



THE BEST SCHOOL ON THE BLOCK

Legends of the Lake

The mists rise over the ancient lake, like the mists of time,
The sun peeps over the horizon, to begin its daily climb.
What secrets lie in its water, or beneath the crusted ground?
Myths and legends about the lake, certainly abound.

Some people call it Hawthorn, others simply "The Lake".
Its' naming is not known, nor is its' true namesake.
This lake is deeply shrouded, in elements of mystery,
In vain we all have struggled, to illuminate its' history.

Its always been a part of the cycle of drought and flood
Sometimes filled to the brim, and often a pool of mud.
But lately it looks forlorn, a sign of the climate change
The aura around the lake, feels eerie and quite strange.

We know that once it lay, at the bottom of the ocean,
We can see the glistening salt, and imagine the waves in motion.
We know it was once rich, and abundant with wild life,
That is why it's now so sad, to see it in such strife

Over time the creatures, have gathered by its brink,
To swim in the salty waters, to rest and perhaps to drink.
Wild ducks, swans and geese, and every year the waders,
Have gathered round its edge, like alien invaders.

Ancient people ate, around their great shell midden,
Told stories of the secrets that in its depths were hidden.
Bunyips, monster serpents, and even giant fish,
Skim a stone across the lake, and it'd grant your wish.

Even then, we can believe, it was a place of learning,
The Elders sat around the fire, the embers slowly burning.
While at their feet sat children, all attentively listening,
Their mouths all open wide, their eyes all brightly glistening..

THE 'BEST SCHOOL ON THE BLOCK' A HISTORY OF THE LAKE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

This magazine was produced to record and celebrate the centenary of The Lake School and one hundred years of learning and growing in the surrounding community.

Recording it has been a pleasurable but difficult task as the original records were lost in the fire and the later records were lost in the school. Thankfully John Smith and Sharon Sutherland had compiled booklets for previous anniversaries which proved an excellent base and Chris Cook journeyed to the Public Records Office in Melbourne and sourced some original correspondence. Recently Robyn Bacon and Heather McMahon found the lost records, where they had been stored safely in the school.

In reading the records and in talking with past students I saw a picture of a unique community centred on its school and horticulture. It is evident that teachers, parents and the local people have supported the activities at the school for all its years to the benefit of the community. The 'block' has endured for 100 years as this link, hence the title for this magazine.

I hope you enjoy these pages, a mixture of past and present, and that it encourages you to stay involved with the little school by the lake.

Helen Petschel

History Publication Committee:
Chris Cook, Heather McMahon,
Helen Petschel and Sharon Sutherland

© The Lake Primary School
PO Box 62, CABARITA, 3505
ISBN 978-0-9804902-2-0



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On behalf of the school community of The Lake Primary School I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all visitors attending this memorable event - our Centenary Celebration.

It is indeed a great privilege to be the Principal of a school that has a long history of strong community support and involvement.

My involvement with The Lake only commenced at the beginning of the 2007 school year. In many ways I am 'the new kid on the block!' In my short time at the school I have come into contact with many wonderful students, parents and staff. I have also met numerous individuals that hold this school very dear to their hearts; having attended this fantastic school or been a community member in years gone by. It seems literally thousands of people have been 'touched' by The Lake Primary School. It makes me so proud to lead this school and hear all the wonderful stories about its history and the impact it has had on the lives of so many.

Please take this opportunity to embrace the moment, rekindle the memories of State School No 3581 and once again partake in the hospitality and friendship of The Lake.

Rod Pearce
Principal

Dear, The Lake Primary School,
You sure have been through a lot.,
You've survived a fire and a robbery,
I will never forget this school.
It is in my heart forever.
Love from Indianna

Indianna Robertson, Grade 5, 2008

Please join us in celebrating
100 Years 16-19 July '08

The Beginnings

Mr Herbert Casey writes this of the school's beginnings: "In the year 1907 the people of Lake Hawthorn began to agitate for a school. Prior to that the children whose parents desired them to attend school had to proceed to Mildura."

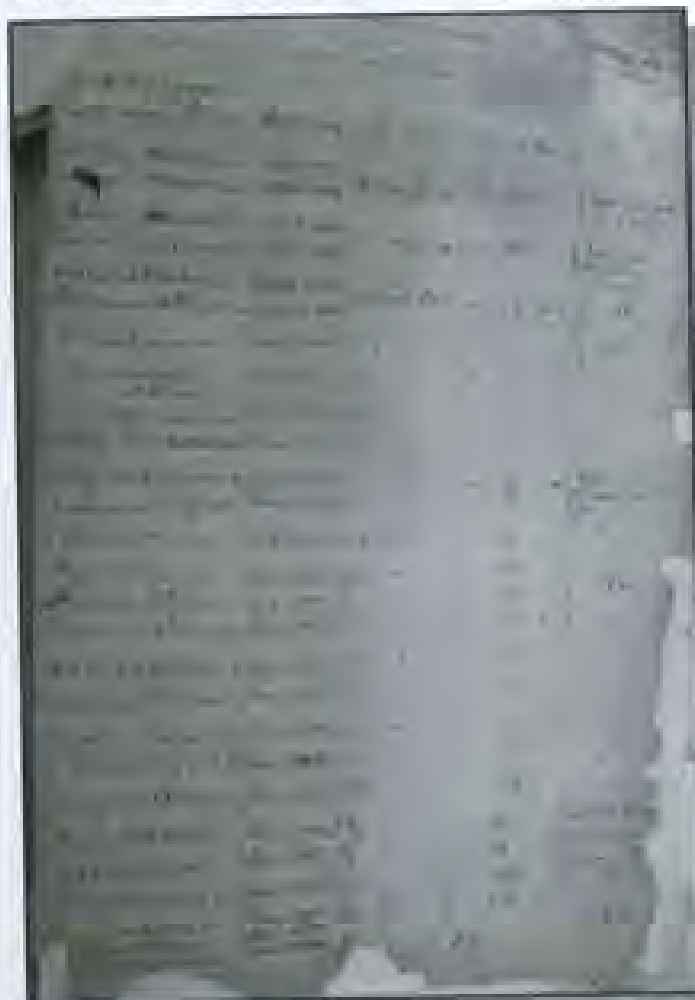
His father, Mr W.F. Casey was Head Teacher of Mildura Central School and it was he who was asked by the District Inspector Mr J.C. Lowry, to furnish a report on the needs at the Lake. Mr W.F. Casey visited the district and compiled the report with the support of a committee of district parents.

Most of the children living in the Lake area were unable to get to a school. Koorlong, Irymple and Mildura were the closest schools and were quite a walking distance for a child. Some did walk to Irymple and some many miles to Mildura! The Mitting families of The Ridge purchased a house in Mildura where the mothers took turn about each week to care for their children so they could attend school there.

The report was submitted to the Board of Advice at Maryborough with favourable results.

This fragile document on the left is part of the petition from the Lake community in their lobby for a school. It is dated 20th July 1907. It includes the names of prospective students and was accompanied by the map below which indicated where each family lived in relation to the school site.

By 8th August a school was approved. The community were to provide the land and building which would be leased by the Department. The Department agreed to appoint a teacher and supply the teaching materials.



The Lake was the fifth Victorian State School for the district and the only one west of Mildura. Merbein (called White Cliffs) had not been opened for closer settlement yet. That was to happen in the next few years. Lord Ranfurly had developed what was known as the 'Old Mildura' estate between Lake Hawthorn and the river.

Lake District Diaries

TELLING THE NEWS OF

1908

New School for the District

On Thursday 16th July Mr H.W. Casey opened a school at the Lake. The school will be known as Lake State School. The land was leased from Messrs McEachern, Mitting and Setford for £5 per annum. A working bee of parents under the direction of Mr Alex Bruce with materials supplied by Mr Setford built the schoolhouse.

School began at 1.30pm on Thursday. Mr Casey occupied the morning visiting parents and notifying them of the school's opening. Thursday was gazetted a public and bank holiday for the Governor-General Lord and Lady Northcote's visit. The Governor-General granted all district school children a holiday from school on the Friday. School began in earnest on Monday 20th July with 25 pupils enrolled. By the next Monday there were 34 pupils at the school, such is the need for education in the area.

Mr H.W. Casey comes to the Lake school from Koorlong State School. He sees a great future for the Lake area in horticulture and the lessons at the school will reflect this. He himself is a keen gardener and plans are already in place to establish a garden at the school.

Mr Casey will ride his bike each day four and one half miles from Mildura to the school.

MR R. MCKIERNAN
REPRESENTATIVE FOR
THE SINGER SEWING MACHINE COY.
REPAIRS all makes of Sewing machines
Address: Carr Mrs Kelsey, next Cultivator office.

Visit of Governor-General

His Excellency the Right Hon. Henry Stafford, Baron Northcote, Governor-General and Commander -in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia, arrived in Mildura by special train at 9.30 o'clock on Thursday morning, 16th July, in company with various Federal and State legislators and city businessmen.

Thursday had been gazetted a public and bank holiday in Mildura and several hundred residents attended at the railway station to give the governor's party a welcome.

As His Excellency alighted from the platform, Stubbs' Brass Band played the National Anthem, God Save the King. Children from the Mildura, Irymple and Nichol's Point State schools followed up with singing and a hearty cheer.

His Excellency addressed those assembled and thanked them for the most cordial welcome especially the school children some of whom came such great distances. The Governor-General had much pleasure in telling them that tomorrow would be a whole holiday. 'I hope they will be favoured with fine weather and will enjoy themselves thoroughly,' he said. [Applause] 'I look forward to inspecting a part of the district which has been reclaimed from scrub and desert and made to blossom as the rose. I must ask you now to give me the opportunity of inspecting some of the evidence of your intense culture.'

His Excellency and friends mounted several drags and set off for a three hour drive around the settlement. This was followed by a public luncheon in the Shire Hall.

OPENING THE LIBRARY

The opening of the Carnegie Library was the greatest of all the functions. The Shire President introduced the Governor-General, who had been delighted to declare the Library open and the books available for the use of the public. He asked that the enthusiasm of the young might be excited in regard to their wonderful heritage. Out of the Carnegie Library there should grow a crowd of ideas, influences and achievements which would leave their mark upon the future of the place. There were cheers for the King at the call of Lord Northcote. The party descended from the portico to the strains of the bagpipes and his Excellency opened the door, which enabled some hundreds to pass into the building.

E. DeGaris & Co

Have For Sale -
23 Acres, sultana, Gordos, currents, figs, pears; 3000 gallon underground tank; limestone and wood house. £1200

Two Great Events for July:

FIRST-

Bray's Great Clearing Sale!

SECOND -

Governor-General's Visit to Mildura!

SEE THE DOUBLE EVENT.

Swallow & Ariell Ltd
Mildura

Are now prepared to
SUPPLY STOREKEEPERS
WITH
JAMS AND CANNED FRUITS,
Prepared from the
BEST MILDURA CROPS.

Price Lists and all Information at the
Works
J.P. RIDDELL,
Local Manager.

Langley's Pictures

Amazing new entertainment
coming to this district.

You will be able to see places
from around the world while
sitting here at Mildura.

This spectacular new development is proving
very popular with folk everywhere.

Langley's Pictures will be opening
in Mildura in 1909.

Buy Your Produce at Bowring's!

Where satisfaction is certain and prices moderate.
Tomato Sauce, 3 1/2 d
Whole Shoulder Hams, 6 1/2d lb
Jelly Crystals per pkt, 1d (makes half-pint)
2lb Raspberry Jam, 7d

TELEGRAMS

April 20- The Sunshine Rail Disaster: 44 killed and over 400 injured when the Bendigo train collides with the rear of the Ballarat train at Sunshine.

Oct 8 -The Hon. Prime Minister Alfred Deakin declares the new Capital City to be Canberra.

Nov 18-The Victoria Government passes the Adult Suffrage Bill granting women the vote.

Dec 15- A national aged pension scheme is set up with the passing of the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act.

Dec 29-A Victorian election is held between Christmas and New Year. Sir Thomas Bent is returned to power.

SPORT

The Games of the IV Olympiad took place in London from 27th April to the 31st October. Twenty-two sports were contended including 'Tug-of-War'. There were nearly 2000 men but only 37 women participating. Australia and New Zealand formed a team representing Australasia. They won a gold medal for rugby football. Frank Beaurepaire won two medals a silver and bronze in the swimming.

New Clubs for VFL

The League welcomed two new clubs in 1908: Richmond and University Football Clubs. The Richmond Football Club proved a fair contender in the competition in its inaugural year and University took a win in its second game.

A riot broke out between the Fitzroy supporters and the Essendon fans after the game on 6 June. It was a close game at the Brunswick Oval with the final scores 5.8 Fitzroy and 5.12 Essendon.

A ten day carnival was held in Melbourne during August to mark the Jubilee of Australian Football (1858-1908). It involved teams from all States and New Zealand.

Carlton Football Premiers

The Grand Final was played between Carlton and Essendon with Carlton gaining the Premiership. The final scores were Carlton 5.5 (35) to Essendon 3.8 (26). Geelong took the wooden spoon.

Local Football

The Mildura Football League had three participating teams in 1908: Irymple, Mildura and Mildura Rovers. Rovers took out the flag.

Agricultural News

The Australian Dried Fruits Association is in its first year after the amalgamation of the Mildura Fruit Growers Assoc. and a similar Renmark body in 1907. The tray system of drying fruit was being replaced by more practical drying racks. New ideas are taken up fast in the growing horticultural areas. These new drying racks are being built all around the district on the vineyards.

LITERATURE

Nineteen year old Dorothea MacKellar published a poem called 'Core of My Heart' in the London Spectator. She is travelling in England and homesick for her home country of Australia. Maybe in the future thousands of Australian school children will commit this stirring poem to memory and sing it with pride to music.

Mrs Aeneas Gunn has published a book of her life in the wilds of northern Australia. It is called 'We of the Never Never'.

BIRTHS

Feb 23- Billy McMahon

May 20- Henry Bolle

Aug 5- Harold Holt

Showing great vocal skills already.

Aug 27-Donald Bradman

Is passionately swinging around a

**A budget of good values
AT**

Bowring's

(THE STORE OF THE TOWN)

Special Job Line in Children's Boots at 1s 11d
Special Purchase of Ladies Costumes, very stylish.
17s 6d worth 30s.

Special line in Gent's Fancy Vests, 3s 11d.

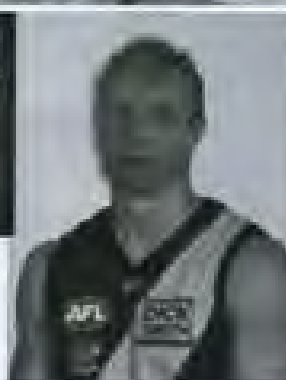
100 years ago other
organisations or people also were beginning their journey.
Mr Bell's Grade 4/5 are represented here.



ARMY

100 Years of The Army Reserve.

Soldiers shown here are Captain Kyle and Corporal Jason.



AFL team
Richmond
First joined the
competition.
Captain Coach
Abe is shown.

100 years of
Melbourne.
Symphony
Breanna Mozart
is shown here.



Hamish the left wing

In 1908 Women's hockey started in N.S.W
Starring here is Jen and Izzy.



100 years of State of Origin.
Shown here is ET



Braiden the Fullback of
the Century



100 years ago the Ballina Golf Club began. Alysha is showing her style.



Donald Bradman was born in 1908 in Cootamundra. Representing him here is Anthony.



He died when he was 92. Representing him here is Callen.

100 years of police museum. Shown here is Constable Pate.



