦ Establishing realistic and common goals
 - ♦ Observing relevant codes of behaviour
 - ♦ Supporting and following up those in need

Agreement Communication Equity



1955

**Harrisfield State School opened.
Melbourne's first parking meters installed (April).**

- July 4, 1955: Harrisfield School opened for Grade 5 with lower grades progressively enrolled over the next week. 183 students were enrolled. Contemporary sources list the staff as Mr S.T. Dare (Head Teacher), Miss G. Pamphilon (Infant Mistress), Mr Brian O'Neill, Mrs Gladys Allinson, Mrs Joan Fibakiewicz and Miss Leonart.



New Harrisfield School Opens With 183 Pupils

The new Harrisfield State School got away to a good start with an enrolment of 183 pupils. The intake was staggered. Twelve new pupils were admitted.

Members of the staff are: Mr. S. T. Dare (H.T.), Miss G. Pamphilon (Infant Mistress), Mr. B. O'Neill, Miss Leonart, Mrs. Allison and Mrs. Fibakiewicz.

Dandenong Journal July 13, 1955

- August 8: School Committee formed: The inaugural meeting was held on August 8, 1955. Mr Ray Armstrong was elected Chairman, Mr Fred Tilley Secretary, Mr Stuart Paterson vice-Chairman and Mr Bill Stark Treasurer. The other inaugural Committee members were Messrs Cogley, Hocking and Schubert, the latter later responsible for the planting of all the paper bark trees, a long time feature of the school. (Messrs Armstrong and Tilley remained office bearers for many years, while Mr Stark stood down when his term expired in 1958, his wife having been appointed a teacher at the School. Other Committee regulars in the first 5 years included Messrs Armitage, Carpenter, Crompton, Dunham, Hayes, Matheson, Pitcher and Ward.)

At the inaugural meeting a "card system" for monthly voluntary contributions was passed, the telephone applied for and topics discussed included the purchase of library supplies, a piano, projector, public address system, plasticine and toilet paper. The Rola Company who owned

land across the Highway opposite Callander Rd were thanked for their £50 donation to the school.

- Mothers' Club formed with 35 members from the 140 families. Mrs D. Stark elected President, Mrs M. Harris Secretary and Mrs Evans Treasurer. Founding members still around included Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Veal. These and other parents worked very hard over the years to benefit the school. The Mothers' Club sold rolls for lunches on Monday mornings for sixpence each and committed to raising £100 for books by the end of first term in 1956.
- August 15: Parkfield Football Club was thanked for donating "one used football" to the school!
- September 6: Permanent Head Teacher Mr W. H. G. (Garnet) Collins replaced temporary HT Mr Dare at the start of term 3. Other permanent staff who arrived were Miss Edna Carroll (Infant Mistress) and Mrs Ida Annear.
- Sept-Nov: The Committee's voluntary contributions scheme raised £19/15/3 (Sept), £18/15/3 (Oct) and £17/17/10 (Nov). Approvals were given for subsidised purchases of 6 bookshelves, duplicator and floor polisher.
- October 17: Committee bought "cricket equipment".
- October 24-27: The Inspector's Report stated that the school had 6 classrooms. One of them and a staffroom were being used for 2 grades from Dandenong North School. "Large areas have been asphalt covered... two splendid shelter sheds have been erected... boundary fencing is very necessary... (and) the infant department has the benefit of a piano... A Social Service League and school banking are operating and Gould League activities are being encouraged." 199 of 204 pupils were in attendance during his visit.
- November 7 Committee Minutes reported:
 - The Mothers' Club gave £25 as its first instalment in its £100 library book commitment.
 - The Committee purchased a 16mm movie projector and films, paying for the £28 difference between a Departmental issue one and "one that will show films under all lighting conditions". The projector was used at the School and for fund raising film nights at Tilley's Garage (cnr Chandler Rd and Princes Hwy). Youngsters from the period remember those nights as a social highlight of the era, when television was an unknown commodity in Australian households.
- December: News Bulletin No. 1 announced that "Our school colours are cardinal red and white on a grey background. Socks and sockettes are available at Mr Rowland's store, Noble Park. Other items of school uniform will be added as time goes on."

1956

**Melbourne XVI Olympic Games Nov 22 - Dec 6.
First TV broadcast in Melbourne (GTV9 Sep 27).**

- At the start of the school year the school was "100% our own with all Grades from 1 to 6. Rooms occupied by North Dandenong children have been vacated by children who are 5 years old on or before this date have been admitted". The Inspector recorded that "Swimming instruction, religious training, inter-school sports and games, social service training etc are encouraged".
- February 20: Urgent request for extra classrooms.



This page was donated by Warwick Armstrong, who was the fourth student to be enrolled at Harrisfield School when it opened. He completed Grade 6 in 1958. Warwick did an apprenticeship as a sheet metal worker and today has his own air-conditioning and heating business.

- February 25: Fete raised £86 for library books.

At this fete, when the first additions to the school were being arranged, Mr Collins (who by this time was dying of cancer) and Mr Roy Rawson (MLA) discussed the fact that no room was capable of being turned into a double room for infant assemblies etc. That was Mr Collins' last request and Mr Rawson's last successful effort on the School's behalf. Mr Collins did not survive to see this completed.

- Dorothy Stark, parent, ex-teacher 1957-61 & 1968-69.
- February onwards: Head Teacher Mr Garnet Collins had lengthy periods off sick - Mr John Goyen acted HT.
- Feb/Mar: Voluntary contributions raised £39/13/3d. and Social Service raised £5/5/0d each for Royal Children's Hospital and Red Cross.
- March 3: Enrolment 261 in 7 class groups, with Grade 5&6 in one room (Prep 41, Gr1 40, Gr2 47, Gr3 35, Gr4 47, Gr5&6 approx 50). District Inspector recommended 2 new classrooms for 1957, divided by folding partition wall.
- March 9: Committee requested erection of boundary fences, there being none on the road frontage and "existing scraps of barbed wire fencing, relics of the past" elsewhere. They also requested direct access be opened up to Bowmore Road through the school's land.
- March 16: Request lodged for highway-frontage shrubbery to reduce traffic noise and sun glare.
- March 29: Mr Collins requested 2 or more rooms, sited to bring the school no closer to the highway noise.
- April newsletter:
 - The school had been equipped in March with an "up-to-date radio and public address system".
 - School pullovers were shortly to become available.
 - The Mothers' Club forwarded £60, being final instalment of the promised £100, and committed to raising another £100 in 1956 (Mrs Hagan now Hon Sec).
 - Committee authorised Mr Collins to purchase "10 concrete slabs to hold 30 push cycles, at 15/- each".
 - Classrooms at capacity - The Education Dept was requested to accelerate building of new classrooms.
 - Anzac ceremony and wreath laying in assembly area.
- May 1: Plea for extra classrooms: "The Harrisfield School is already full to capacity and will not be able to handle the next intake of children in July".
- May 11: Local Shires directed Education Department to construct right-of-way through to Bowmore Road.
- May 16: Approval given for 2 new classrooms.
- Weekly scheme of contributions raised £15 in May.
- Beautification scheme proposed for front entrance.
- June 1: Committee requested school sign to minimise confusion as to whether this was Harrisfield or Noble Park.
- June: The School Committee arranged the sale of 218 tickets to the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.

OLYMPIC GAMES. Many children and parents have availed themselves of the Harrisfield booking of seats for Monday 26th. November 56. All parents are reminded that seats must be fully paid for not later than Friday 22nd. June. Children in grades 1 and 2 will only be allowed to go if some adult takes complete responsibility for them. Grades 3 to 6 will be taken as a school party, or with adults. Will parents please make their payments for tickets on Fridays.
Newsletter No. 4, June 1956

- June 13: Mothers' Club meeting notice advertised that "Afternoon tea will be served for sixpence".
- June 14: £139/15/- tender accepted to re-fence boundary of Lot 141 (adjoining pathway to Bowmore Road).
- June 20: Committee thanked the Shire (SV&NP) for constructing footpath from Harrisfield store to Chandler Rd.
- August 3: Film show in Tilley's "Noble Park Garage" (cnr Chandler Road & highway) raised £25 for the school.
- August: Head Teacher Mr Collins was hospitalised.
- August 9: New Oregon flagpole erected - £47/10/-.
- September 2: Working bee to plant trees and from his sick bed Mr Collins thanked the Committee for this.

- September 28: Ampol Petroleum presented a "fine picture show" in Tilley's Garage - £21 raised for school.
- October 11: Mothers' Club presented £100 cheque for library books (Hon. Sec: Mrs Phyllis Paterson).
- October 26: Tenders for new classrooms to be called "In the next few weeks". One quote - £3850.
- October 29: Concerns about lack of fire equipment.
- November 7: Heater to be replaced by improved unit.
- November 9: Fund raising film night at Tilley's Garage with 5 films supplied by Victorian Railways.
- December 3: Dandenong North School Committee accepted a proposal to send two grades of Harrisfield children to that school for part of 1957, "owing to the increasing number of children in the Harrisfield district".
- December 7: Plans for the new rooms failed to provide the requested folding dividing wall. An ailing Mr Collins sent a letter to the Ed. Dept. requesting inclusion.
- During 1956 many works requested by the School and Committee were refused due to their low priority, in a statewide context. during this busy era of construction.

1957

Sputnik was launched: the first artificial satellite.

- Mr Geoff Charlton appointed to school and fills in as acting Head Teacher prior to Mr Collins' death in July, and afterwards until the arrival of Mr John Watson in 1958.
- January 24: School's burglary coverage increased from £724 to £1086, for a premium of £6/10/0d.
- February: Fete.
- March 17: Final approval for folding door divider between an existing room and one of 2 additional rooms "now being erected", for infant department use, following further pressure from Roy Rawson MLA, 3 days prior.
- April 2: Shire of SV&NP advised that the Committee's request to extend the footpath from Harris's store to Corrigan Rd would be "put in hand at an early date".
- April 4: School Committee elections.
- May 7-10: Inspector's Report:
 - 293 of 334 enrolled children were present.
 - Grade 5 and composite Grade 5&6 were being daily bussed to Dandenong North, due to lack of rooms.
 - School bank deposits averaged £12 per week total.
 - Social Services League had donated £37 to charities.
- Given the political correctness prevailing 40-50 years later, it is disturbing to read the Inspectors' reporting of the "retardancy" levels at the school during its first 10 years. Large numbers of students were described as "retardant"; generally those older than the class average (i.e. roughly half the class!). Those with a poor command of English also seemed to be included in this description, as many came from countries with later school starting ages.
- June 3: Two new classrooms occupied.
- July: Head Teacher Mr Garnet Collins died and the Committee authorised a "token of remembrance" be hung in the school - the "Collins corner" installation.
- August 22: Education week open night.
- November 4: Committee authorised Cup Day as a holiday & noted the school signboard had been erected.



This page was donated by Johanna Hieatt (nee Van Wonderen), known at school as Hannie. Arriving from Holland in 1954 with no English, Jo was the oldest foundation student. She lived 18 years in NZ. Widowed, she continues to run a butchers shop in Qld with one of her 2 sons.

1958

Yarraman Park Primary School opened. First integrated circuit ("computer chip") was built.

- April 23: Asphalt paths, concrete channels and drainage construction recommended at a cost of £1013.
- May 1: Authority was given for an asphalt path from the school buildings to Bowmore Road, clearing of weeds and blackberries, filling behind the shelter sheds and paving and drainage near the new classrooms.
- May 12: Committee elections: Mr Armstrong (Pres.), Mr Carpenter (VP), Mr Armitage (Treas.), Mr Tilley (Sec.).
- June: Inspector's Report:
 - 359 of 384 students in attendance.
 - Social Service assisted the Cancer Appeal and Oakleigh Mentally Retarded Children.
- July 14: Complaints that the heating could not cope with the extra rooms.
- August: New sound projector (£252) & cabinet (£23).
- September 16: Yarraman Park School opened. Harrisfield school children living generally east of Chandler Road moved to the new school with many friendships lost.
- October: The school's burglary cover was renewed for £1520 of contents, principally piano & new projector (each £250), and library books and PA system (each £200).

1959

Australia's population reached 10 million.

- April 1: Complaints to Shire re sullage flooding the playground from adjoining properties.
- April: Inspector reported 290 of 338 children present.
- July 4: On the school's fourth anniversary, the wife of Head Teacher John Watson died.
- July: Mr Schubert planted out the highway frontage.
- August 3: Advice received that north boundary drainage would be fixed when Callander Road constructed.
- November 2: Cricket materials purchased (£19).
- December 22: Enrolment 333 and Inspector (Mr Holden) applied for 2 new classrooms.

1950s Reminiscences

• Johanna Hieatt (nee Van Wonderen), 1955-56
I arrived in Australia from Holland in 1954, had 2 weeks at Glen Iris State School and ... attended Dandenong West until Harrisfield was opened. I was in the 5th Grade with Mr Goyen (*who is on the right in the 1956 Grade5&6 photo on page10*). There were not many of us from Dandenong West, the rest were from Noble Park. The school grounds were not yet finished. Mr Collins was our Headmaster until he became sick and Mr Goyen took over as acting Head. I was the oldest pupil there as they had sent us back a grade when my sister Greta and I started school, as we could not speak English. I can remember a busload of pupils coming every day from Dandenong North - that continued until the end of 1955. They had their own classroom as we did not need that at the time. My parents early on also cleaned the school for a while. Mr Goyen also took English classes at night. When I turned 16 in the 6th Grade my father sent me out to work. Mr Goyen got me a job in the office of Rickards Carrying Co. In the latter part of 1956 we (the 6th grade) had our classes in the room next to the office - not much room I must admit. We had a lady teacher who lived in Callander Road across from the school (*Mrs Watson*). I can remember coming back after 2 weeks at work and joining the rest of the school to go to the Melbourne Olympics and saw Betty Cuthbert win her 2nd gold medal - a great day.

• Mary Glover (nee Paterson), ex-student 1955-56.
I was one of the first students to roll up from Dandenong West for the first assembly for grade 5, 1955 at Harrisfield.

• Sue Coulson (nee Paterson), ex-student 1955-59.
My father and mother Stuart and Phyllis Paterson were involved from the beginning. We were all very excited about Harrisfield as we knew so much through the efforts that was put into getting it off the ground. Mary and myself attended Dandenong West and couldn't wait for Harrisfield to open, then all of a sudden there was a hitch. They decided on the boundaries and Chandler road where we lived was one. Those who lived on the Noble Park side of the road could attend and those on the Dandenong side were out. I am not sure what happened, but suspect due to the large population that was growing in the Four Winds estate there must have been some sort of a riot, as we all managed to attend the 1st day it opened. It was a great school we made great friends, the teachers were good and I don't remember not having enough resources to fill in our years. I think I can say Mr. Charlton may have been one of my favourite teachers. I do remember nearly every one in the class photo 1956 and I am really looking forward to catching up at the reunion and maybe we girls could challenge the boys to our weekly game of rounders!

• Laurie Taylor, ex-student 1955-57.
I don't remember a lot other than slippery polished floors and venetian blind cords that tripped us up when walking by the windows - also the day the tip truck tailgate didn't open and the front of the truck flew up off the ground.

• Rosetta Isma (nee de Bortoli), ex-student 1955-58, later a Harrisfield parent and school councillor.
I was an inaugural pupil back in 1955, Grade 3. The school was opened after a great deal of lobbying in the area by parents. Prior to that I walked to the Primary School in Leonard Avenue. Coming to Harrisfield was heaven! I could walk there in 10 minutes and came home for lunch every day. The school was brand new, with lots of migrant children. Within a short time there were portables and then an extension to the school. Soon the senior year was bussed to Dandenong North Primary whilst the construction took place. When we returned our noses were put out of place because the grade fours were doing all the jobs, like ringing the bell and other duties. In my time Houses for sports were initiated, a marching team set up and trained by Mrs. Veal who still lives in the area. There were also evening English classes held in the portable for newly arrived Migrants. As an Italian, I was often called upon to translate at these evenings. The school was small, but I have happy memories of my time there and still remember with clarity two significant teachers, Mr. Charlton, and Mr. Goyen.

• Warwick Armstrong, ex-student '55-58, school parent
I lived at 82 Callander Rd (next door to the school). My brothers and sisters went to the school as well. My father (Ray Armstrong) was one of the committee members in the early years of the school. My three children also completed their entire primary education at Harrisfield.

• Vic Dinger, ex-student 1955-58.
I didn't like English, but loved sport and had great teachers. Enjoyed my time at Harrisfield.

• Edna Marsh (nee Reeve), teacher 1956-58, 1968-69 & 1983-87 and Harrisfield parent.
Memories: First big outing for the School - Olympic Games. Watching the rest of the rooms being built. My own children attended here. I still see lots of "Marshans".

• Jim Veal, retired Primary Principal, ex-student '55-59.
Despite the best efforts of many teachers, my eyes and mind frequently drifted out the classroom windows. In retrospect, it was no wonder, because the constant hum of traffic along the two lanes of Princes Highway stimulated the brain better than the fourth grade reader. I would watch to ensure the milk delivery arrived safely, monitor trucks entering and leaving Bloms Seeds or Fred Beer's scrap metal yard and listen carefully for vehicles slowing to a stop at Sidly Harris' shop and petrol pumps. I vividly remember his sign which proudly proclaimed 'This is an Independent Service Station'. Brand names and symbols which adorned the pumps fascinated me, with long-gone names such as C.O.R., Atlantic, Plume and Neptune as well as names which have continued. Sometimes I would take the long way home, riding past the shop just to hear Sidly whistling as he sat on the bench seat outside the shop. Cycling home from school was probably the most important part of the day for me, because it was a time of freedom. A special ritual was observed most days and probably laid the foundations for me becoming a racing cyclist. The ritual began with afternoon clockwatching until the critical time of 3.15p.m. arrived. Excitement built and senses were tuned in the lead-up to 3.30p.m. dismissal. The clean-up and packing were done with an efficiency never seen in my bedroom. The focus then shifted to sitting up straight and not talking to ensure that 'your' row was first to catch the teacher's eye. Siren wails! This is it! Exhilaration when my row was selected to go first. This was absolute danger time because if ANYONE in the row is too hasty, it's back to your seats and wait 'til last. The bag-grab is the next hazard and the long walk to the breezeway. Again, too much haste meant a despondent return to seat. Having successfully negotiated all these traps, the objective became a full-speed exit of the breezeway, hard right turn and sprint past the incinerator to the bike-racks. There was often a tangle of bodies and bikes, followed by a run and jump onto the bike. The race to the Bowmore Road gate often required tight negotiation of the curve and a flat-out sprint to the gate. The gate has remained unchanged all these years, although the safety barrier of three redgum posts with horizontal piping was replaced recently. The post and rail structure was located just across the footpath from the gate and was designed to prevent students going out onto the road. Attaining the status of "First out the Gate" required nerves of steel, with a high speed approach, skid in the dirt on the right side of the track, and laying the bike over in a full 'broadside' until the front wheel went through. Full power on the pedals brought the bike out of the slide, left shoulder brushed the left gatepost and away to freedom. Being first home in a family of seven kids had its advantages, especially when mum had afternoon tea ready!

• Gary Liddy, ex-student 1956-1962.
I have recollections of walking to school from our home on the hill in Bowmore Rd, holding mum's hand, in shorts, for the June intake in 1956, my first day at school. Petrified of all these kids. As time wore on the walk to school became a run to school to play footy, cricket, marbles and whatever other games could be played with all my new friends. However I remained in shorts, summer and winter, until grade 6. Somehow the cold was not felt amongst all the fun we had. ... There was one particular enemy, the magpie that guarded the school entrance from Bowmore Rd who gave many a school kid a lesson in dive-bombing.... Other memories include: Monday morning assembly in the front quadrangle, singing our National Anthem, (God Save Our Queen). Learning folk dancing in the rear quadrangle. Rough games of British Bulldogs in the shelter sheds. Being a milk monitor on various

occasions and enjoying our free bottle of milk for morning break, and flavouring the milk with special drinking straws of chocolate, strawberry and banana. I can remember my first taste of the leather strap for misbehaviour from the headmaster when in Grade six. This was in preparation for many occasions at Technical School. My first teacher was Miss Allinson, who had a blue rinse hair and my last and most favourite teacher, Mr Brereton, who 13 years later taught my youngest brother Michael, and in between many of my cousins. Childhood crushes were had on various girls as were dislikes, for any number of reasons.... I was still in shorts on the last day at school.

• Malcolm Webster, ex-student 1959-60
I remember: The speaker mounted on the side/rear wall of Grade 6, the picture of the Queen,.... Berti being stabbed with a compass....., the military music played each morning and the marching into school class, the ditch along the back fence where we played with our toy cars and, lastly, holding my breath while Robin Lacey squeezed my chest to make me faint or go giddy - we all used to do it!! - makes you think, doesn't it!!

• Allan Stark, retired meteorologist, ex-student 1955-59.
When Harrisfield School opened I transferred from Grade 2 at Noble Park School. Miss Carroll was my teacher at Harrisfield, from September 1955, but I have no recollection of the temporary teacher who briefly preceded her. We wrote with pens (with removable nibs) dipped into ink in ceramic inkwells set into the top corners of our desks. I think it was once a week that an ink monitor made up the ink from powder. Student milk monitors distributed the daily free milk. Often for PE we had folk dancing in the quadrangle. Mr Charlton (Grade 6) was a particularly inspiring teacher and bred in me my loves of history, ancient buildings, travel and other cultures (although my career "calling" was to the sciences). A large cardboard model of a Norman Castle shared my desk seat for perhaps a month during and after 3 weeks of social studies lessons in April 1959 (yes, I still have my exercise book!). It took 25 years to fulfil an interest first recorded therein, to visit the Antarctic. Across the highway, Brown's Road was but 100 metres of muddy track leading to a farm on the left (grazing cattle at that time and now the RACV) and, on the right, to that delight of curious little boys - Fred Beer's scrap yard, with its junk piles and WW2 aircraft remains. Rola built their transformer factory (now Minatek) next to Fred's house (now a service station) and Gillette built later (now Hannanprint). Every Guy Fawkes Day a huge community bonfire was held on the triangular block now occupied by the Sandown Hotel, a great occasion for the Harrisfield kids. There I had my first flight, in a helicopter giving joy flights. Although my mother taught at the school for part of my time there, I cannot recall ever encountering her in her staff member role. At home it was a different matter, with teaching aids being made by hand, new teaching methods being studied (Cuisenaire Maths springs to mind) and qualifications being continually upgraded. On the odd weekend we kids helped with school working bees. In hindsight Harrisfield School gave me not only a couple of lifelong friends, but had a significant influence on how I have lived my life these past 50 years.



This page was donated by Jim Veal who attended Harrisfield School from its inception until 1959. He became a primary teacher, then Headmaster and Principal of schools in Victoria, the N.T. and the A.C.T. Jim still cycles regularly on the roads around Canberra.

1950s Grade 6 Photos

• 1955: There was no Grade 6 in 1955



1956 Composite Grade 5&6 (left: Mr Collins, right Mr Goyen) (photo from Les Lucas)

• 1956: The school's first Grade 6 graduates comprised approximately half of the students in the above photo.

• 1957: No photo available, but Grade 6 graduates would have included most of the other students in the photo above.



1958 Composite Grade 5&6 (Photo from M. Turczyn, G. Giesen & W. Webb)

• 1958: The Grade 6 graduates comprised more than half of the students in the above photo.



1958 Composite Grade 4&5 (Photo from Allan Stark)

• 1959: No photo available, but it would have included most Grade 5 students from each of the above two 1958 photos.

Memories of Harrisfield 1955-1962 and a Tribute to the Early Staff

by Edna M. Carroll

Actually the title of these reminiscences could be "The Birth Pains of SS 4730 Harrisfield", but more about that as I gather my thoughts and these days increasingly, my wits.

After three years in the country infant room at Toora I was eligible for a transfer and the Harrisfield position proved too good to forego, even though I had genuine regrets about leaving the children and the school where I had been so happy. However off to Harrisfield went I in September 1955, which was six weeks after the school first opened and where I met Mr Collins who was taking up his position as Head Teacher (title now Principal) on the same day.

So there we were, the first H.T. and the first Infant Mistress and a wonderful staff who had weathered much during those first few weeks.

I vividly recall walking down the corridor from the East end and marvelling at the polished boards, brightly painted cupboards, an office, a sick bay and, wonder of wonders, indoor toilets for the staff! Such things I had never encountered in all my years of moving around the country schools of that era! However I never did come to terms with the toilets for the children off the "breeze-ways" and like many teachers, dreamed of schools with little blocks of toilets off classrooms, especially for infants, where all could be orderly and civilised. And as for those aptly named "breeze-ways"! At least they were good for stacking up milk crates, and keeping us busy saying "No running in the breeze-way!". If all the breeze-ways got together in some "breeze-way life" I'm sure they would have entertaining tales to tell one another.

Before I leave the milk crates, let me salute all those milk monitors and their Grade VI teachers who organised the counting and delivery of milk to all rooms before morning recess. It was no mean feat.

My first grade (Grade 2) was small by the standards of the day, and I was confronted by thirty plus delightful children with whom it was a pleasure to work. At first I was somewhat confused as never before had I taught one grade level - a rural school with combined grades had been my scene. Soon, however, I was involved in "grouping", extending work and thoroughly enjoying each day. Mr Collins was a wonderful organiser and support, and gave me my head in book buying etc for all the infant grades as funds permitted.

