

*Yarra Road Primary School*  
*No.4219*

*80th Anniversary*

*1925 – 2005*



# ***80th Anniversary Celebrations***

## ***Friday 19th August 2005***

### ***PROGRAM OF EVENTS:***

***2.00 p.m.***

#### ***School Assembly:***

- *Welcome Guests*
- *School Band Performance*
- *Audio Visual Display*
- *Story Time by one of our original students Les Styles.*
- *Presentation of awards from 80th Anniversary week celebrations*
- *Official Unveiling of School Mural*
- *Official Opening of Paved Area*
- *Cutting of 80th Birthday Cake*

***2.45 p.m.***

- *Students return to classrooms to enjoy birthday cake*
- *Visitors embark on School Tour with Principal and School Captains*

***3.00p.m***

- *Afternoon Tea in Gymnasium for our visitors*

### ***Yarra Road Primary School 1925 to 2005***

Yarra Road Primary School is celebrating its 80th Anniversary this year. Much has changed at the school since its humble beginnings in a single classroom with four students back in 1925. Prior to this time, the local children travelled by foot or horse to Wonga Park Primary School. In 1925 a Miss Alice G. Broad was appointed as the first teacher at the school which was set amongst the gum trees and native flora of its current site.

In 1948, the school residence was erected by trainee labour from the army and was first occupied by the head teacher, Mr G. Collis, his wife and five children. The school remained as a one teacher, one classroom school until 1958 when a second classroom was opened and the first assistant teacher was appointed. Three more classrooms and a teachers' room were added in 1969 and the netball court was built in 1972.



Over the years, the students of Yarra Road Primary School have achieved many successes, both academically and on the sports field, an area in which the school has a strong history. One of the School's early students to achieve notoriety in this field was Miriam Knee, who in the 1940's captained the Australian Women's Cricket team on a tour to England.

In 1982 a retired Preston Line W2 class tram was relocated to the front of the school at a cost of \$1,000. This tram was used as a shelter from the weather conditions and a play area for the students. It quickly became a feature of the school which was affectionately known as "the school with the tram" throughout the district. Unfortunately, age and the difficulty in obtaining replacement panels caught up with the "Old W 2" and O.H.&S. issues required its removal in late 2003.

Whilst the School's enrolments gradually increased through the 1970's and 80's, Yarra Road continued to have a country school atmosphere well into the next decade. Even today the old chook house still remains and the biennial breeding of chickens is a memory that all students treasure. With the growth of the area throughout the 1990's and this decade the Department of Education realised that the school's facilities needed upgrading and a two stage building program was begun. The first stage, consisting of a new block of seven classrooms and student toilets, was completed in 2001 and the second stage that added an administrative block, gymnasium, library and canteen was finished two years later. In the early hours of Thursday August 5th 2004, a school fire destroyed four of the older classrooms and their adjoining resource areas. Outstanding work from the Wonga Park CFA unit that attended the fire prevented it from spreading to the new classroom blocks and, whilst the devastation caused was overwhelming, a cheer broke out as one of the firemen emerged from the smoky ruins with the five newly born chickens alive and well. With great support from the local community, our neighbouring schools and businesses, the school set out to rebuild the lost classrooms and replace the enormous loss of resources that had been built up over many years. It was through this time that the people of Yarra Road really showed their community spirit as teachers, administrative staff and parents worked feverishly to get the school operational again. Within eight weeks the school had refurbished classrooms, complete with new furniture, repositioned and operational once again. Today, replacing resources remains a top priority as the recovery process nears



completion. The donation of a good condition set of playground equipment from the Mooroolbark Primary School Community upon its closure has become a feature of the playgrounds and the school now very proudly displays a complete new look to what existed prior to this decade.

To celebrate 80 years of education at Yarra Road Primary School, a week of activities for the children has been organised including a trivia challenge, special dance program, and Prep to Grade 6 basketball shootouts each lunch time. A school tour and special assembly will be held on Friday 19th August that will include a performance by the school band; a 'story time' by one of the original four students enrolled in 1925, Mr Les Styles, who at 88 years old is the great grandfather of two of our current students, Tanaya and Luke; and the cutting of birthday cakes for all to enjoy. The week of celebrations will culminate with a Dinner Dance at the Karalyka Centre in Ringwood for the School Community on Saturday evening.

To mark this occasion, the School Community has carried out a number of working bees over the past nine months to complete a magnificent paved area, complete with planter boxes, with a pattern set into the pavers commemorating 80 years of education at the school and a border of bricks featuring the names of some of the past and present students. An "Artist in Schools" program, implemented this year, has also seen a 3.5 x 2 metre mural completed depicting the original school house, tram and current setting as a way of recording the eighty year history of the school. Both of these commemorative projects will be officially unveiled at the special school assembly on Friday.

The School, which now boasts an enrolment which is rapidly growing past the 300 mark, proudly continues to provide quality education, sporting and social experiences for its students and community. We believe that our new slogan "Enjoying the Road to Success" encapsulates the history, culture, achievements and hopes for the future of all of the students, teachers and community members who have made Yarra Road Primary School the school that it is today and will continue to be into the future.

*Thank you for helping us celebrate 80 years of  
education at Yarra Road Primary School.*