100 years ago, the book Anne of Green Gables was written. Shown here is Adele of Green Gables



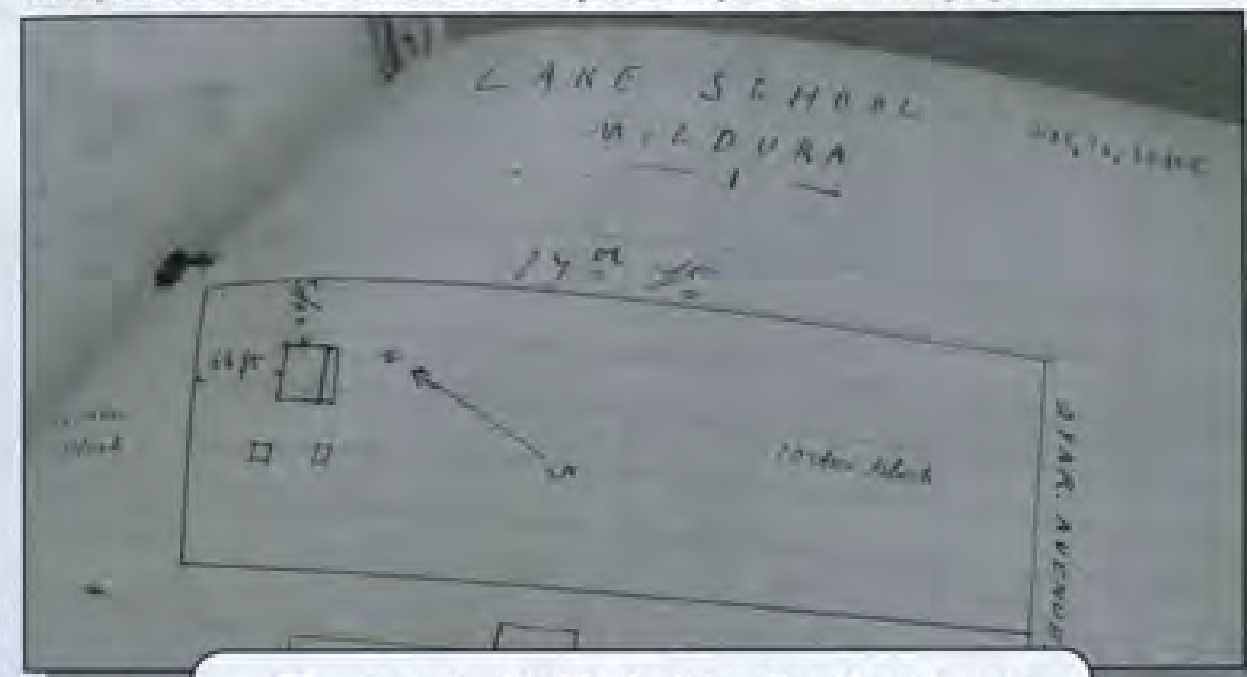
Ian Flemming, the author of the 007 Bond Books, was born in 1908. Representing him here are Rachel and Connor.

Born in 1908, Bette is represented here by Katie.



The Land and the Building

Ten acres was allocated for the school, having a frontage to Seventeenth Street, and facing Lake Hawthorn. This land, with full water rights, was granted free of cost by the First Mildura Irrigation Trust and was vested in trustees. William Mitting, Oswald Setford and William McEachern became the trustees leasing the building and the land to the Department for £5 a year. Mr Casey wrote of the land: "The wind-swept site was covered with wild tobacco, and the land was considered to be of no value for horticultural purposes..."



The plan submitted to the Education Department showing the location of the school and outoffices (toilets).

More about the trustees..

William and Flora McEachern had come from and had various blocks of land around the California, inspired by the Chaffey's. They Lake district, eventually building 'Eaton took up land between Riverside and Ontario Mascot' along Ridge Road. Their eldest two Avenues (about 70 acres) and employed at boys attended school in Mildura about 8 miles least one permanent man, Mr Tyson. The away.

McEachern and Tyson families had young children and were keen to have a school nearby.

William and Ellen Mitting were also early settlers. They came from England in 1892 to join William's brother Walter who had already settled on 'The Ridge.' They arrived in Mildura by paddle steamer from Adelaide

Oswald and Mary Setford moved to Mildura from Richmond, Victoria possibly in April 1907. Their property was on Dyar Avenue and their eldest two children aged 7 and 8 travelled 5 miles to Mildura to school.

You can understand why they were all so keen to establish a school in the Lake area.

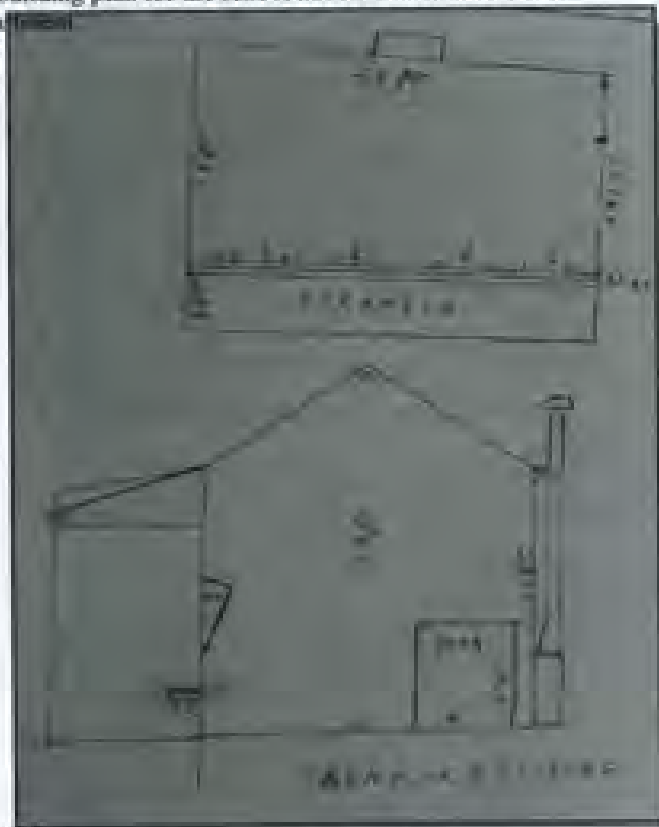
Much was achieved at working-bees in those days...

"Five acres of this area was enclosed by a substantial post-and-wire fence wire-netted, the work being carried out by a working-bee." - Mr Casey

GROUND PLAN

4. 2. 2 Red Iron slide joints etc.
Masonry fire weatherboards &
flooring, iron chimney & roof
4 windows opening in at the
top for ventilation as per sketch. We
seat under rear slab. S.
clouds above the open outside 5 ft x 4 ft

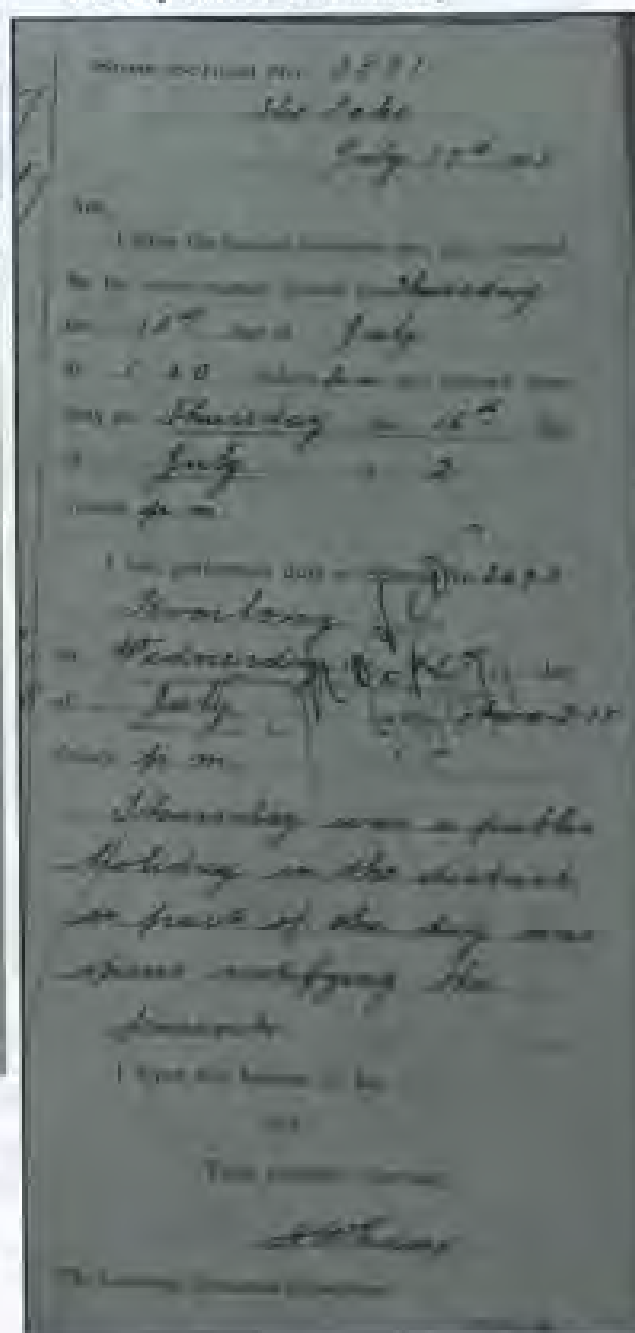
The building plan for the school house as submitted to the
Dera [redacted]



Once the school house was built the Board informed the Department that it could be occupied (27/2/1908). After some time of negotiations the land became available for transfer to the Department, the transfer taking over a year and finally in August 1910 it was completed. The remaining 5 acres were purchased by William Mitting and not sold to the Department until December 1931.

Some money was raised and under the direction of Mr Alex Bruce a small building was completed for school lessons to commence. It was weatherboard, with no ceiling and unlined; it had a verandah on the south-east side. The plans show the building was 24 x 16 feet (Mr Casey writes 20 x 18 feet).

Mr Casey's commencement of duty



1908 Statistics

The week that The Lake State School was ready to start was a busy one in Mildura. The town was hosting several dignitaries and Thursday had been declared a public and Bank Holiday so that all could take part in the celebrations. The appointed teacher, Mr Herbert W L Casey, was transferred from Koorlong State School. He completed classes there 2.15 pm Wednesday. He used the Thursday morning of the local holiday to notifying parents of the school's opening. The Governor-General in his speech to the townspeople and children gave a further school holiday for Friday 17th July. It is not known whether the families out at The Lake took advantage of the holiday. Mr Casey in writing some years later said there were about 25 pupils when the school opened on 17th July. By 28th July there were 34 children enrolled and he was anticipating soon to have 38. When the school was burnt, all records were lost so we will never know exactly who attended that first year.

The following list has been compiled from various sources including public records of school correspondence, the district rate books, neighbouring school records showing transfers, genealogical records showing birth dates, parents and siblings and family memories and records. Generally I have not included a name unless I had some written verification. It is unfortunate we did not start to research this 25 years ago when ex-students could have assisted.

Chad

Head Teacher: Mr Herbert W. L. Casey

Sewing Mistress, Miss Vincentia M. Litchfield commenced on the afternoon of 17th Dec.

People:

Alma Lay (5 yrs old)
Caroline Russell (5 yrs old)
Sheila McLaren (5 yrs old)
Ernest Traeger (5 yrs old)
Claudia McLaren (6 yrs old)
Samuel Tyson (6 yrs old)
Mary (Molly) Bruce (6 yrs old)
Clarence McEachern (7 yrs old)
Stan Barnett (7 yrs old)
Hilda Broadstock (7 yrs old)
Ernest Shillington (7 yrs old)
Hector McLaren (8 yrs old)
Thomas Pike (8 yrs old)
Maisie Harriman (8 yrs old)
Robert Russell (8 yrs old)
Ellen Bruce (8 yrs old)
Ellen Copley (9yrs old)
Leonard Setford (9 yrs old)
Norma Harriman (9 yrs old)
Leslie McEachern (9 yrs old)
Ella Litchfield (10 yrs old)
Beatrice Setford (10 yrs old)
Ida Bowden (10 yrs old)
James Shillington (10 yrs old)
Hilary and Hubert Barnett (11yr old twins)
Richard Litchfield (11 yrs old)
Albert Broadstock (12 yrs old)
Charles Mitting (12 yrs old)
Eileen Shillington (12 yrs old)
Harry Broadstock (13 yrs old)
Harry Bruce (13yrs old)
Eva Copley (13yrs old)
Harold Mitting (13 yrs old)
Dorothy Litchfield (14 yrs old)
Clare Bowden (14 yrs old)

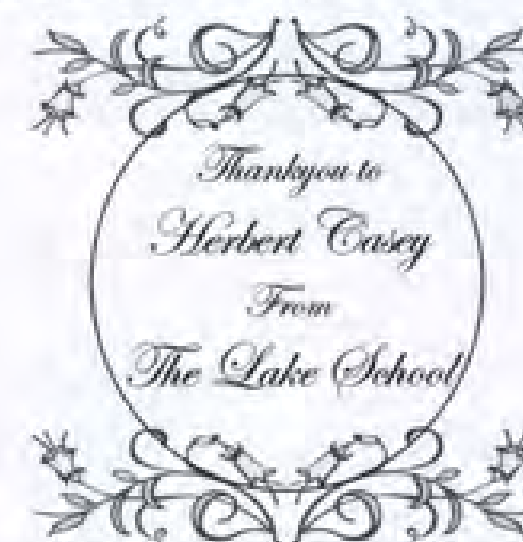
School was not compulsory until the age of 6 and young children who had to walk great distances often did not begin school until that time. Some of these young children may have started towards the end of 1908 if they lived near to the school. (Mr Casey's comment that he was expecting 38 students by the end of the year could have referred to these younger pupils.)

Benjamin **Bromley** (4 ½ years old in 1908), lived on Dyar Ave. Ethel **Copley** (was only 5 in 1908), so may not have started that year. The Copleys lived in Merbein's "Tent City" and had to walk from Pump Hill.

Cecil Inglis (turned 5 in Oct. 1908), and lived close to the school.

Robert Dennett (8 yrs old in 1908)

Albert Dennett (6 yrs old in 1908) The Dennetts lived at Eden Park, Walnut Avenue and were also students after 1911.



We pay tribute to H.W.L. Casey who established the school in 1908, served as head teacher for twenty years, and over that period worked tirelessly for the school, the environment and the community.

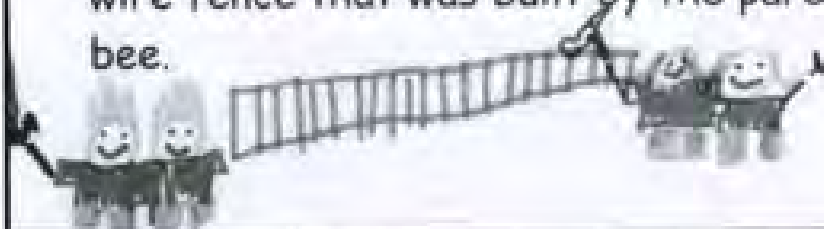
Artists' impression of the first Lake School

The first Lake school had to be built by the children's parents.



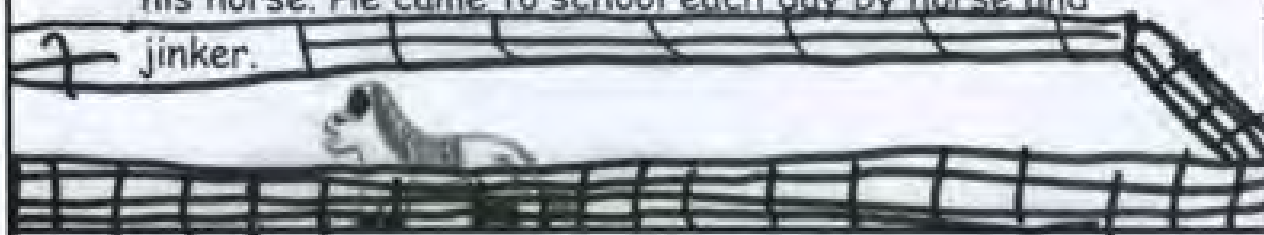
By Chloe Horner

The school grounds were enclosed with a post and rail wire fence that was built by the parents at a working bee.



By Hylle Stevens

There was a horse yard where the head teacher kept his horse. He came to school each day by horse and jinker.



The school building was made of weather boards and had a verandah on one side.



By Miguel Chaves

These artists are from Grade 2, 2008.

The ups and downs of our school beginnings.



By Ella Wilkie

Fortunately...the beautiful area around the lake was opening for settlement

Unfortunately...the settlers were young families and their children needed a school

Fortunately...there was a good school at Mildura with Head Teacher W. F. Casey.

Unfortunately...it was too far for the children to walk

Fortunately... the parents lobbied the Board of Advice for a school.

Unfortunately...the Board of Advice was in Maryborough and were not aware of the local situation

Fortunately... the District Inspector Mr Lowry commissioned Mr W.F. Casey to report on the situation

Unfortunately...Mr Casey's report moved the Board of Advice to allow a teacher but the parents had to provide the land and the buildings

Fortunately...the parents were resourceful and the FMIT obliging. The land was acquired and the parents built the school themselves.

Unfortunately...they had the land and the school but the Department had to find a teacher.

Fortunately...Mr W.F. Casey had a son, Bill Casey, who was teaching at Koorlong. Young Bill was enthusiastic about developing a new school.

Unfortunately...the Governor-General was visiting so the morning the school was to be opened was a public holiday.

Fortunately...Bill Casey used the morning to meet new parents and the children came in the afternoon. School commenced.

Unfortunately...there was no shade and the building was too hot in the summer.

Fortunately...the lake was nearby with shady trees and Mr Casey started a school garden.

Unfortunately...the building was too draughty and cold in winter and too small as well.

Fortunately...the parents lobbied for improvements to the building.

Unfortunately...the Department would not oblige but were prepared to negotiate purchase of the land from the trustees.

Fortunately...although the legal negotiation took a long time, the Department finally acquired the land.

Unfortunately...numbers were growing. There were not enough seats and children had to be turned away.

Fortunately...the school burned down one night.

Unfortunately...all records were lost in the fire.

Fortunately... it was before the Christmas holidays and a new school could be started in the New Year.

Unfortunately...it took almost a year to be built. Mr Casey was sent to teach at Katamatite.

Fortunately...it was a state-of-the-art brick building far better than the one built at Merbein.