There were seven of us on staff and two from Dandenong North who brought their grade sixes over to our two spare rooms until the end of the year. (Harrisfield Grade sixes stayed at their feeder schools for the rest of the year.) My memories of the Dandenong North children are that they fitted very well into our environment and thanks to their teachers, no problems arose.

I well remember an early quite informal Staff meeting when it was decided that red and white would be the colours of school dresses and bands on socks and school jumpers. Mr Collins had all the outside bins painted red or white - red for things that would burn and white for food scraps. Actually there was a piggery in the area then, and each day someone would come for the scraps. I'm sure the result was well fed pigs. Incinerators burnt the rest of the waste material.

1956 was somewhat different teaching wise. We got the two rooms back from the Dandenong North occupation and generally our population increased - exploded in fact! My Grade 2 consisted of 50+ bright and very volatile children who kept me on my toes. Some little "extra duties" included weekly bank day when we did the duty for the State Bank. I remember Mr Collins saying he had told one

bank officer that he might make a mistake or two if he had to mind 50+ children at the same time! Some years later the Bank sent officers to schools for this duty.

One incident I will never forget. We were all involved as a grade in something I at least thought was interesting when one little boy called out, "Miss Carroll, Miss Carroll, there's a big spider". The cry was taken up - "It's on the speaker". I remember saying, "Well count its legs" and the verdict was "six, six" to which I replied, "Now don't be silly - count again", but once again "six, six" rang out. When I finally turned around I saw an uncooperative huntsman that had most inconsiderately lost two legs. "Well," I said, "most spiders have eight legs".

In retrospect it seems to me that boys outnumbered girls in most of my grades. I know for sure that one year there were about 15 girls to 30 boys. However the girls always held their own and I still have great admiration for their organizing skills and ability to deal with the bossy ones amongst them. It was usually a girl in charge when the groups were reading in pairs in the corridor (with my ears attuned!). In fact I felt that some could have taken over the grade, albeit briefly! They kept a lot cleaner too! However the mix was good and on most days I wouldn't have swapped any of them.

Building of the "East End" was completed early in 1957 and the infant department moved to that area. Mr Collins had become very ill but managed by sheer will power to keep well and truly going. As has been mentioned elsewhere, till the end he was fighting for a better school.

We got our double room for infant assemblies and when Edna Reeve (now Marsh) and I visited him about two weeks before his death, he was concerned that the linoleum for the extended corridor wasn't complete. He asked me to "keep at them" which I did and it was done.

Somehow we got used to builders, painters and the constant noise. We were also moving closer to the highway which in turn was being widened to four lanes, so if it wasn't tip-trucks, graders and the smell of hot asphalt, it was hammering and the screech or scream of metal being cut for air duct installations. The new air conditioners often didn't work and for one freezing winter we worked without any heating, all the time getting closer and closer to the highway (because of the angle at which the school is set) and making us think that something had to give! Also we were getting further and further from the toilet block (was I obsessed?) as we constantly moved into newly completed rooms.

Site works were carried out in stages, and the School Committee (Council now) was ever alert for further improvements. Soil being excavated to make and seal Bowmore Road was dumped on the oval for levelling and fresh planting etc. What fun (??) we had rounding up small boys who just loved those heaps of dirt. After all, what use were those heaps if little boys couldn't roll and burrow?

Fences took ages to come so we were open to the service road being constructed before our eyes and in our ears, but the children were very good and observed



This page was donated by Miss Edna Carroll, the School's first permanent Infant Mistress, from her appointment in September 1955 until 1962. After teaching in a number of schools Edna retired in 1985 as the Principal of Dandenong South Primary School.

boundaries. Dogs didn't!! Mr Watson, who followed the late Mr Collins as Head Teacher (with Senior Teacher Geoff Charlton acting in the position in the interim) was a very big man, a gentle giant from the country, who kept a stock whip in his office for the purpose of chasing off marauding dogs. He could crack that whip expertly and it worked, but we often wondered what visitors to the school thought of a whip reposing in the office.

I really must pay tribute to the staff of Harrisfield. Nearly all were women who had the Departmental title "married women" and whose salaries were the lowest of the low regardless of experience or qualification. For some time Harrisfield must have had the lowest salary bill in the state.

Some who have the staying power to read all this will remember those in the photo below and later appointments including Lois Woodland, Joy Lambert (later Tueno), Margaret Tulloch and Keith Brereton. The latter will always be remembered for his particular contribution to the music of the school.



Mr Geoff Charlton Mrs Dorothy Stark Mrs Betty Watson Mrs Joan Fibakiewicz Mr John Goyen
Miss Edna Carroll Mrs Gladys Allinson Mr John Watson (Head Teacher) Mrs I. Annear Mrs Edna (nee Reeve) Marsh
HARRISFIELD STATE SCHOOL STAFF July 1958

(photo from Dorothy Stark)

Of course, Mrs Zalitis the cleaner must be mentioned. She was appointed within months of the school opening and was there throughout my time. Quiet, conscientious and always polite, she really was an integral part of the school.

The next part will perhaps interest today's teachers. We were constantly upgrading qualifications, partly because a common roll had to be worked out for male and female teachers and just because!! Equal pay for men and women was still some time away and it would nowadays seem incongruous that women were paid only 80% of the men's salary for the same work. Exams for these qualifications were held in peculiar places. Dorothy Stark and I still laugh over experiences such as one lengthy and quite arduous exam being held in what was virtually an annexe or large sports storage area at another school. The children kept pounding on the outside doors for the sports equipment they usually had at recess. No matter how often outside staff sent them off, reinforcements arrived.

Later on, perhaps the next year, we were moved to a portable near the sports ground. It was a Friday afternoon and our exam supervisor, the Principal of that school, proceeded to lean out the window and vigorously coach his team whilst we worked away on the intricacies of speech development. Believe you me, we couldn't fault his

diction – it was loud and clear! Amongst us were some of the top teachers of the state so it was all rather "quirky".

Meanwhile at Harrisfield, year after year the children came along, and really I knew most of the school. Families introduced little new ones for admission, problems abounded but I felt there was co-operation always. In fact I feel strongly that we had parental involvement at Harrisfield before it was invented! Our non-English speaking children were arriving, but in numbers small enough at that time to make it easier than in later days at other schools where much extra help was required. I remember the loyalty of our children towards one another, and the fact that I used to get marvellous help at Service Stations where past pupils worked!

To be more serious, I remember being tired and cranky on some days, then looking at all those little faces and thinking, "You are going to grow up to lead your lives and be good citizens despite my present mood".

Over the years through the efforts of the Mothers' Club, School Council, School Canteen, family and teacher contributions, equipment was built up. Reading material and more reading material was a priority for we infant teachers. We didn't have a library or librarian, art room or other extras. It was all up to the classroom teacher, but I do recall now that on some occasions we had visiting music and Phys Ed specialists. However each room had art and "hand work" materials plus treasured boxes of skipping ropes, balls, etc. Fortunately we had a series of teachers who played the piano, and I remember how Joy Tueno made our combined assemblies a joy.

Many years ago Dorothy Stark and I were travelling in the very lovely Bath area of England when we both suddenly said "Ooh! That's where our plasticine comes from!". Not the usual reaction to the beauties of Bath but interesting to know that our children had been playing with the product of that little factory.

After seven-plus years it was time for me to move on to established schools, some run down and some new with all the attendant problems, but Harrisfield has always retained a very soft spot in my heart (even if no one remembers me?).

At the farewell from the children I was given a very nice suitcase. Obviously someone on the staff knew of my very itchy feet. Actually that case did go around the world several times and even now resides in my garage filled with books I can't bear to part with.

On my way to the car park on that last day (what car park? – there wasn't one!) a little girl joined me and asked, "What did they give you to put in the case?". Now, as well as old books, I feel it contains precious memories of those times half a century ago.

The very last paragraph of these ramblings sums up the best of Harrisfield.

Towards the end of my career I was visited by the father of some children at my then school, and we talked of his Harrisfield friends, some of whom had been rather sad and difficult little boys. I felt so moved as he talked of how they had kept in touch, and that through troubled and perhaps more predictable times the loyalty and support of their childhood friendships had continued and endured.



This page donated by Mrs Dorothy Stark, who was foundation President of the Mothers' Club and taught at the school during 1957-61 and 1968-69. Appointed the first female Principal of Dandenong North Primary (1977-79), she retired as Principal of Redan (Ballarat) in 1982

1960

Aborigines recognised as Australian citizens.

- February 22/23: Inspector's Report:
 - 343 of 368 children in attendance.
 - Recommendation for more classrooms accepted.
- 3 sets of twins were enrolled in the Preps Grade.
- April 4: Combined School Sports at Dandenong: Harrisfield 3rd in aggregate.
- April 19: Mr Tilley thanked for his "Committee service as Secretary for such a long time". Mr Dunham took over.
- May newsletter:
 - £167 voluntary contributions for the financial year.
 - Several working bees had been held.
 - Upper Grades assisted with preparing garden beds.
 - £5/10/0d Social Service donation to Blind Children's and Women's Hospital Appeals.
- June 2: Approval of drainage and vehicular crossings. About this time local road construction started and large quantities of fill were dumped and spread on the grounds.
- June 6: Committee Minutes say 380 pupils enrolled.
- August 10: Mothers' Club annual meeting reported £75 raised from lunches and £32 from Fancy Dress party for the year. Elected Pres: E. Jukes & Treas: J. Johnson.
- August 17: Education Week Open Day and evening.
- August: Complaints about stagnant water from Bowmore Rd properties "flooding half the playing areas". 9" drains would be installed to cope with excess water.
- October 5: 2 new classrooms approved and £12266 requisitioned by the Education Department for the works.
- November 14: 392 students were occupying 8 classrooms and a staff room.
- December newsletter:
 - 350 families at the school
 - Grounds filled & graded, gardens edged & taps fitted.
- December 21: District Inspector applied for two more new classrooms, with two currently under construction.

1961

Noble Park High School and Monash University opened. Yuri Gagarin the first man into space.

- Enrolment: 409, 50 new.
- New appointee Mr Lind off sick for the year's start.

Alan Lind taught at various schools from 1932 to 1940 then served with the 2nd AIF. From 1943 to 1952 he resumed teaching and in 1952 was elected to the Legislative Assembly as the Member for Mildura where he served until 1955. He returned to the teaching profession and continued until 1968 (1961-64 at Harrisfield) when he was again elected to the Legislative Assembly, this time as Member for Dandenong, becoming Labour's shadow Health Minister. He received the Order of Australia in 1978. Later that year former PM Gough Whitlam spoke at Alan's Parliamentary retirement dinner.

- March: "Only 4 new rooms have been added in the past 5 years and there are now 410 students".
- March 14: The Committee applied for an official crossing in Callander Road opposite the small gate of the school, following a boy being knocked down by a car and hospitalised the week before.
- March 23: Shire of Springvale & Noble Park applied to the Traffic Commission in support of the crossing.
- March: Red house won at the House sports.
- April 13: Combined School sports at Dandenong.
- April newsletter:
 - 2 new classrooms almost ready for occupation.
 - Exterior lights and new toilet installed.

- May: A request for extra shelter sheds disallowed.
- May 19: Two new classrooms were occupied, and classes regrouped to create composites 2&3 and 5&6.
- May 20: School inventory included: Books £650, PA system £350 and Projector £252.
- May/early June: Callander Road crossing installed.
- June 5: Mothers' Club purchased a second pie heater.
- June 9: Complaint to Education Department about £32 annual cost of keeping toilet-flushing system in repair.
- June 26: Drainage scheme approved by the new City of Springvale.
- July: School's septic tank system desludged after 15 months of complaints. Complaints continued about flooding of play areas by sullage from adjoining properties.
- July 3: Social Services gave £10 to Spastic Children.
- Late July: enrolment 389.
- August: Tenders closed for 2 more new classrooms.
- August 9: Mothers' Club Annual Meeting – main profit items - £75 on lunches and £32 from a fancy dress party.

Like most of the children and parents from Harrisfield kindergarten we automatically moved on to Harrisfield School. What an exciting time! Most of the mothers got involved in the Mothers' Club and school activities eg school excursions needed mothers to help supervise children and then there were street stalls and school fetes. The Mothers' Club was a very committed group averaging 35 to 40 plus extra people who came to help them once a week (Monday) canteen. We had several teams of 4 or 5 mums that did the lunches in the junior wing, in the little room at the back of what is now the sick bay and between what was the Principal's office, the Infant Mistress's office and the staff room. Lunch monitors would bring the orders, then we would order bread rolls, pies, sausage rolls, pasties, cream buns (a big favourite) and wagon wheels. We had a standing order which would be added to or subtracted from. Rolls were cheese and vegemite, or tomato and lettuce, peanut butter or whatever they wished. At lunchtime the monitors came back to collect their own room's lunches, a job that was always well done by the monitors! Working on and with the Mothers' Club was great and many friendships were formed while we worked hard and had fun together. Warm greetings are exchanged today when ex Mothers' Club members meet.

- Sylvia Stollery, Mothers' Club, RI teacher, 1961-93.
- August 23: Ed. Week open day & Mothers' Club stall.
- September 5: Official complaint regarding high sickness absenteeism attributed to a faulty heating unit installed a few months previously.
- October 24: A quote accepted for "erection of a 6' paling fence between the school and Walter Blom & Son".
- Excursions for 1961 included 8 boys to Somers camp.
- In grade five (1961) we were doing some gardening and for fun we took turns riding in and pushing the wheelbarrow. Boys being boys, we tried two riding, with the result that the one standing fell out and broke his arm. From memory it was Ken Hillas.
- Gary Liddy, ex-student 1956-1962.

1962

First car races at Sandown Park – Labour Day.

- January 22: Authorisation given for external painting and additional drinking facilities.
- February 6: Enrolment 412, 80 new & 4 new teachers.
- Because of overcrowding in Year 6 I was given a composite class comprising Year 4 and Year 6 students. A memorable year with 54 children squashed into Room 2 with not enough space to stand in the aisles!
- Keith Brereton, Harrisfield teacher 1961-82.

- February: First 2 months: £175 voluntary contributions.
- March 5: £60 spent on books.
- March 19: Enrolment 410.
- May 7: 32 cu yards of screenings for playing areas.
- July 7: Mr Schubert donated and arranged planting of 37 plants to replace those lost from last Spring's planting.
- Infant building extensions completed.
- August: Mothers' Club annual meeting: Main profit items for the financial year were: £111 (Monday lunches – rolls, buns and pies), £57 (street stall), £32 (crazy whist) and £29 ("lucky numbers"). Main expenses: £110 (books) and £86 (infants' equipment) - (M. Hamilton Treas). Elected Joyce Collins (Pres) & Violet English (Hon. Sec).

It was suggested in about 1962 or 3 that it would be nice (for the Mothers' Club) to sponsor a disadvantaged child. ... Cheryl Pettett was selected. She had no parents and we sent birthday and Christmas presents. Later she ... started to come and stay for holidays and special weekends. Cheryl called us all Mum and Florrie Draper still keeps in contact with her; this contact has been ongoing over the years and is very much appreciated by Cheryl.

Sylvia Stollery, Mothers' Club & RI teacher, 1961-93.

Around about 1962 the Mothers' Club received a letter from Travancore children's home asking if we would like to support a special child for birthdays and Christmas. Mrs Stollery and myself went out to visit and ended up sponsoring a four year old girl named Cheryl Pettett. Between Sylvia Stollery and myself we had Cheryl home on the school holidays and Christmas time. To this day I still have Cheryl home for holidays. She is now 47.

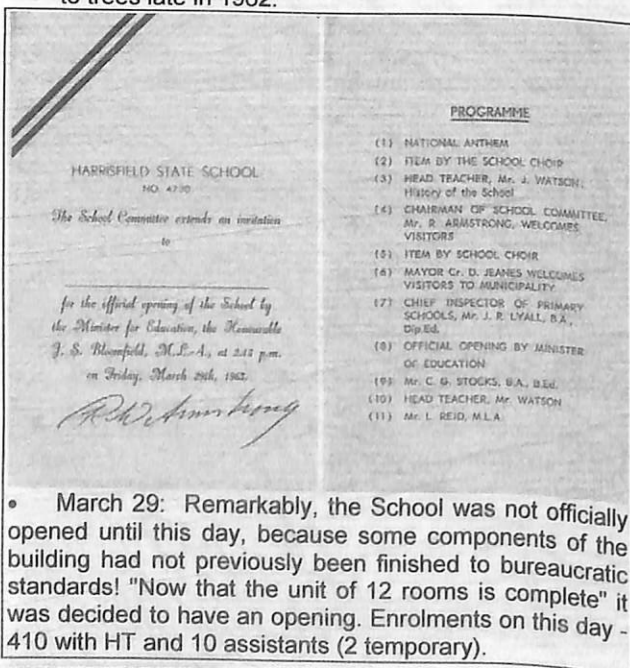
Florrie Draper, Mothers' Club & Canteen Manageress.

- September: A car crashed through the school fence.
- October 15-19: The Mothers' Club catered for 80 visiting teachers.
- End of year: Mr Goyen & Misses Carroll & Clark left.

1963

JFK assassinated. Noble Park Pool opened.

- February: Enrolment 403 (Principal), 412 (Inspector).
- March news:
 - 5th: Mrs Collins Mothers' Club president.
 - 7th & 24th: Working bees (including slide installation).
 - 26th: Tree lopping approved following storm damage to trees late in 1962.

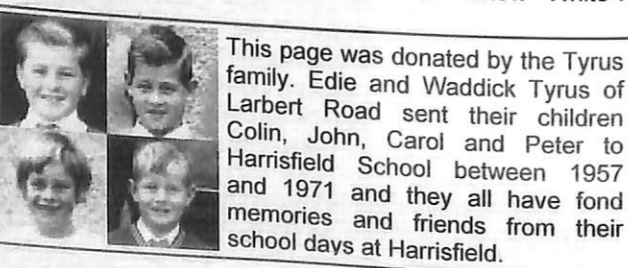


March 29: Remarkably, the School was not officially opened until this day, because some components of the building had not previously been finished to bureaucratic standards! "Now that the unit of 12 rooms is complete" it was decided to have an opening. Enrolments on this day - 410 with HT and 10 assistants (2 temporary).

- March 29: This was also the day that Head Teacher John Watson retired and was presented with a gold watch, golf buggy and clubs (cutting from Glenda Masson).



- April 1: Mr Wally Smith arrived as Head Teacher.
- April 26: Mothers' Club stall.
- May 23: Approval given for new paling fence on the southern boundary, damaged by storm-felled tree late '62.
- August 10: Mothers' Club (50 financial members, 20 active) elects Pres: J. Holloway, VP: M. Hamilton, Sec: Violet English, Ass Sec: S. Dunham, Treas: E. Webster. Mrs Dunham thanked for replacing the past-president when she retired early. £153 raised in the last financial year, with stalls on two days contributing £70. Visited lace factory Heinz and the new Dandenong Bowls.
- August 14: Enrolment 407.
- August 21: School open day for Education Week.
- Burglary Insurance policy listed £2239 contents. Main items - PA system (£350), Piano (£250) & projector (£250).
- October 7: Plaque ordered for "J. Watson Garden".
- October 31: Poliomyelitis injections at the school.
- October 31: Authority given for works to connect the school to the town sewerage system and for alterations to the clerestory windows to improve classroom ventilation.
- November: As was also the practice for Show Day, the Committee was required to formally approve the taking of Cup Day as a school holiday.
- November 4 & 6: Eye tests for students at the school.
- November 7: Gr 5 stall made £13 profit for social service and £15 donated to State Schools Relief C'tee.
- November newsletter:
 - Swimming would be held at the new Noble Park baths.
 - Cuisenaire maths would continue to be taught.
 - Sale of Remembrance poppies raised £21.
 - 24 felt soft toys (valued at £22) made by Gr 5 and 6 girls under Miss Woodland's guidance were donated to the Legacy Toy Appeal.
- November 12: Committee requested Mothers' Club use fund raising to asphalt the highway side of the school.
- November 29: Mothers' Club fancy dress night.
- Excursions during the year included: Docks, Essendon Airport and Gardens
- December 2: £207 voluntary contributions for year.
- December 11: Enrolment 411.
- December 16: Grades 4 to 6 put on afternoon and evening performances of the musical "Snow White".



This page was donated by the Tyrus family. Edie and Waddick Tyrus of Larbert Road sent their children Colin, John, Carol and Peter to Harrisfield School between 1957 and 1971 and they all have fond memories and friends from their school days at Harrisfield.

1964

Compulsory National Service introduced.

- January 21: Electrical fire at 3.20AM – minor damage.
- February: Enrolment 430 (Principal), 423 (Inspector).
- February 10: School contents insured for £3469.
- March 11: Approval to purchase "One Tunnel Ball and 200 feet of 1 1/4" skipping rope".
- March 21: "Carnival-Fete" - £163 towards asphaltting.
- April 6: Committee elected for 4 years: Mr Pitcher (Pres), Mr Dunham (Sec) and Mr Armitage (Treas).
- April: Shelter sheds repainted.
- May: Mothers' Day:

About 1963/64 it was decided that we should have a Mothers' Day stall. We could make things (Joan Holloway still has a gift from the stall) two ladies took on the responsibility of organizing things to sell. We decided to be fair to make the same things for each room then, thanks to the teachers, children came out of each room at a time to buy presents for mum valued from 3 pence to 5 shillings. Anything left over after room 12 and any child could come back and purchase more if they wished. We had a viewing before sale day so they could go home and tell dad what was available and how much money they needed.

Sylvia Stollery, Mothers' Club, RI teacher, 1961-93.

- June 21: Working bee.
- July 13: £9 was approved for a school bell.
- August 19: Education Day.
- August 23: Working bee.
- August 24: Complaints were lodged about the excessive lopping ("massacring") of trees in the grounds.
- October 5: Ongoing correspondence re local flooding.
- November: The Menzies government introduced conscription, just as the first Harrisfield graduates turned 20.
- November 23-27: Enrolment 452.
- December 7: Approval to purchase Deutscher mower before the new school year – Committee contributed £54.

1965

First Regular Army soldiers sent to Vietnam. Sandown Park railway station opened.

- February 5: Enrolment 471 and Inspector recommended 3 new classrooms be built.
- March 20: School fete realised £230 profit.

Fund raising, charity and community spirit were important values at Harrisfield. The annual school fete was a highlight especially the fairy floss. I remember we had competitions to see who could sell the most fete badges to raise funds. One year I was fortunate to win a "Snappy" plastic camera as the boy who had sold the most badges (I still have many of the photographs taken with this old work horse). Students were encouraged to make small donations to Social Service; my mum always made sure I had a coin tied in the corner of a handkerchief to donate.

Ron Exner, Munich, Germany, ex-student 1962-67.

- April 5: Mrs Thompson and Mrs Stollery invited to attend next Committee meeting as Mothers' Club reps.
- May 3: Storeroom approved for erection (£117, with Education Department to contribute £78).
- June 7: Enrolment 452.
- November: School exterior and toilets painted.
- December 6 Committee meeting:
 - Long time committee member Mr Ray Armstrong (vice President) resigned.
 - £1:£2 garden expenditure approved - Committee £78.

1966

Decimal currency introduced (14th February).

- February: Enrolment 514 (Principal), 518 (Inspector).
- February 10: Working bee.
- February 28 Committee meeting:
 - Mr Armitage resigned after 8 years on the Committee.
 - Elected Mr Pitcher (Pres), Mr Wilkinson (VP), Mr Dunham (Sec), Mr Jenkins (Treas) and Mrs Thompson (Mothers' Club rep for 4 years). New regulations required 2 Mothers' Club reps on School Committees.
 - Complaint reminder to Education Dept regarding water seepage and sewerage on school grounds.
- March 21: School "Fair" – profit \$517.77.
- April – July: Committee in dispute with contractor over standard of gardening works.
- September 12: Committee meeting approved 4 posts and nets for volley ball on the basket ball courts and for a concrete cricket pitch to be laid during the summer break.
- October 3: 20 outdoor bench seats approved.
- November 7: \$650 approved for garden sprinklers.

1967

Post codes introduced. PM Harold Holt believed drowned. Last man hanged in Australia.

- February: Enrolment 540 (Principal).
- February 13: Enrolment 550.
- Late February: Enrolment 551 (Inspector).
- February: Approval was given for installation of "an alternative water supply".
- February 24: School broken into and chips stolen.
- February 28: Fire lit by vandals in the grounds behind the incinerator.
- March 18: School Fair/Fete: Numbered badges were sold for 10c each at this and successive fetes, it seems by the thousands. Fete profit of \$561 spent on clocks (\$120), library (\$150) and equipment (approx \$300).

The badges caused huge excitement because we all wanted to have the winning badge for the big prize. Kids walked around for weeks with stacks of them stuck to their jumpers. It's interesting that one year they had to sleep overnight at the school to protect the fete stuff because one year the prizes were stolen.

Margie Pellegrino (nee Bainbridge), ex-student '65-71.

- May 8: Robert Keddie, assistant Head Teacher, retired from the school after 2 years and from the Education Department after 46 years as a teacher. He was presented with a travel rug.
- June: Mower and catcher bought (\$104).
- June 5: \$160 spent on library books.
- July 3: Enrolment 563, 1 portable classroom on site.
- July 13: Enrolment 567.
- August 3: Enrolment 571.
- August 21: Inspector reported attendance: 541 of 575.
- Won ANA prize for school gardens, Dandenong Inspectorate, for the first time.

Appreciation of nature and the environment was important to the school and children were encouraged to join organizations like the Gould League to support the protection of birds. I was actively involved in the extensive tree planting and garden bed beautification exercise in 1966/7 where the school won the ANA prize in the Dandenong Inspectorate. The school grounds offered plenty of things to do during class breaks like catching large Emperor Gum Moth caterpillars from the huge gum trees and using the pieces of tree bark to make propellers.

Ron Exner, Munich, Germany, ex-student 1962-67.

- September 11: Outside blinds ordered for room 6 at a cost of \$111.
- October: Enrolment 582.
- October 26: Inspector (Mr Stocks) applied for 6 new classrooms to cater for estimated growth over the next 3 years, recognising this would meet the "old schedule" of class sizes but not the "new schedule" (8 rooms required). Currently 12 permanent classrooms and 1 portable.
- November 13: Mr Thompson elected Committee president, replacing Mr Pitcher who had resigned.
- December 12: Enrolment 603.

1968

First heart transplant operation in Australia.

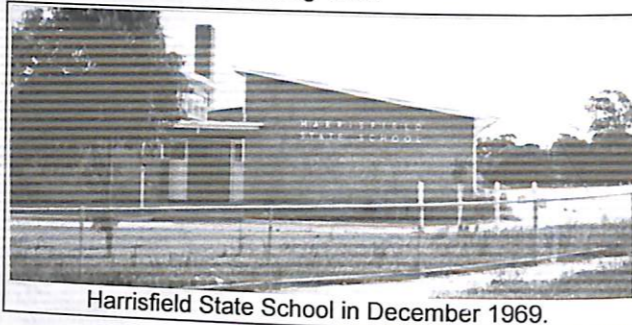
- February: Enrolment 603 included 119 Preps.
- March 4: Committee were officially advised that the school had won the ANA prize for "Most improved school grounds, Dandenong Inspectorate, 1967".
- March 6-20: Inspector reported:
 - Enrolment 605.
 - 12 classrooms, with Preps in a staff room. 3 portable classrooms located on-site and 6 additional classrooms included in the Department's building plan.
- March: Fete profit \$566.
- April 1: Request for Education Department to make safe some trees near Bowmore Road, where a large branch had fallen near where children were playing.
- May 30: Tender accepted for 8 new classrooms. Library not provided for, unless on a \$ for \$ grant basis.
- May/Jun: Exchange of letters between the Committee and government health officials questioning the latter's mass immunisation procedure that "one needle is to be used 5 times before being changed". The approved sterilisation procedure was recorded as "needles are flame flaired after each injection and a small portion of vaccine is squirted through the needle to ensure perfect sterilisation."
- 8 new classrooms and offices were begun - the so-called "senior wing" facing Callander Road.
- August 14: Presented with the ANA award for "most improved school garden, Dandenong Inspectorate, 1967".
- December: New classrooms completed.
- December: Enrolment 603 (the same as in February), however 110 students transferred in during the year and 110 transferred out, with 701 different students attending at some time during 1968.

1969

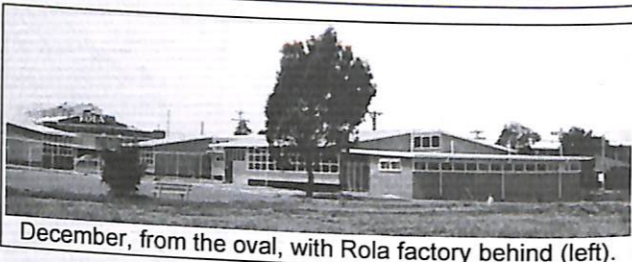
First man on the Moon (July 21, Melbourne time).

- February: Enrolment 578, 18 staff.
 - March 22: School fete.
 - May 29: Enrolment 579, with 41 having transferred in and 40 out since February.
 - Students ran "radio programmes" over the PA, from a studio mocked-up in a small room.
- One of my memories was an excursion with Syd Bainbridge (teacher 1966-69) and grade 6 to Russell Street Police headquarters, where all 65 children wanted to get off the bus at once. Syd stood up in his own way and told the class to stay and wait until he had been in to check if it was ok for us to come in. His control was wonderful.
- Sylvia Stollery, Mothers' Club & RI teacher, 1961-93.
 - November 17/18: Inspector reported:
 - 8 additional classrooms completed - total now 20.
 - The school was declared a training school in association with Frankston Teachers' College.

- December: Enrolment 591. 683 different students attended at some time during 1969.



Harrisfield State School in December 1969.



December, from the oval, with Rola factory behind (left).

Reminiscences 1960s

Wendy Webb (nee Nicholson), ex-student, 1958-63. Miss Edna Reeve, who became Mrs. Marsh, was one of my teachers, she made and decorated my wedding cake and my mother and her still correspond with one another to this day. I've been away from Victoria for approx 31 years, but still carry fond memories of Harrisfield, and the great teachers. Those that I remember teaching me were Miss Reeve, Mr. Goyen (2 years) and Mr. Alan Lind (who was the Master of Ceremonies at my wedding).

Marion Young (nee Veal), ex-student 1959-65. One teacher's surname was Boyd - she was married and went around Australia for her honeymoon and brought back souvenirs..... She was Scots with quite a broad accent and preached Scotland fairly heavily.

Mrs Dora Wood, Mothers' Club, 1960s. I have enjoyed going through the photos and have remembered so many of the children. I was part of the school for 9 straight years. During that time I was treasurer of the Mothers' Club and helped set up the book stall and was treasurer of that also. I enjoyed my time with the school and made a lot of nice friends.

Florrie Draper, Mothers' Club & Canteen Manageress. I have been involved with Harrisfield State School since about 1960 when my first child entered the school. All five of my children attended Harrisfield. I was most involved with the canteen from about 1964 however the canteen started many years prior to that. I was told by my neighbour Mrs Bell that the school started doing lunches in the corridor, then shifted into the male teachers staff room. I started doing lunches on Monday mornings in 1964 with five other mothers in the male's staff room, we had so many helpers that we only worked every six weeks.



This page was donated by Bruce Wood, who was enrolled as student number 713 and attended Harrisfield School from 1960 until 1966. Bruce is a Surveyor and Road Designer, who is currently working on the Eastlink Project under construction between Mitcham and Frankston.

Lois Royale (nee Woodland), England, ex-teacher 1960-1964. It's exciting to hear Harrisfield School is celebrating its 50th birthday. They were happy days and I wish I could participate in the celebrations. To those interested I send my fond regards and good wishes to the School.

Sylvia Stollery, Mothers' Club, Religious Instructor 1961-93. Mr Laurie Dwyer took religious instruction at Harrisfield and many other schools in the district. At Harrisfield he was helped by Dorothy Trotter, Hilary Harkness and Van Fischer. When Laurie retired Dorothy Trotter asked me to become the co-ordinator, which I did, until I became sick and had to leave some 27 years later. Cynthia George is now doing a great job with her team. What a wonderful privilege I have had at Harrisfield working with the teaching staff, R I teachers and Mothers' Club.

Heather Traikovic (nee Nicholson), ex-student, 1963-70. Just revisited the school photo with Peter Hart as class teacher, he set the young girls hearts a-flutter but I had forgotten how long ago that was! Surely it was just yesterday?... Funny, names that I didn't realise I could recall just popped into my head too, like it was just yesterday.....

John Zambrans, ex-student from 1962-68. Question: Who was the forefather of the now popular fund raising sausage sizzle that we see everywhere these days? (my belief anyway). Answer: Mr Bainbridge early sixties. Used to drag out his half-a-44 gallon drum wood-fired BBQ and sell nothing but sausages on bread at all the school fetes (many of which were burnt but they were still great). I think he used to charge about threepence for them.

Question: Who was the staff's first MP (bottom photo this page)? Answer: Mr Alan Lind. Question: Who was Harrisfield's longest serving teacher? Answer: Keith Brereton. Started about 1961 and was still serving in 1982 at which stage I think he was relocated to another school. That's some record! Question: Who was the prop-rieter of the general store / post office (where the laundry-mat is now located) & some years later relocated to the where the current Milk Bar stands? This store used to supply the

1960s Grade 6 Photos



1960 Grade 6 (photo from Les Lucas)



1960 Grade 5 (no 1961 Grade 6 photo) (photo from Denise Funston)



1962 Grade 4&6 (photo from G. Masson & W. Lobb)



1962 Grade 6 (photo from Geoff Warren)

school lunches every Wednesday after we all put our money in brown paper bags in the morning and had them returned at lunchtime. The same store we all used to frequent at lunchtime stampeding the counter in an endeavour to secure our malted milks, cream buns, pies and most importantly lollies?

Answer: Mr Keogh.

Question: What was the name of one of the first resident cleaners / care takers who lived across the road from the school and served for over ten years (and whose son also attended Harrisfield)?

Answer: Mrs Zalitis.

Question: What special treat did the school give all students every Christmas during the sixties?

Answer: Lemonade Icy Poles.

Question: In the mid sixties which two teachers shared the same surname?

Answer: Mr Johnson and Miss Johnson.

• *(Editor's note: Today's AP Mrs Meredith Iaconese was here as Miss Harris during the tenure of Principal John Harris 1982-84. There were also Ms & Mr Williams in 1967, Principal Bruce Thomas and Miss Thomas 1986-69 and the Kureljias in 2001/02.)*

• **Neil Reddaway, ex-student 1966-72.**

Can Julie Theodore's kids run as fast as their mum? Can Debra Swannell's kids kick a footy like their mum?

• **Merna Slattery, Essendon Supporter, Harrisfield Infant Mistress 1966-68.**

I remember... Another teacher (Mrs Marsh) laughing at me when a roll of plastic fell and broke my nose!! and the morning teas when the principal Mr Wally Smith would make the sponge cake. I spent three happy years at Harrisfield – the children, parents and teachers worked to make the school a pleasure to be part of.

• **Ron Exner, ex-student, 1962-67.**

After attending the Harrisfield Kindergarten as did other kids from the street; families like the Zeiglers, Whites, Jukes, Jefferies and Drakes, to name a few, I attended Harrisfield State School for six years from 1962-67.

I still remember my first day at the school all dressed up in my new grey school uniform with the maroon and white bands from Graeme Booth. When mum left me at the classroom door I cried and tried to leave instantly. I spent the rest of the day asking the big kids "when do we go home?".

Those were the days of classic school desks complete with ink wells and real lead pencils. Blackboards that always managed to catch the teacher's finger nail whilst writing causing a teeth wrenching scratching noise. In the classroom hung the standard Victorian Education Department map of Australia and a framed copy of some famous Australian water colour landscape. In those times Harrisfield was still like a village carved out of eucalypt forest

1960s Grade 6 Photos (cont.)



1963 Grade 6 (photo J. Davidson & B. Aitken)



1964 Grade 6A (photo from Colin Brown)



1964 Grade 5B&6B (photo from Jenny Davidson)



1965 Grade 6A (photo from Keddie family)

complete with a general store and the butchers with saw dust on the floor up on Dandenong Road.

The Princes Highway was not the multi-laned tarmac giant it is today and Browns Rd was still a dirt track we walked along as kids to visit relatives. There were only a couple of factories in the area like Rola then later on Gillette, the rest being mostly open farmland and pasture.

In school we had kids as class monitors for just about everything, bell, flag, lunch and milk monitors to name some. I remember being a lunch monitor, which involved bringing the lunches, put together by the Mothers' Club (including my mother June), to the classroom. The delightful smell of hot meat pies, pasties and sausage rolls packed in crispy brown paper bags. The advantage of being a milk monitor, on the other hand, meant that you could make sure the crate of free milk for your class was not the one that had been standing in the blazing hot sun all morning. ...

The school's values gave me the solid founding I needed later in life especially when it comes to cultural understanding. Classmates came from many different nationalities, particularly post war European countries, but we all interacted with each other as "Aussies".

Looking back at my early school days it is a huge contrast versus today's expectations placed on children. One small example was the old gray and red Harrisfield report cards which comprised a couple of brief pages of assessment; nowadays my boy's report cards are multi-page booklets! Nonetheless some things do not change and those values held so highly at Harrisfield are very much the same as ... today's. As I head towards my own 50th birthday I would like to congratulate Harrisfield on its 50th and wish all students great success for the future no matter where in the world your journey takes you.

• **Russell Norris, entertainer, ex-student 1966-1969.**

I'll never forget watching the first moon walk from my classroom in 6th grade. The teacher was an old bloke who played his violin to us every morning..... (Mr Patrick Walls?)

• **John Collins, ex-student '66-70**
Judith M. Johnson (Miss Johnson as she was known to me) taught me in grade 2A in 1967. In early 1967 after an accident at home (jumping on the bed) I suffered a stroke. At the time I had no idea what was wrong with me, all I knew was that my writing

1960s Grade 6 Photos (cont.)



1965 Grade 5&6B (photo from Marion Young)



1966 Grade 6 (photo from Zeigler family)



1966 Grade 5&6 (photo from Dora Wood)



1967 Grade 6 (photo from Ric Witham)

1970

West Gate Bridge collapsed. Tullamarine airport opened (now Melbourne Airport).

- February enrolment 633. 103 beginners were graded into 3 groups according to age.
- Records indicate "Harrisfield Primary School" was used from here on, rather than "Harrisfield State School".
- June Principal's report:
 - Dividing fence with Blom's replaced with chain mesh.
 - Avenue of Melaleucas ("paper barks") planted along the asphalt pathway. Melaleucas & Photinia Robustas alternately planted along north and east boundaries.
 - 32 bench seats purchased for outside use.
 - \$800 of equipment purchased during the financial year, thanks to Mothers' Club fund raising.
- July enrolment 642.

October 24: Fete (photo Sylvia Stollery)



Colin Stollery & Mark Hogben were among the admirers of the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang car that attended the fete

- November 6 & 7: To great acclaim, the musical "Oliver!" was staged at Springvale High School auditorium to raise funds for a school library (see Arts section).

1970 AT HARRISFIELD

This year has been one of a special fund raising effort at Harrisfield Primary School. It was our aim that by having a Special Effort we might be able to finance the building of a School Library.

Two special committees were formed early in the year. One was to conduct the Annual School Fete and the other as a Production Committee for the presentation of a School Musical.

We are confident about the results of these two functions and because of this the School Committee has already begun the initial steps to have a Library built at Harrisfield Primary School during 1971.

- December Principal's report:
 - Site works still not completed for classrooms completed in Dec 1968.
 - "Oliver!", fete and grade stalls funds would go towards central library construction commencing in 1971.
 - Educ. Dept. Grade Readers to be phased out in 1971.
 - December enrolment 640 with 85 Grade 6 exiting.
- 742 individual students attended for part of the year with a turnover of 200 students.

1971

Late night shopping introduced in Victoria.

- June enrolment 654. Gr 3C&4C a composite grade.
- July 27 Principal's report:
 - Construction of central library underway.
 - Previous library room to become Audio Visual room.
- October: 30 trees and shrubs planted as part of the "Tree Warden" scheme, with Springvale City Council.
- December Principal's report:
 - Due to excellent fund raising the school central library was completed - \$1500 of books to be added in 1972.
 - Another TV, blinds and rear projection screen were

- installed in the proposed full time Audio Visual room.
- Language problems mainly with Yugoslavian children.
- December enrolment 656 (106 in grade 6).
- 733 different students attended for some part of 1971.

1972

Home video sets became available in Melbourne. Conscription abolished.

- February enrolment 639: 18 classes.
- June Principal's report:
 - Much weekend vandalism of the extensive plantings of late 1971/early 1972.
 - The junior wing was fully painted over summer.
 - Metal shelving installed in library during May vacation and the central library set up.
 - A third Grade 5 needed after May.
 - Unusual number of staff changes in first half, mainly affecting 1E Preps, 1A, IB (3 times) and 2A.
 - Due to the increasing number of flats in the area, in excess of 200 pupils were moving in & out each year.
 - "The school committee purchased a ride-on mower this year and now engages a former pupil on an hourly rate. This regular mowing of the grass has resulted in a vast improvement in the appearance of grassed areas."

I was very familiar with the lawns (or should I say grass) at the school. As young lad I had set up a small lawn mowing business for pocket money as an alternative to delivering the Dandenong "Journal". I had a contract with the school to cut the grass for a number of years (at \$2 / hour I recall), it was good fun bumping around the oval on the school's "Deutscher" ride on mower which had very dubious suspension.

Ron Exner, Kraft foods director, ex-student 1962-67.

- Mid-year: The School Policy was distributed.
- October 28: School fete.
- December Principal's report:
 - Extensive replanting recently completed.
 - Applied for "Centenary of Education" money.
 - Major site works completed.
 - 2 part-time migrant teachers appointed during term 3 and used the small staff room in the junior wing.
 - Room in senior wing available for Audio Visual use.
 - Music advisor's visits deemed too infrequent.
 - Junior wing to be fully repainted during the holidays.
 - Up to 10 teachers leaving.
 - December enrolment 645.
- 739 different students attended for some part of 1972.

1973

End of the Vietnam War. 18 year olds got the vote. Sydney Opera House opened.

- January 3: Mrs Helen Turnbull, who would become the school's longest serving staff member, commenced in the Office.
- February enrolment 626 (inferred).
- Accommodation made for second vice principal and clerical staff.



This page donated by the Nicholson family in memory of Philip Ross Nicholson ex-student 1966-72 who passed away aged 40 years on the 19/10/2001. They congratulate Harrisfield Primary School on celebrating 50 years and wish them continued success in the years to come.

- June Principal's report:
 - Part time gardener appointed to remove weeds.
 - New table tops being fitted in infant area.
 - 2 part time migrant teachers working in unsatisfactory accommodation - an adjunct to a staffroom.
 - \$5200 budgeted for school's 1973 needs.
 - \$100 spent on science equipment.
 - Mrs Hill of Music staff visited regularly
- Mrs S. Zalitis, school cleaner since 1956, ceased.
- 775 individual students attended during the year.

1974

Darwin devastated by Tropical Cyclone Tracy on Christmas Day.

- Enrolment 628.
- A part time teacher conducted remedial reading for older children and relieving teaching. Mrs Hill a visiting music teacher assisted music coordinators Judy Skinner and Keith Brereton. The former gave recorder lessons; the latter gave lessons on tuned percussion.
- A drama club was active in the school.
- "Operation Upgrade" would provide an additional staff room, sick bay and art and craft building.
- July 1: Enrolment 620 (32 in, 42 out).
- October: Principal Wally Smith after periods of illness, retired from Harrisfield after 10½ years and from the Education Department after 44 years service. He was presented with a reclining armchair.
- December 6: Principal's report:
 - Enrolment 603 (44 in, 71 out).
 - Adventure playground work to begin during holidays.
 - New lino/carpet throughout Junior Wing
 - 5 teachers attended projectionist's course.
- The Social Services League under Mrs Skinner and Mr Fidelia had committed to assisting the school's new neighbours, the Noble Park and Springvale Handicapped Centre and donated \$200 to them during the year.
- Christmas stall: The Mothers' Club raised \$318 that was put towards the Adventure Playground in 1975.
- 709 individual students attended during the year.
- Excursions for the year included: Symphony concerts, Folk Museum, Latrobe Valley, local farm, Lorne and Wyperfeld camp.

In 1974 I heard that Erskine House in Lorne had been closed as a hotel and was available for group hire. We hurriedly made a booking and in less than a week had arrived with a busload of students. Erskine House was still being run as before so the children were in separate rooms and were waited on in the dining room - a new experience for most students, but not the case in 1975.

Keith Brereton, Harrisfield teacher 1961-82.

1975

First colour TV for Victoria. Sacking of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam (11th November).

- February: Enrolment 596.
- Mr Syd Reed was the new Principal for just this year. Suffering badly from arthritis, he exercised by daily walking to school from Dandenong.
- Multi-Age-Grouping (MAG) classes were established to reduce the numbers of pupils in some single-grade classes and proved a great success.
- Some 37 children from north of the highway were admitted to the school on condition parents transported them to school and none crossed the highway without adult supervision. This was considered a temporary measure prior to the opening of the Silverton Drive School.

- A \$7000 subsidy was used to convert a shelter shed into a new canteen at a time when other schools were phasing out their canteens.
- Changing local community patterns, with increasing migrants and more flats and units constructed, resulted in a very high turnover of students.
- 2 part-time migrant teachers on staff for 50 students.
- May 30: Enrolment 587.
- School community rose in support of a caring teacher slandered in a false and sensationalist press report.
- Adventure playground Stage 1 completed by July.



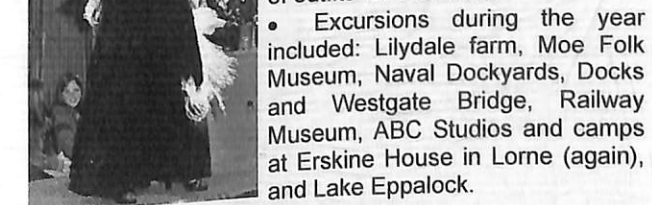
Adventure Playground: Following a co-operative arrangement with the then City of Springvale a fine adventure playground was constructed in 1975, near the northern boundary adjacent to where a supermarket car park was later established. The play equipment, of treated pine, was financed on a dollar for dollar basis with the Springvale council. A pine bark base was added in 1981.

Gary Matthews, School Committee & Council 1976-82

The one thing that really sticks in my head is when the adventure playground was made. I had a huge fall off it and badly broke my arm. I was in grade 3/4, and till this day I still get pain in that arm. I really enjoyed my primary years.

Hayley Kusters, ex-student 1973-1979.

- The Mothers' Club started organising an annual Fashion Parade, on this occasion with teachers, their spouses and others drafted as models. Judy Skinner (ex-teacher) provided this photo of herself modelling one of a number of outfits for the event.
- Excursions during the year included: Lilydale farm, Moe Folk Museum, Naval Dockyards, Docks and Westgate Bridge, Railway Museum, ABC Studios and camps at Erskine House in Lorne (again), and Lake Eppalock.



1976

School fire. Canteen opened. First Vietnamese refugees arrived by small boat. Medibank started.

- For the new year, a new Principal (Bob Macdonald), and 10 other new staff, including 6 first year teachers.

Bob Macdonald arrived as Principal and brought with him many bright ideas. He believed students and teachers worked better in pleasant surroundings and embarked on a huge community project to beautify the classrooms, offices & staff room with wallpapers, plants and paintings.

Keith Brereton, Harrisfield teacher 1961-82.

The seventies and eighties saw a number of major improvements to the school buildings and facilities, many of which were achieved under the enthusiastic leadership of incoming principal, Bob Macdonald. Enrolments during

most of this period were in the mid 500's, and portable classrooms were often required to meet peaks.

- Gary Matthews, School Committee & Council 1976-82
- The District Inspector at this time was Mr B. F. O'Neill, one of the school's original teachers.
- School Council elected: Bruce Shaw (Pres.), Nick van Oostven (Sec.) and Gary Matthews (Treas.).
- March 3: Enrolment 610.
- School banking continued and the Mothers' Club provided lunches until the new canteen opened.
- May: New lino for 7 classrooms, oval top-dressed with 600 cu. yards of soil, seating mound installed for "outdoor theatre" and concrete cricket pitch approved.
- June: Mrs Hadfield was appointed fulltime to the librarian vacancy and Miss Rebecca Orr, recruited from Lincoln, Nebraska, USA, was appointed to the school.
- June 8: New Canteen became operational with Mrs Margaret Greenham as manageress.
- June 18: Mothers' Club cake stall.

Money raising efforts were street stalls in Ian Street and Douglas Street 3 or 4 times a year. Lamington drives were great fun, we formed assembly lines, cutting cake, making chocolate icing, rolling in coconut, setting, drying, packing. What a sticky day, forever washing our hands. The Mothers' Club raised lots of Pounds Shillings and Pence to purchase library books, aids for class rooms, curtains, blinds, all the things that a school needs that were not provided by the Education Department. Then after the fire it was necessary to raise many Dollars and Cents.

- Sylvia Stollery, Mothers' Club, RI teacher, 1961-93.
- July 25: School fire (see next page).
- August: Mothers' Club funded new lino in 5 rooms.
- August: A portable classroom for the Migrant Assistance classes was installed at the school.
- August 4: School's Music Festival at Noble Park High.
- August 19: Mothers' Club doughnut day.

It was approximately 1976 when Margaret Greenham started the canteen in the old shelter shed. It took a lot of hard work to and froing with the Education Department but was achieved. Around about the same time, Peter McCall donated a doughnut machine to the Mothers' Club. We started doing doughnuts on election days to raise extra money for the school, we also had doughnut days for the children's families, I particularly remember the first donut day we had for the children as it kept us working for two days to fill all the orders. After that we would have a doughnut day for the children about once a term.

- Florrie Draper, Mothers' Club & Canteen Manageress.

Doughnuts Days: One ever-reliable source of fundraising during this period (1970s and 80s) was the doughnut machine. No event, whether a fete or a sports was complete without members of the Mothers' Club, spearheaded by Florrie Draper, churning out hot doughnuts to eager customers.

- G. Matthews, parent '76-82.

September: The new canteen was opened by Mr Alan Lind, the area's State MP (and a former teacher at the School). Reporting the opening in his regular column in the Dandenong Journal he commented "They're warm folks indeed at Harrisfield". Florrie Draper's photo shows Principal Bob Macdonald with Alan Lind as he declared the canteen open.