Unfortunately...many children went without schooling and never returned to The Lake.

Fortunately...the new school was opened at the end of 1911 and Mr Casey returned as Head Teacher.

Unfortunately...other schools opened at Merbein and Merbein South and for a few years the classroom was never filled.

Fortunately...the school thrived with the reputation for good teaching, great surrounds and wonderful parent support.

The Buildings

We have read about the little school house which the parents erected so that the school could begin in 1908. Soon it proved inadequate. The building proved to be too hot in the high temperatures of summer and too draughty and cold in the winter. Enrolments increased and it became impossible to fit all the pupils in on days of high attendance.

Too Hot for Lessons New Building

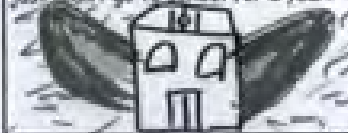
Mr Casey writes: "The conditions in it during the summer months were far from pleasant; the thermometer frequently registered 112° and often as high as 115°. It was the custom—to dismiss the school when the former temperature was reached, but this was at last forbidden by the department because the other schools did not record summer temperatures and the authorities did not believe that the record was a true one."

With average attendances over 30 by the end of 1908, the Department provided a 'Sewing Mistress' (a Teacher's Aid). Miss Litchfield was very helpful with the teaching load and on the days of pleasant weather she could take the infant classes outside for instruction, but the accommodation of pupils became an increasing problem.

Room Too Small

By May 1909 there were 42 pupils attending and the building was far too small. Mr Casey informed the Department of this in a letter dated 19th May but a week later writes another stating that 10 more would come but they won't fit in. By 1910 the average attendances were consistently in the 30's and the school community were requesting a new building.

The first school burnt down in 1910 and it took a year for the new brick school to be built. Some children walked to other schools during this time and others just didn't go to school for a year! 



By Isabella Pickering Grade 2

By the end of October the community was informed that a brick building to accommodate 70 was to be built. The cost - £585.

On 2nd November 1910 the Mildura Cultivator reports "...the Hon., the Minister for education has authorized the erection of schools at the Lake, at Irymple South and at Merbein..." and the editorial of the same date writes: "Many people in Mildura and Merbein will welcome the announcement that three new state schools are about to be built in the district. The large community which has so rapidly grown up at Merbein makes a school in that centre absolutely necessary. It is estimated that there are from 60 to 80 children of school age in the settlement and there is at present no

school accommodation for them. The nearest school is at the Lake, which is already overcrowded and will now be replaced by a larger building...

School Burns

Then just a week before the school was to close for Christmas holidays the little schoolhouse was totally destroyed by fire.

"Mystery surrounds the fire which in 1910 burnt the Lake Primary School down. No one remembers how it started. Past pupil, Mr Ern Shillington, said that he had thought it might have been caused from chemicals kept in the school..."

Printed in the Midweek, 29th Nov, for the 1980
Back - To celebrations.

Mr Casey's telegram of 11am, 17th December 1910: TELETYPE

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, VICTORIA.

Blue Shrimp has been awarded support to the first and foremost, left and right.

RESEARCHER'S NAME: _____

100

Mildura | 15
Secy Education Dept
MCCB

Reported school burnt down

nothing saved L.S.
H. Casey
11:40 Lake Park School
11:44 E. Childers
Enrollment given by Anderson

Losses

Mr Casey was asked to furnish a list of the items he lost in the fire. These came to over £8 in value and included a typewriter and portable organ. He was granted a sum of £5 'towards the cost of the purchase of books and apparatus for use in the work of a teacher, which were destroyed by fire at the school - such sum to be expended by him for this purpose.'

To begin the 1911 year, Mr Barnett offered the use of a galvanised iron building three miles from the present site so that lessons could resume. His offer was not taken up. A few children enrolled at other schools but most had the year off.

Anthracite (Pondicherry)		4.0
Yello Lagon (Pondicherry)		14.00
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		12.0
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		7.0
B.C. Lagon (Pondicherry)		12.0
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		6.0
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		3.0
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		2.0
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		4.0
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		3.0
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		1.5
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		1.5
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		2.0
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		2.0
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		5.0
Anthracite (Pondicherry)		4.0
Total		15.00

The Mildura Cultivator of Sat 11th June 1911, Editorial Comment is worth reading, raising questions of the Education Department's management of the building program for the Merbein and Lake schools.

'...Referring to the burning down of the Lake School, which occurred in December last and which is not yet replaced, we contended that no proprietor of a private school would have neglected to make temporary arrangements to keep the school going and prevent the pupils from drifting away. Yet, the Department, which the people of this State have created for no other purpose than to provide the children with tuition, took no steps whatever to meet the emergency. Within a week lessons could have been resumed in a marquee or other temporary structure (which in this climate would have been most suitable) but, instead, the children have either been forgetting all they had previously learned, or have had to travel several miles to other schools. Before the new school is finished, this state of things will have lasted for nine or ten months.'

Merbein Children Running Wild

'Then, again, there were dozens of children running wild at Merbein for several months before a teacher was sent. Why should this have been? Does the Act permit Departmental officials to so neglect their primary duties?

A school is now being built and will be completed by the end of August, but it is designed to accommodate only 70 pupils (it may hold more at a pinch) whereas there are about 100 children to be provided for...a fortnight ago an advertisement which appeared in 'The Education Gazette' for a teacher for the new school stated that the number of pupils was forty - and this in spite of the fact that 50 were crowded into the temporary building and numbers of others had to be turned away for want of room!

Whose fault is this? But more remains to be told.'

The Lake has a Brick Building, Merbein is Wooden

'The Lake School, situated in a sparsely settled neighbourhood, with considerably fewer children to provide for, is to be a substantial brick building, while that at Merbein is a wooden one: they are precisely alike in every other respect. The Merbein school should have been as large and substantial as those at Irymple and Nichols Point. It would have been actually cheaper to build with brick at Merbein than at the Lake, for the bricks have to be carted 5 miles to the latter place, whereas the Merbein school is close to the railway station...'

The 'substantial brick building' possibly around the time of the official opening, April 1912.



Everyone tried to convince the Department of the need for a new school.

Handwritten letter from Mr. Casey to the Education Department, dated June 23rd 1909. The letter describes the poor conditions of the existing school house, mentioning that it is a small, old, and draughty building with no proper ventilation and that the children are suffering from the heat and cold. It also mentions that the building is in a state of disrepair and that the furniture is old and worn. The letter concludes with a request for a new school building.

Here Mr Casey writes about the poor conditions in the little school house.

You would expect the burning down of the Lake school would have made the local paper somewhere. There appears to be no mention of it in the Cultivator up to one month after the event. Other items which we would not consider newsworthy today get considerable coverage but the fate of the little school by the lake was not recorded at the time.

19th May 1909 H.F. Paul, the Correspondent of the Board of Advice informed them the school was inadequate and unsuitable.

'The matter will be dealt with as soon as funds are available.'

31st August 1909 the Shire Council of Mildura requested a bigger building to accommodate more pupils.

'The matter will be dealt with as soon as funds are available.'

2nd October 1909 the District Inspector James Livingstone recommended a brick building to accommodate 70 pupils.

'The matter will be dealt with as soon as funds are available.'

13th May 1910 the Head Teacher asks that the building program be expedited as the existing structure had developed defects.

'The matter will be dealt with as soon as funds are available.'

28th June 1910 The Head Teacher is off sick because the building is draughty.

'The matter will be dealt with as soon as funds are available.'

4th August 1910 William McEachern appealed to the Hon John Gray MLA to prevail upon the Minister for Public Instruction to have it erected without delay.

'The matter will be dealt with as soon as funds are available.'

Handwritten letter from Mr. McEachern to the Hon John Gray MLA, dated 4th August 1910. The letter mentions the need for a new school building and the appeal to the Minister for Public Instruction to have it erected without delay.

'That the formal opening of the school take place on the day of breaking up for the Easter vacation'

School Committee Minutes 7th February 1912.

I will give some background here to the Boards of Advice and School Committees. The Education Act of 1872 constituted school districts linked to shire boundaries with a Board of Advice. Board members were usually elected by ratepayers for three years. The Board advised on the condition of buildings, the use of them after school, furniture requirements and the need for new buildings. The seven district schools of Mildura were represented on a 5 person Board of Advice, Maryborough. Mr Howard Paul who represented the Lake Riding, Mildura Shire, was the correspondent for the Board of Advice.

The 1910 Act proposed a School Committee system following the lines of that in operation in New Zealand. The Boards of Advice ceased to exist on 3rd January 1911. The brick school started with a new governing support body, the School Committee.

The first Lake School Committee meeting was held at the school 11th December following the school's reopening on 1st December 1911. Our first Committee members were:

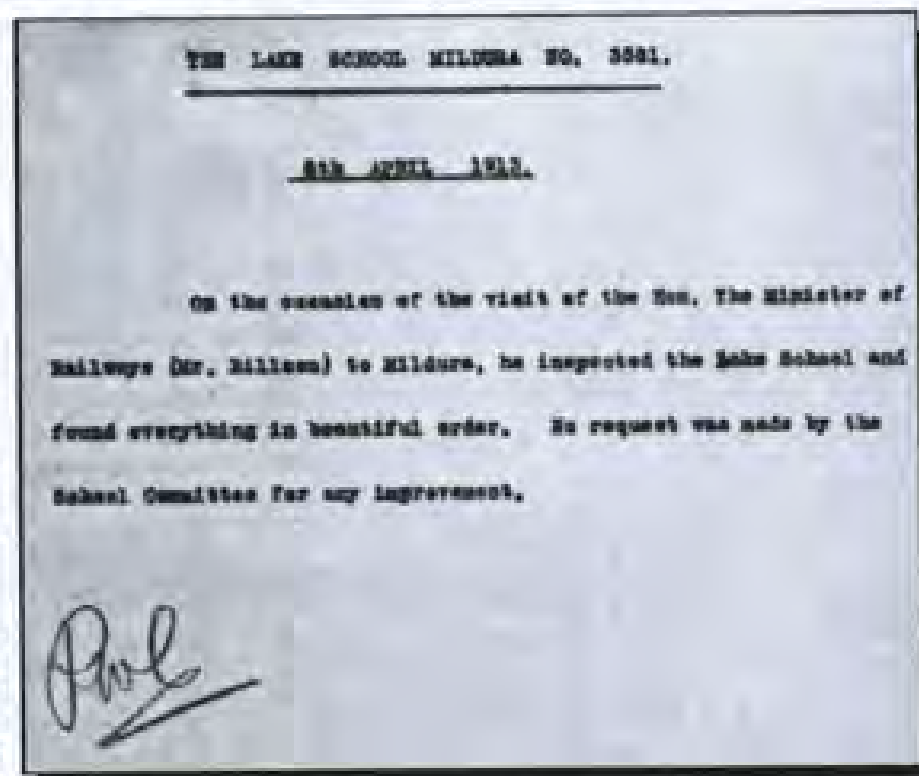
Mr Howard Paul, Chairman
Mrs Ellen Paul, Treasurer
Mr Oswald Setford,
Correspondent
Mrs Harriman
Mrs Inglis
Mr Charles Norman
Mr Thomas Bromley
(Notice there were three women on our first committee.)

School classes commenced 4th December 1911.

Mr Casey, writing The Lake's story in 1922, says he opened with 31 pupils but the records show only 17 enrolled in 1911.

The Cultivator 4th April 1912, reports: 'The Lake school is to be formally opened by the Shire President tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. The committee have arranged a programme of sports, which will commence at 1 o'clock, and refreshments will be provided.'

The Brick School building was officially opened on 5th April 1912. The Minister of Railways, A.A. Billson gave it an inspection a year later when he and an entourage of dignitaries visited Mildura on 6th April 1913.



Mr Billson travelled with the Director of Education, Mr Frank Tate so they visited many district schools during their tour of Mildura, April 1913. Read this and imagine the occasion, everyone and everything looking at its best for the ceremony. Then read the great words of wisdom, spoken by these men of education and importance, to the children and those assembled - about towels, flies and fresh air!

'Though 16 months had elapsed since its opening it was so neat and clean as to have the appearance of being opened but yesterday.'

Local Opinion

...Before these schools [The Lake, Irymple South and Merbein] are completed an Amending Education Act will be in force, which provides, amongst other things, for the abolition of the present 'Boards of Advice', and the formation of School Committees. Instead of there being only 5 persons in the district, specially elected by the residents as a Board of Advice, there will be no fewer than seven committees (one for each school), each consisting of several members. If this results in an increase of public interest in the schools and makes local influence more effective, it will be a good thing...

...Whether the School Committees will fare any better remains to be seen. If there is strength in numbers, some good should come of it, for a conference of all the committees in the Mildura district, for instance, could speak with a voice which might be loud enough to reach even the inner recesses of the Education Office. One thing the Mildura public has a right to have a voice in, and that is, the naming of the schools. There is no reason why we should adopt 'Irymple South'; why not call the school in that locality 'Belar' after the avenue in which it is situated, or some equally euphonious or appropriate title? The Lake is good enough as it stands, but the first thing the Merbein teacher should teach his pupils is: how to pronounce the name of their school.'

Mildura Cultivator, Editorial Wed Nov 2nd 1910

The newspaper reports:

'WEDNESDAY MORNINGS RUN Three motor cars set out on Wednesday morning for a trip through the Lake District and Merbein. Besides Messrs Billson, Tate, Gray and Patterson, the party contained Coms. Rawlings and H.P. Thomson, Messrs. W.B. Chaffey, J.H. Baylee and A.L. Thomson, ...

THE LAKE STATE SCHOOL

The first point of call was the Lake State School, where the visitors were met by Cr H.F. and Mrs Paul and Messrs. Jones (2), Setford and McLaren. The visitors were very favourably impressed with the neat surroundings and internal arrangements of the school.

'There is nothing to complain of here: it's one of the nicest schools we have seen' was the appreciative comment of Minister and Director. Everything it was noticed bore the impression

'MR BILLSON

thanked the Chairman for the kind introduction. ...He had never been in a finer building (for its size) or one better lit or more finely decorated. He was pleased to see that they had adopted the system of one towel for each child. There was nothing better in the Education Act of 1910 than the provision of School Committees.... The children should be proud of their school surroundings and also of their delightful district....

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR

Mr Tate said that he too was delighted with the appearance of the school building. Though 16 months had elapsed since its opening it was so neat and clean as to have the appearance of being opened but yesterday. He noted with satisfaction the fly-proof windows and doors and impressed upon the children the wisdom of keeping these scavengers outside. The ventilation, too, was ample; he hoped that their homes were as well ventilated and that they either slept outside or with their windows wide open. There was nothing so health-giving and health-preserving as an abundance of fresh air. They would not drink from the drain into which the house slops were emptied; neither should they breathe the bad air that had passed out of themselves or somebody else. He wanted them to learn to love the fresh and clean air. Like Mr Billson, and Mr Tate, the Director he was impressed with the neatness of the school decorations. The pictures were well chosen and nicely framed, the piano was an ornament and their specimens of seeds and manures, farm and garden produce were very nicely arranged. Everything was clean and sweet a credit to the committee, the scholars and their teacher. Mr H.W. Casey, best-built and most finely-equipped schools in the State.'

'one of the best-built and most finely-equipped schools in the State.'



Marjorie Bromley, in white in the centre of this picture is the only original 1911 student at the school in 1918.
Back - Bill Bunney, Grant Robertson, Albert Baker, Roy Lucas, Albert Flint, Ernie Smith and Des Woodbury; **2nd Row** - Mr Bill Casey, Mr John Pedraza, Vera Brown, Valmai Clark, Edith Lay, Marjorie Bromley, Phyllis Setford, Elsie Baker, Irene Howard, Miss Olive Robertson, Miss Constance Gamble; **3rd Row** - Dorothy Fletcher, Sylvia Tankin, Alice Baker, Myrtle Tyson, Mavis Smith, Nancy Setford, Beatrice McKimble, Connie Davis, Josie Bromley, Lorna Howard and Myrtle Fletcher; **4th Row** - George Woods, Ray Setford, Roy Lever, Bill Lucas, Alan Broadstock, Alex McKengil, Alan Fletcher, Jack Woodbury and Arthur Davis; **5th Row** - Sid Lay, Avon Woodbury, Harry Tyson, Laurie Broadstock, Fawdry Woodbury



An early photo (1915/1916) of the school showing the shelter shed, the underground tank and windmill. Mr Casey and two female staff on the left (possibly Miss Nagle, Miss Robertson).