- September: A walkathon organised by the Mothers' Club raised \$2539 of which \$1912 was used to purchase equipment replacing that lost in the fire.
- October 16: Fete made \$1060 profit & Mothers' Club auction added \$280.
- October: 400 families had children at the school.
- Greek migrants social afternoon held.
- October 23: A supper dance held at the Buckley St. Public Hall in Noble Park celebrated the School's 21st birthday - cost \$10 double with the "Country Wranglers" providing the music. Teachers Keith Brereton and Judy Skinner cut the 21st birthday cake (photo Florrie Draper).



- November: Tubs with trees installed as part of the beautification scheme
- November 4, 5 & 6: The musical "Oliver Twist" was staged at Noble Park High School Hall, Keith Brereton again producing, and acclaimed as a great success.

1976 AT HARRISFIELD

Because the musical "Oliver Twist" was performed with such success in 1971 the decision taken early this year to again stage the show by the same producer, Mr. Keith Brereton was made with confidence, but with a knowledge that a great deal of assistance from many sources would be required.

That a Primary School should attempt such an ambitious production speaks volumes for the energy and competence of the producer and the general community backing the school enjoys. That there are enormous talents lying dormant within many children is evident when they become involved and motivated.

Because so many adults and children have made a significant effort the show will be a successful and enjoyable one. For the participating children it should be an experience that will live with them long after they have departed from the school. For the adults assisting with the show there will be the satisfaction of having been associated with something worthwhile. It remains for the audience to make its own judgement - we hope you will not be disappointed.

*** **

- November 8: The last School Committee meeting was held and a School Council formed (Bruce Shaw president)
- November 11: School sports.
- Canteen made \$800 profit.
- Excursions during the year included: Moomba concert, "Cinderella" at the Palais theatre, "Pirates of Penzance", Inverleigh School (Geelong) exchange, Springvale Migrant Hostel, Zoo, Tram Depot, Tullamarine Airport, Lake Eppalock and Cohuna and Swan Hill.
- During one Eppalock camp we set off on an unexpectedly tiring trek that required some adults to return to collect their cars to ferry tired children back to camp.
- Keith Brereton, Harrisfield teacher 1961-82.

Harrisfield School Fire - evening of Sunday July 25, 1976

Dandenong Journal 29th July 1976

SCHOOL HIT BY BLAZE

HARRISFIELD Primary School was extensively damaged by fire last Sunday night.

Four rooms, an office block and a storeroom were gutted by the blaze, and thousands of dollars worth of equipment destroyed.

The total estimate of damage to property has not yet been finalised, but it is expected to be more than \$100,000.

5 charged

Deputy principal Mrs Dorothy Jukes, said yesterday three senior teachers had lost "most everything" in the blaze including collections of students' work and personal equipment.

grade students have been asked not to send their children to school until further notice.

Four portables have already been placed in the school grounds by the Education Department, which has been commended for their swift action in getting temporary accommodation.

Police have charged five children with breaking and entering, and two with arson.

- Gary Matthews, School Committee & Council 1976-82

SCHOOL THANKS OVER BLAZE

SIR - Through the columns of your newspaper we would like to express publicly our sincere gratitude to the officials of the Education Department and the Public Works Department who acted so swiftly to assist us after a fire caused extensive damage to the Harrisfield Primary School on Sunday, July 25.

Because of their prompt action, four portable classrooms were on site within two days and repairs and painting were underway on damaged rooms. Within four days of the fire all children were comfortably accommodated.

We believe that their combined action is worthy of recognition as occasionally we tend to hear stories to the contrary. - Yours, etc., R. BREW (chairman, school committee), R. MACDONALD (Principal).

deliberately lit fire destroyed classrooms and the administrative offices in the senior wing facing Callander Rd. The principal Mr Macdonald quickly arranged for portable buildings as temporary replacements and the Public Works Dept set about the process of re-building what subsequently proved to be a better standard of building, including an improved library and office facilities. Fortunately, most of the interior fittings were covered by insurance. As a direct result of the fire a security alarm system was installed throughout the school by the Education Department.

The Police Report details the laying of 26 charges against 5 boys aged 11 to 14, all apprehended within 24 hours. Two of the 4 portable classrooms, replacing 4 destroyed classrooms, were on-site by noon Monday. Within three weeks the other partly damaged classrooms were ready for reoccupation, enabling 3 classes temporarily located in two halls at the Church of Christ to be moved back to the School. A "thank you" was placed in four newspapers. In September "thank you" notes were sent to the many individuals and businesses who had provided assistance.

- Keith Brereton, Harrisfield teacher 1961-82:
- The fire was set in the piano in my classroom facing the quadrangle, in the corner nearest the office. Some classes were moved to the library, which was not badly affected.

- Annette Langdon, ex-student 1968-74:
- ... It was in my sister's grade 6 classroom, in Mr Brereton's piano, that the fire was started.....

- Jaclyn Lang (nee Collins), ex-student 1970-76:
- I have wonderful memories of my years at Harrisfield PS, one of the most obvious being that I was one of the grade sixes at Harrisfield when the fire went through in 1976. I have memories of my friends and myself at the time being very distressed and upset that our safe haven of school had been destroyed; rumour being it was an act of vandalism. As the school had to find immediate accommodation for us I have vivid memories of attending school at the church in Kelvinside Road, Noble Park. As I look back this must have been quite difficult for the teachers involved! From memory it was the grade 5s & 6s cramped together in a room, with little outside area for us to play!

- Hayley Kusters, ex-student 1973-79:
- I remember the fire in the grade 6 building, not so much what it looked like, but the smell. It was such an overwhelming smell.

- Shirley Liddy, ex-student 1970-76:
- I sure do remember several things that occurred at the time of the fire. The grade sixes were greatly disrupted, having to move to the Church of Christ Hall in Kelvinside Rd. I don't think we actually did any work, particularly when our pens were being continually dropped down the gap in the floor. I remember walking home from the fire with a form 1 boy, and him telling me that he burned the school down! I never believed that he did, but it turned out that he did

- Neil Rose, ex-student 1970-77:
-I actually remember the fire as we had to use portable buildings to accommodate the students for study.

- Sue Pocuca (nee Burke), ex-student 1970-76:
- I was in Grade 6 the year of the fire. We had to go to the church in Kelvinside Rd every day for school. At the same time we were practising for our school musical, Oliver.



1977

First live TV broadcast of a VFL Grand Final. Elvis Presley died.

- February news:
 - The government introduced a book allowance for the new school year, paid directly to the school. Book and stationery costs were kept within this allowance, easing the burden of book costs on parents.
 - On the staff this year was Barry Greer, brother to feminist author and activist Germaine Greer.
 - Enrolment 549 (Silverton opening took 50 students).
 - Pupil/teacher ratio 1:28 in Prep & 1:32 in other grades.
 - Canteen profit \$1060 since opening. Mrs Greenham manageress. Chocolate milk price rose to 19 cents.
 - Mr Brereton's classes still in the library after the fire.
- March 1: Kevin Heinze (ABC gardening guru) gave a talk and demonstration at the school, with proceeds split between the Cancer Fund and school improvements.
- March 17: 40 children and 2 teachers were invited to Royal Park to welcome the Queen.
- March 20 (Sunday): School BBQ and social day coincided with the occupation of the rebuilt building.



International Days: Another popular fundraiser took advantage of the wide ethnic mix represented in the school population, with stalls featuring tasty foods and national dishes from all corners of the globe.

- April 3: International Day with BBQ & ethnic displays.
- Gary Matthews, School Council Treasurer in 1977.
- April: Films screened by the Leyland Brothers.
- April: Mr Brereton on special leave studying musical interests in Japan.
- April: Classrooms upgrade underway using Mothers' Club funds.

Classroom Upgrade: During 1977, the Mothers' Club, with the active encouragement of Mr Macdonald, began the challenging project of refurbishing all of the school's classrooms. This pace-setting work extended over nearly three years, and involved a dedicated band of mums and dads in the making and hanging of brightly coloured curtains, similarly bright wall papering, carpeting and sanding and painting of desks. The results were dramatically successful, becoming a benchmark and attracted a great deal of interest from schools both within and outside the state, with a number of inspections and visits from departmental and school representatives.

- Gary Matthews, School Council Treasurer 1977.
- April 26: Presentation to retiring Callander Road crossing supervisor Jack Ward.
- May 1 (Sunday): Working bee.
- May 5: Doughnut Day.
- May: The School Council proposed to parents a "Voluntary Contribution Plan" to fund its "School Council's

Improvement Plan" by direct appeal, with a target of \$3400. Its primary purpose was to construct a roofed outdoor recreation area. This was the first step in what eventually climaxed in the Macdonald Hall opening in 1983, with the driving forces being Bob Macdonald (Principal) and Gary Matthews (School Council).

- June: Enrolment 550, 25-30% migrant background.
- June: Miss Capper replaced USA-recruited Miss Deanne Macomber, who returned home. Mrs Laidlaw replaced Mrs Hagan (on 4 months LSL).
- June: Mr Keith Brereton composed the School song, assisted by Mrs Judy Skinner, in time for the opening of the reconstructed building, where it was sung by 35 members of the Melbourne Chorale.

June 2, 8PM: Official opening of the building reconstructed following the fire, by The Hon. J.S. Bloomfield, MLA, Minister of Education, with 200 guests and parents in attendance. Administration and staffroom areas had been upgraded and an arts/craft facility included.

HARRISFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 4730

OFFICIAL OPENING PROGRAMME

8.00 - 8.30 p.m. Arrival, introductions, etc.

8.30 p.m. Anthem followed by school song.

8.45 p.m. Speeches.

Principal - Mr. Macdonald.
School Committee President - Mr. Shaw.
Springvale Councillor - Mr. Duggan.
Frankston Regional Director of Education
Mr. Balson.
Minister - Mr. Thompson.
Vote of thanks. Mr. Billing, M.L.A.

9.15 p.m. Entertainment.

Members of Melbourne Chorale conducted by
Mr. Val J. Fyers.

9.40 p.m. Tour of facilities.

10.00 p.m. Supper - Vote of thanks tendered to Mothers' Club
by Mr. Stacey, M.L.C.

- June 19: Working bee
- July/Aug: Mothers' Club annual mannequin parade.
- The Mothers' Club organized an Enid Gilchrist mannequin parade. Clothes were made for boys and girls and Harrisfield children were the models. The parade was held in the RSL hall, and after the show clothes were sold and orders taken. This was a great success.
- Sylvia Stollery, Mothers' Club, RI teacher, 1961-93.
- Jul/Aug: Piano purchased for the school.
- August: \$57.76 donated to State School's Relief C'tee
- August: Enrolment 540, 150 of migrant background.
- August 14: Working bee.
- August 17: Helped by Mr Brereton & Mrs Skinner, students performed at Dandenong Town Hall as part of the Dandenong Music Festival.
- August 11 or 18: Football "clinic" held on the oval with South Melbourne Football Club.
- August 19: Mrs M. Greenham resigns as Canteen Manageress and Mrs F. Draper appointed from term 3.
- Canteen:** The work of the hard working Mothers' Club volunteers preparing lunches in the canteen each day was given much needed assistance when Mrs Florrie Draper was appointed as the first paid manageress by the school council in September 1977.
- Gary Matthews, School Council Treasurer 1977.
- Aug/Sept: Netball "A" won the local sports assoc final.
- September: New Mothers' Club president Judy Watson (previously Margaret Greenham). Joy Kent (VP), Joan Addison (Secretary) and Eva Richards (Treasurer).

- Harrisfield ex-student and North Melbourne half forward Steven Icke played in the North Melbourne premiership grand final against Collingwood, in a replay following the previous week's draw.
- September:
 - Upgrade to 5 classrooms nearing completion.
 - Wine and Cheese evening attended by 80 people on the 9th raised \$150.
- October 11 Newsletter:
 - The School Council was investigating a roof-only structure, 60' X 40' using a "dollar for dollar" subsidy.
 - Thanks to those who produced the "Harrisfield Junior Herald", for its "contribution to learning the 3 Rs".
- October 15: School sold off surplus "trash & treasure".
- October 21: School Council supper/dance.
- November: 2 basketball towers installed.
- December 8 Newsletter:
 - Objections lodged to plans to remove both remaining portable classrooms during the holidays.
 - Among the teachers leaving: Mrs Hutterer ("English Enrichment Instructress") and Mrs Hadfield (librarian).
- December 13: Final parents' working bee for the year.
- Excursions during the year included: Healesville Sanctuary, Inverleigh School (Geelong) exchange, Melb Town Hall Orchestral Concert & Museum, Carlton photo excursion & Neill St School exchange, Bright (3 days), zoo, Port Melbourne, Railway museum and Berwick farm.

1978

First test-tube baby born

- January: Multi-Purpose Covered Area (MPCA) plans were amended.
- Fete profit \$4140, inc. \$1857 from the "Numberthon".
- March: Mrs N. Van Oostveen was Council Hon Sec.
- April: A gardener was employed under the Special Youth Employment Training Scheme.
- April: 493 students present for class photos.
- April 4: Working bee.
- April 19: Leyland Brothers film showing.
- May 9: Dandenong Youth Music Festival - group of 40 participated in "A Minstrel Show", mainly Grade 6.
- May: USA-recruited Rebecca Orr returned home.
- June 21: Breakfast "sit-in" for MAG class.
- June 22: "Green Day" - MAG class all wore green.
- June: "School Policy - Paper No. 1" sent to parents.
- June 17 (Saturday): "Fun Day".
- June 18: Working bee for parents.
- July 14: Numberthon, with children sponsored.
- August: New Mothers' Club president; Jan Shaw.
- August: Mrs Joan Johnson joined the staff (library and language enrichment).
- September 16: Mothers' Club annual fashion parade.
- September 30: Fete - profit \$1822.
- October: No major objections raised to proposal to convert neighbouring nursery to a "half case warehouse".
- October 12: More amendments required to plans for MPCA. Fete profit, \$1822 Voluntary Contribution scheme, Numberthon and other fund raising monies now exceeded the \$5000 budget for the MPCA.
- October 12 Newsletter: Principal Bob Macdonald wrote: "Favourable Comments: Rightly or wrongly Australians are often accused of being a race of "knockers" and schools have often come in for their share of criticism, so it was pleasing to note the remarks of two people who recently praised the behaviour of Harrisfield children. One person has commented more than once on the way our children behave at the heated swimming pool in Dandenong, while another person made similar remarks

about our children who visited the Gippsland Folk Museum recently. As Principal I'm very pleased to hear such remarks. I believe it is a reflection of the overall discipline and tone which prevails at our school. This situation is due to the children and to our staff who approach their task with great dedication."

- October 26: "Sleepover" for Multi-Age Group (MAG) with games, BBQ and square dancing.
- Excursions during the year to: Burnley Horticultural Society and Gardens, Yarra launch cruise, Nar Nar Goon farm, Gippsland Folk Museum, "Peter and the Wolf" and "Nutcracker Suite" at the Palais, "Snow White" at Frankston State College and camps at Somers and Howqua.
- December 13: School concert in Noble Park High School Hall - "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat" - suffered from a faulty PA system.
- End of year: 8 teachers left and Muriel Hore retired.
- Grounds:** During the late 1970's a great deal of work was done in the gardens surrounding the school buildings. A program of monthly working bees was instigated by the principal, drawing on the parents of each grade on a rotation basis. Grade 6 teacher (and resident "musical director") Keith Brereton also led a small band of pupils in regular gardening "forays". This proved so successful that the school was awarded departmental prizes on more than one occasion. A roster of lawn mowing and edging was also arranged with a group of dads, using an improved range of power tools that were purchased out of school council funds.... During this time arrangements were agreed with the Springvale Council for the regular mowing of the oval in return for the school making the oval available for weekend cricket matches.
- Gary Matthews, School Committee & Council '76-82.

School gets garden award

HARRISFIELD Primary School has won an award for the most improved schoolgrounds in the Dandenong electorate.

The school won the same award 10 years ago. The award is made by the Australian Natives Association, and the school was given a print of Max Meldrum's 'Picherlie's Farm'.

Mr Wise said an overall development plan for the grounds had been drawn up by Mr Keith Brereton, who has been a teacher at the school for about 18 years.

The school's vice principal Mr Peter Wise, said many of the children had helped in improving the schoolgrounds by working on the gardens during lunch-times.

principal Mr Bob Macdonald, and some of the children who worked on the garden.

• Pictured with the award are, from left, teacher Miss Dorothy Jules, Mr Peter Wise, vice principal, Mr George Newton, of the Dandenong branch of the ANA, Mr Keith Brereton, school

- December 15: The school again won ANA's Garden Prize for the Dandenong Inspectorate. The photograph referred to appears in the article reproduced on page 29.

1979

Bomb attack on Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Sydney.

- February: Enrolment 516 from 360 families. 17 Classroom teachers. Staff / student ratio 1:30.4.
- During this year a school alarm system was installed.
- During this year a school classrooms update project was completed, a converted shelter shed was used as a canteen and a portable classroom was devoted to migrant children.
- The canteen opened Mon, Wed and Fri for lunches (Florrie Draper manageress) and had contributed \$800 to the Mothers' Club for the previous year.
- Principal Bob Macdonald was on sick leave for part of the year, with DP Miss Dorothy Jules acting Principal.

- February: Final modifications were being made to plans for the Multi-Purpose Covered Area.
- February: Recorder lessons commenced and Mothers' Club sausage sizzle raised \$80.
- February 23: Farewell to teacher Judy Skinner, who went on confinement leave.
- February 25: Working bee.
- February 28: Noble Park Fire Brigade gave a demonstration and fire evacuation drill.
- March 5: Public meeting to survey the operation of School Councils since their implementation.
- March 8: School Council: Pres: Bruce Shaw, Treasurer Mrs Joy Kent, Sec: Mrs Rose Isma. New member Mrs Isma was a foundation student of the school & now parent.
- March 23: Mothers' Club cake stall.
- March 25: Working bee.
- August 13 Newsletter:
 - Jan Shaw elected president of Mothers' Club.
 - Kiln bought for Art Room.
 - Mrs Cantwell and some children filmed for a National Gallery film on Art.
- August 14: "Jonah Man Jazz presented at the Dandenong Music Festival.
- September 18: Sausage sizzle.
- Sept 25 - Oct 3: Members of the Australian Principals' Association visited to see the school improvements from the "Upgrade project".
- Late '79: New School Council format decided upon.
- December: The "Multi-purpose Covered Area" was now in use and was offered for hire for outdoor functions.
- An end-of-year variety concert was staged.

December 14: Retirement of DP Miss Dorothy Jukes.



1970s Reminiscences

Rosetta Isma (nee de Bortoli), ex-student 1955-58, School Councillor 1979-80s, parent of Harrisfield students. When my children started school, I quickly became involved with the parents and the School council. It was quite different being on the other side at the school, although Miss Jukes could still strike fear into the hearts of parents despite her diminutive size! She appeared tough as we left our little preppies, but she had a heart of Gold. During that time there were so many young families in the area, and lasting friendships have been formed to this day, with parents and teachers. The committee was very proactive and held many fundraisers to improve the school. Fashion Parades, Wine and Cheese nights and even a School carnival. We painted and wallpapered rooms and installed carpets. The Canteen was started and of course Macdonald Hall. That was the biggest Project and it was such an event when the roof was finally put on with Mr. Macdonald there, in ill health already, but able to see the

result of all the efforts. The Harrisfield Donut Cooking began around this time and became such an institution. This continued for many years and each Election Day you could smell the donuts from the School. Again those years passed quickly and the involvement with the school provided a good insight into my children's school years, and such valuable friendships. It was an era when parents had so much more time than today to help within the community.

Lynn-Marie Sargent (nee Richards), ex-student '72-77
My mum used to sit in the staffroom most days and cover books for the library and when she wasn't doing that she was always on canteen duty. The one teacher who I remember well would be Miss Jukes, as I was held down to get one of my needles in prep.

Simon Fabrikant, ex-student 1974-80.
I remember....Sitting in a "pipe" in the playground at lunch and four square games before school.

Andrea Ho, broadcaster, ex-student 1978-82.
I remember....The big skipping rope games we used to do each lunchtime.

Hayley Kusters, ex-student 1973-79.
One lunchtime there was a huge fuss when we found shedded snake skin on the netball court near the goal ring.

Shirley Liddy, ex-student 1970-76.
I recall a group of us being chased by a man who lived in a house backing onto the school with a stock whip. Then him pulling a shotgun on the same group at another time, serious stuff. I actually forget about it until several years later. I'm sure if you asked the teachers at the time (1975) they would remember this incident, as they had to stop the madman....

Leanne Manniche, ex-student 1970-76.
I am now 40 yrs old and still have my best friend Carol Swannell who came from the same kinder as me to start at Harrisfield. We have so many great memories of people (we never forget names!) and things we did. Like kiss chasey in grade 3 with all of the gang except we never really wanted to kiss! We have many stories ... and my visual memory of the school playground is pretty good! There is one thing I'd like to say and that is Mr. Fidelia, my grade 5 teacher was the best teacher I have EVER had and believe me, I have had plenty over the years!

Neil Rose, ex-student 1970-77.
Both myself and my two brothers attended Harrisfield. A memorable time of my life. I still have a friend I keep in contact with from Harrisfield. We met in Grade 1 and have remained friends ever since.

Susan Qilivan (nee Hartmann), ex-student 1972-75.
The school's Social Services Club, of which I was part, raised \$50 and donated dolls to the Springvale and Noble Park Mentally Retarded Children's centre. Mr Fidelia in my Grade 5A 1974 was the best teacher that I ever had, even though he caned me behind my knees once!!!! (Those were the days).



Rosemary Irons attended Harrisfield Primary School from Prep in 1973 to Grade 6 in 1979, and donates this page in acknowledgement of the contribution made to Harrisfield students by the teachers, parents and friends of the school.

PAGE 26 - THE NEWS, MAY 23, 1979

The Schools Page

Mothers' club renovates classrooms!

In 1976, with the aim of providing an attractive and stimulating learning environment, the Mothers' Club started an ambitious project to renovate classrooms and furniture at Harrisfield School. The first step in the programme was to paint the ceiling, side walls, cupboards and trim in each room.

Front and back walls were papered and display board areas were covered with blending waven paper. All desks and classroom furniture were repainted and shelving was installed along one wall of each room. The redecorating was completed with curtains and hanging plant baskets. One wing is now almost completed and

co-operative effort involving parents, staff and children, that Harrisfield won the A.N.A. Prize for the most improved Primary School Garden in the Dandenong area in 1978. The present School Council project is to provide a large sheltered play area. Work on this has started and it is expected to be completed by third Term.

Students and staff of Lyndale Primary School will contribute the material for next week's page.

This week's schools page came from Harrisfield Primary School.

Students and staff of Lyndale Primary School will contribute the material for next week's page.



IN 1978 Harrisfield was presented with a painting from the ANA Society for having the most improved primary school garden in the Dandenong Inspectorate.

2 stories of our school excursion

In March this year I went on an excursion to a dairy farm and to Cardinia Reservoir. We boarded our bus at 9 am and went to Narre Warren to visit the dairy farm.

When we arrived at the dairy farm the farmer took us on a tour of the property. We were shown the milking sheds where a farmhand was milking a cow, using the milking machines and we were allowed to try to hand-milk a cow.

There was a new born calf and also we had a ride on a horse, and there was lots of other interesting things to see.

After lunch at the dairy farm we left for Cardinia Reservoir. We saw the big spillway and walked along a lake. The bus took us to both sides of the reservoir before we returned to school.

The next day we worked on a project about the dairy farm and the reservoir.

Our teacher gave us some pamphlets for our project about the reservoir and on the dairy farm. I learnt a lot on the trip mostly how to milk a cow, and about the reservoir.

We boarded the bus ready to go to a dairy farm at Narre Warren North. In some paddocks we saw friesian cows and Jersey cows.

When we arrived there we saw lots of cows and a few horses. We climbed hay stacks, and a man showed us the milking shed, and all the machines.

Robyn Panarzo, Grade 5.

My school is a well equipped school which has an oval and an adventure playground, a cricket net and two pitches. It has a library, art room and a film projector.

A fair amount of equipment was destroyed in the fire which ran straight through the building in 1976.

Before the roaring flames hit the library the fire men saved it but many books were destroyed by smoke and water.

The remainder of the senior building was pulled down. All that was left were window frames, the metal raters on the roof and desk legs.

All these were covered in thick black charcoal. The rebuilding was finished in 1977.

Mr Breeton organises several plays each year, last year we won a gardening prize.

Our teachers don't go on strike.

The school plays netball, football, newcombe, bat tennis and last year basketball against other schools. Each year we compete in the school athletics and last year we came third.

A few years ago, there was a big fire, and it burnt down some of the senior building and an office.

Since then we have had some painted desks, colorful wallpaper, big brown vinyl sliding doors and a green carpet on the floor. It cost a lot of money.

We also have a Mothers' Club a canteen and now workmen are making a covered area.

Last year Harrisfield won a prize for the most improved school garden in Dandenong. The Council was given approval to build a school on

PUPILS TELL ABOUT THEIR SCHOOL

February 2, 1954 and the school was opened by Mr. Bloomfield.

The first permanent Headmaster was Mr. Collins.

At the start 194 pupils attended, 411 pupils attended by 11/12/63.

The present enrolment is 510.

Adam Stephens, Grade 5

The school I go to is called Harrisfield. It's called Harrisfield because the land it was built on was owned by a man called Mr. Harris.

A few years ago, there was a big fire, and it burnt down some of the senior building and an office.

Since then we have had some painted desks, colorful wallpaper, big brown vinyl sliding doors and a green carpet on the floor.

It cost a lot of money. We also have a Mothers' Club a canteen and now workmen are making a covered area.

Last year Harrisfield won a prize for the most improved school garden in Dandenong. The Council was given approval to build a school on

February 2, 1954 and the school was opened by Mr. Bloomfield.

At our school every single person in Harrisfield school should help our school keep clean. That's why every Friday Miss Jukes tells us to go somewhere around the school to clean up.

There are lots of places to clean up in our school like the oval and the adventures, around the front also the asphalt too.

Miss Jukes, Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Wise do not like people who rubbish Australia neither do the other teachers.

That's why our school always has bins.

Kettle Carmody, Grade 2

Our school is fun and we play in the sandpit.

Darren 1PF

In school we make lots of things. At school we take photographs by Mr. Fimmel. We made a tree.

Rachel 1 PF

Our school is lots of fun because we do our writing and we play outside.

Gabrielle 1 PF

Trip to Coal Creek

On Thursday April 26 we visited Coal Creek in Korumburra for an excursion.

We went by bus and the bus driver was very kind to take us on a long trip and back.

At Coal Creek there were lots of things like the Blacksmiths Shop, General Store, the Station and the Miners houses.

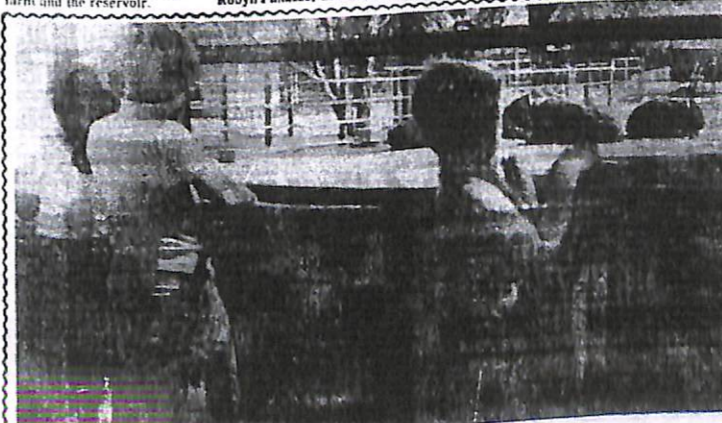
There were more old things. The mine was dark, wet and smelling like coal. When we had finished exploring around the park we went back into the bus and went back to Harrisfield Primary School to have lunch.

The school was very small because the school had only one room for Grade Prep to Grade Six.

There were 19 children in one room and the teacher was Mr Seton.

We saw Mrs Seton who taught us in Grade Two. We had a play after lunch and when we were called back to the bus we went to Mr and Mrs Seton. Then we went back to our school. The End.

Nicole O'Neill, Grade 3



Each year grade 5 children are taken on an excursion to the zoo and here's what some of them thought about it.

We saw a giant turtle. We saw a boa constrictor. Monkeys are funny. We saw a tall giraffe. We saw a cheetah. We saw all different animals.

The monkeys are cute. The Zoo has lions. The Zoo has elephants.

The Zoo has giraffes. The Zoo has tigers. The Zoo has crocodiles. The Zoo has snakes. The Zoo has birds. The Zoo has bears.

I like the Zoo. I saw a great big gorilla at the Zoo. We saw a great big snake. We all walked around the Zoo. At the Zoo we had lunch. The Zoo is fun.

Linna Sottile
Lisa Admiraal

1970 Grade 6A

(photo from Mark Hill)

1970 Grade 6B

(photo from Regina Michaelis)

Unfortunately this photo was not located before publication date.

1971 Grade 6A



1971 Grade 6B

(photo from Ashley Cox)



1973 Grade 6B

(photo from Dora Wood)



1973 Grade 6C

(photo from Jenny Duggan)



1974 Grade 6A

(photo from Karen Gilchrist)



1974 Grade 6B

(photo from Cathy O'Brien)



1972 Grade 6A

(photo from Terri Maiuto)



1972 Grade 6B

(photo from Edie Tyrus)



1974 Grade 5&6C

(photo from Sharyn Martin)



1975 Grade 6A

(photo from Brian Mur)



1972 Grade 6C

(photo from Joanne Johnston)

Unfortunately this photo was not located before publication date.

1973 Grade 6A



1975 Grade 6B

(photo from Keith Brereton)



1975 Grade 5&6C

1980

Harrisfield School's 25th Anniversary. Smallpox eradicated. Beatle John Lennon assassinated.

- February: Former principal Bob Macdonald died and Mrs Maureen Hagan acted as Principal until April.
- March 4: Enrolments 459, 300 families.
- School Council: Pres Mr Gary Matthews, Sec: Mrs Rose Isma, Treas: Mrs Eva Vimba.
- Mothers' Club: Pres: Mrs Zola Ortenburg, VP: Mrs Carol Van Oostveen, Sec: Mrs Kath Mackenzie, Treas: Mrs Alison Kittely.
- Directive that maximum grade size must be 32.
- April 24: Mr Walter P. Burston appointed Principal. He soon noted that "the Mothers' Club control the purse to a large extent, certainly more than in my last school".
- April 24: \$1392 so far contributed to School Council.

• May: A commemorative plaque, recognising the outstanding contribution of the late Bob Macdonald in so many aspects of the life of the school, was placed in the hallway outside the general office in May 1980, by members of staff and School Council.

• Gary Matthews, School Council President 1980-82.



Recently retired acting Principal Dorothy Jukes unveiled the plaque with (l-r) Muriel Hore, Gary Matthews, Bob Macdonald's son Wayne and his widow Marie looking on. (The plaque is now located inside the Macdonald Hall.)

- School cleaner Mr Boyd retired end of May vacation.
- June 30: Enrolment 447.
- Mothers' Club funded Room 13 carpet (Media viewing).
- Tree plantation was planned for the late 1980 between the cricket nets and Bowmore Road houses.
- July 4: Harrisfield Primary School turned 25.
- July 12: 25th Anniversary Celebration Day: Anniversary badges (purchase cost \$309.55) were sold for \$1 each and admitted the holder to all functions and the raffle. Formal invitations were sent to many individuals having past involvement with the school, arrangements overseen by long time Harrisfield teacher Keith Brereton.

The 25th anniversary, in July 1980, was a well-attended occasion, with many food stalls and the recently re-decorated classrooms open for inspection. The formalities were presided over by acting principal Walter Burston, following the untimely and deeply felt death of Mr Bob Macdonald. There was a festive mood, with stalls, including the ever-reliable money-spinner, the doughnut stall run by Florrie Draper. A stand of native trees was planted along the western boundary fence by students and members of the Mothers' Club and School Council, with the first tree being planted by Mayor of Springvale Councillor Graeme Duggan. Specially produced badges were sold in the lead up to the event, with grade 4 pupil Lynda Matthews winning a transistor radio for selling the most. The day concluded with separate social functions for children and parents in the school classrooms.

• Gary Matthews, School Council President for 1980-82

July 12: 25th Anniversary Invitation and Programme

1955 - 1980

25th ANNIVERSARY - HARRISFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
1955 - 1980

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the present members of Harrisfield Primary School, I would like to invite you to take part in the 25th Anniversary Celebrations planned for:

SATURDAY, 12th JULY, 1980

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.: Classrooms open for inspection. Planting of Commemorative Trees. Afternoon Tea.

7 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.: Rock Disco - Teenagers - Rooms 5 and 7. Junior Disco - Under 12. Cartoon Marathon. Wine & Cheese and Music for Adults.

Admission: \$1.00 per person

We look forward to seeing you back at Harrisfield to renew friendships.

Yours faithfully,
Keith Brereton
K. Brereton

(Please tear off and return to school by Tuesday, July 1st.)
25th Anniversary - Harrisfield Primary School

To help us with planning for these celebrations would you please indicate the times you would be attending and the approximate number of people attending.

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.: Tree planting, room inspection () Adults () Children
7 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.: Disco, Films, Wine & Cheese () Adults () Children

- September: Enrolment 455. 22% of students were transient, 37% being from ethnic backgrounds.
- September 15: General meeting of parents discussed the "Green Paper" on "Strategies and Structures in Education in Victoria". Policy development of curriculum and operational issues, and selection of the Principal, were proposed to be delegated to the school and its community, with the Principal then selecting the staff.

Regarding the proposed changes to government education policy: Public meetings were held at schools throughout Victoria, including at Harrisfield, to discuss the state government's proposals, as contained in a "green paper", to devolve staff selection, finance and budgeting to school councils, as well as tighter departmental central control over curriculum. At the Harrisfield meeting, opportunity was given for a government MP, the Teachers' Union and the Federation of State Schools Parents' Clubs to present their views. The consensus of the meeting supported maintaining a "status quo" position, and a letter was forwarded to the department expressing this view.

- Gary Matthews, School Council President 1980-82.
- "Harrisfield Junior Herald" produced under the editorship of teacher Brenda Mason and 6KE Media Studies Group, presented puzzles, activities and reading material, all contributed by Prep to Grade 3 children.
- September 29: Eye and medical tests for students.
- Moscow Olympic Games: Marian Farmer, a foundation student of the school (now deceased) was selected for our Olympic equestrian team. Due to the political controversy surrounding those Games, the equestrian team was withdrawn from the Australian contingent before its departure.



- December 15: The Herald and Weekly Times Ltd sent its appreciation to 4CS (Miss Stephens) for their donation of hand made toys to "The Sun Toy Fund".
- Excursions during the year included Melbourne International Centenary Exhibition (in the presence of Princess Alexandra), Gippsland, Cowes and a Mirboo North camp.

1981

IBM introduced the first "personal computer".

- February 11: 22 teachers.
- School classified as "disadvantaged".
- Mothers' Club president: Mrs Zola Ortenburg
- A Special Assistance Remedial Teacher (SART) was appointed (Mr David Schmidt).
- March 1: Working bee for parents.
- March 20: Bush dance and Junior Disco.
- April 7: A school group performed "Jonah Man Jazz" at the Dandenong Arts Festival.



• April 16: "Pirates" theme day: (right to left) Mr Keith Brereton, Mrs Debbie Sewell and Mr David Schmidt agree that pregnant Mrs Chris Carey is carrying the treasure.



"Pirates" winners

- The "Needs" teacher working with migrant children resigned and student/staff ratios required replacement by the Prep teacher, with the "migrant portable" utilised for

the extra grade. Principal and DP provided the teaching assistance to the migrant children in other grades.

- Teacher Keith Brereton was in charge of student participation in music and gardening/horticulture.
- May 4: "Jonah Man Jazz" was performed at the Noble Park Uniting Church.
- May 7 Newsletter: Departmental directive that "More use is to be made of the National Anthem by singing it sometimes on Mondays".

Early in 1981 a tender was let for improvements to the entrance to the school property from Callander Road. This provided for a wider gateway for heavier vehicles, and a sealed area for off-street teacher car parking. Extensive re-roofing of the junior wing, facing the Princes Hwy, costing \$100 000 was finally carried out by the Education Department in 1981, following representations to our local Member of Parliament, Kevin King.

• Gary Matthews, School Council President 1980-82.

- June 10: Mr John Harris was appointed new to the school as Principal.
- Mrs Chris Carey went on confinement leave and Mrs Sia Trethewey temporarily back from the same.
- July 3: Preps "Dress up" day.
- July: 429 children enrolled ("200 decline in 5 years").
- July 10: Talk to children by Railways Investigations Department on how to behave when travelling in trains.
- July 30: Doughnut Day (electrical faults had disrupted the previous one).
- August 19: Mothers' Club elected Virginia Monger (Pres.), Roslyn Guihennuec (Sec.) and Eileen Butler (Treas.). Mothers' Club had raised \$1000 by mid-year.
- August 19: Ex-student Rosetta Fiori gained work experience in the Grade 2 area.
- "Jonah Man Jazz" musical play (produced by Keith Brereton) was performed at the Dandenong Festival and Noble Park Uniting Church.

- September: Enrolment 425, 14% transient, 132 speak a language other than English at home, the largest group being Italian (27).
- September 16: Walkathon - \$2000 raised (plus grant) went towards "Multi-Purpose Covered Area" walls.
- September 18: New enrolments day for children 5 on or before 30/6/82.
- September: Weatherboards replaced on the rear of the shelter shed.
- October 2: Student display at Waverley Gardens.
- October: "Reptiles Man" visited the school.
- October 11: Working bee.
- November - approval for 50% grant against Walkathon profit to fund "multi-purpose room".
- November 25: "Christmas Jazz" musical (Grades 5 and 6) performed at Springvale Elderly Citizens Club.
- December: A calendar for the next year (1982) on the theme "The Year of the Tree" was prepared by children and sold for \$2.50.
- December 13: "Christmas Jazz" musical (Grades 5 & 6) was performed at Berwick Anglican Church and Noble Park Uniting Church.
- Student turnover for the year - 59 in, 79 out.

1982

XII Commonwealth Games held in Brisbane. First CDs and CD players released in Japan.

- February: Enrolment 394. (430 February 15).
- Miss Meredith Harris was appointed to the school. 23 years later she is still there, as Mrs Iaconese, Assistant Principal, her service broken only by her family leave.

- Enrolment 316.
- Mothers' Club President: Margaret Patterson, Secretary Margaret Cini and Treasurer Jan Dalzell.
- School Council President: Mr Graham Kilby.
- August: Mothers' Club street stall raised \$101.
- Mothers' Club funded new photocopier (\$1900) and Chocolate Drive money bought a colour TV and Video.
- September: Computer on trial in the Office (later purchased), staff car park reconstructed (with thanks to Graeme Jukes and John Cini), automatic bell timer system installed and Mothers' Club street stall raised \$67.
- September 16: Achievement Certificate from State Schools' Relief Committee for \$70 donation.
- November 9: Enrolment 318.
- November 10: School House sports day.
- November 16: "Sleep-in" in the Hall for Grade 2GM.
- November 17: Interschool sports day.
- December 15: Carols program and family picnic night, Teacher Mrs Jeanes coordinated the music.
- December 21: "Graduation Disco" for Grade 6.
- School Improvement Plan (SIP) funding received.
- Excursions included: Jell's Park, Zoo, "Picnics in the Park", "Wizard of Oz", Traffic School, "Herald" newspaper and 3DB, "Carols by Candlelight" participation and camp at Fraser National Park.

1988

Australia's Bicentennial. First \$2 coins circulated.

- A strong commitment was made to a Bicentennial Programme, given 55% of the school's children were from migrant background, 50% were transient at the school and 25% were from single parent families. Bicentennial Program excursions had been planned to Heritage sites in Bendigo, Ballarat, Coal Creek, the Dandenongs and historic Melbourne, as well as "Australian Heritage" and "International" Days at school. One excursion took in the "First Fleet" re-enactment.

- February: Enrolment 320 to 323.

BY SKILLY HEATH
EDUCATION REPORTER

The teacher with eyes in the back of her head

Elizabeth Eeles has eyes in the back of her head. She can watch her composite grade 2 and grade 6 class from a large mirror beside her blackboard. But she cannot hear her pupils.

Mrs Eeles is totally deaf. She waited 10 years between graduating as a teacher and entering a classroom. When she first applied for a job with the Education Ministry she failed the medical: she could not hear an aid during the hearing test.

A decade, a graduate diploma in special education, and a family later, Mrs Eeles was accepted to work as an emergency teacher.

But this 25-year-old teacher has never given in easily. She "technically" failed year 10 because she could not hear the German and French dictation. "determined," she took herself

off to Taylor's College where most of the work was set by assignment.

She missed out on a teaching studentship because she failed the medical but won a scholarship. Mrs Eeles said she had decided she wanted to teach when very young.

"I come from a family of teachers," she said.

Mrs Eeles was determined to teach in a regular school. It might have been easier to get

a job in a deaf school but she wanted pupils in a regular school to grow up hearing deaf people were no different.

The history in her hearing aid might run out mid-lesson, but "I replace them and the students just get used to that."

Mrs Eeles said she relied heavily on lip-reading. "I try and get the students to come to me."

Suzanne Byron, 9, was "surprised" when Mrs Eeles told the class she was deaf.

Mrs Eeles (deaf ex-teacher, 1987-90) taught 3&4 this year

- Need recognised for design of a "school frontispiece" for more professional presentation of school publications.
- March: Camp to Wilsons Prom. for Grades 5 and 6.
- March 5: Corrective Services team completed odd jobs.
- March 11: Tree dropped limb during storm. A student and teacher narrowly escaped injury. Tree removed.
- March 13: Break-in and 2 offenders apprehended.
- March 18: Mothers' Club Disco.
- March 20: First of 6 working bees for the year.
- April 19: Mothers' Club Doughnut Day.
- June 17: Mothers' Club Fancy Dress Disco.
- August: \$90 to State Schools' Relief Committee.
- Football team won premiership.
- Karen Kennedy appointed as Canteen Manageress.
- Raffle for Bicycle raised \$1150.00 Profit.
- "Grand final" fundraising: pupils raised approx. \$230.00 towards purchasing sporting materials.

- Language Policy Statement (1988) became accepted school policy.
- October 10: Enrolment "less than 300".

1989

VFL became AFL. Fall of Berlin Wall (Nov 9).



• March: Principal Bruce Thomas presided at the farewell in Macdonald Hall for Mrs Maureen Hagan (now deceased), Deputy Principal and teacher at the school for 18 years in total.

- Few records survive for 1989, but recorded are:
 - Enrolment (undated) of 315.
 - Mrs Karen Kennedy was both Canteen manageress and Mothers' Club president.
 - School Council president: Graham Kilby.
 - August: \$150 donated for State Schools' Relief.
 - A working bee was held late in year to erect the first stage of new brightly coloured playground equipment.
 - Camp for Grades 5-6 to Fraser National Park.

1980s Reminiscences

• Robert Batty, bank officer, ex-student 1980-83.
I've always looked back on my days with Harrisfield fondly.... During my time of enrolment I was a member of the school football team, and also held the "important" roles of "lunch monitor" and "corridor monitor" (which I'm sure would get a laugh nowadays). I even remember when the school hall was just a roof for several years (until 1983) until we raised enough money to purchase the bricks. Many wet and windy lunch times were spent huddled under the roof looking for a dry patch!

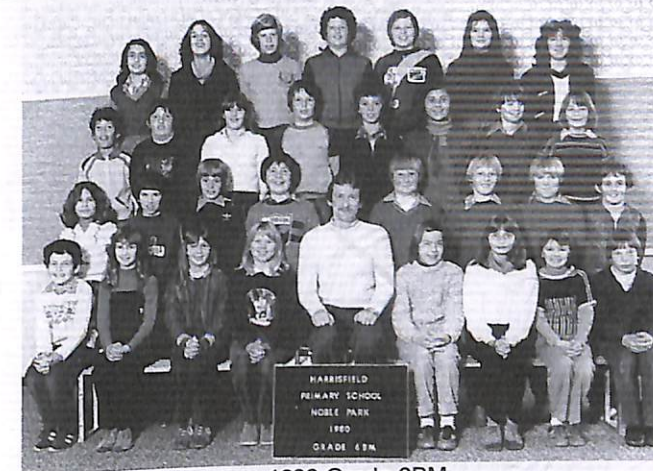
• Filomena Shearer (nee Golotta), ex-student 1981-82, now parent of Harrisfield student.
I remember the School Concert at Springvale town hall & the rumour about a green hand in the tunnel under the hill.

• Slaiana Tarko, ex-student 1982-83 and parent of Harrisfield student and ex-student.
Mr Peter Fimmel and Mr Bill Glennie were my teachers and they went out of their way to help me lots as I just came from overseas. My youngest daughter still attends HPS and my son finished in 2004.

• Rachel Fava, ex-student 1980-87.
I remember Mr Watkins and Grade 2. The day we cooked spaghetti, drank red cordial and listened to UB40's "Red Red Wine". Everyday he would write in our diary, he made every subject fun and exciting. Full of life and had a true passion for the job.

• Leng Te, ex-student 1985-1990.
I remember in Grade 4 our teacher, Mrs Eeles, was partially deaf. She taught us all to sign the alphabet and I still remember how to do it after all these years! We also built a model of an aboriginal hut in the middle of our classroom, complete with cellophane fire and all.

1980s Grade 6 Photos



Unfortunately this photo was not located before publication date.

1980 Grade 5&6



1980 Grade 6BM



1981 Grade 6KE



1981 Grade 6KB



1982 Grade 6KB



1982 Grade 5&6 JC



1983 Grade 6BG

1982 Grade 6KE

1980s Grade 6 Photos (cont.)



1983 Grade 6BM



1984 Grade 6BM



1983 Grade 6LB



1984 Grade 6WG



1985 Grade 5&6EB



1985 Grade 6BM



1985 Grade 6DC



1986 Grade 6GF

1980s Grade 6 Photos (cont.)



1986 Grade 6RM



1987 Grade 6RM



1987 Grade 6WL



1988 Grade 5&6WL



1988 Grade 6RM



1989 Grade 6JA



1989 Grade 6MN



• June 22, 2005: Most of the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee - Warwick, Meredith, Glenda, Julie, Bev, Jenny, Cathy, Georgina, Allan, Sylvia & Barry (photo Melinda McCabe)

On the staff since 1982, Meredith laconese recalls her early years at Harrisfield.

My first memories of Harrisfield were of parking my car in the Jewel Foodstore carpark early on the morning of Monday February 15th 1982. I met another new teacher in the carpark and we both wandered around the school-yard looking for the office. I met the then principal, John Harris who introduced me to Infant Mistress, Maureen Hagan. Maureen's words to me were - Welcome and always remember, you'll get more from Harrisfield students with a spoonful of honey than with a spoonful of lemon. I have remembered this advice and have since passed it on to many staff members. John then led me to my room where I began what was to be a six week term at Harrisfield.

Sadly I was appointed because staff members Brenda Mason and Jenny Crawford had been seriously injured in a car accident at the Browns Road intersection a few days before. I was filling in for Brenda who hadn't had a chance to set up her classroom prior to her accident. There were very few supplies in the room but it didn't take me long to find out where Maureen Hogan stored the goodies. I have fond memories of sneaking out with Lyn Bishop, my next door neighbour (and lifesaver that first year) during Sylvia Stollery's R.E. lessons to the sounds of children's voices singing 'Rise and shine.....' to raid the junior storeroom.

After my initial six weeks I was told that it might be a little bit longer. I received this message many times that year and finally when Brenda did return in October it was decided that I should stay with 3BM now 3MH until the end of the year. It was a fun year, I remember clearly being organised by 2 female students (Anne O'Hoy and Raelene Wood) who were keen 'table tidiers' and finding it difficult keeping up with the mathematical prowess of Chris Economou and being overawed by the perfect formation of Brett Smith's handwriting. We had lots of fun with table challenges where the teams were countries of the Commonwealth and medals were made of colored cardboard to celebrate the Commonwealth Games. 3MH were typical Harrisfield students full of life and very loving.

The end of the year came and I was still there because Kris Elliott was going on long-service leave until May and I was to start the year with her grade 4 class. I had many of the same students but was now teaching with Cherie Wilson (Mutimer) and Debbie Sewell. This was the year of Ash Wednesday and I remember being in room 11 on that particularly hot day. It was late afternoon and suddenly the weather outside changed and the wind strengthened. We had to close the windows because things were going wild outside. The 'school carport' had recently been converted into Macdonald Hall, complete with parquet floor but no toilets or cooking facilities. Cherie, Debbie and I decided to have a sleepover for all of the year 4 students. It was terrific fun, we had a sausage sizzle for tea and hot chocolate for supper in the staffroom and then it was off to bed, or so we thought. With no toilets in the hall we had that fun task of walking each child to the breezeway every time they needed to go - all throughout the night and I mean all throughout the night. Silly me decided to set up my bed right next to the exit door.

After Kris returned I moved into 1GG because Gail Griffin had left to have a baby. I went from 18 settled grade 4 students to 34 very active grade 1 students. What a shock! Luckily I was working across the corridor from Jan Smith (Colquhoun) and what a team that was. Every Friday afternoon Maureen took the students out to the portable for films on the old Eiki projector and Jan and I would plan for the week ahead. There was a lot of money in the school at that time because we were part of the disadvantaged Schools Program. It was fantastic because we had access to quality materials for book making and ran a clubs program with activities such as hobbitex and

other expensive craft materials. There are parents out in the community who still speak of our clubs activities with fond memories. Rebekah Smithett (Shulver) was in that class and taught at Harrisfield in 2004. Another student was Filomena Golotta who now has a daughter attending Harrisfield. There is saying amongst staff and families that no one ever truly leaves Harrisfield and I believe it.

Some time during my three years in grade one Jan and I packed our 64 grade one students onto the local Grenda's bus and travelled up Princes Hwy to Dandenong Market to shop for lunch. Fortunately we had lots of parent helpers and only had 10 children each in our care but it was a bit tricky getting them on and off the bus to say nothing of paying for their tickets. Another adventure was walking those same students up the highway to the newly opened McDonald's store on the corner of Eloner Road. That was a treat, after a tour of the whole store the children were treated to free French fries and a drink.

That was the year of the very first and oh so successful 'house of fundraising chocolate drive.' We sold so many chocolates that year that once they were delivered there was very little space in room 4 for the students, to say nothing of Mrs Hagan's yellow Toyota when she ferried the larger orders to the homes of many families.