Children (Transferred to full, and in the second year after the 1911)				Transferred to full, and in the second year after the 1911				Residence of Parents or Guardians			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Shillington Ernest	19	2	01	12	11	John Shillington	Eden Park Waiwaka			2.5
2	Bennett Robert	25	11	09	12	11	Frank Bennett	Eden Park Waiwaka			2.5
3	Russell Robert	21	4	00	12	11	Robert Russell	Eden Park			1.75
4	Bennett Albert	26	10	01	12	11	Frank Bennett	Waiwaka			2.5
5	Bromby Benjamin	9	1	00	12	11	Thomas Bromby	Dunedin			5.
6	Norman Charles	2	4	05	12	11	Charles Norman	Waiwaka			2
7	Russell Caroline	10	7	02	12	11	Robert Russell	Waiwaka			1.5
8	Norman Grace	22	8	02	12	11	Charles Norman	Waiwaka			2
9	Bromby Myoria	15	2	06	12	11	Thomas Bromby	Dunedin			5.
10	Norman Irene	5	4	05	12	11	Charles Norman	Waiwaka			2
11	Russell Eva	13	1	05	12	11	Robert Russell	Waiwaka			1.5
12	McLaren Blandie	22	10	01	12	11	John McLaren	Glenelg			1
13	McLaren Isabel	10	11	02	12	11					1
14	McLaren Janet	2	11	00	12	11					1
15	McLaren James	14	3	02	12	11	James McDell	Dunedin			2
16	Mitting William	17	10	00	12	11	William Mitting	The Lake			1.5
17	Hedley William	19	2	00	12	11	William Hedley	Waiwaka			3.5
18	James Charles	1	11	02	12	11	Richard James	Waiwaka			3.25
19	James Frederick	1	11	02	12	11					1.5
20	James Thomas	3	4	06	12	11					2.5
21	Ingles David	21	10	03	12	11	Thomas Ingles	The Lake			3.5
22	Lay Alma	2	9	10	12	11	Henry Lay	Waiwaka			2.5
23	Woodbury James	17	8	05	12	11	James Woodbury	Waiwaka			2.5
24	Setford Phyllis	1	2	07	12	11	Phyllis Setford	Waiwaka			2.5

A portion of the original roll, commencing after the school reopened December 1911. There were 9 boys and 8 girls making 17 who completed a couple of weeks of schooling 1911, and then 22 when it commenced February 1912.



The Shelter Shed At first a bush playhouse was erected but by 1913 the parents sought something more comfortable and permanent. The School Committee minutes record that application was made to the Department to contribute to the building of a shelter shed. The tender of £25 by Mr William Mitting was accepted. (June 20th 1913; August 15, 1913). The neat little shelter shed was built with a latticed front and enclosed walls on all other sides. By 1922 the enrolment had reached 102 and the new school house, built for 70, had seating for only 80. The shelter shed was being used for a classroom and the staff were requesting a blackboard for it. In his report to the School Committee in 1922, Mr Casey tells of the great success of the shelter shed as a classroom for the juniors 'since its flooring was on the coldest mornings warmer than the school itself, the teaching staff being greatly pleased with it.'

The Windmill Before the new building was complete the Committee requested a windmill and underground tank but were only granted £75 for the tank. In 1915 they asked for a subsidy £ for £ to erect a windmill at the school. This was granted and by August it was erected.

Photo Album



1924 Grade 3

Back: James Lane, Tom Bromley, Arthur Horne, Pat Carney, John Dedman, Robert Dickie, Sid Noyce, Les Broadstock
Middle: Joyce Walters, Dorothy Hawson, Winnie Blacker, Doris Dedman, Edna Casey, Nancy Cardy, Jean Dixon, Joyce Thomson
Front: Keith Martin, Maurice Davis



Left: Methodist Church group at the school.

Below: School Group, Possibly 1928

We don't have the names for these students but some will be in Grades 7 & 8 on the next page.



1923 Infants

Back: Richard Litchfield, Jack Fletcher, James Tyson, Pat Carney, Cliff Robinson, Jack Dickie, Andrew Fatt
Middle: Rene Litchfield, Owen Walters, May Hepworth, Annie Yates, Nancy Cardy, Ruth Tiller, Mona Carney, Jean Norman, Mavis Duscher
Front: Alma Blacker, Ian Whitney, Bill McKelvie, Tom Bromley, Geoffrey Brown, Dora Howard



1927 Grades 5 & 6

Back: Myrtle Morrison, Tessy Carney, ? Quinn, May Hepworth, Sylvia McNamara, Alma Howard, Dorothy Hawson, Ivy Fletcher, Dalcie Noyce, Owen Walters, Mavis Duscher
Next Row: Joyce Walters, Alice Kinniburgh, Essie Bailey, Mona Duscher, Dora Howard, Annie Yates, Jean Norman, Mavis Kinniburgh, Alma Brastrap, Owen Godkin, ? Bysouth, Elsie McKenzie
 (A couple of these names are not in the records; boys names not known)



1934 Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8

Back: William Thompson, Laurie Mayne, Bruce Brastrap, Graham Whiting, Jack Copper, John Crozier, Fred Langdon, Bill Brown, Colin Bull, Ray Hayes, John Firth. — Cont.

Next Row: Elsie Knudsen, Bertha Langdon, Joan Duscher, Betty Alexander, Betty Fox, Norma Crozier, Joan Brown, Ellice McTaggart, Thelma Firth, Evelyn Flenley, Gwenda Walters, Mavis Flenley, Vera Lyon
Next Row: Thelma Hepworth, Mavis Payne, Kathleen Sanyth, Nancy Hocking, Grace Firth, Eileen Box, Jean Warcham, Joan Copper, Jean Forbes, Vivian Wilson, Mavis Goodie, Beth Hopkins, P. Thompson
Front: Ken Knudsen, John Kinniburgh, Harold Lamont, Cecil Thompson, Stan Bradley, Robin McDonell, George Lintey, Edgar Rainbow, David Harris, William Harris, William Hudson



What's in a name? -



The Cabarita Story

We had always believed Cabarita to be an aboriginal word meaning 'by the water'.

There is a Cabarita beach on the upper NSW coast and a waterside area of Sydney called Cabarita. If it was an aboriginal word it was obviously not indigenous to this area.

We researched and found a Cabarita Island in Jamaica. Is it possibly of Spanish or Portuguese origin? Jeanette Hope of Wentworth wondered what it would mean in Spanish and found Cabarita to be a Spanish word for goat! Translation gives cabra as meaning goat (of Latin capra) and cabarita as 'little she goat or nanny-goat'.

We contacted Dr David Blair of the Australian National Place Names Survey. He was able to tell us the Sydney locality was the first Australian use of the name 'Cabarita'. He goes further to say "... the usual story is that, as you suggest, it's from a Dharug word meaning 'by the water'... What connection this might have with the other Australian Cabaritas is currently unknown. It's a euphonious name, and we might assume that the Sydney naming gave rise to those in the other States. However, Cabarita is also a Jamaican toponym. Cabarita River (often referred to as 'Cabarita'), Cabarita Point, and Cabarita Island, are all well-known placenames in tourist rich Jamaica... I've had my suspicions that Cabarita, since it doesn't sound much like a Sydney Aboriginal word, may actually be a foreign import - perhaps, thus, from the West Indies!"

Local folklore had it meaning 'by the water' which was quite appropriate but the Spanish/Portuguese connection had much merit.

Although, the idea that it meant 'by the water', was more appealing than 'little nanny goat'!

We wondered when the area was first known as Cabarita. It seemed it was the post office which was the first to bear the name. It was on the corner of Riverside Ave. and 17th St. and was known as Cabarita Post Office. It was first commissioned as a non-official post office around 1925 and at that time the post master was Mr Sydney Hawson.

The Hawson's had moved to Dyar Avenue during 1922 where the occupation is listed as horticulturalist. Their two daughters, Nellie and Dorothy enrolled at The Lake 18/10/1922. Nellie transferring from Irymple State School where she and her brother Harold attended. When their son George started school the following year (1/8/1923), they were still recorded as living on Dyar Avenue.

The Post Office archival records relating to Cabarita have a heading first handwritten as Carbarita and crossed out replaced with Cabarita in the same hand and ink. The first entry dated 1/7/25 refers to some correspondence objecting to the Post Office's proposed name (we assume, Lake Hawthorn) as it was too similar to Hawthorn Post Office in Melbourne. On 3/6/27 there is an entry spelt Carbaritaria!

The first entry in the school roll with Cabarita P.O. (written as Carbarita, then corrected) as an address, is with Mary Dickie's enrolment on 16/1/1926. She is recorded as living 1/2 mile from school. She lived near Riverside Ave on 17th St.

The source of the Cabarita name was still a mystery. It appeared to have been given as a name for the Post Office after Lake Hawthorn was rejected. We wondered if there may be a connection to the Hawson family and if we could seek them out we may find our answer.

The school committee wrote to have the name of the school changed to Cabarita in 1929 but it was not permitted. What a pity! Cabarita State School would have been unique compared with the number of lake schools all over Victoria in the last 100 years, including one as close as Cullulleraine.

Fortunately we were able to trace two members of the Hawson family, Nellie and Dorothy. They responded with beautifully written letters to tell us:

The Hawson family, Sydney and Lillian Margaret (Maggie) with their daughter Margaret aged 2 voyaged to Melbourne from Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1908. They disembarked at Port Melbourne and travelled on to Mildura. Sydney was a qualified auctioneer and surveyor. The children were Margaret, Harold, Nellie, Dorothy and George. From 1922 to 1925 they lived on Dyar Avenue. During 1925 they sold and moved to 17th Street starting the Post Office.

Nellie writes: 'as we lived near Lake Hawthorn we were near the water. The name Cabarita was named because it means near the water...Cabarita wasn't an Aboriginal name...The P.O. was named from another such place, in fact two Cabarita beaches in NSW.'

Dorothy says it was 'my father's second choice as the name means Cabarita, by the water.'

Cabarita was the name given by the Hawsons for the Post Office. The Postal Department rejected the name Lake Hawthorn P.O. as there was already a Hawthorn P.O. in Victoria. It was named after a beachside location in N.S.W. because it was believed to mean 'By the Water'.

Nellie and Dorothy's recollections on the original Cabarita Post Office -

'It was an awful building and very degrading to my mother. But she worked very hard and made the best of what she could and cared for us all. She came from a wealthy family and never knew want.

The shop and Post Office were in the 2 front rooms, a verandah at front, kitchen living room and one bedroom at back, 2 sleepouts at the back, an old Mallice shed at the side, lavatory at the back of the shed, another shed near the fence, the underground well away from the building and a galvanised tank at the back of the building. A clothesline at the back in the yard.' writes Nellie.

She paints more details... There was a Mallice Bough Shed where the jinker and horse was kept also a Bulldog. The old fashioned lavatory at the back, no sewerage in those days. We had to cut up paper in squares for toilet use. ...Washing was done in a copper heated with wood. The water was taken from the tank.'

Dorothy writes: The Post Office building, square, 4 rooms, weatherboard and iron...The left hand room was the Post office section and the right hand room was made into a confectionery and pastry shop - this conducted by Mrs Hawson (all in order to supplement the Postal income) Home made pies and sausage rolls - many types of confectionary, this was the tick shop for the children of The Lake school, lunch time and on the way home from school.'

'...Electricity did not come to our district until 1933-34 - kerosene lamp and candles used; Mother's garden in plant containers between the sleepouts...'

'My father Sydney Hawson conducted the Post Office as Post Master. The building belonged to Mr Alex Camard.

The old fashioned telephone made of brown stained timber mounted on the wall, ear piece on the left side on moveable hooks - a turning handle on the right side to ring the bell at the top of the telephone.

Mail brought to the Post Office by residents was immediately stamped by a date stamp, marked Cabarita Post Office, then placed into a mail bag. This bag was tied with cord and sealed next morning with red sealing wax and also stamped with the Post Office name. Father would drive into the town Mildura and deliver the mail to the Mildura Post Office, collect the incoming mail...[After returning he would]...place all in order into the Pigeon Holes ready for collection. The horse drawn vehicle was the mode of transport (the Gig).

Residents used the telephone for business and private calls, I think from memory it was twopence a call. A very busy life for my parents.

The lollies, sweets, pies and sausage roll section was eventually closed in 1931. Early days of Cabarita Post office Mr Hawson had the rights to sell petrol and kerosene.

'In years later the mail was delivered by the bus link which travelled between Mildura and Merbein.'



'Mr Hawson owned the Cabarita PO. We got the mail there and papers and if I was good I could get some sweets.' **Heather Cannard**

George Godkin tells: 'The Hawsons had the P.O. and sold lollies if you had a penny. It was on the lake side of Riverside Avenue.'

Tilly and Kath Allen remember Mrs Hawson making honeycomb toffee and selling it. 'It tasted like soda but we ate it.'

Eddie Geyer recalls the Post Office. 'Mrs Hawson mostly ran it...It was an old dilapidated house, possibly made out of corrugated iron. The PO was in the front room of the house with a counter and square pigeon holes for the mail. We'd get an all-day sucker or some sort of lolly, for taking the scraps from the school rubbish bin down to the Hawson's. They were for their chicks. They sold eggs.'

Ern Geyer writes 'The school had a bin for food scraps, which Mr Hawson, the owner of a small shop on 17th St, near Riverside Avenue, fed to his fowls. Any boy who walked that way after school made a mad dash to get the bin to take to Mr Hawson's shop, for the reward of a halfpenny lolly.'

Doug Clark remembers the Post Office was a weatherboard single pitch building, like a lean-to. The verandah was cemented. It was on the hill about 40 yards off the road.'

The Petschels remember the original Cabarita Post Office was opposite their corner paddock. 'It was just a post, an old well and some rubbish by the time we were old enough to explore it. Dad said when they first bought on Riverside he would have to walk down there to make a phone call. No one had private phones. He thought about buying the land when it came up for sale but it had no FMIT water. Our corner paddock had the local tennis court on it. The posts for the nets were there for years.'



Mrs Connors outside the Regina Ave. P.O. with a young visitor from Ireland.

The Cabarita Post Office agency was moved to Mrs Connors on Regina Avenue, then the Caravan Park, Shaw's near the old store and lately to Snakes and Ladders.

The Post Office moved on, but the old well, some ruins and a telephone pole were there for many years to mark the spot where Cabarita began.

The locality was finally registered as Cabarita on 2/5/1966.



The ruins of Hawson's old bricked well, 2008.

Birdwoodton Post Office

Early 1920 The Birdwoodton Soldier Settlers' Association applied to establish a postal office at Birdwoodton.

Mr Gelly was opening a store opposite the Birdwoodton shed and as it was on the proposed trunk telephone line to Merbein South it was chosen as a suitable site.



~ Cabarita Christians ~

Sunday School and Church at the School

The school has been used on Sunday for both Sunday School and Church Services. It appears that various denominations conducted these over the years, the local Christians supported by both Mildura and Merbein Churches.



Sunday School 1939, with Rev Blakemore & Bill Thompson

Back: Lorna Mayne, June Mayne, Valma Hudson, Maud Firth, Heather Cannard, Norma Connors, Eunice Walters.
Middle: Charlie Connors, Ian Cannard, Billy Connors, Mavis Allen, Barbara Kneebone, Pam Hudson, Ian Kneebone, Allan Ball.
Front: Teddy Connors, Herb Henderson, John Smith, Laurie Connors.

Ken Rix recalls the Sunday School was Methodist. The minister used to ride his bike out from Merbein.

Dorothy Hawthorne writes '...Church of Christ Sunday School every Sunday; Church once a month. Mrs Hawson [Dorothy's mother] played piano, for the hymns etc.'

Florrie Hawtin (Benham) remembers attending the Church of Christ Sunday School at The Lake during the 1930's. Clarrie Robinson came out from Mildura in his ute to run it. The local children went ~ Florrie, her sister Elizabeth, the Croziers, the Howards and a few others.

Kath Foster (Langdon) '...Mr Blackmore the Methodist minister came for the religious instruction and later with the help of my brother Fred and Bill Thompson formed a Sunday School of school pupils held at the Lake School Sunday afternoons. Later a church service was started and held in the infant room of the school after Sunday School class. The parents of some of the pupils made up the first congregation.'

Nellie Hawson writes 'Sunday School, Church of Christ; Rev Goodison used to come once a month from Merbein. ~ Anglican; Mother used to play piano for hymns.'

August 15, 1915 Lake School Committee Minutes ~ ...that consent be given to hold a Sunday School to the Church of Christ, Mildura, a charge of one shilling per day to be charged according to Department rules.

Mildura Church of Christ, A Centenary 1890 - 1990. ~ 1913 ~ a Bible School was held at The Lake (Hawthorn) State School, staffed by Mildura and Merbein members for up to 40 children.

1930 ~...Thanks was expressed for the work of Mr Robinson at Lake Hawthorn Sunday School.

Heather Geyer (Cannard) 'Sunday School was run in the school. The Methodist minister came out from Merbein. They had church services too. Mum and Dad used to go it saved them the trip to Mildura.'

St Alban's Church, Mena Road

The Mena Road Church was built about 1935-36 on land owned by Mrs M Ford near 'Suicide Corner'. It was built as a Sunday School. About 1941, partly due to petrol rationing, it was consecrated as a branch church of St John's Anglican, Merbein. It was known by the term 'Chapel at Ease'. It was furnished with a sanctuary and dedicated with the name St Alban's by Bishop James on Nov 6th 1950.

Later it was deconsecrated, and moved a short distance along Mena Road, to its present position.