By the mid 80's it was time for a change and I moved to the other building to teach grade 5 in room 18. For those two years our school camp was a real camp to Fraser National Park. We borrowed equipment from Dandenong High and filled classrooms with camping equipment for days before. Not only were we under canvas but we were cooking in a tent and driving mini buses all the way. The first camp was the year of Halley's Comet and one night at 2am we woke to the sound of animals galloping through the compound. In a state of panic we crawled out of our sleeping bags only to find a large group of students fully dressed, tents tidied playing 'spotto' in the dark and pretending to look for the comet. There was no sleeping-in for them the next morning. That was one of the most amazing experiences I have had at HPS because we really had taken the students out of their comfort zones and watching their growth was fantastic. Lake Eildon was very low that year and we had a wonderful time playing in the lake and making mud slides. I don't think the students ever got their hair really clean. In 1987 a new teacher came to Harrisfield. His name was Bill Liston (now Principal at Yarraman Park) and he had a passion for teaching his students to play the drums - on their desk tops - every afternoon after lunch - during my silent reading period. This got better as the year progressed. He moved to recorders, religiously rehearsed in the same time slot.

The eighties at Harrisfield were good fun. We had terrific students and a great staff. There was lots of money in the school for resources and programs. Jack Harris who was the Principal in the early to mid eighties encouraged all staff, no matter what their level of experience to take on many varied responsibilities. It was during that time that the role of fundraising moved out of the hands of the Mothers' Club and into the hands of teachers simply because we told Jack we wanted to manage all the money and not have to ask for small amounts at a time.

Our first project was a whole school math-a-thon that raised enough money to purchase and install ceiling fans in all classes. Maureen the infant mistress/deputy principal was very passionate about the welfare of all students and modelled this through her every movement. There was one time she couldn't open her office door because she had collected so many clothes for one family in need. In those years Maureen was Harrisfield and watch out anyone who didn't put the kids first, second and third.

1990

Victorian High Schools mostly became known as Secondary Colleges. 1c and 2c coins withdrawn.

- Enrolment 300.
- Kathie Jacobs employed as Canteen Manageress.
- First Christmas Concert in the Hall - no charge.
- School Council President - Graham Kilby

1991

USSR (Soviet Union) collapsed. Internet World Wide Web made available for public access.



- Repainting of the school from green to cream started. Classrooms were painted after the removal of wallpaper. Here parent Mrs Van Dyk and her helper do some painting.
- Office of Corrections offenders assisted with the repainting and commencement of the garden revamp.

- Stage 2 of new playground equipment was installed.
- End of an era - Mothers' Club had a name change to Parents and Friends Association at the end of the year.

1992

Poker machines introduced to Victoria.

- The current Logo featuring the gum leaf and blossom was designed by Colin Harvey - parent.
- Kathie Jacobs re-appointed Canteen Manageress.
- Parent Participation Committee formed as a separate identity to Parents and Friends Assoc. Aim - Parental involvement with curriculum development and classroom participation. Coordinator Anne Nicholls. Parents would participate in activities such as International Week Harrisfield Expo, T.R.I. program (Towards Real Independence) - tutoring, Twilight sports, Parenting skills program - S.T.E.P., parent library, SHARE and School concerts.
- Pergola started on North side of Junior Building by Brad Allen, Angelo LiDonni and Michael Ferraro.
- 3-4 Camp to Gundiwindi at Silvan.
- 5-6 camp Island Bay Ranch, Newhaven, Phillip Island.
- Collected \$210,000.00 in Coles docketts for Apple Computers and soft ware.
- 'Farewell to Concrete Jungle' newspaper article in June reported completion of the 3-year redevelopment plan funded by the Parents & Friends Association and using working bees and Office of Corrections offenders. The latter assisted also with removal of concrete paving for new gardens and with preparation of a large sand pit.
- December 3: School Christmas Concert.
- Again awarded ANA prize for "Most improved garden" and grounds", Southern Region.

1993

Sydney awarded 2000 Olympics.

- School started with 284 pupils in 11 classes.
- Became a 'School of the Future'
- Pergola completed on North Side of Junior wing.
- Out of School Hours program run by Frances Curson and Margaret Abela was closed after two years.
- Bike Education for Grades 4, 5 & 6s.
- Parents & Friends run Disco for students.
- Dollarmite accounts opened for student banking.

- Mural Launches featured in Channel 7 news & Journal newspaper
- Cathy O'Brien employed as Canteen Manageress
- Games Night/Auction. Community paid \$20.00 in exchange for Gambling (play) money, trying their luck to build their 'bank'. At the end of the evening an auction enabled them to spend their profits on prizes donated. This fundraiser started in 1992.
- Sleep-over in Meeting room.

October: Edna Marsh retired from the Education Dept after 42 years of service, including 3 separate periods of service at Harrisfield, between 1956 & 87. She had been a regional maths consultant since '76.



1994

Native Title (Mabo) Bill became law.

- Compulsory uniform introduced.
- Parent Participation International lunch & dance night.
- New brochure designed to publicise the School.
- Shade area constructed outside junior wing by parents Ian O'Brien and John Cannon.

1995

Current PM John Howard elected Liberal leader. Privatised Victorian electricity suppliers sold-off.

- Fathers' day stall made \$50.85 profit.
- Mothers' day stall made \$296.85 profit.
- May enrolments - 264 Pupils.
- Bushwahzee Concert.
- Healthy Food Day.
- Twilight Sports.
- Japanese students from Japan visit the School.
- Hawthorn Footy players visit T. Hargraves and R. Tallis Football Clinic.
- Information Technology Night organised for parents.

October 11-17: Grade 5-6 with Kathy Watson made a Refugee Week Quilt for the local Language School.



From one school to another

KATHY Watson and Year 5/6 students from Harrisfield Primary School recently presented an embroidered hanging to students at Noble Park English Language School. Two Noble Park students had been featured in a program shown on the Interactive Satellite Learning Network (ISLN) during Refugee Week. The Harrisfield class watched the program and chose words to express their feelings about refugee experiences. Kathy taught them to embroider and the result was a beautiful wall hanging and a special experience shared with the students of Noble Park ELS.

- Author Elizabeth Honey visited.
- Change from Oil Heaters to Gas.



September: The Fire Brigade brought "Kit" the Fire Dog to the school to teach children fire safety and the need to crawl low in a fire situation. (photo Cathy O'Brien)

- Teachers went on strike over LAP testing (Learning Assessment Program).
- Mould for Graduation key ring purchased by Parents and Friends.

November 20: 'Cow Pat Bingo' and Car Boot sale raised \$2200. Tickets \$5.00 with \$1000 prize for the lucky ticket/plot holder. The community waited patiently for the beast (shown) to do its "business" on the marked oval. BINGO we had success and a winner. (photo Cathy O'Brien)



- Special guests and School community invited to share a special farewell luncheon for Helen Turnbull (catered for by Parents and Friends). However she returned at the commencement of the 1996 school year.

1996

Port Arthur massacre, Tasmania.

- February 1: Enrolled 274. Average size 30. 55 Preps.
- Bosnian multi-cultural aide employed.
- Caromodel Clydesdale horses visit.
- August 30: Trivia Night.
- Survey to parents with logo preferences for Uniform. Current Logo accepted.
- Compulsory Uniform.
- 5/6 Camp to Port of Echuca.
- Reading Recovery Program involving intensive teaching at a ratio of 1:1.
- Author and screenplay writer Chris Milne, author of "Naughty Stories for Good Girls and Boys" visited the School in May and read to students.
- Gifted and Talented Students - Special program to further extend abilities
- International lunch and concert.

1997

Death of Princess Diana. Thredbo landslide.

- Service Award presented for \$76 raised for Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.
- July - 255 Pupils.

- Painting of junior wing.
- Children participated in Tournaments of the Minds at Monash University.
- Fund raiser - baby photos of staff.
- Parent Participation (formally Parents and Friends) funded purchase of a key ring given to Grade 6 graduates.
- Bushwahzee (Bush Band) workshop for students during school hours with parent invited to join them for the evening dance.
- New play ground area established.
- Shade cloth erected over sand pit.
- Information technology room created.

1998

Australian astronaut Andy Thomas spent four months in space. Devastating Gippsland floods.

- February: Enrolment 255 pupils.
- Royal Auto Magazine featured crossing supervisors Ken and Joan Davis with Harrisfield students.



Lions Club award was presented by David Pool (centre) to Meaghan O'Brien (l) and Izolda Budai for their "outstanding contribution to Harrisfield School" through "invaluable services and cooperation extended". Principal Ray Heathcote (2nd right). (photo from Cathy O'Brien)

- December 16: Net Day working bee team laid 2.1 km of cable, connecting 2 buildings, using cable & conduit, installed 2 Network Hubs and cabinets and terminated 4 computer points up through the floor in each class room. Ian O'Brien, Kit Woodward, John Cannon and Joe McLelland spent the entire day on their backs crawling under the school while staff and parents tended to the above ground business.

1999

Australian Peace-keepers sent to East Timor. Republic Referendum lost. CityLink opened.

- February: Enrolment 225 pupils.
- Play Group opened for business.
- Air conditioning installed in all rooms.



June 23: Morning tea for the school's bursar for over 25 years and longest-ever serving staff member, Mrs Helen Turnbull, farewelled on her change of school. She was presented with a briefcase from the Parent Participation Committee. A self-confessed "netball fanatic", she is a life member of both the Springvale and Northcote Netball Associations. She recalled earlier years when the School had "portables all over the main oval", but had seen enrolment numbers gradually decline from 600 to currently 225, as new schools opened.

- Sovereign Hill camp.
- Star Lab incursion for grades 5&6.
- November 6: Election Day doughnuts raised \$600.00 profit, while Facilities committee, (Kit Woodward, Ian O'Brien, and John Cannon) under the supervision of Meredith Iaconese, and ably assisting parents, transformed the old garden area behind the hall into the Play Group play area. The old wooden play equipment was demolished on the same day. All works carried out in drenching rain.
- Ramps constructed over Holiday Dec. - Jan. break.



Let's Play: parents, pupils and staff at Harrisfield Primary School in the shaded sandpit they built.

Socialising in the sandpit

WITH increasing time pressures on parents and more families where both parents work, concern often centres on the children having a safe and supervised area in which to play. With this in mind, and the lack of an organised playgroup in the immediate vicinity, staff and parents at Noble Park's Harrisfield Primary School set about creating one at the school.

enthusiasm and materials supplied by the Bunnings Warehouse store just up the road, staff and parents built a safe area in the school-grounds.

The result was some new playground equipment, including a shaded sandpit, and the school will operate a registered playgroup for the start of next year using the newly-built equipment as well as existing school facilities.

the playgroup offered both parents and children the opportunity to socialise.

"As many parents of young children do not have a car, they are somewhat isolated and the children are missing out on the opportunity to socialise with children of similar ages," she said.

Families interested in joining the play group can contact the school on 9546 9210.

November 17 newspaper cutting

1990s Reminiscences

John Davies, Classroom helper.

We arrived in Australia as migrants in March 1967 - my wife Nancy and our three children. Janet who was eleven years old attended Harrisfield School in 1967 until transferred to senior school in Noble Park. My first recollection of Harrisfield School was the friendly and homely attitude of the staff and I have fond memories of assisting in the art room when I retired from the post office. The murals in the school hall are the children's work with my assistance. Later on I gave children some understanding about poetry and I discovered that children are natural poets. My grandsons Luke and Glenn French were pupils at Harrisfield, and helped with some murals in a corridor of the school. They were the happiest memories of helping at Harrisfield and I would still be helping even now, but I am 82 and unsteady on my pins. It's a beautiful school. Good on you Harrisfield!



This page acknowledges Geoff Warren, ex-student 1957-1962, whose very early and significant donation to the 50th Anniversary Committee enabled them to begin the serious planning for the Anniversary celebrations.

Yearly Enrolment Numbers

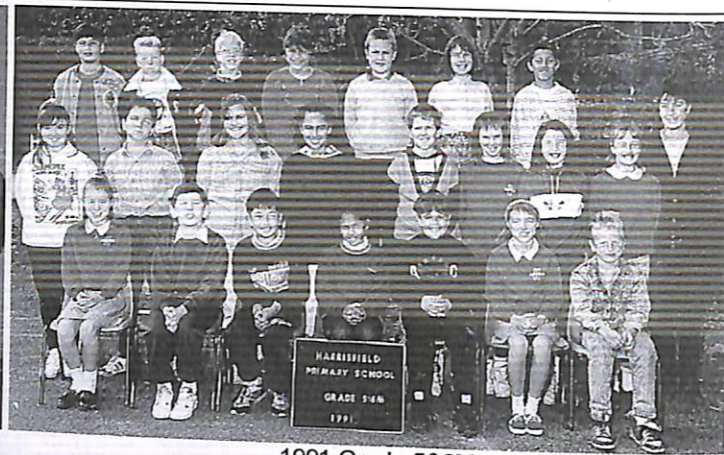
The figures below are derived from archived newsletters and reports and may differ from official figures, but show the number of students enrolled on the particular day of each of the various reports during the year. For simplicity, dates of these reports are shown elsewhere in this book's text, but not here. For any given year the total number of individual students who spent time at the school will be higher than the average daily enrolment - for example in 1968, not including Prep intakes and Grade 6 graduates, 110 students moved in and 110 moved out, with 701 different students attending for some part of the year (775 in 1973 appears to be the highest such "attendance").

1955	183, 204
1956	261
1957	334
1958	384
1959	338, 333
1960	368, 380, 392
1961	409, 389
1962	412, 410
1963	403, 412, 410, 407, 411
1964	430, 423, 452
1965	471, 452
1966	514, 518
1967	540, 550, 551, 563, 567, 571, 575, 582, 603
1968	603, 605, 603
1969	578, 579, 591
1970	633, 642, 640
1971	654, 656
1972	639, 645
1973	626
1974	628, 620, 603
1975	596, 587
1976	610
1977	549, 550, 540
1978	more than 493 (class photos)
1979	516
1980	459, 447, 455
1981	429, 425
1982	394, 430, 443
1983	431, 444, 421
1984	392, 407, 388
1985	378, 340, 360
1986	325, 329, 322
1987	316, 318
1988	320, 323, <300
1989	315
1990	300
1991	more than 289 (class photos)
1992	more than 302 (class photos)
1993	284
1994	?
1995	264
1996	274
1997	255
1998	255
1999	225
2000	208
2001	229
2002	more than 229 (class photos)
2003	247
2004	254, 258
2005	242

1990s Grade 6 Photos



1990 Grades 6AM & 6MN



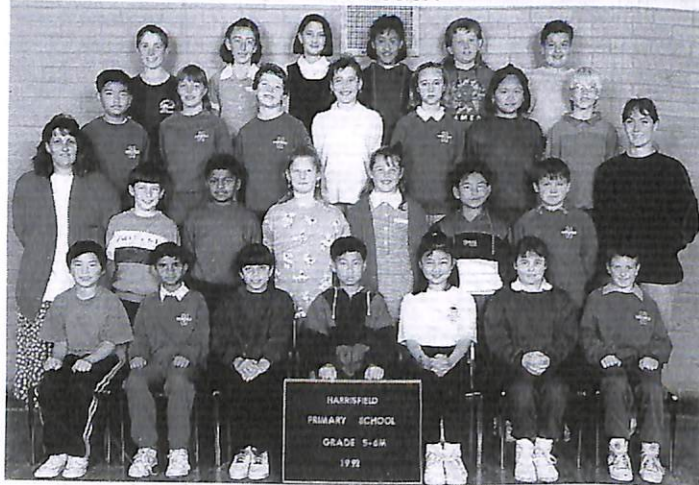
1991 Grade 5&6M



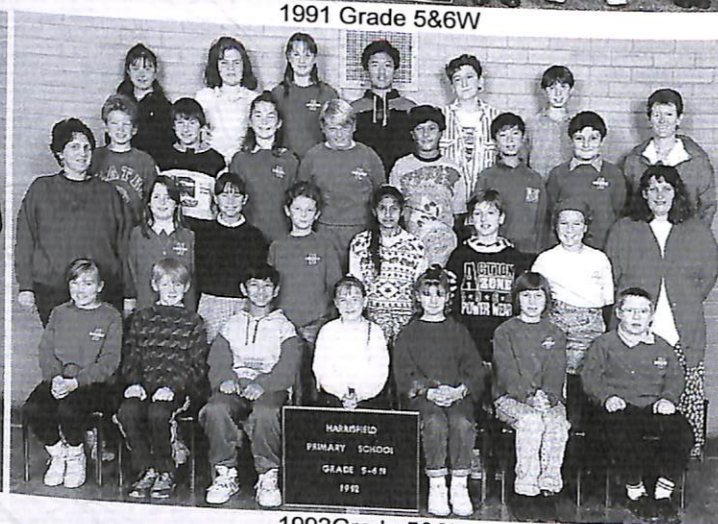
1991 Grade 5&6N



1991 Grade 5&6W



1992 Grade 5&6M



1992 Grade 5&6N

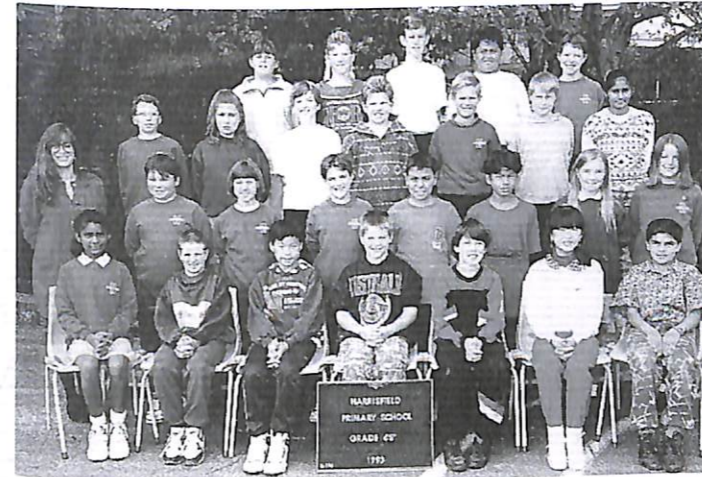


1992 Grade 5&6W



1993 Grade 5&6M

1990s Grade 6 Photos (cont.)



1993 Grade 6S



1994 Grade 5&6I (photo from Cathy O'Brien)

Unfortunately this photo was not located before publication date.



1995 Grade 5&6S

1994 Grade 5&6?



1995 Grade 5&6W



1996 Grade 5&6S



1997 Grade 5&6A



1997 Grade 5&6K

1990s Grade 6 Photos (cont.)



1997 Grade 5&6S



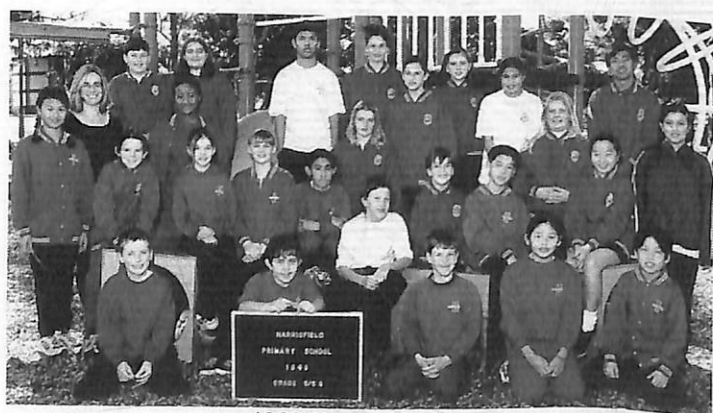
1998 Grade 6S (photo from Cathy O'Brien)



1999 Grade 5&6B

Unfortunately this photo was not located before publication date.

1998 Grade 5&6W



1999 Grade 5&6S

Ex-Harrisfield People

Some ex-students who married ex-students:

- Kay Hoskin and Don Fraser
- Sandra Wright and Michael Cogley
- Theresa Dubois and Richard Carlson
- Cheryl Gilchrist and Michael Carus
- Jennifer Wood and Wayne Tyres
- Heather Heward and Sean Webster

Ex-Harrisfield People

Carrying on the Educational Tradition

- Ex-students who themselves became teachers very likely number in the hundreds. They include:
- Peter Fimmel, ex-student 1963-65 who returned to teach at the school from 1977-88.
 - Sia Trethewey (nee Van Barneveld), ex-student 1958-64 who returned as a teacher for various years between 1974 & 1985.
 - Rebekah Smithett (nee Schulver), ex-student 1982-1987 who returned to teach for 2004.
 - Glenys Thompson, ex-student 1961-67 who returned as a student teacher in 1974.
 - Gillian Ward (nee Harkness), ex-student 1960-66 who returned as a student teacher in 1974/75.
 - Mark Kosach ex-student 1961-67, currently Principal of Springvale Secondary College.
 - Jim Veal, ex-student 1955-59, Head Teacher or Principal of Primary Schools in Victoria, the NT and the ACT; now retired.
 - Jenny Duggan (nee Van der Heyden), ex-student 1967-73, currently Assistant Principal at Fountain Gate Primary School.

2000

Olympic Games held in Sydney. Predicted Y2K computer bug had little impact. GST introduced.

- 9 classes. August census 208 - 110 boys & 98 girls.
- Triennial review: "the school has 20 different nationalities represented by a majority of overseas students - Yugoslav Republic, Vietnam, Cambodia & Sri Lanka. 48% speak another language & 32% born in another country".
- Building of Hall veranda by Councillors Ian O'Brien and Kit Woodward, with support from staff and parents.
- Chocolate Drive made \$3120.00 profit.
- Parent Participation prepared a Recipe book for sale.
- Priority for new Charter - to implement the Health and Well Being policy.
- A combined schools fete at Burden Park raised approximately \$1000.
- Gym Bus attended by all grades.
- 5-6 camp to Echuca.



"Question Time" during a Victorian Parliament excursion. (photo from Cathy O'Brien)

- "There's no Business like Show Business" concert at Noble Park English Language School. Staff act - "Shake a Tail Feather".
- Parent computer program run over several weeks to "skill up" parents for the technology world.

2001

September 11 terrorist attack in New York.

- February 28: Enrolments on census day totalled 229.
- Glenda McCabe (School Council President) designed the artwork for the school's cards, with Kate Steel (office staff) assisting with paintwork.
- Breakfast Program began, offering students toast, juice and an exercise program.
- Tim Holding M.P. presented International Year of the Volunteer certificates to worthy recipients for their services to the Harrisfield community.
- Students received Commemorative Medallions to celebrate the Year of Federation.



- Harrisfield students conducted a regular radio program on Community Radio 97.7 SER. "On the air" in the photo are Juanita Coakes and Jacinta Clarkson.
- Relocation of playground from front of School.
- Relocation of sand pit into old shelter shed.
- Relocation of sick bay to office area.
- External & internal painting of School.



- \$1000.00 Grant received for Asian studies. Chinese Zodiac was the 'Year of the Snake'. Each member of the school created a Snake Scale (283) resulting in a 12 metre, 3D snake permanently displayed outside the office.

2002

Bali bombing killed 202 including 89 Australians.

- Walking School Bus established. Route: Ardgower & Kelvinside Roads corner to Through Rd and Bowmore Rd.
- March 18: AGM Guest Speaker, Melanie Vivian, a player with the Melbourne Kestrels netball team.
- Uniform - introduction of tunic and skirts as optional extra for girls.
- Multicultural Quilt, representing 17 countries Harrisfield PS students originated from, was displayed at 'Proud to Participate' shop in Leonard Ave, Noble Park.
- All full-time teaching staff nominated for the "Excellence in Teaching" award.
- Chris Rothery (ex-student 1957-59) won a "National Excellence in Teaching Award" for SA & NT Region.
- Preps visited Chesterville Farm.
- Steel fences erected around the main building and play ground block.
- Carnival raised \$4297.65.
- November: New garden area was established at the front of the school.
- "Mad Day" (Make a Difference Day) saw children go mad about weeding and keeping the school clean. They dressed in green and planted 200 native trees.
- Drive-in movie on School oval screened Monster Inc.

2003

SARS outbreak in Asia disrupted travel and trade. Australian troops joined invasion of Iraq (March).

- March 29: Harmony Day. Students learnt about different countries and their cultures.
- Life Education van visited.
- "Cuppa for Cancer" raised \$100.00.
- John Taylor received a Certificate from the Department of Education for Commitment and Effort over many years at Harrisfield Primary School.
- Tibetan flags made by each child served as a daily reminder that we can *Make a Difference*.
- Arts Fiesta: Harrisfield children participated in both performing arts and visual arts, ranging from painting and photography, to dancing and filmmaking.
- Rock and roll community/social dance raised \$672.00.
- Grades 3-4s two day camp to Wombat Corner in Emerald.
- September 2: Back to School Day attended by about 30 ex-students and teachers including 7 original students.

- Allan Griffin visited the School, donating Aust. wattle trees to commemorate the victims of the Bali bombing.
- 11 classes. Enrolment in December 247.
- Graduation night - Scholarships presented to worthy Grade 6 students for *Involvement at HPS, Love of Learning, Demonstration of ACE values, and Leadership*. The sponsors were Tobin Brothers, City of Greater Dandenong, and BASF Australia.

2004

Boxing Day Tsunami killed 230000+ in SE Asia.

- February 11: First meeting for the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee. Celebration day set for July 30, 2005.



• Crossing supervisors Joan and Ken Davis were farewelled after 21 years and 13 years service respectively.

- Japanese filmmakers featured our students in an Educational Video for the film "Australia's Multiracial Society, Social Services and Cultural Affairs".
- April 1-24: Students exhibited their works in Harrisfield's "My Special Place" Art Project at Walker Street Gallery in Dandenong (see Arts section).
- 254 enrolled students from 35 language groups.
- Principal Fran Luke awarded an Australian Council of Educational Leadership Fellowship.
- Knitting Club for Grades 5-6 students with CWA.
- August: Dean Hutton (host of Curiosity Show) visited the School for our Science Show.
- District Netball and Soccer Champions.