It was used as a storage shed for block equipment at one stage, and at another a pickers' hut.

It is currently owned by Mr and Mrs Nick Mazza. They have generously assisted with its restoration and provided the stained glass windows in the porch. The building has been restumped and a room added.

In 1992 Rev. Alan Colly began services there under auspices of the Anglican Catholic Church in Australia.



The school has outgrown its buildings again!

With increasing enrolments the school made requests again for larger buildings. In April 1922 Mr Casey informed the Department that the average attendance was 100 and he applied for extra dual desks. By July that year the School Committee were requesting an extra classroom to reduce the overcrowding. This was endorsed by the District Inspector who recommended a brick extension to accommodate 50 pupils. The contract was completed on 15th October 1923 at a cost of £1086/2/6. This soon became inadequate as the numbers by 1925 were up to 140 with an average attendance of 139. Mr Casey applied for more seating which was provided. Imagine 70 students seated in each classroom - I wonder if they had enough space to move their arms to write?!

The Hope
Oct 10. 1922

Sir,

I have the honour to...

The Director of Education

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by my Committee to respectfully urge on you the necessity of hurrying on the erection of the new building at the above school. It will be impossible to accommodate all the children in the summer. I visited the school the other day. owing to the weather being warm the teacher had to take the children from the shelter shed into the porch. There were forty of them packed in this little room. The Black Hole of Calcutta wouldn't be a patch on this when the weather is about a hundred in the shade. I would also draw your attention to the damage the leakage is doing to the lower parts of the building. They are all pouring away.

Yours respectfully,
W. A. Wacker

The Director,
Education Department

*The Secretary,
Educ. Dept.*

19/2/22

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. regarding the above school. I have also been asked to make the following report in connection with the application for additional accommodation at school No 3001. The school is at present the school consists of two rooms and a porch. A rough plan is given below.

Large Class Room
smaller classroom
Porch

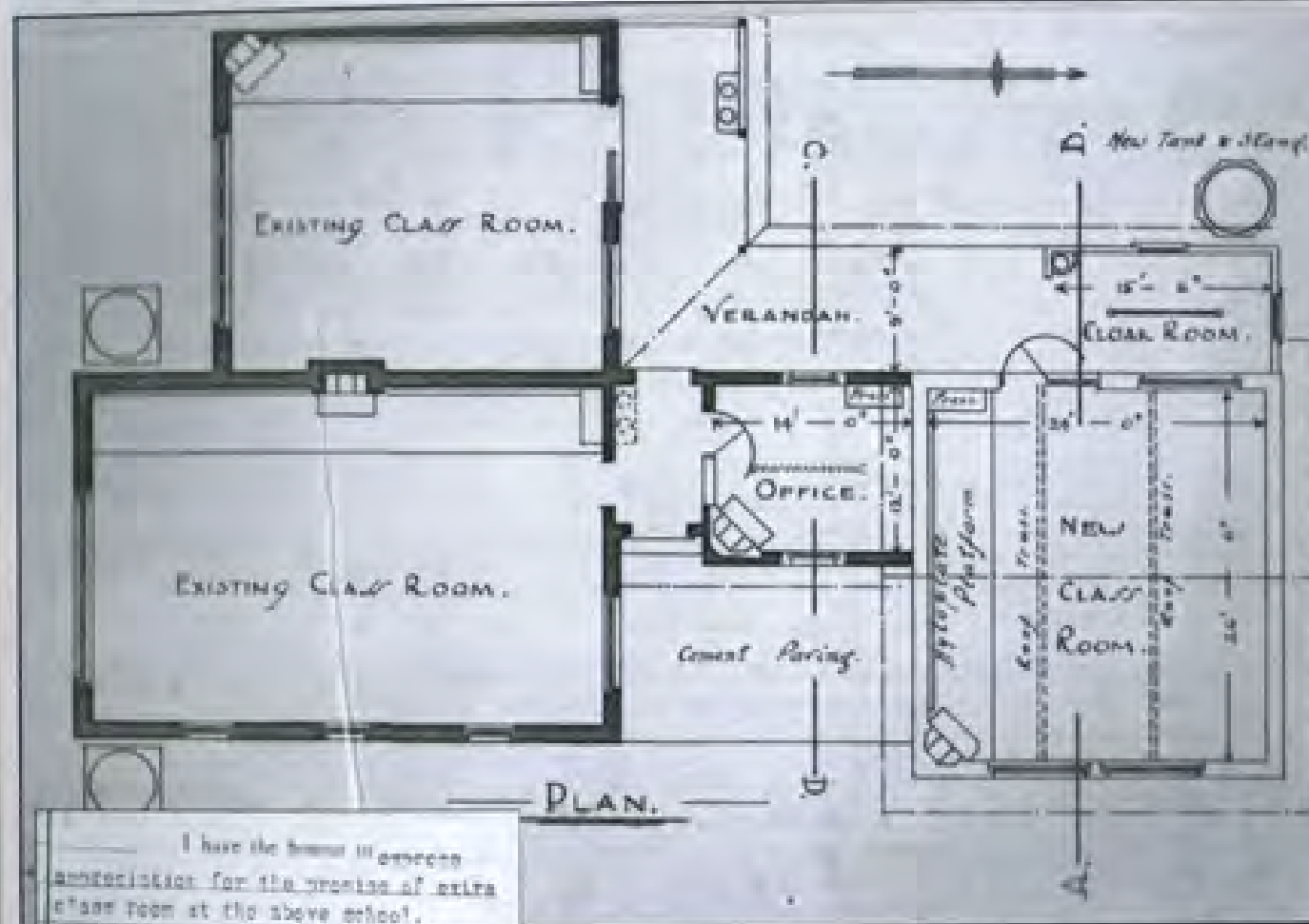
12' x 14'
10' x 12'

19/2/22

100

The School Community help out.

In 1926 the School Committee had a pavilion built. The department subsidised the work to the extent of £70/16/9 being half of the actual cost. The rest was raised from school funds. The Mother's Club organising social fund raising functions. But by December that year the District Inspector was calling for an additional classroom to be built onto the present building. On 5th January 1927 the Public Works Department was directed to furnish a plan and costing.



I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. regarding the above school. I have also been asked to make the following report in connection with the application for additional accommodation at school No 3001. The school is at present the school consists of two rooms and a porch. A rough plan is given below.

In attempt had been made to utilize the play pavilion but during the hot weather it is almost unusable, there being a difference in temperature of about ten degrees.

In reference to the work to be carried out, to protect the infant from the north, & to provide in the veranda and providing an office & night I respectfully suggest that this work be taken together with proposed addition and that a room suitable for office and Teachers Room be provided.

I have the honour to
Sir,
Your obedient servant

Mr Casey's letter
of 23rd Feb 1927.

Mr Casey requested an office and teacher's room. The building was completed and on 1st March 1928 students were able to use it. This building was the 'school' for about 50 years. The first additional portable arriving in the 70's. The School Committee installed a "Gloria Light", lighting plant in the school building costing £20, the Department covered half the cost.

The pavilion became a great asset to the community. It was used for Friday night dances and musical evenings. It had a stage and was used for the school concert.

...The Street Where You Live...



Ken and Margaret Wilson on their way to school

'I remember when riding home, going up the "hill" was always hard work especially if there were head winds. Often in the summer insects were a problem. We would ride into a swarm of them and they got in your eyes. Why was it that the duststorm or thunderstorm would hit when you were riding home from school? I can remember a duststorm rolling up Riverside Avenue towards us.' Christine Cook (Petschel)

The Wentworth road (Ranfurly Way) was often flooded and not usable for months. When it rained, or in winter, vehicles became bogged. In 1908 the government agreed to continue the rail line from Mildura to White Cliffs and construction commenced in December that year. The work was hard with the workers using picks, shovels and barrows to move the earth. Progress was slow and slowed even more when the picking season began in February. The men left to pick grapes which was easier work and better pay!

An over head bridge to carry Ridge Road was constructed. Apart from the overhead bridge to the goods yard at Mildura, this is the only bridge over the line, north of Ballarat.

The railway plan had a siding down from the Ridge Road bridge - where Gibbs St. meets the track. (If you walk the Lake Hawthorn Trail you will pass this point when you cross the railway line.) It was planned for the loading of fruit from Old Mildura, Lord Ranfurly's Estate and maybe from those along The Ridge. The construction of a siding did not eventuate but apparently fruit was loaded from that point a few times. The steam train hauled goods and took passengers. But our line to Merbein for a few years had a special passenger service.

Bruce McLean has recorded the history of the Mildura Suburban Train Service. From 1922 until 1928 a motor rail service for passengers ran each week day and Saturday from Merbein to Mildura and return. It had two stopping places, one on River Road and the other at 14th St. for Mildura High School Students to alight.

The Railway to Merbein

So in 1922 you could catch the motor rail from Merbein at 8.05 am Friday and return at 1.45pm by steam train or wait until the 4.07pm motor rail and come home with the High School students. The fare from Merbein to Mildura in 1922 was 1 shilling.



Many thanks to Bruce McLean for this map and his research which assisted in writing this.

The Names of our Streets -

McEdwards - In 1878 Alexander Mc Edward took over the Yerre Yerre lease (Mildura Station) from the Jamieson Brothers. Mc Edwards Street is referred to as Ridge Road by locals as it wound along 'The Ridge'.

Etlwanda, Ontario, Riverside, San Mateo, - all named by the Chaffey's associated with the irrigation settlements in America and Canada they had established; 17th and other numbered streets were also part of the Chaffey plan.

Dyar - possibly a Chaffey connection, as the Dyars were original citrus growers of Ontario and wholesale fresh and dried fruit merchants in Los Angeles.

Dow - John L Dow, MLA, Minister of Lands for Victoria. He visited America with Alfred Deakin to investigate irrigation settlements 1883.

Gibbs - George Harold Gibbs bought land, 1891 (over 73 acres) between McEdwards and Robertson streets to Regina and 17th street.

Dickies, Hockings, McKays, Rodwells, Charles, Kuhanez, Bridley, Mathewson, Mc Swains, Rigby - names of local blockies and settlers.

Metford - Mr C. Guise Mitford was the superintendent of the Ranfurly Estate around 1890-92. Much of the early plantings at Old Mildura were under his supervision.

Flora - means plant life, but why was it chosen for this street?

Regina - named in deference to Queen Victoria

Mena - believed to have a connection with the returned servicemen

Walnut, Ash, Sheoak, Oak, - names of trees; Lake, Lakeside, River - describe location

Sturt Highway - after Captain Charles Sturt the famed explorer

Calder Highway - William Calder, chairman of the Country Roads Board who laid the foundation for road construction in Victoria. The Calder Highway is the longest state highway radiating from Melbourne. It ends at the Abbotsford Bridge, Yelta.

Robertson - this street does not exist now. It ran parallel to McEdwards Street.

Emu - this street was down by the lake.

White Cliff - original name for Merbein.

St Andrews, Malibu, Ebony - recent developments.

Many of the Avenues around Mildura were planted to palm trees. This was the case around our district. Most have been destroyed as the Blockies found the fronds to be a haven for feral birds which devoured their crops. Many a bonfire night was climaxed with a palm in flames. Do you remember parts of Riverside, Ontario and Dyar lined with tall palms?



(Illustration from First Book, Lesson 6)

On the way to school today...

In the early days children travelled long distances on foot because The Lake School was the only school west of Mildura. The Copleys (1908-1911) walked from near Pump Hill Merbein. They picked apricots off the orchard trees for a feed on the way. Mrs Traegar dropped tree boughs along the track so children walking from 6th Ave could find their way.

When Mr Casey lived with his parents in Mildura he cycled out to school. Later he married and moved to a small block in the vicinity of River Rd. and Fifth St. driving his horse and jinker. The school horse paddock being where the residence was later built.

The first School Committee met on 11th December 1911. A motion was moved at this meeting that future meetings be held on the Friday closest to the full moon each month. This apparently made travelling to and from the meetings a much less hazardous task.

In 1928 it was compulsory to attend school after the age of 6 if the following travelling distances (each way) were applicable:
6-7 years - no further than one mile.
7-9 years - no further than 2 miles.
9-11 yrs - no further than 2 1/2 miles.
Over 11 yrs - no further than 3 miles.

The Tunkins lived on Etiwanda Avenue towards the old abattoirs. It was a 3 mile walk through the scrub to get to school. Edith Tunkin would enjoy telling this story: 'One morning a well dressed man in a gig passed us walking to school - we called out "No thanks mister, we don't want a ride!" only to arrive at school to find it was the school inspector.' They were very embarrassed and felt very cheeky and guilty, but it gave them lots of laughs over the years.

George Godkin recalls: '...after I was born we shifted to SanMateo Avenue. I started school at The Lake and walked with my older brothers. It was a long walk so I didn't start until I was 6. Later I walked with my 2 younger sisters and the Noyces. The Noyces lived on the corner of 1st Street and SanMateo...

It took an hour to get there. The road was not bitumen but gravel. It was quite safe, there was not much traffic and we were always in a group... When we got to the channel we walked across on a board.

George Godkin

There were 10 in my family, 7 sisters and my 2 brothers. Ross and Harold went to The Lake with me. We walked up San Mateo. There were no blocks at the end then... There was a board over the channel, then we walked up 17th Street. There were peppercorn trees on the corner there. It was cold walking on the frosty mornings. We had to leave by eight. We had sandwiches in a bag on our back. If there was a dust storm, there would be a block out and you could not see at school so we were sent home. You had to walk in the dust. If it rained Dad would pick us up if he could. He worked for the Lands Department. He had a Singer car. The families on our way were: Leonard Brastrup (17th and Walnut), Hepworths, Thompsons, Florrie Brebner (on Ontario off 17th St.) Dickies (between Ontario and Riverside), Fletchers and Howards (on Riverside). Jack Dedman lived on 17th and Deakin near the channel. He was older than me.'

The Noyce's lived on 17th St. between San Mateo and Etiwanda Ave. Neil started school as a six year old and walked the distance.

Tom McCarthy

In 1925 Mr Casey received this note:

Dear Ed,

Please don't give Tom the cuts for being late for school. Apart from picking up Mary and John Rodwell and Laurel and Joyce Smith the old buggy had to be greased. Also the old horse was 15 years old today and is feeling her age.

I remain,
Hopefully yours,
Mrs McCarthy

Driving a 4-wheel buggy, Tom travelled first to Rodwells and Smiths, who lived opposite each other. Smiths were usually having breakfast, so a delay there. Rodwells were usually ready.

After arriving at school a distance of about 2 miles, Tom had to unharness the horse 'Aunty' (and later 'Granny'). By that time school was generally underway, resulting in the 'cuts' for being late. One time Tom had the occasion to pick up the teacher, after which the understanding man ceased the punishment.

Tom had matches and was demonstrating to his passengers how he could 'flick' them. Unfortunately, one landed in McCaughie's dry grass and started a fire, Tom's father and Uncle Tom were called to help put out this mysterious fire. Tom later admitted his guilt.

Miss Fregon taught us this movement rhyme which we sang and played in the assembly part of the infant room.

'On the way to school today I met a little friend, and holding hands we skipped (ran, hopped, etc.) along, skipped along, skipped along, and holding hands we skipped along and this is how we went... We skipped, skipped, skipped, skipped, skipped along to school, we skipped, skipped, skipped, skipped, skipped along to school.'

After school one thing we did was to ride our bikes into the lake as far as we could... Ed Geyer

Ed Geyer lived on Deakin Avenue between 17th & 18th Streets. His family moved up after drought years in the wheat country. He and his two brothers came to school on a bike, one on the seat, the youngest on the handle bars and one pedalling. They cut across the channel to Walnut Avenue then along 17th Street to the school.

'After school one thing we did was to ride our bikes into the lake as far as we could, but I got into trouble from Dad when I buckled the wheel doing this. We also rode in the wash-streys around the lake and near the school.'

Florrie Hawtin (Benham) lived on Walnut Avenue as her Dad ran Baxton's block. They walked to school until old enough to ride a bike.

'There was a pretty teacher (whose name I can't remember). The bus drivers used to wave to her and I think she got rides for nothing.' Olwen and Nina Walters.

'We lived between Riverside and Ontario Avenues near the P.O. We walked to school, the road was bitumen. Mary and Andrew Dickie lived opposite us then. We sometimes walked with them. Mary was older and when she went to High School and Andrew got a bike I walked on my own. Mr Hanson who ran the store, cleaned the school. He was always there in the morning as he opened the school.' Heather Geyer (Cannard)

'When I went to High School we went by bus driven by Pop Hunt'. Dorothy Hawthorne (Hawson)

Keith Flenley talks about his friends, 'Bill McAlvey lived in Walnut Avenue somewhere and rode his bike. Old Blaney Marshall... he had to walk from Cardross... there was no bus... there were a few bikes because my dad helped build the old bike shed. The girl Dickie had to ride her bike. She had to walk home more than she rode because of the prickles.'

Teacher's Time Book

Teachers had a Time Book into which was recorded their arrival and departure times each day. This document would be checked by the District Inspector on his visit.

Loris, Heather, and Stephen Petschel leave for school



We rode to school, learning our spelling on the way.. Helen Petschel

'Mrs Taylor also rode, she boarded with the Hepworths. If we saw her on the way we knew we weren't running late. The ride home was more fun. The road side opposite the school had head high grass (we called it spider grass) and it was fun riding along the winding track through it. One afternoon I remember we came across a snake lying right across Riverside Avenue. In Spring, the school plantation usually had swooping magpies. Unfortunately some older boys would stir them up by throwing stones at them and we would be quite scared going along there. The poor magpies usually got shot.

The 'Gullies' created by water erosion were also a great place to play. Sometimes we rode through them as the boys had created interesting bike tracks. There were car bodies in some of the gullies and lots of rabbits.

On Thursdays we called at the shop to get the 'Weekly Times' and the 'New Idea'. In the Summer we could buy an icypole and in the Winter some lollies.

When we walked home we would take the short cut through our corner paddock. There were cassia bushes where you came through the fence. In the spring we would pick some to take home to Mum. Mum called them Yellow Boronia. They smelled beautiful. Under the Mallee in that paddock too we could find native chocolate orchids. We didn't pick these as they were special.' Helen Petschel

Era Geyer writes 'with 5 sons to educate my parents just walked off our two farms, because with the drought no one was buying land. In mid 1935 we moved to a house in Deakin Avenue between 17th & 18th streets and the school aged boys walked to The Lake school. We never had the money for bus fares... A Mrs Sawyer who lived on 17th street called us over one day. She said we were clean, our clothes were neatly patched and clean and we were polite but had no hats and we had a leather school bag on our backs. She gave us a penny to catch the bus to school!'

'We rode our bikes and sometimes the horse. Our bikes were kept in the bike shed and one of the boys had to guard them so they weren't taken. Maurice Wilson rode a horse.'

On our birthday we got out ½ hour early and we got out early if a dust storm was coming.

Tilly and Kath Allen

When we got out early we just rode home but some still had to wait around for the bus.'

The Inspector writes in 1932 'Owing to the very heavy rain 152 points in a comparatively short period very few pupils are as yet in attendance. The bus services are disorganized and the side roads are impassable.'

'The bus that travelled from Mildura to Merbein looked like a beetle. Gordon Cupper used to call out 'Here comes the B-U-S, The beetle bus!' That's how he got the nick name - Beetle Cupper!'

Frank Geyer

'It was the war years when I first started, 1940 I was aged 4 ½. Mrs Austin was the bus driver. She was the first lady I saw in long pants. All the ladies I saw wore dresses. The bus came from Mildura went up past the Research Station to the Merbein South School then back to Birdwoodton, along Mena Road and on to The Lake School. We did the whole trip.

We used to play cowboys and Indians and that in the reserve near the Research Station. We had a pea rifle that didn't work. The Christmas after our last year at the school, we were playing there and went over to get an orange from the research station trees. For some reason Mr Stockdale rode past and saw us and gestured to get out of there. (Mr Stockdale was the Principal at Mildura High School) When we started at the High School he gave us a lecture about vandalism, theft and trespass etc. Not a very good start at a new school!' Kevin Schultz

'When the bus fares went up my parents said my brother Des and I would have to ride to school. We only had Dad's bike, a big man's one, so I had to dink Des - he sat on the cross bar. Because it was so big, I couldn't get on easily so at home we used the tank stand and I would not stop till we got to school. At home time we used the school fence to help us get on.' Eunice Gaulke (Kranz)

Christine Clark lived near the lake on Riverside Avenue. The road was not sealed then and when it rained it was so slippery she had trouble getting to school. She rode her horse to school sometimes.

'Danny and John O'Rourke went to school on horseback. The horse stayed in the plantation paddock during the day.

One day John O'Rourke was the only boy in the room after the lunch bell. Pop McGillivray said 'Where are the others?' John said they were down the gullies. They had been teasing him that he loved Peggy Duscher. He had come back to school. He was given a note and allowed to go home! Usually it was John in trouble this time for the others it was BIG trouble...' Pat Herbert

'Peter Simkin was a very fast runner. He used to run to school... Milan Tompich was quiet and I befriended him and he showed me how to lasso rabbits. You could catch them alive and not spoil their skins.

Mum used to pick for the Presleys over the road. After school we would have to find her and as she didn't like to knock off until she had 200, we would help her finish. Sometimes it was hard to find her in the block. I think we gained good directional skills from that.' Neville Herbert

'The train to Merbein crossed the tracks between Ranfurly and Hawthorn. It was a steam train and you could see the smoke as it puffed along. After school we could ride to the bridge on 'Ridge Road' and wait to watch the train go under. The driver would wave or whistle for us. I think the train went through about 4.30pm. Once we rode to Robyn's [Blair's] along the track and when the train came along went into the muddy lake to let it pass.

When I was at school, a boy, Graham Thorne, was kidnapped somewhere in Australia and we were instructed in class about not talking to or accepting rides from strangers. One stormy day we were walking home and we got caught in the rain. A man in a car offered us a lift. We were up the hill on 17th Street. Judith and I weren't sure who he was but we had seen him before so we were happy to hop in, but Christine refused. She said we shouldn't go with a stranger, so we walked home in the rain. He turned out to be Mr Geyer, a well respected local.

One Friday I remember a group of us 'escaped' the boredom of waiting our turn at rounders and took our bikes to ride the gullies beside the school. It was fairly risky as no one had a watch and we had to be back (with our bikes in the shed) at the end of the school day. The gamble was that Pop wouldn't come out to check on the progress of the game during the afternoon. We got away with out being caught. We only did it once that I remember. We left riding the gullies to after school.'

Helen Petichel

The Wilsons and Whittings leaving for school.

During the 50's and 60's most children rode a bike to school. They were parked in the bike shed during the day. You didn't wear helmets when riding then. A bike shed was erected in 1933, and another in 1955.



By the 70's many children were driven to school.

Lynne Bentley (Bruce) came to school by car, driven by her mother. She says: 'We were always late! School rang the bell when they heard us coming'. She had to run to assembly.

Safety concerns led to a school crossing with flags displayed during times children were arriving and leaving school. Flag monitors were responsible for doing this. Later restriction speed signs were placed on both approaches to the school to slow the traffic. The entrance to the school was altered so that children could be collected without leaving the school ground and traffic congestion could be minimised. Parking areas were made within the school ground. In recent years passing traffic is limited to a speed of 40kph during school arrival and departure times.

Home Life and Social Events at Cabarita

'It was the depression. The York family came up and worked on the big drainage scheme ~ camped in the bush. The kids came to school.' Eric Wilson

The 1930's were a time of economic depression, although community life at Cabarita wasn't struggling:

'We did have a Chinese vegetable delivery. Blacks used to deliver groceries. The Butcher used to come with meat with his cart and horse. In the shed the junker and dear old Daisy our horse was kept, also Bulger the Bull Dog. My mother always had a cat and a little dog. Elma Howard was always bringing a stray kitten when she came for the mail....' Nellie Hawson

Picture Shows were held in the pavilion once a month. Florrie Hawtin (Benham) remembers preparing for the dances on Friday: *'we used to polish the floor, we would slide around on it on a bag.'*

Nellie Hawson tells: *'They were happy days at school. Dances were held in the Pavilion, also concerts. We did a play dressed up as little Japanese Girls. My mother used to play the Piano and Mrs Robinson used to play the Violin. There were tennis courts on the corner of Riverside Avenue and 17th Street on vacant land owned by the Howard family. [District young people played social games each weekend.] There was not a Cabarita team.'*

Tennis

Dorothy Hawthorne remembered a *'...tennis court was made in Dyar Avenue for the Bromley family who lived [there].'* Mr Casey was captain of the Merbein Tennis Club, both Birdwoodton and Merbein South had tennis clubs. The Merbein Golf Club moved to McEdward Street South, in 1932.

Card Nights,

Bazaars & Fairs

bazaars as well as cater for the school picnic day. This was held in the early days by the lake on 'Hawson's Beach'.

The Lake fielded a cricket team for many years. Read this wonderful account in the 'Merbein Irrigator' of 1919.

Dances, Concerts

& Picture Shows

Golf

Cricket

LAKE V. MERBEIN An Interesting Game

With six down for 35 the Lake resumed to the bowling of Kilborn against Merbein's total of 163. Vernon and Setford went after the runs right from the start and aided by a 6 and one or two 4's Setford reached 35 in no time. He then hit one up to point where Thompson was waiting for anything that came along, and retired with a very creditable score made at a most opportune time for the Lake... Quickly the runs mounted up until at 4 o'clock adjournment 125 for 7 wickets was the total, Lake supporters were very jubilant, feeling confident that they were about to administer to Merbein their first defeat. At this stage another ball had to be secured the 'compo'

having given way under the hard hitting of both batsmen. This was the second 'compo' finished during the play, they having to be used owing to the scarcity of leather balls.

After a refreshing cup of tea kindly supplied by the Lake lady supporters play was resumed with a leather ball. The adjournment, as is so often the case proved fatal to Vernon almost immediately, for in trying to pull a full toss to leg he skied it and was caught by R. Treadwell running in and taking a nicely judged catch. Vernon had played a nice innings at a critical period and onlookers were sorry to see him go. Murley followed, but Thompson...cleaned bowled him with a good ball and with one wicket to fall the Lake were still 25 be-

hind. Ben Bromley joined O'Connor, who was batting very confidently, and the score steadily increased. Bromley, a lad, shaped very nicely, and was causing the Merbein players some concern when with a deficit of 13 runs O'Connor hit over a Yorker from Kilborn and was bowled for a well made 53. Bromley remaining unconquered with 6. It was a most exciting finish and the Merbein players, though pleased with their success, were unanimous in congratulations for the fine fight put up by the remaining Lake batsmen. The Lake are settling down into a much improved team and will surely have to be seriously reckoned with before the end of the season. [Other team players: Lyons, Kneebone x2, T. Bromley, Viney & L. Vernon.]

Football

Did you realise there was a Lake Hawthorn Football team?

This is what we have been able to find out about them. Unfortunately we could not find anyone to speak with who knew about the team. The information has been taken from the newspapers of the time. They were not big winners as the scores show.

A Lake Hawthorn Football Club formed in 1907. Their home games were played on their ground which we believe was located on the Ranfurly Estate (later to become the Ranfurly Recreation Park). They did not appear to be in a league but social games were organised from time to time. (It is possible that after the train line was put through to Merbein a team come out from Mildura to the Ranfurly siding and played the locals for an afternoon of fun!)



Ranfurly Park and the recreation area today

In 1921 the Hawthorn and Ranfurly Lakes area was zoned as a recreational reserve. The football oval/cricket ground was located off Gibbs road. You can still see evidence of it today. This was also the site for the District New Years Day picnic for about 50 years.

Participating teams for 1926 were:

Curlwaa
Lake Hawthorn
Main Pumps
Merbein Rovers
Mildura Juniors
Wentworth

The Western Interstate Football Association

In 1920 Merbein and Curlwaa played a series of matches against each other. In 1921 Wentworth and Merbein South joined in, forming the Western Interstate Football Association. These four teams playing as Merbein Rovers, Merbein South, Curlwaa and Wentworth, participated in the association for the next few years with Curlwaa usually taking the flag. In 1925 The Lake Hawthorn Football Team participated in this competition. They finished the season at the bottom of the ladder but fielded a team the following year. At the close of the 1926 season the league appears to have disbanded. Here are a few 1925 clippings on the games and players:

The team to represent Lake Hawthorn against Curlwaa on the Lake grounds on Saturday will be chosen from the following: G Cox, T Riordan, C Turvey, G Bains, H Giles, J Lucas, J Knight, L Watkins, J Duscher, W Downing, R Brilliant, G Pain, W Bannister, K Lattin, B Bromley, R Larkins, S Tyson, V Fletcher, C Ellis, G Goodie, R Lucas and L Lloyd. All players are requested to be on the grounds at 2.00pm.

Mildura Defeat Lake Hawthorn by 89 points.

...teams representing Lake Hawthorn and Mildura Juniors met at the Hawthorn ground on Saturday afternoon last. Not a deal of interest was demonstrated in the match the result of which was generally conceded to be a forgone conclusion. ...In the first term the home team failed to score... The second term was much more even. Lake Hawthorn having four scoring shots to three on the part of the Mildura team... [Lake scored another point in the final quarter] Final Scores were: Mildura Juniors, 14 goals 10 behinds Lake Hawthorn, 5 behinds.

Wentworth Runs Away from Lake Hawthorn

On Saturday the Lake Hawthorn Football team journeyed to Wentworth to play... The home team was far too strong for the visiting combination and while preventing the Lake from scoring a single goal, Wentworth players notched 8 goals 6 behinds. Wentworth won by the comfortable margin of 49 points.



Seven of our students enlisted in the Great War. Dick Litchfield lost his life.

The Education Gazette March 1917 advised schools on an appropriate form of honoring 'those old boys of a school who enlisted.' It recommended a book rather than an honor board. The books were made of hand-made paper of the best quality, each with a specially-designed title-page. The binding of crimson leather was very strong; the title was embossed on the front of the cover. Accompanying each book was a hanging black-wood case with plate-glass doors, in which it could be locked away."

The Director of Education writes in the June, 1919 Education Gazette: 'Is it not better to keep in our schools a genuine record - a human document which will be of interest for all time? Such a record ... would be invaluable fifty years on... When entries are made in the parchment-leaved honor book, they should be written in permanent ink by an expert penman; and the filling of the book should be a matter of the greatest care and concern, so that it may be in every sense a record of honor.'

The Merbein Irrigator Dec. 24th 1919 records 'Mr Fussell drove to the Lake School where he unveiled a memorial photograph of trooper "Dick" Litchfield, and also a very fine Honor Board, containing the following names:- R. Litchfield, H.H.E. Barnett, H.W.V. Barnett, H.H. Broadstock, H. Bruce, L. McEachern, H. McLaren, J. Shillington.'

Unfortunately our Honor Board has not been around for many years. But one Friday in May, while searching a book shelf for photos for this publication, we were thrilled to find the red, leather Honor Book. The illustration on the preceding page shows the 'specially-designed title page' and I will copy some of the information about the boys from the parchment pages. (Note: The Honor Book has not an entry on Harry Bruce or H. H. Broadstock. The book entries were submitted by families)

In April 1920 Major Hopkins M.C. of Birdwoodton presented 16 men with The Gallipoli Star. These included many men who had an association with the school as parents, - Corbould, Cupper, Pasini, Rodwell, Saddy, Smith, and Tiller.

Lance Corporal Hubert Henry Ernest Barnett enlisted 19th May 1918 but by the time he had completed his training he was not needed overseas. He returned to fruit growing.

Corporal Hilary William Victor Barnett enlisted 13th March 1918 aged 20. He was with the 23rd Battalion and trained in England. He went to France December 1918 where he contracted pneumonic influenza and was returned to England to convalesce. He returned to Australia, remaining in the service until discharge Oct 1919. He returned to horticultural work.

Private Leslie Neil McEachern enlisted around his 19th Birthday on 5th September 1917. He served in the 31st Battery 8th Field Brigade Artillery embarking for England on 21st December 1917. He joined his unit in France on 7th March 1918 where he served until 21st March 1919. He used his leave to tour England before returning to Australia on 9th March 1920. After discharge he moved to Leeton, N.S.W to grow fruit.

Trooper Richard Bright Litchfield enlisted 24th July 1915 at the age of 18. He served in the 3rd Australian Machine Gun Squadron embarking 15th November 1915. He was engaged in the defence of the Suez Canal, then fought in the battles of Romani, Magdhaba, Rata, Gaza and Beersheba. He was wounded by a bomb dropped from an aeroplane in the battle at Beersheba. He was taken to the Australian General Hospital Cairo where he died from his wounds on 17th November 1919.

Private Charles Lawrence Mitting enlisted at the age of 21, on the 8th April 1916. He embarked with the 14th Battalion on 28th July 1916. On 10th September 1916 he proceeded to France. He served in several battles - Tiers, Guedecourt, Bullecourt. On 11th April 1917 during the battle at Bullecourt he was taken prisoner and sent to Germany. He spent 10 months in the hospital at Attadamon before returning to Australia May 1919. He was discharged 16th August 1919, returning to fruit growing.

Private James Shillington enlisted July 6th 1915 and embarked in October 1915 with the 8th Battalion disembarking in Egypt. On account of severe illness he was returned to Australia to convalesce. He rejoined his unit March 31st 1916, and engaged in the battles of Ypres and Amiens and later on the Western Front.

Hector John McLaren enlisted 11th September 1918 at the age of 18 and was due in camp to begin training on Armistice Day.

From July 1915 to the end of the war this verse was added to the National Anthem and sung in all Education Department school assemblies:

God bless our splendid men,
Send them safe home again,
God save our men,
Keep them victorious,
Patient and chivalrous,
They are so dear to us:
God save our men.