SCHOOL SLOWDOWN

We ask parents of children at Noble Park's Harrisfield Primary School for their views on permanent 40km/h school speed zones.



Gordana Dudukovic, Noble Park: I think they should always have it (40km/h speed limits). It's slow enough.



Debbie Jansz, Noble Park: It makes sense that the traffic would be busiest in the mornings and afternoons but there's not much sense in having 40km/h limits outside those times.



Saeed Eghanian, Harrisfield: Definitely around schools it should be 40km/h. After 3.30pm if there are no kids around I guess it's all right to be 60km/h.



Megan Whitaker, Noble Park: I think whatever safety we can give to children at school is good. A driver at 40km/h has much more ability to stop than a driver at 50km/h or 60km/h. They have it in NSW and it's a wonderful system.



Glennys Forbes, Noble Park: I think you need 40km/h, even during the day. I think it needs to be permanent.



Natalie Cole, Keysborough: I think it should be just during school hours. They should definitely be 40km/h during pick up and drop off times. It's not that bad for drivers that way, but if it was 40km/h all the time you'd have traffic problems.

- Student Courtney Merrett won a \$600 Rotary Club writing competition.
- Fourth in Chess Club tournament.
- Grade Six performed progressive dance at their graduation night.
- December enrolment 258, with 33 Grade 6s finishing.

2005

Harrisfield Primary School turns 50 on July 4.

- Average size of class 18-20.
- February: Enrolment 242 (highly transient, 39 preps).
- School Council office bearers: Glenda McCabe (President), Fran Luke (CEO), Max Singh (Vice Pres.), Meredith Iaconese (Treasurer) and Julie Dickson (Sec.).
- Up date to plumbing.
- Staffroom refurbished/ extended, old sick bay gone.
- Principal Fran Luke awarded International Study Tour to Harvard Business School.
- New style bomber jackets introduced for Grade 6.
- Graduate teacher Naomi Kobayashi from Japan placed at HPS April - Dec. (hosted by a family).
- July 4: Harrisfield School turns 50.
- Saturday July 30: 50th Anniversary celebrations day.

2000s Reminiscences

- Rosetta Isma (nee De Bortoli), ex-student 1955-58, parent of Harrisfield students and school councillor '79-80s
Quite unexpectedly I find myself this year taking my grandson to the playgroup in Macdonald Hall. So this is the third generation in our family, and like before it is very welcoming. Only two weeks into playgroup I was confronted by Meredith Iaconese who has been at the school for 20 years, so the wheel goes full circle.

Harrisfield non-Classroom Staff

(these lists may not be complete)

Office Staff:

- Helen Turnbull 1973 - 99
- Gloria Kashmiri (P/T) 1991 - 92
- Sonita Devi (P/T) 1997
- Kate Steel 1998 - 2005
- Debbie Gillies 1999 - 2005

Canteen Managers:

- Margaret Greenham 1976 - 77
- Florrie Draper 1977 - 88
- Karen Kennedy 1988 - 90
- Kathie Jacobs 1990 - 93
- Cathy O'Brien 1993 - present

Cleaners:

- Mrs Williams 1955
- Mr and Mrs Van Wonderen 1955/56
- Mrs Zalitis 1956 - 1973
- Mr M. Boyd 1970s - 1980
- Mr B. Cashman late 1970s
- Mark Farrell 1980s
- Mr S. LeGassick early 1980s
- Lee Farrell (P/T) 1980s
- Martin Pullen 1980s - 1990s
- P. Cashman late 1987
- Warrick Turnbull (P/T) late 1980s
- Allan Brown 1988 - 1990s
- Loretta and Tony Ariagarda 1990s
- Julie Dickson 2003 - 2005
- Rosie Chaplin 2003 - 2005

2000s Grade 6 Photos



2000 Grade 6



2001 Grade 6



2002 Grade 5&6K



2002 Grade 5&6S



2003 Grade 6



2004 Grade 6

The ARTS

- 1958: Weekly music instruction by a visiting specialist.
- 1961: Teacher Keith Brereton posted to the school. Applying his talents and enthusiasm, musical appreciation was embraced at the school during his 22-year tenure.



- 1962: I can remember being part of the school musical play, a dwarf in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, on presentation night / Parent Teacher night.
- Photo & comment: Gary Liddy, ex-student 1956-1962.

- 1963 December: Grades 4-6 re-staged "Snow White".

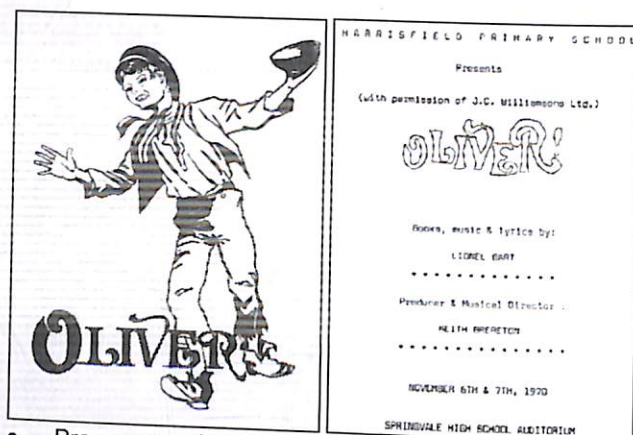
Grade 6 teacher Keith Brereton was the driving force behind musical appreciation and development at the school. During the 1970s and 1980s a number of very popular stage shows were performed by the students under Keith's directorship, including "Oliver", "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat", and "Jonah Man Jazz". These productions were both ambitious and very entertaining and were held variously in the Noble Park High School assembly Hall, the Dandenong Town Hall, the Noble Park Uniting Church and later in our own Macdonald Hall. It was also during this time that Keith Brereton composed the school song.

- Gary Matthews, School Committee & Council 1976-82
- 1966: Mr Johnson was a Beatles fan so he decided to get four of us Grade 4 boys and make us into junior Beatles. There was George Janson, Gary Tippet, Greg McGill and myself John Liddy. George and I played our namesakes. I cannot remember who Greg and Gary played. We had plastic wigs and guitars. We learnt two songs 'Do You Want To Know A Secret' and 'All My Loving'. We sang to our class and Miss Johnson's class. I thought it was fantastic fun and to this day I am still a great Beatles fan. I don't know what we sounded like, as I cannot sing to save myself.
- John Liddy, ex-student 1962-68.

- 1967 December 18: Another staging of "Snow White".
- 1970 Nov 6 & 7: An ambitious production of "Oliver!" was staged in Springvale High School auditorium to great acclaim. (Keith Brereton Producer & Musical Director).

The Festival Theatre Company subsequently auditioned and used our "Oliver" and "Artful Dodger" for their own production of "Oliver!" at Camberwell. Costumes were based on those in "Oliver and his Friends", the book of the movie. Purchase of the rights gave us a full orchestral score for 6 months, even though we used only piano and organ. Several ex-students came back from secondary school to play parts.

- Keith Brereton, Harrisfield teacher 1961-82.



- Programme above from Mrs Hilary Harkness, parent.



Peter White as "Oliver" featured in several media reports, including the cover of the Noble Park Scouts magazine (editor: Colin Tyrus, an ex-student). Costuming derived from "Oliver! and his friends", the book of the movie.



• A simple "Performers Certificate" had been designed for presentation to students participating in musical productions. (copy - Keith Brereton)

In terms of artistic pursuits, choir and performance of plays were a regular event. Keith Brereton, an accomplished singer, gave many children their first chance on stage. It was a marvellous experience being part of the school choir competing at the Dandenong Town Hall. With regard to school plays, "Oliver" was the most important to me. Myself and a few others, who had moved on to Noble Park High School, were invited back to play some of the adult roles in the play (I was Dr. Grimwig). Two of my brothers, Ian (the Artful Dodger) and Kevin (one of the boys) were both cast members with Peter White as Oliver. My two other brothers, Stephen and David, also attended the school but were too young at the time to join in. Quite a few Harrisfield boys then went on to play in the Festival Theatre production of "Oliver".... My two young boys James and William attend the Munich International School were my wife Robynne is the early childhood co-ordinator and school choreographer. The

school also did a production of the musical Oliver last year where my eldest son took part as a workhouse boy, completing a family tradition I guess, after so many years.

- Ron Exner, Munich, ex-student 1962-67

I have very deep and fond memories of Harrisfield in the late 60s. Keith Brereton directed the first musical in the school - "Oliver". It was the first time I ever wore a costume and performed on stage. I was in the chorus. I remember one little boy in rehearsals getting over-enthusiastic about his role as a pickpocket and he snuck up on Mr Brereton and stole the pay cheque out of his back pocket. We all fell about laughing. Of course he gave the pay cheque back. I was 7 years old and it was totally magic. I got the bug for performing and I went on to become a theatre restaurant actor and freelance television actor. I now teach Drama myself at Buckley Park College.

- Margie Pellegrino (nee Bainbridge), ex-student '65-71.

I have very fond memories of singing in the choir with Mr Brereton.

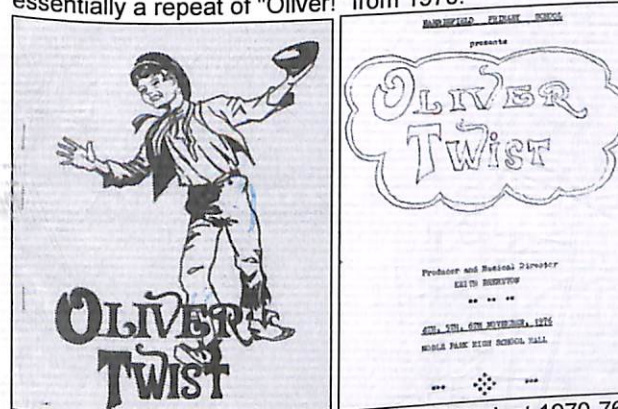
- Suzanne Johnson, ex-student 1966-72.

I still remember teacher Judy King playing her guitar and belting out some cool tunes. Those were the days, not a care in the world.

- Eddie Jost, ex-student 1971-75.

• 1976 August 14: Participation in Schools Music Festival at Noble Park High School.

• 1976 November 4, 5 & 6: "Oliver Twist" was staged, essentially a repeat of "Oliver!" from 1970.



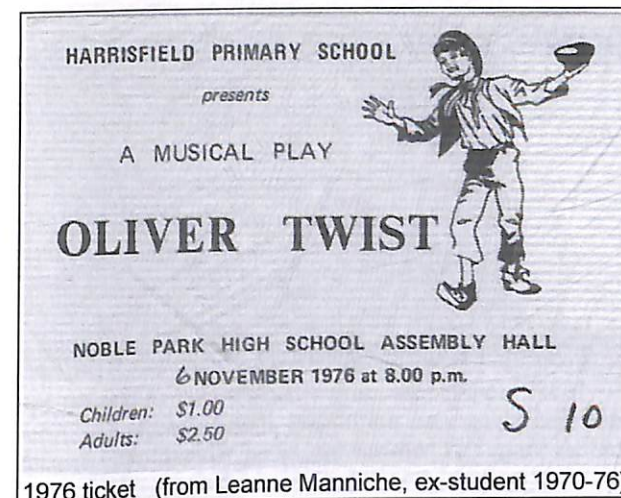
- Above items - Leanne Manniche, ex-student 1970-76.



Chris Wenn as Bill Sykes, with cast. (photo L. Manniche)



Oliver Twist girls 1976 (photo from Keith Brereton)



1976 ticket (from Leanne Manniche, ex-student 1970-76)



- 1978 May 9: Grade 6 performed "A Minstrel Show" at the Dandenong Youth Music Festival.



- 1978 December 13: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat" was performed at Noble Park Secondary College Hall, Keith Brereton musical director.



This page donated by Ron Exner, ex-student 1962-67, whose predecessors migrated from Germany in 1857 to Dandenong. In 1959 his parents moved to Ambrie Crescent. Ron relocated to Munich in 1990 as Director Research and Development Packaging for Kraft Foods.



1979 August 14: "Jonah Man Jazz", presented at Dandenong Music Festival, used many of "Joseph's" costumes.

- 1979: An end of year concert featured a variety of performances by different groups from within the school.
- 1981: "Jonah Man Jazz" musical play (produced by Keith Brereton) was performed at the Dandenong Arts Festival (April 7) & Noble Park Uniting Church (May 4) and a "Christmas Jazz" musical (Grades 5 & 6) was performed at venues in Springvale, Noble Park and Berwick.
- 1982 September 26: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat" was performed at the Noble Park Uniting Church".
- 1982 November 12: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat" was performed at the opening of Macdonald Hall by the Music Club: director K. Brereton.

My greatest memories include the many musicals we did during my time at Harrisfield. Beginning with choirs competing in the Dandenong Festival we followed up with a couple of productions of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". For the Dandenong Festivals we did shortened versions of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", "Jonah Man Jazz" and "A Minstrel Show". Two productions of the complete "Oliver!" (1970 and 1976) were the highlight because of the standard we achieved through enthusiasm and cooperation of the children and parents. Students who took part still reminisce whenever we meet. The production of the complete "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" as part of the official opening of Macdonald Hall in 1982 served also as my farewell to Harrisfield after 22 years and remains as my final memory of hours of rehearsals ending in colourful energetic fun.

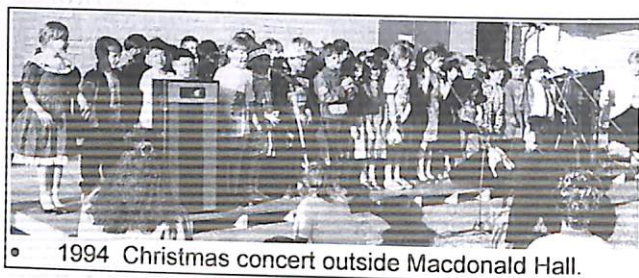
• Keith Brereton, Harrisfield teacher 1961-82.

I loved art class and library times. A bunch of students painted a mural that was to hang at the Noble Park Pools. A year later when I went to the pools with my high school class, there the painting was, in the girl's changing rooms! I was thrilled at the prospect of having a piece of art on public display. It's a great feeling for a 12 year old! I've since been keeping myself busy in the arts field, ... doing what I love to do, writing and performing my own work.

• Leng Te, song writer & performer, ex-student 1985-90



• 1992: Preps put on a colourful performance in the Christmas Concert at Noble Park Sec. College Hall (photo C. O'Brien)



• 1994 Christmas concert outside Macdonald Hall.



• 1998 Grade 5&6 performing in Bushwahzee.



• 1999 Another Bushwahzee performance. (above 3 photos from Cathy O'Brien)



• 2004: Apr 1-24 The "My Special Place" Art exhibition, highlighting students' diversity of culture and homelands, was held at the Walker Street Gallery in Dandenong.

• 2004 September 15: "Step Back In Time" staged at Noble Park Secondary College Hall, celebrating Harrisfield School's 50 years (script by Patrick Hughes and actors).

• 2005: "Harrisfield Harmonies" adult choir was formed.

SPORT

- 1955: Very early in the school's life some sporting activities were held on a paddock on the Eyre's farm across the highway. These were relatives of Edgar Harris, after whom the district was named.
- 1956: Regular swimming instruction was taking place at Dandenong Municipal baths.
- 1956 - June Newsletter: "The Dandenong District is now divided into two sections for competitive sport. Our school meets Noble Park and Springvale in football and basketball".
- 1956 or 1957: The girls marching team was coached to shield-winning performance at the School Sports by parent Mrs Marion Veal.
- 1958 February: 110 children were reported as having swimming instruction at Dandenong Baths.
- 1959 April: The Inspector reported that "The recent introduction of the 'House System' should see healthy rivalry in sporting events.". The houses were named Callander, Dixon, Bowmore and Princes after the streets surrounding the school, later to be known by their colours.

• 1962 Football Team (cutting Gary Liddy)

Unbeaten—until they lost grand final



Beaten, but still smiling, these young Harrisfield State School footballers can count themselves a bit unlucky, for they only lost one match for the season — and it had to be the grand final! And then Doveton West only beat them by 2 points. Here they are pictured with their sportsmaster, Mr. Goyen.
— Clayton Studios, Clayton 544 3372



Girls Marching Team Winners 1964

• 1964: April: The Dandenong Journal reported that "When it comes to marching the boys and girls at Harrisfield State School are tops. Both the boys' (opposite top) and girls' (above) teams won shields at the Dandenong District State School sports." At this time teacher Mr Keith Brereton was coaching the teams.



Boys Marching Team Winners 1964

- 1972: Football and Basketball successes and won shields for team events and sports aggregate at the annual district sports.
- 1973: The school won both shields in B division (Athletics) at the interschool sports.
- 1977: Aug/Sept: Netball "A" won the local sports association final.
- 1982: October 7: "Harrisfield Commonwealth Games" were held and "Hong Kong" team won the T-Ball final.
- 1987: Successful in winning the Athletic sports, and the football and soccer teams reached the Grand Final.



1988 Football Team Premiers



1989 Netball State Champions

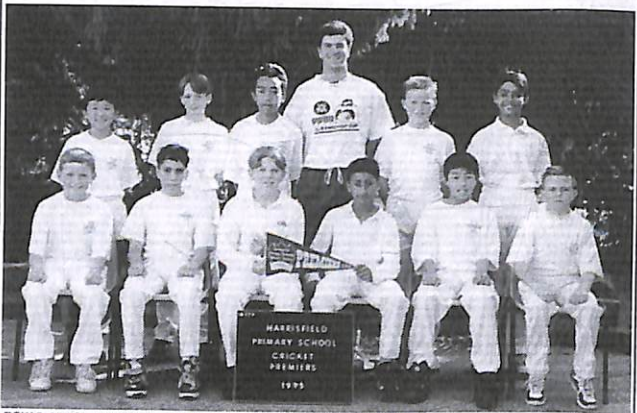


Row 2: Ivana Glavic, Sarcha Bastich, Stephanie Miral, Kristy Kennedy, Angela Kenworthy, Janet Holmes. Front: Kristy Paradowski, Kallie Newirth, Nicole Whitlam. COACHES: MR KEITH BRERETON, MR GRAHAM HINDLEY

- early 1990s: Students had their last swimming instruction by classroom teachers at Noble Park Pool. Later instruction was by professionals at Monash Pool.



1995 Cricket Premiers



ROW 2: Hin-Chuan Ng, Michael Mosbey, Sear Sun, Chris Davis, Ronil Chand.
FRONT: Brad Angus, David Attard, Robert Ferraro (Captain), Akash Singh (Vice-Captain), Arlie Tang, Brett Goodman.
(Absent: Marlon Pareara.)
COACH: MR SIMON HELMUT CRICKET

- June 2001: The Melbourne Age: Sports-related comment by that inveterate writer of "Letters to the Editor" - Roman (Horowyj) Horoway, ex-student 1957-63.

I thought the penalty for throwing a pie into someone's face in public was one month's jail, or is Sam Newman above the law?

ROMAN HOROWAY, Mount Martha

- 2004: District netball and soccer champions.
- 2005: District Athletics Champions (first time in 15 years) and Group C Rugby League Champions (first time).

Sporting Reminiscences

Jim Veal, retired school Principal, ex-student 1955-59.
Dandenong District Sports Day:
Harrisfield School was relatively small in its early years and we languished near the bottom of the District Sports point score. We had a few good athletes, and loads of determination, but the 'big' schools had the advantage. Then 'The Plan' was hatched and things really changed for the better. Mind you, it took a lot of time and effort, but it surely wiped the superior smiles off a few faces from the other schools. Let's go back and get the story 'straight from the horse's mouth' as the saying goes. Mum recalls that the Harrisfield School Mothers' Club was a very active organisation, keen to support school activities whenever possible. When Mr. Goyen approached them with a request to make uniforms for the girls' marching team, the mums were rearing to get the sewing machines running. He invited them to watch a training session. As they watched, Mrs. Stark came up to my mum (Mrs Veal) and suggested that if she looked after mum's toddler, then perhaps mum could go out and assist with the training. In

situations like this, it always helps to have some inside information, and Mrs. Stark knew that mum had been a Drill Instructor Sergeant in the W.A.A.F. during World War 2. In her own words, mum says she asked the girls if they wanted to win the shield. Following their enthusiastic 'Yes', she formed them up in height order, arranged them with tallest at either end, ranging to shortest in the middle. Once formed into three rows, they learnt to move in time, left wheel, right wheel and to stop. Training was held regularly after school until sports day arrived. The team performed to perfection, won the shield and set a pattern for the ensuing years. Harrisfield kids could match the best of any of the larger schools. As a footnote, mum recalls that the teachers organized for the team members to bring flowers to school from which they made a huge bouquet and presented it to her as a 'thank you'.

Gary Liddy, engineer, ex-student 1956-1962.
...The marble areas at times resembled a minefield from playing hols. I have recollections of going home with a large bag of marbles won and at other times with none, such were the fortunes on the marble field. Many hours were spent swapping marbles and discussing the virtues of various colours, "catseyes" and marble sizes.

I can remember the mounds of dirt from the building works that was our playground for some years and the rutted, dirt track that was our cricket pitch for just as long. Due to the mounds the run up was short, the pitch may have nearly been long enough, but it was also shaped like a flat 'vee' so that after rain it also ran water down the centre. The roughness created a hazard for all players especially the batsmen.

I loved my football and there was not much level ground to play in the early days, but we made do. However, once the area was levelled out and grass grown we played to our hearts content. Many a day I went home with wet, muddy school shoes from playing footy, only to get into trouble at home due to the state of my good school shoes.

On reaching Grade Six, 1962, I represented the school at footy. We won our entire home and away games, reached the grand final, but lost by a point. What a let down!

I can remember being bussed to the old Dandenong swimming pool for swimming lessons and gaining the Senior Certificate in Grade Six. Shortly afterwards the Noble Park pool was built.

Ron Exner, Kraft Foods director, ex-student 1962-67.
Harrisfield was a great place for organized physical activities; all the usual stuff like netball and football but also including rounders, folk dancing, marching teams, tunnel ball etc. I recall the big days out competing at interschool events at the old oval at the Dandenong Market. The school's woollen football jumpers were solid maroon in colour with a large white "H" on the front (very tight fitting as someone's Mum washed them in water that was too hot!). Our football team was pretty good, particularly as many of us were players in the very successful Noble Park Junior Football club coached by Steven Icke's father Laurie (ex North Melbourne Football Club). Steven went on to play under Ron Barassi in a Kangaroos Premiership winning team.



This page donated by Gary Liddy, ex-student 1956-62. Married to Cheryl since 1974 and very proud of their son, just turned 21, Gary graduated as an engineer, worked in local government and is now Works Engineer at Fawkner Cemetery. Interests are golf & outdoor activities

- David Estoppey, ex-student 1962-65.**

John Hull and another John, collided above my head in a game of football and both split open their left eyebrow - ouch!, but thanks for leaving me out of it.

- Russell Norris, entertainer, ex-student 1966-69.**

I was in red house, "Callander" I think they called it, and I was the fastest runner in the school, but when the school athletics came around in 1969, I was shifted to Springvale and won the 100 yard dash, triple jump and high jump for Whiteside State School. My friends from Harrisfield gave me so much s...!

- John Zambrans, ex-student 1962-69.**

Here's a bit of Harrisfield Trivia for you.

Question: Which Former Harrisfield student went on to become a VFL Player, playing for both Melbourne (under the coaching of Ron Barassi) and North Melbourne (premiership team) and is now the team manager of the AFL Fremantle Dockers?

Answer: Steven Icke

Question: Dixon, Bowmore, Princes and Callander are what and what were they named after?

Answer: Streets surrounding the school. They were house school names. From memory I think DIXON was blue, PRINCES was yellow, CALLANDER was Red and BOWMORE was Green.

Editor's note: The house names later reverted to just the colours. In the early 1990s they were changed to the current Banksia (blue), Heath (yellow), Waratah (red), and Eucalyptus (green).

Question: In the Sixties where were the inter school sports held?

Answer: Old Dandy show grounds, just behind the current Dandy market.

- John Liddy, ex-student 1962-68**

1965: Mr Adams was a keen St Kilda supporter and I a mad Essendon supporter. On the Friday before the Grand Final he had drawn a picture on the blackboard showing Final he had drawn a picture on the blackboard showing St Kilda winning the Grand Final. Essendon won so on the Monday it gave me great delight as a nine year old to go into class and watch Mr Adams change the result on the board.

1967: I was only small in those days so when it came to the school football team I never stood a chance but it was the greatest game ever. Steven Icke (current assistant coach at Fremantle and former Demon and Kangaroo player) was captain of the football team. I played centreman in the second team that night. We killed the first team and I thrashed the first team centreman. In the heat of the moment after the game Steven came up to me very angry. He told me that while he was captain I would never get a game. He was right, because I only played three games the following year after a serious illness.

- Merna Slattery, Essendon fan, Infant Mistress '66-68.**

Senior teacher Syd Bainbridge was a soccer devotee but lacking knowledge of VFL football, so he needed help in coaching the boys. I remember that Brian Woodman, a student at Springvale High who went on to become a South Melbourne player, was called in to take training. Syd's expertise included first aid, so any children who were injured were always perfectly bandaged. I recall that an area of the grounds was concreted, so volleyball became an activity for the teachers after school.

Teachers and Aides 1955-2005

See page 50 for non-classroom staff

Some 20 or more teachers from the 1960s and early 70s are unidentified and missing from this list. Some named may be honorary position holders. Dates are a guide only.

Women who changed names while teaching at Harrisfield have both names included, with total service beside both.

Adams, Kevin J (65) # Ainsworth, Nancy, Ms (69-71) # Aitken, W (Mina), Miss (63) # Allan/Allen, Brad (91-92) # Allen, Ronda, Ms (93-94) # Allinson, Gladys, Mrs (55-60) # Annear, Ida, Mrs (55-61) # Antal, V, Mrs (86-88) # Argyropoulos, G, Mrs (89) # Armao, John (81&89-92) # Arney, Carol, Ms (86) # Arthurson, Catherine, Mrs (75) # Attwood, Margaret M, Ms (63-65) # Bahr, Catherine, Ms (94) # Bainbridge, Sydney (66-70) # Balque, Pamela J, Miss (68) # Banks, Jan, Miss (96-98) # Barker, Alison, Ms (91) # Barnhill, Pam, Mrs (92-05) # Barretto, Sharon, Ms (01-05) # Barton, Mimi, Ms (99-02) # Batchelor, Karla, Mrs (97) # Besirevic, Nadja, Mrs (03-05) # Bishop, Lyn, Miss (82-85) # Biviano, Ann-Marie, Miss (92-05) # Bolger, Suzanne, Ms (89) # Bond, Craig (98-00) # Booth, Sarah, Ms (04) # Boucher, ?, Mrs (56) # Bouchier/Bouschier, William E. (65) # Bowen, John (98) # Boyd (Mrs Ewart), Sandra C, Miss (62-65) # Brereton, Keith (61-82) # Brewer, Dawn M, Mrs (86) # Brookes, Lisa, Ms (94) # Brown, Geoff (68-72) # Browne, Kylie, Miss (99-00) # Budge, Lindy, Mrs (73-75) # Burke, Shirley J, Mrs (78-82&85) # Burston, Walter P. (80) # Callaghan, Fiona, Miss (85) # Callow, Jennie, Mrs (75-82) # Campbell (Mrs Turcato), Valerie, Miss (84-94) # Cantwell, Jenny M, Mrs (78-79) # Capper (Mrs Carey), Chris, Miss (77-83) # Carey (Miss Capper), Chris, Mrs (77-83) # Carne, Andrew (2002) # Carroll, Edna M, Miss (55-62) # Carroll, Noel (72-74) # Cartledge, Debra J, Miss (83-85) # Charlton, R. Geoff (57-60) # Chea, Uchchara, Ms (97) # Chlebowczyk/Chiebowczyk, D, Mrs (76) # Chu-Nguyen, Sim, Mr?/Ms? (94) # Churchill, Diane, Ms (92) # Clark, ?, Miss (62) # Clark, Stuart (80-85) # Coelho, Pam, Ms (94) # Collard, K.L, Mrs (66-68) # Collier, Lee, Miss (70-71) # Collins, Gary (80-85) # Collins, W.H. Garnet (55-57) # Colquhoun, (Mrs Smith), Jan, Miss (81-91) # Connelly, Val, Mrs (89) # Considine, ?, Miss (67) # Cook, Elaine, Mrs (88-89) # Cooke, Susan J, Miss (81-88) # Cooper, Alison, Mrs (91-92) # Cooper, Debbie Jane, Ms (81) # Cornelius, Neville (98) # Crawford (Mrs Elliott), Kristine M, Miss (77-91) # Crawford, Jenni, Miss (80-85) # Curcio, Mary, Miss (81-82) # Cross, Carol, Mrs (90-98) # Dalton, Amanda, Mrs (99) # Dalton, Peter C. (76) # Dalton, Amanda, Mrs (99) # Darley, Christine, Miss (91-94) # Dare, S.T., Mr (55) # Darnley, Dianne, Mrs (78) # D'Auburn, David (02-03) # Davern, Mary, Ms (92-97&01) # Davidson, Jim (75-79) # Davison, Leanne, Ms (89-90) # Daws, Amanda (Mandy), Mrs (81-82) # Day, Patria, Ms (01-04) # De Blauw, Sandi, Ms (94) # Didzys, Dalia, Ms (03) # Dixon, Pat, Mrs (87-89) # Dovey, Jane, Mrs (93) # Dowd, ?, Mr (60-61) # Driver, Helen, Mrs (00) # D'Souza, Peggy, Miss (86-92) # Eeles, Edmond (Miss Evans), Leanne M, Mrs (82-89) # Eeles, Elizabeth J, Mrs (87-90) # Elliot, Carolyn, Mrs (90-91) # Elliott (Miss Crawford), Kristine M, Mrs (77-91) # Eiso, Tracey, Ms (94) # Engassner, Jill R, Mrs (87-96) # Evans, (Mrs Edmond), Leanne M, Miss (82-89) # Evans, Margaret, Ms (90-91) # Evans, Sally, Miss (64) # Ewart (Miss Boyd), Sandra C, Mrs (62-65) # Falotico, Eleanora, Miss (77) # Feldman?, Judith, Ms (75) # Fibakiewicz, Joan, Mrs (55-60) # Fidella, Guy (72-82) # Fimmel, Peter A. (77-88) # Firth, Michael (01-03) # Forbes, Gillian, Miss (76) # Forster, Elizabeth, Miss (65) # Foster, John (68)

Fuller (Mrs Hobson), Tracy, Miss (88-90) # Gardner, Liz, Ms (04-05) # Gatt, Christine V, Mrs (76-77 & 88-91) # Gaughan, Henry (76) # Glennie, Alan.W. (Bill) (82-85) # Gough, Sue, Ms (86) # Goven, John (56-62) # Grayling, Jim (86) # Greer, Barry J (77) # Griffin, Gail, Mrs (80-89) # Guy (Miss Staave-Fischer), Lyn, Mrs (64) # Hadfield, M. Joyce, Mrs (76-77) # Hagan, Maureen M, Mrs (70-72&75-89) # Haines, Margaret G, Ms (75-76) # Hainsworth, Dianne, Ms (94) # Hansen, Beverley, Mrs (90-05) # Harding, Shona E, Mrs (67-68) # Harkness, Gillian Miss (74-75) # Harland (=Mrs Thompson?), Leanne, Miss (76-80) # Harris (Mrs Iaconese), Meredith, Miss (82-05) # Harris, John J. (81-86) # Hart, Pam, Mrs (75-77) # Hart, Peter (66-68) # Hayes, Noeleen M, Ms (71) # Heathcote, Ray (98-99) # Helmut, Simon (94-95) # Henderson, Diane E, Miss (77) # Henderson, Greg (98&01-03) # Henry, Jennifer, Ms (79) # Hercus, Kathleen, Mrs (76-78) # Hewson, Kaye, Miss (76-78) # Higgs, G. Ken (65) # Hill, Heather, Mrs (90-92) # Hill, Murray (90) # Hillbrich, L, Mrs (80-88) # Hobson (Miss Fuller), Tracy, Mrs (88-90) # Hore, Muriel, Mrs (74-78) # Hughes, Patrick (02-05) # Humphries, Sue, Mrs (74-79) # Hunt (Miss Murphy), Karen, Mrs (94) # Hunter, Brian (02) # Hutterer, Caroline, Mrs (74-77) # Iaconese (Miss Harris), Meredith, Mrs (82-05) # Ireland, Virginia F, Mrs (75) # Jansen (=Miss Kelly?), V, Mrs (76) # Jeanes, Wendy E, Mrs (86-91) # Jerram?/Serram?, Margaret J, Miss (65) # Jessup, Helen, Miss (73) # Jewell, David Q (67-70) # Johnson (Mrs Skinner), Judith M, Miss (66-69&74-79) # Johnson, Michael R. (65-66) # Johnston, Joan M, Mrs (78-80) # Jones, G, Mr (63-64) # Jukes, Dorothy B, Miss (69-79) # Kaml, Debbie, Mrs (04-05) # Karagiannis, Eva, Mrs (01) # Kaulins, Rita, Ms (86) # Keddie, Robert J. (65-67) # Keisler, Gilbert P (84) # Keleher, Chris (03-05) # Kelly (=Mrs Jansen?), Vanessa, Miss (76) # Kelly, Estelle, Ms (05) # Kemp, Gennieve, Mrs (98-03) # Kennedy, Rachael, Ms (00) # Keogh, Genevieve, Miss (98-04) # Kerley, June, Mrs (64-68 & 74) # Kerr, Debbie, Mrs (97-05) # Kilby, Ann, Mrs (71-76) # Kim, Anna, Ms (04-05) # King, Judy N, Mrs (74-75) # Knight, Chris (02) # Konopnicki, Susan R, Miss (79) # Koposhilov, Alexandra, Ms (96) # Koronios, Antonia (Toni), Miss (91) # Kosach, Anneliese, Ms (92) # Koulini, R, Miss (85) # Kurelja, Natalie, Ms (01-02) # Kurelja, Shain (01-03) # Lafferty, Helen, Ms (96-01) # Laidlaw, Suzanne Y, Mrs (77) # Lambert (Mrs Tueno), Joy, Miss (60-64) # Lancaster, Julie Annette, Miss (76) # Le, Manh Nhan (03-05) # Leach, K, Ms (69) # Legg, Pauline M, Mrs (79-81) # Leishman, G. Jean, Miss (73-76) # Leonard, ?, Miss (55) # Levell, Marion R, Miss (88-90) # Lillyman-Holmes, Donna, Mrs (99) # Lind, Alan (61-64) # Liston, W. (Bill) (87-88) # Longano, Kathleen/Katherine? M, Mrs (83-85) # Lonski, Witold (04) # Lovell, Gae H, Ms (83) # Lovell, Terry (74) # Luke, Fran, Mrs (99-05) # Lynch, Steve (05) # Macdonald, Bob (76-80) # Mackie, Sharne, Mrs (90-93) # Macomber, Deanne, Miss (76-77) # Maddern, Glenda F, Mrs (81-87) # Manallack, Julie, Mrs (98-99) # Mann, ?, Mr (61) # Marsh (Miss Reeve), Edna, Mrs (56-58, 68-69 & 83-87) # Marsham, Jacqueline (Jackie), Mrs (90-96) # Mason, Brenda J, Miss (77-87) # Matlock, Elizabeth A, Mrs (76) # Matthews, Janice, Ms (65) # McAdie, Wendy J, Mrs (82-84) # McCabe, Glenda, Mrs (01) # McCarthy, Jean V, Mrs (64-66) # McConchie, Sue, Mrs (86) # McDougall, Joan, Mrs (79-80) # McIntosh, Robert J. (80) # McLennan, John D. (83-85) # McLeod, R, Mrs (86-88) # McMillan, Anne, Mrs (93-05) # McQueen, Jill, Ms (74) # Midgley, Graeme (86-89) # Miller, Bob (01) # Mills, Anne, Ms (90) # Mohr, Linda M, Ms (86) # Moor (Miss Wade), Alana, Mrs (74-76) # Morey, Bruce (78-82) # Morgan, Kerry, Mrs (88-91) # Mulgrew, Tim (88) # Murphy (Mrs Hunt), Karen, Miss (94) # Murphy, Jacqueline, Miss (89) # Murray, Peter (03)

Musgrove, Dianne/Diane, Mrs (78) # Mutimer, (Mrs Wilson), Cherie E, Miss (79-86) # Neill, Duane (01) # Nelson, Carmen, Ms (94) # Nicholls, Anne, Mrs (90-94) # Norman, Mary, Ms (89-92) # Obeid, Christina, Ms (92-96) # O'Brien, Darren (98) # O'Brien, Karen, Mrs (92-94 & 03-05) # Okumuka, Yayoi, Miss (03-05) # O'Neill, Brian F (55) # O'Neill, Kaylene, Ms (90-91) # Orr, Rebecca (Becky), Miss (76-78) # Osland, ?, Mrs (72) # Otton, Jerome (04) # Padfield, Eva, Ms (74-75) # Pamphilon, G, Miss (55) # Parker, Maxwell (88) # Parry, Irene, Mrs (86) # Paterson, Janet L, Miss (84-91) # Payne, Anita, Miss (92) # Pentreath, Belinda, Ms (94) # Perkins, Wendy J, Miss (82) # Petersen, Jenny, Mrs (87-88) # Pharaoh, Valeria, Mrs (89-91) # Phillips (Mrs Thomas), Leanne, Miss (85-94) # Pierrehumbert, Lynette, Miss (90) # Plumridge, Lisa, Miss (97) # Poynder, Alison, Miss (60) # Prentice, Marilyn, Mrs (02) # Rasmussen, R. Jeanette, Miss (74-76) # Reed, Sydney J. (75) # Reeve (Mrs Marsh), Edna, Miss (56-58, 68-69 & 83-87) # Richmann, Rosemary, Ms (92) # Russell, Craig (00) # Sagar, ?, Mrs (73) # Savannah, Marie T, Mrs (68) # Savannah, Vilna, Ms (74) # Schmidt, David P (81) # Schwarze, Noela D, Ms (74-75) # Serofim, Josephine, Ms (91) # Serram?/Jerram?, Margaret J, Miss (65) # Sewell, Debbie L, Mrs (80-87) # Shadbolt, Jan, Mrs (late 60s) # Shadforth, Jennifer M, Ms (84) # Shaw, Sarah, Miss (03&05) # Sheen, Christine, Ms (90-91) # Short, Kerry, Ms (1970s) # Shute, Anne, Mrs (93-98) # Skinner (Miss Johnson), Judith M, Mrs (66-69&74-79) # Slattery, Merna L, Miss (66-68) # Smith (Miss Colquhoun), Jan, Mrs (81-91) # Smith, David (02-05) # Smith, E, Mr (83) # Smith, Wally J. (63-74) # Smithett, Rebekah, Mrs (04) # Soufflot, R, Mr (62-64) # Staave-Fischer (Mrs Guy), Lyn, Miss (64) # Stagg, Jill, Mrs (78-80) # Stankov, Melanie, Ms (01-03) # Stark, Dorothy, Mrs (56-61 & 68-69) # Staunton, Glen (94) # Steedman, Jeff (79) # Stephens (Mrs Tolley), Cheryl W, Miss (79-81) # Stevenson, M, Ms (62-63) # Stoneman, Susan (Sue), Ms (93-02) # Szczepanski, Hanna, Ms (01-03) # Taylor, Christine, Mrs (80) # Taylor, Jan, Ms (74) # Taylor, John (90s-01) # Taylor, Pam, Mrs (74-84) # Tetteroo, Moira, Mrs (91-05) # Thomas (Miss Phillips), Leanne, Mrs (85-94) # Thomas, Bruce (86-89) # Thompson (=Miss Harland?), Leanne L, Mrs (76-80) # Thompson, Glenys, Miss (74) # Thomson, William S. (Bill) (90-92) # Tinkler, ?, Mrs (71) # Todd, ?, Ms (70) # Tolley (Miss Stephens), Cheryl W, Mrs (79-81) # Tomasetiq, Rosalba A, Ms (75) # Tomaszewski, Terry, Miss (74-76) # Tran, Hien, Ms (02) # Travis, Jackie, Ms (74-75) # Trethewey, Syabrechta (Sia), Mrs (74-85) # Trotter, Darryl (74) # Tsianakas, George (04-05) # Tueno (Miss Lambert), Joy, Mrs (60-64) # Tulloch, Margaret, Miss (61) # Turcato (Miss Campbell), Valerie, Mrs (84-94) # Turner, David (88-90) # Vainerere, Mata, Ms (01) # Van Den Berghe, Els, Miss (83-85) # Videon, Tracy, Ms (01-03) # Volkering, Paul C. (76-78) # Wade (Mrs Moor), Alana, Miss (74-76) # Wahid, Amy, Ms (98) # Walduck, Robyn, Mrs (76-78) # Walker, Jacinta, Ms (98) # Wallis, Anne, Ms (91) # Walls, Patrick (68-69) # Ward, Jenny Ms (98-03) # Waterland, Collene F, Mrs (77-80) # Watkins, Martin (83) # Watson, Barry D. (69) # Watson, Betty M, Mrs (56-58) # Watson, Joanna, Ms (98) # Watson, John (58-63) # Watson, Kathy, Ms (91-05) # Webb, E.P, Mrs (71-74) # Wenham, Katrina, Ms (01) # Vessel, Sylvia A, Miss (81-83) # White, Georgina, Mrs (90-05) # White, Janice A, Mrs (66) # White, Lynette, Ms (93-98) # White, Rhonda M, Miss (86-87) # White?, Liz, Ms (74) # Whiteside, ?, Miss (61) # Wickham, Kerry, Ms (96-97) # Wigley, Debra L, Ms (84) # Williams, J, Mr (67) # Williams, Lynne, Mrs (94-98) # Williams, P.W, Ms (67) # Wilson (Miss Mutimer), Cherie E, Mrs (79-86) # Wilson, ?, Ms (66) # Winkler, Nicole, Ms (92) # Wise, Peter T. (77-79) # Witzleb, Rajele C, Mrs (78) # Woodland, Lois, Miss (60-64)



1974



1979



1985



1988



1994



1997



2001



2004

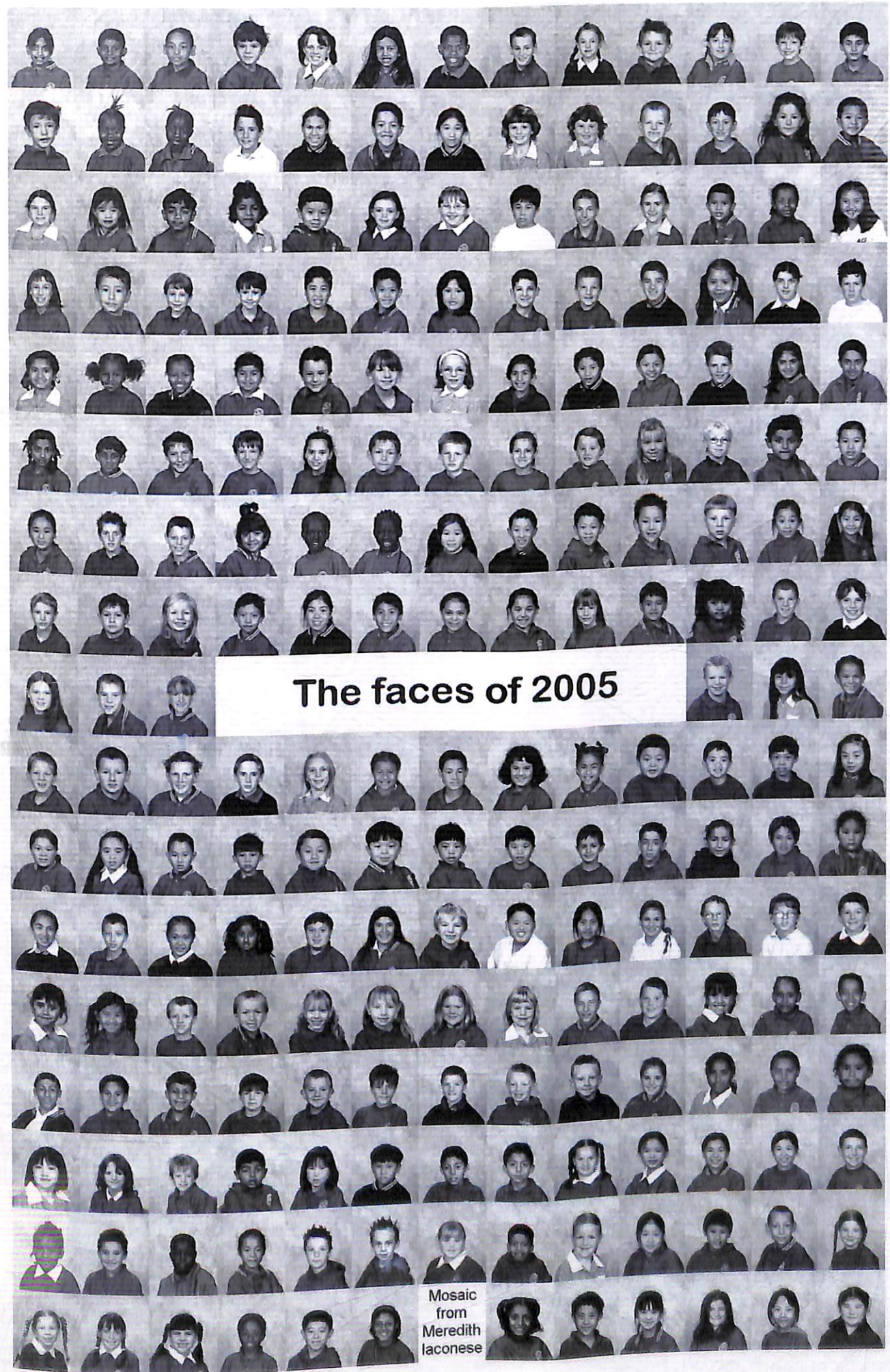
50th Anniversary DVD

The 50th Anniversary Commemoration is available in a DVD that complements this book. The DVD contains a series of interviews of past pupils and teachers, as well as a compilation of class photographs. Those interviewed were Mrs Dorothy Stark, Mr Keith Brereton, Mr Mark Kosach, Mr Ron Exner and the current Harrisfield School Captains. This DVD was a major project of the Committee, who recommend its purchase to you.

With much appreciation for her thoughts, the closing comments are left to a classmate of the editor's, from 50 years ago at Harrisfield State School 4730. Thanks Sue!

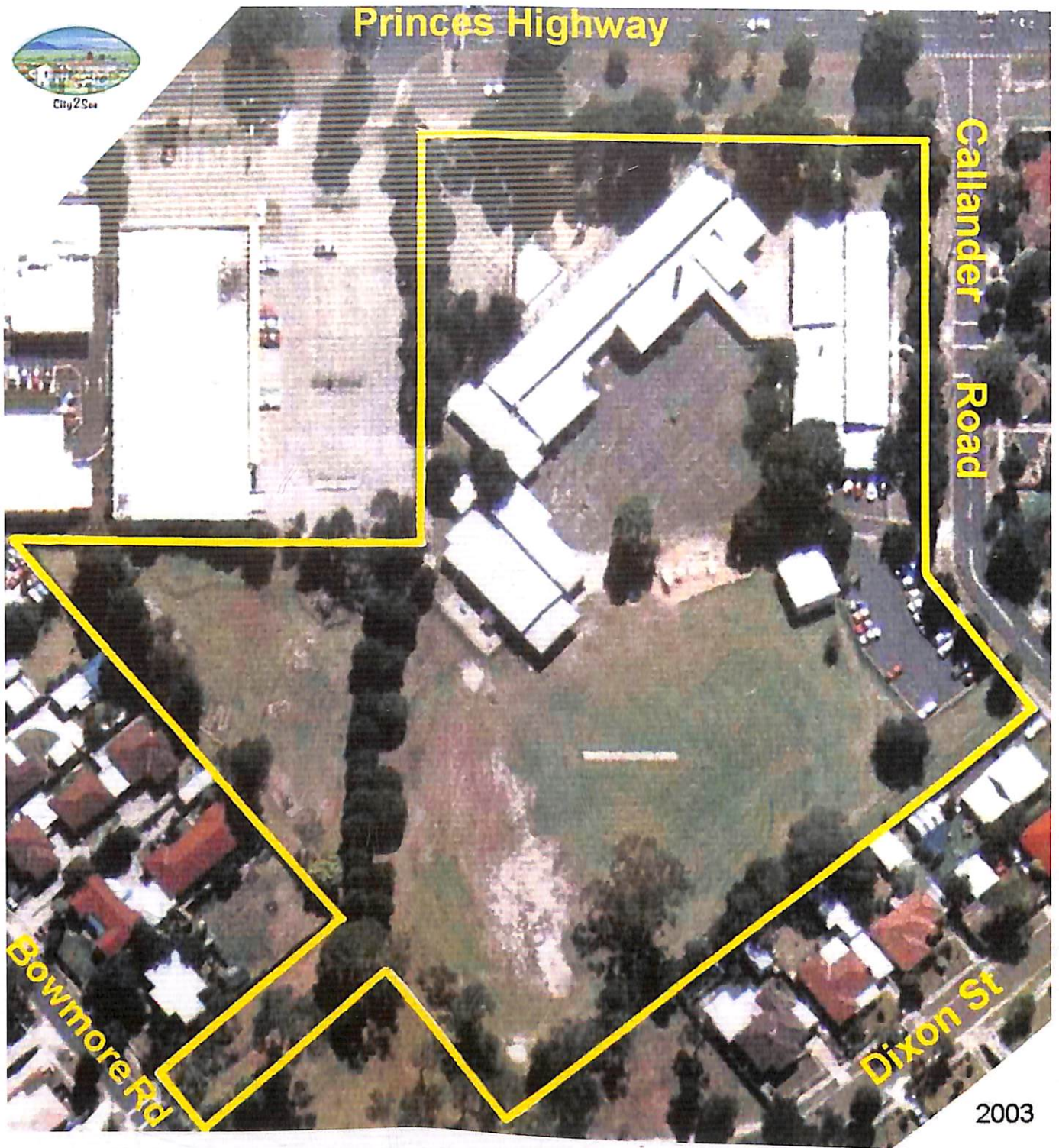


This page donated by Sue Coulson (nee Paterson) 1955-59 on behalf of the Patersons - Mary, Sue & George being ex-students. Sue would like to thank Allan and his Committee for all the hours of hard and tireless work they have all done to make this an interesting and successful reunion.



The faces of 2005

Mosaic from Meredith Iaconese



Harrisfield District looking North, about 1950