- Neust Diermerhausen



Patriotism

After Federation Australians began to develop a feeling of pride in their country, its flora and fauna and its English pioneers. The First War saw hundreds of men leaving for Europe for the first time in Australian uniform, many of them remaining there in European soil. Encouraged by the

community, the Government Gazette and *The School Paper*, teachers and pupils were a hive of activity supporting the War Relief Effort. The Lake School contributed a worthy effort. The activities in fund raising are mentioned elsewhere. At the end of the war the Department gave all schools an extra weeks holiday in Summer in recognition of the efforts of teachers and students. With the establishment of Birdwoodton, a soldier settlement for wounded Diggers the school community benefited from that special camaraderie that shared adversary creates. The blockies laboured on their land together and they developed the school together for their children. Sadly, the Second War came and their children set off to flying flags and patriotic songs, away from the Lake district to serve their country. Many past pupils responded to the call to serve. The task of recording these and those who have served in following conflicts and as peace keepers I will leave for others to research, for they all deserve that honour. Two excellent publications recording the veteran settlers of Birdwoodton are: 'They Battled For Birdwood' by past student Max Whiting and 'From Battlefield to Block' by the Merbein District Historical Society.

Some memories...

Edith Tunkin sent copies of commemorative medallions to the 1998 reunion: ANZAC 1916,

Coronation 1911 and 1937. These were issued to all Victorian school children.

'We used to line up against the fence and march around in circles to the beat of the drum - drill! Mr Spencer was our teacher during the war years. We were in groups, When the siren went, two boys would run to the road and stop the traffic and everyone would run across the road into the gullies and hide. The teacher would see if he could see anyone. At home we had to have paper on the windows to keep out the light at night.' Tilly & Kath Allen

The 1942 Inspector's report tells of the drill in the gullies in such a way that the record when censored still made sense! It says: 'Special work has been done in 'Air Raid' drill. Erosion by water has provided natural trenches close to the school and the H.T. has organized this drill very well as well by the safety patrol which attends to the safety of children who catch the Merbein and Mildura buses...' In the margin he has written - Please omit bracketed section. You see a head teacher was required to type up and submit the report to the department. The Inspector was taking precaution by not disclosing details on drill.

In 1953 the Mothers' Club minute book records the purchase of 120 flags from the Red Cross so that each child could wave one for the Royal Tour. After the 1954 tour they wrote a letter of thanks to the teachers for their supervision and care of the students on the big occasion. The school also drove to view Prince Charles and Lady Dianna on their 1985 visit.

Many students wrote or talked about the Monday morning patriotic assembly, saluting the flag, reciting the oath with hands over the heart and marching into class to a drum or recorded music. Empire Day was celebrated on 24th May. Others recalled Anzac Day, and Remembrance Day as very significant occasions; learning hymns from the back of *The School Paper* so that the assembly could join in the broadcast from the Shrine at Melbourne. I remember - mum sending us with bunches of Easter daisy to lay at the flag pole. Occasionally there would be a speaker from the RSL or the story of Simpson and his Donkey from the Class Reader.

I love God and my country
I honour the flag.
I shall serve the King.
And cheerfully obey
My parents, teachers and
the laws.



King George V & Queen Mary
To Commemorate Their Majesties' Coronation, Victoria, June 22, 1911



The moving of the aerodrome out to its current site in 1938 and the establishment of an RAAF training facility there, impacted on life for the children at the Lake. Eddie Geyer remembered going over to the aerodrome when the first plane landed there and the consequences...

'We took off to the airport on our bikes at lunchtime. It was when the first planes landed. They'd come up to look it over before it became a base. There were 5 or 6 planes. We chatted to the pilots. There were 6 of us boys and we stayed longer, so we were missed when class went back in after lunch. We were threatened with being expelled, but instead we had to sit outside the Headmaster's residence all of lunch time in the shade of the trees there.'

'During the war they had air raid drill in the gullies. Ian was always interested in air planes - a big light at the airport would shine in his bedroom window. He would go out to see the crashed planes and once pulled a boat out of a crash which still had the leg inside. He had nightmares about that for a long time, but it didn't deter him and his interest in planes.' Gwen Cannard

'I was on the bus when a plane went low over us on Mena Road. The pilot ejected and the plane crashed. The pilot was killed. It was wartime and these things happened.' Kevin Schultz.

The familiar drone of Air Force planes flying overhead made the war seem very real.

~Florence Jenkins

FROM THE LAKESIDE TO THE SKIES

By Milton Whiting

I write to put on record some history that dramatically changed the lifestyle of a number of ex-students of my vintage.

With the outbreak of World War 2 in 1939 much discussion took place about which of the three armed services one should apply for.

Ray Cupper was already a member of the permanent RAAF. Both Ken Cupper and Fred Knudsen held private pilots' licences, so that led them to the RAAF option... Dick Litchfield, Ron Bailey, John Robbins, Noel Whitney, Colin Bull and I applied for air-crew training and all were accepted.

Of the nine I have mentioned, Dick Litchfield and Ron Bailey were killed in action, while the rest returned to civilian life in 1945/46.

Because of his experience and ability, Ray Cupper attained the rank of Squadron Leader. Fred Knudsen, who had spent part of his time as an instructor of trainee pilots, remained in the airforce... surviving several near misses, becoming a senior test pilot and attaining the rank of Group Captain - all this without any secondary schooling!

Such is the calibre of a Lake School education!

Planes



Miss Florence Fairhall (Mrs Jenkins) was Infant Mistress at The Lake during the war years. Sharon Sutherland recorded some of her memories in conversation with one of her pupils, Ainslie Cupper for the 1998 reunion:

The familiar drone of Air Force planes flying overhead made the war seem very real. Mildura became a training ground for fighter pilots, providing ideal conditions for low level flying. A few ex-students would remember hanging out of the classroom windows, in an attempt to get a better view of the planes flying overhead. After school a few of the more adventurous and inquisitive children would head off to inspect the wreckage scattered around the area. Mrs Jenkins recalled standing outside her house in Mildura just as two planes collided in mid-air. She remembered vividly the noise of the collision as well as the relief she felt when the pilots parachuted to safety.

'Rhonda, Ivan and Russell Shaw and us were the only ones allowed to swim in the Air Force dam at the aerodrome. With the Air Force boys there we had a good bus service. Sometimes the boys would come over for a sing and dance and they would stay for supper. Mrs Henysman and Mum would make them supper.'

They used to have training flights at night. Once we were bringing in the cows with our lanterns and the pilot must have thought we were the landing strip. He came down, we threw the lantern and ran. They must have realised at the aerodrome, they put flares up and the pilot went up and landed properly.

Once we saw two planes crash. One landed near the abattoirs and one near Sedgmen's. The pilot parachuted out and landed at our place.' Tilly and Kath Allen

Miss Fairhall with senior classes of 1939 -

Back: Alex Daucher, Alan McKenzie, Basil Langdon, Alf Vincent, Len Wilcock, Bill Sloan, Max Whiting, Doug Doyle, Kevin Mayne, Ken Broadstock, John Schotler, Bill Murray, Miss Fairhall.

Middle: Elliot Crozier, Moya McMahon, Joyce Thomas, Noelle Ralph, Jane Hampton, Betty Schulte, Eunice Walters, Jean Box, Ethel Vincent, Judith Flenley, Betty Traegar, Shirley Down, June Mayne.

Front: Bill Foreman, Laurie Connors, Roy Schotler, Gordon Cupper, Stan Broadstock, Ted Connors, Alf McGauchie, Jim Telford, Eric Barrow, Joe O'Loughlin, Les Daucher, Des Fletcher, Syd Knudsen.



During Miss Fairhall's (Mrs Jenkins) five years of teaching at The Lake, the war significantly effected school programs, *'...everything was geared towards the war effort...school children were expected to contribute...undertaking tasks such as sewing and knitting articles of clothing for soldiers and raising money for war funds.'*

She pitied the poor soldiers who had to wear some of the finished products from her sewing lessons, as knitting socks proved very challenging for such young children.

'Truancy became more common, ... as a number of families found it necessary to call on their younger children to help at home driving tractors during the picking, for example... The war upset everything... it ruled everything. Another war time practice was compulsory bomb raid drills. This involved evacuating the school and 'holding out' in the gullies near the school.'

With the threat of invasion by the Japanese during the War, came the cancellation of all holidays for teachers. Mrs Jenkins recalled being unable to visit her family one Christmas. All teachers had to remain 'on alert' in case evacuation of civilians further north became necessary, and schools were needed to house evacuees.



'I left in 1939 the year the war started. They did start growing veges for the war effort - didn't help the war effort much! I remember preparing the vege. plot - eight kids working as horses pulling a plank to level the site ready to plant.

We also, mostly the girls, made camouflage nets with a wooden tool.' Eric Wilson

'We knitted scarves for the services; one plane crashed through our rack' Eddie Geyer

'Miss Fairhall took us for sewing and knitting. We knitted socks, gloves, scarves - you would stretch it to make it look longer, and made aprons and doyleys. Sewing was on Friday afternoon for girls and the boys played sport...

The cement map of Australia was under the pepper trees.' Tilly and Kath Allen

This inspectors report tells something of the lessons of 1943 - 'In Social Studies, bookwork is aided by broadcast lessons, and children have a keen interest in the work but locational knowledge and knowledge of the economic value of towns is not as good as it should be...good work is done in 'First Aid to the Injured' lessons. Bandages are well applied by all pupils. ... much good work for war relief has been done by the senior girls. During last year 163 articles for war relief were sent away. The reports on the quality were excellent. Music is a well taught subject. Children are trained to pitch the key from the tuning fork.'



The Lake Mothers' Club

In September 1925, the School Committee asked Mrs Walters to convene a meeting of ladies to form a Ladies Committee. The first meeting was held 16th September 1925. It had upwards of thirty ladies present and a Mothers' Club was formed. The office bearers being:

President - Mrs McCarthy, Vice president - Mrs Walters, Treasurer - Mrs Broadstock, Secretary - Mrs Casey.

Other members elected were Mesdames Norman, Rodwell, McKelvie, Thompson, Woodbury and Brown.

Although a committee had been elected it was the unanimous wish of the meeting that all would help conjointly for the success of the club. The Mothers' Club decided to meet on the first Wednesday of each month. At that first enthusiastic meeting a euchre party and dance were organised for school fund raising. The 1926 bazaar made a profit of £60/5/6.

The School Committee discussed building a pavilion to improve the class teaching area and as an asset for the community. Negotiations resulted in the Department subsidising half of the cost but local funds were to provide the rest. The Mothers' Club worked hard towards raising that and by the end of 1926 the pavilion was built. Within a year they had organised kitchen facilities and provided a curtain for the stage.

Fund raising events were regularly organised and items for the benefit of the students were made and purchased. Concerts, dances, fairs, picnics and end of year parties became part of the social happenings at Cabarita. The pavilion was well used outside of school hours and its functions made money to provide extras and treats for the children at the school. The Annual Floral Carpet Festival provided a focus for many meetings and so did the end of year break up party.



Mrs Bassham remembers a group of mothers would go in to Woolworths to shop for all the gifts for the children. We remember the red cordial, cakes and sandwiches and the present from the mothers at the end of each year.

For many years they sponsored a child, [Janefield Adoptee] writing and remembering them with gifts. They also provided scholarships for students. It was a social club for mothers with a child centred focus. The Lake Mothers' Club made classrooms more comfortable and school days happier.

Dressed for a concert, Back: Ellise McTaggart, unknown, unknown, Joan Cupper, Mavis Flenley
Front: Kath Smythe, unknown, Mavis Payne.



Costumed Boys of 1933, from left: Murray Heysman, unknown, Jack Kinniburgh, Bill Harris, Dave Harris, Fred Goucher, George Linney, unknown, Cecil Thompson, unknown.

Mothers of The Lake



Mothers making Mother's Day gifts for the children to buy for their mum, 1987

The Mothers' Club organised the Christmas party with every child receiving a gift. Santa came and the children lined up to speak with him. Jack Forbes was in line with his friend Heather Cannard. Heather accepted her gift and Santa spoke to her - 'I know who you are? You're my Father!' She recognised his voice!

'Before the Mothers' Club meeting day, Miss Fregon would hand out the hand written meeting reminders to those children whose mum came. Then on the afternoon of the meeting she would babysit the preschoolers in her classroom.

After school we would go to meet mum at the pavilion and if we were lucky, help out the left over afternoon tea!' **Helen Petschel**

'Mrs Farrell, Mrs Henley, Mrs Clark, she bought brain sandwiches, they were beautiful, Mrs Rodwell, Mrs Whiting, Mrs Gregory, she didn't come to meetings but was always there for the floral carpets, Mrs Dickie, Mrs Killingbeck, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Taylor, she made beautiful pikelets. Mrs Henley made cheese and vegemite sandwiches. They all had something special that they could cook...The Mother's Club would supply whatever was needed in the different classes. Mrs Bassham was involved for many years with the Mother's Club.

'Sports day was a special day and the Mothers' Club would furnish the lunch. We would spend the morning making sandwiches but had all brought the cakes and biscuits from home.' **Mrs Bassham**



A mother's event at the sports.

Mrs Pat Herbert was a skilled knitter. You never saw her without knitting in her hands. She would knit at sports days, waiting in the car, at Mothers' Club, she could even knit and ride a bike at the same time! Her 6 children had beautiful jumpers. She's still knitting for her grandchildren who attend the school today.

Belmore Street Floral Festival 1981		
Receipts		Expend
Contributions from Schools	10-0-0	Advertising 30 4
Donations		

'Onlookers admired the six beautiful floral carpets which were created by the mothers clubs of six Sunraysia schools for the Floral Festival which is in the Mildura Town Hall. Winning carpets were from the Mildura Central State School Mother's Club and The Lake School Mother's Club.' **Sun. Daily 6/4/1981**

Totals		
Flowers & Plant	26-10-0	
Produce	20-11-0	
Ice Cream & Drinks	20-10-0	
Cakes	17-10-0	
Afternoon tea	13-4-7	37-4-00
Sale of tickets	34-6-0	
Mildura Central	1-0-0	
Mildura West	25-0-0	
Mildura High	11-0-0	
Irreggie Lake	11-11-0	
Edithella Point	6-10-0	
Don't know	5-10-0	77-2-00
Gifts	3-0-0	
Amount on bank	132-13-0	
Bank balance	359-12-11	359-12-11

The Picnic Sports

The Picnic Sports was always a great day. For many years it was held at Kenny Park, Merbein. Later when the school ground featured a lovely

green oval it was naturally held there. School started later and for some years a bus was chartered to take the children to the park. Here are a few photos mainly of the 1960's.

'Sports day was at Kenny Park we would sit around and have raspberry cordial.' **Tilly Allen**

'Ellen and Eileen Baric were good runners. They practised running in the lunch hour. Ellen could skip faster than she could run.' **Mrs Bassham**

'Unforgettable memories...include the Tunnel Ball contest, often ending in a shambles with the ball escaping, but more importantly, you would hope that the person in front of you at least kept the ball low to avoid painful injury.'

Phil Copper

'The best day of the year was picnic day. We had running, skipping, egg and spoon, three legged, wheelbarrow and potato races, relays, and the tunnel ball, cross ball, and captain ball events. There was a picnic lunch with cordial and ice cream. It was a great day and we usually got sunburnt. The house teams were Chaffley (yellow) and Sturt (blue). I was in Sturt and in my grade six year, Ken Chapple and I were the captains - and Sturt won!

We also took a team to the District Sports day. The Lake competed in Division B. We usually did quite well on this day. It was held at Number 1 oval in Mildura. In my Grade 6 year I was girl sports captain for The Lake. Fortunately we didn't win that year as I would have had trouble making a speech. I did come second in the girls' championship race that day.' **Helen Petschel**



A Petschel family photo in 1965, when Sturt won and Helen was girl captain.



Late 70's Captain Ball teams

'At the Combined Sports in Mildura we lined up for a race. There were three rows starting and I was in the last. The teacher said: "Don't run until it's your row's turn", so when the gun went off I stood there. Everyone ran and Miss Fairhall said "Run Tilly, Run!" so I ran and I beat them all. Next week at school I was called out and I thought I was in trouble but it was to get the certificate for winning.' **Tilly Allen**

The Combined School Sports



1961 Athletic Sports Team. Back: Rosemary Keeble, Carol Smith, Pam Woods, Mrs Taylor, Ken Barich, Peter Simpson. Next: Mary Cetinich, Helen Flenley, Joy Corrie, Janice Rodwell, Christine Douglas, Des Herbert, Vally Pollifrone, Ross Dickie. Next: Noel Carroll, John Whiting, Peter Bailey, Geoff Krake, David Wood, Ron Barich, Don Pollifrone. Front: Susan Killingbeck, Robin Blair, Helen Petschel, Margaret Thompson, Kay Wilson.



Remember...

Blisters from the monkey bars
Riding bikes in the 'Gullies'
'Rats & Rabbits'
Relievo
Swap cards
Tomboy stitch
Rounders on Friday
Houses in the pines
Scratching your runs on the big gum trunk
Collecting bird eggs
Gossip behind the bike shed
Sitting on top of the monkey bars
Hiding under the pavilion
Building cubbies with sweat boxes
Crystal sets on Melbourne Cup Day
Maypole dancing
Chasey or Cowboys in the 'Gullies'
'Hoppe Bumpo'
The dates on the palm trees



Foxes and Rabbits was a chase and catch game but within an intricate game field drawn on the rounders patch. This field was drawn with a stick and remained there for a season, carefully redrawn after dust storms and rain. It was like a maze with safe areas for rabbits and foxes. The object being for the foxes to catch all the rabbits while remaining within the paths of the maze. It continued each playtime until all were foxes.



'My brother was pushing me around on a plank in the shelter shed and I got a splinter in the butt. He broke it off to get it out. The doctor had to get the rest about 12 months later. I've still got the scar!'
George Godkin

50 years ago the boys aimed tennis balls at this vent, skilled and strong throwers could get them to stick fast. The photo above was taken in 2008 – the game lives on!



Paul Krake & Anthony Polidroni

Did you play...?

Marbles
British Bulldog in the sandpit
'Slag' on the big wall
Ball games against the front wall
Cubby houses in the Peppercorn trees
Skipping
Cards and Jacks
French Cricket
'Pussy in the Corner' in the shelter shed
Aeroplane Hopscotch
On the plank swing
Hidey and Tiggy
Hoops
Elastics
Lands or Worlds
Brandy
Poison Ball
Cat's Cradle
Four Square
Queenie, Queenie who's got the ball?
Letters or Colours on the cement squares
Fly
Snail Hoppy



In 1977 children were able to be involved in creating their own playground. Here they are erecting an adventure playground under Mr Smith's directions.



John Bell (ex-pupil and present staff member) has scars to show for his encounter with part of a tank that the children were allowed to play with. (Scars not the result of shark bite as he told his pupils!) Staff didn't believe the child that came to the door to tell that 'John had cut his leg and you could see the bone!' I can remember some very pale faced staff when they saw the injury.
Norma Hazendonk (O'Donnell)



Photo Album

Grade 2 1947

Back: Deryl Bos, Leslie McCallum, Bill Chapman, Peter Cain, Alan Scott, Gladys White,
Middle: Isabel McKenzie, Wilma Fletcher, Wendy Povey, Jeanette Wallace, Alison Schultz,
Front: Ivan Farrell, Geoffrey Andrews, Mark Zima, Robert Foreman.

Below: Staff 1947, Mr Alan McGilivray, Agnes Wilson, Owen Pitchford, Shirley Down



Grades 3 & 4 1953

Back: Des Krize, Colin Gardner, Keith Barnes, Harold Fishlock
Next: Allan Martin, Ian Foreman, John Moritz, Peter O'Brien, David Bradley, David Martin, Graham Clarke, Victor Barich, Rodney Pointon
Next: Shirley T'Amson, Marianne Pawluk, Coral Carney, Rae Allen, Elaine Wallace, Jean Taylor, Josie Killingbeck, Lynette Scott
Front: Margaret Taylor, Marlene Krake, Vince Rocca, Lynette Bell, Margaret Thompson, Colleen Thompson.



Grade 6 1953, teacher centre front, Lorraine McCallum

Staff: Thelma Taylor, Alan McGilivray, Agnes Wilson, Barbara Kneebone



Back: Kevin Gregory, Peter O'Rourke, Chris Bromley, Monty Fulton
Next: Murray Martin, Robert Dasher, Ian Dickie, Robert Moritz, Lucien Ozerkewski, John Pointon, Bruce McCallum,
Next: Jean Taylor, Judy Killingbeck, Anne Jacob, Rosalie Carney, Judith Woodberry, Joan George



The Agricultural School

We talk about the importance of the 3 R's in relation to learning. Here at The Lake we began with the 4 R's ~ Reading, 'Riting, 'Rithmetic and agricult'R!

Even before the school opened Mr Casey requested the Department he teach agriculture in lieu of science. The Department approved, so from its inception, agriculture was part of the curriculum.

Mr Casey was a keen gardener and by November of that first year he again requested the Department for a change in curriculum. He asked to teach gardening instead of brushwork. Brushwork was watercolour painting and he supports his request by commenting how difficult it was to teach it *'owing to the heat and dust... already the thermometer has registered 100" over on about 10 occasions and on one occasion it reached 110"*. Watercolour painting requires the paper to remain damp while the shades of paint are applied. The Department declined his request! Some of our early students are not remembered for their skill in watercolour painting but they all enjoyed gardening and the school soon became known for its gardens.

Trespassers will be Prosecuted

In September 1912 a Mr H.B. Williamson, possibly a field naturalist, visited the Mildura area and presented a report to the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria in 1913. Part of this report says:

'I rode home past the 'Lake' school. This school has a good garden and agricultural plots, so, being interested, I took the liberty of trespassing to inspect them. When I had done so, and was preparing to depart, a lad who was driving past ordered me off the premises in tones more forcible than polite. He got away too quickly for me to let him know, as I wished to, that I was not offended (as his rapid retreat seemed to suggest I ought to be) by his solicitude for the welfare of his garden. We are getting more and more of this - 'Our school,' 'Our garden' - and it augurs well for the rising generation and for the protection of public property...' At the end of the report Mr Williamson acknowledges the support of Mr Casey.

Helping yourself to the school fruit and vegetables must have been an issue and the community were quite watchful of intruders. By summer 1913 the gardens were already quite fruitful and the Miller boys were found stealing some of it for themselves. Their father received a letter from the school committee informing him of their misdemeanour and all children were cautioned not to enter the school grounds out of school hours. As the fruit came into bearing late 1919 the issue was again raised. A *'fence to keep out thieves from the fruit trees and vines'* and a *'Trespassers will be Prosecuted'* sign were erected.

Mr Casey had a great interest in agriculture and he undertook to gain qualifications in this area. He was granted an extra 2 weeks holiday in 1912 to complete agricultural subjects at Summer School in Ballarat. He then applied for promotion. The school community were very pleased with Mr Casey's interest and in 1913 asked that he be allowed to remain at the school.

A school block was well underway with the children learning and involved in its development. In July 1913 the Department file has a note: 'Agriculture forms part of school curriculum, and as school grounds are planted in vines and other crops, Mr Casey is carrying out experiments and teaching the school by such.'



Mr Casey and the boys with the beginnings of their garden in 1912.

The boys in this photo are could be: Ernest Shillington, Robert and Albert Dennett, Robert Russell, James Riddell, Charlie and Fred Jones, Cecil Inglis, and Ben Bromley.

Oswald Setford

...Mr Setford was one of the best workers on the committee of the Lake State School, and much of its present condition, with beautiful gardens, an experimental vineyard, and many other important improvements, is due to his quiet labours...

By blockers he was admired as a horticulturalist of exceptional ability.

From the Obituary of Oswald Setford 1923

Forced Child Labour!

The school families were mostly 'blockies' or connected with horticulture and the grape industry.

In 1909 Mildura schools did not have the usual Christmas vacation but recommenced work in January and had 'holidays' during the picking season.

Using children to help with the harvest was quite a social issue with debate reaching the Melbourne press. The 1908 Pickers' Strike included 'Forced Child Labour' as a grievance.

Mr Casey was asked to write an article for the Sunraysia Daily in 1922 about the school. It was published on the front page and headed:

A Progressive School ~ The Lake

A Great Story of Continuous Improvement as a Result of Loving Effort

This is what he wrote in the article about the grounds:

The building was erected on 10 acres of land having a frontage to Seventeenth Street, and facing Lake Hawthorn. This land, with full water rights, was granted free of cost by the First Mildura Irrigation Trust and was vested in trustees. Five acres of this area was enclosed by a substantial post-and-wire fence wire-netted, the work being carried out by a working bee. The wind-swept site was covered with wild tobacco, and the land was considered to be of no value for horticultural purposes...

The school opened with an enrolment of about 25. Notwithstanding advice freely given part of the enclosed area was devoted to agriculture and viticulture. The head-teacher (Mr. H.W. Casey) assisted by the parents, planted one acre under vines and trees. The vines consisted of sultanas, currents, gordos and Waltham Cross. These have proved very profitable, and the whole of the net proceeds have been spent on the school and its surroundings. The harvesting being done by the school committee assisted by some of the parents, and all other work is done by the children.

...the committee, in 1914, with the help of the department, provided a substantial tool-house and rack, which had now become a necessity to dry the fruit obtained from the fruit block that had been established. In 1915 a windmill was added to the equipment...

How fortunate the school has been to have had such an energetic and committed body of people from the start. At the same time these families were also pioneering their own blocks and building their own homes. Early 1915, Mr Casey requested the Department for a tent with a boarded floor so he could live with a family willing to board him nearer the school. Their house was too small for him to sleep there but they were happy to have a tent in the yard! The request was granted to the cost of £15/10/0 but Mr Casey did not take it up as he bought his own small block 2 ½ miles from school and a horse and jinker to commute.

There was a horse yard where the head teacher kept his horse. He came to school each day by horse and jinker.



By Jemima Jeffries

On 17th July 1914, Mr Casey writes to the Department from Carisbrook, near Maryborough, asking to be allowed to return to Mildura at once. (It seems he was attached to Maryborough State School, maybe completing some qualifications or professional training.) One of his reasons for the need to return gives some idea of The Lake agricultural block only 3 years after the reopening of the school.

No. of School 251

Name of School The Lake

To this space should be written in red ink the name and office of the writer and a brief, clear statement of the petition.

Robert W. Camp D.T. applies to be allowed to return to the Lake from May through Sept at once

NOTES.—Communications respecting different subjects must be made in separate letters.

'... On account of the large amount of work to be done at once on the school agricultural plot. Over two acres have to be irrigated, which if missed will greatly injure the financial return and spoil a whole year's work in viticulture. This irrigation is now on. In addition to this over an acre of vines and trees have to be pruned and a small drainage scheme carried out before irrigation.' (He was notified on 23rd July that he could return.)	Postal Address <u>Lane Hook</u> Education <u>High School</u> Department <u>I have the honor to apply for permission to return to Malawi as soon as possible following release.</u> <u>I & the Health Inspector have conferred and stated I would re-arrange before opening 1st or second term to allow him to do his work in the summer season.</u> <u>With best wishes we are glad to consider what is wanted will quickly respond to his needs and so forth a letter will be sent to him on the first of August.</u> <u>Yours faithfully,</u> <u>[Signature]</u>
---	---



Taken about 1915 showing the garden laid out with irises, roses and the beginnings of a lawn.

At first the School Committee organised a systematic plan of working the vines and trees on the school plot and asked for volunteers but by 1918 were contracting the cultivating and irrigating for £5 per annum.

In August 1914 the Committee asked for a tool shed to be built to house horticultural equipment. The Department approved and paid £6, school funds raised the other £6 towards the costs. It was built of redgum and iron with a cement floor.

They also agreed to erect a drying rack for the school harvest of currents and sultanas. Mr William Mitting was paid £5 to build it before the 1915 harvest. During 1915 a windmill was added to lift water from the underground tank.

Inspector's Reports tell – 'I am pleased to notice that gardening is receiving attention. Vineyard and War Gardeners League plots in good order.' 1916

'The plant house is well stocked and a good supply of pot plants for school decoration is in hand. Work is progressing in the area planted with vines and fruit trees, much of this being carried on by the boys and girls.' 1918

"Mr Carey has assisted very commendably in establishing viticulture as a school subject within the settlement. He is an enthusiastic and successful master of this work" 1920

A Blooming Beginning

The Victorian State Schools League of Young Gardeners was formed in April, 1916. Its purpose being to engage the school children of Victoria in gardening pursuits as a positive way of supporting the war effort. Encouraged by articles in 'The School Paper' a Children's Flower Day was organised for metropolitan Melbourne for 3rd November 1916.

The Lake responded to this idea with enthusiasm too. In November 1916 the first Flower Show was held at the school. It was what we would call a school fair with stalls for sweets, produce, flowers and craftwork, activities like skittles and Hoopla. The proceeds of £30/3/6, a considerable sum, being sent to the Department for the Repatriation Fund.

The Flower Show was so successful it was held again the following year. This time with the addition of a Socks Competition! The children were knitting socks for the soldiers as a war effort. The Shire Hall was used as the venue as it was more suitable than the school building for an inside display and show of produce. This proved to create difficulties with Mildura Central School prompting the accompanying letter to the paper -

The matter was resolved with the Lake School Horticultural Show held Wednesday 7th November and Mildura's Flower Day on the Saturday beforehand. The *Cultivator* reports:

'The Lake School Flower Show for patriotic purposes, which was held in the Shire Hall on Wednesday last, was a very pretty little affair and was well attended. many visitors expressing much pleasure at the exhibition...'

At about 4 o'clock the Shire President, accompanied by his colleagues on the Council, attended to formally open the Show and Fete. He congratulated the promoters on the fine display of flowers - particularly those which had been grown by the children. He heartily endorsed the departmental policy of inculcating the love of horticulture and floriculture into the minds of the children...'

The school won prizes with their sweet peas and verbenas and Mr Casey won first prize with a single bloom carnation.

The 1917 Flower Show made £67-2-7½ for the war effort plus the wonderful knitted socks which some Australian soldiers proudly wore.

*'Let us have it to our credit in the better days to come,
When the dove of peace is brooding once again,
When the clash of arms is silent and the leaden chorus dumb,
That Australian children helped Australia's men.'*

Adapted from the Australian Journalist

LAKE SCHOOL HORTICULTURAL SHOW
(To the Editor of the "Cultivator.")
Sir,—We regret that it is necessary to publish the following facts for public information, but it has been freely stated that we are clashing with the Central School by holding the Horticultural Show in the Shire Hall on 7th November:—
1. Flower Day is November 2.
Our date—November 7—was altered with the Inspector's permission to avoid clashing with other schools.
2. The date was advertised several weeks before the date of the Central School Show was selected.
3. We have no facilities to conduct a Flower Show and Fete at our school on account of insufficient room and no lighting.
4. The whole of the net proceeds are in aid of the Returned Soldiers' Fund.
We therefore appeal to the public sense of fairness, as we strove to avoid clashing with any other school. On behalf of the Committee,—Yours, etc.,
OSWALD C. SETFORD,
Correspondent Lake School.
25th October, 1917.

CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL Flower Day Celebrations

(In aid of the Repatriation Funds.)

TO-DAY!

TO-DAY!

Saturday, November 3.

Stall No. 1. Cake, &c. No. 2. Jumble.
No. 3. Pot Plants and Vegetables.

Put a Copper in the Copper for the Children's Flower Day.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7.

In WONDERLAND — A Specially Selected Paramount Programme,

including **LITTLE LADY EILEEN** (5000-ft.) featuring Marguerite Clark

This programme will appeal to all.
Admission 1s. Children 6d. No tax

Horticultural Show & Fete

Under the auspices of the
LAKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

**IN THE SHIRE HALL
Wednesday, Novr. 7th.**

AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

Entries close Tuesday, at 6 p.m. with
Mrs Cameron, San Mateo Avenue.

Official Opening by Shire President at
3 p.m. Doors open at 2.30 p.m.

Fine Collection of Plants suitable for
Mildura to be disposed of.

Refreshments, Fancy, Sweets and Pro-
duce Stalls, Hoop-la, Cool Drinks, etc.

Nett Proceeds in aid of Returned
Soldiers' Fund.

Special Attraction in Evening

Olympia Orchestra, under the capable
management of Mr T L Campbell, Jun.

ADMISSION: SIXPENCE.

O. C. SETFORD, Hon. Sec.

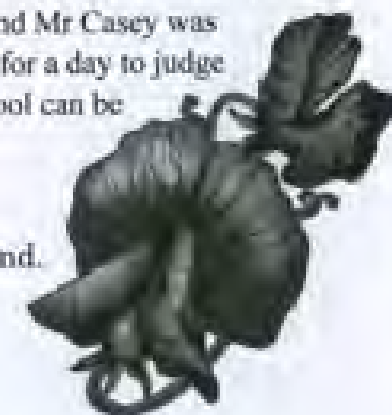
The Lake School raised a total of £362.10.1 for the War Relief Fund.
The school also sent produce to the Military Hospital in Caulfield.



This article in the Education Department's Record of War Service 1914-1919 does not mention the name of the school:

'A school in the neighborhood of the Murray had an acre of the schoolground planted with grape-vines. Teacher and pupils harvested the grapes, dried them, took the fine table raisins to the local co-operative company, and received £35 for the school war fund.'

In 1919 a Mildura Floral and Home Beautification Society had been formed with Mr Casey as the president. By 1921 the Flower Show had blossomed with Mr Casey's enthusiasm. It was quite a big event in the district and held in the Mildura Town Hall and Mr Casey was granted leave of absence for a day to judge the entries 'provided school can be carried on'.



The school community interest in viticultural and agricultural science was no doubt enthused with the establishment of an area for research at Merbein South in 1917. Black Spot had virtually wiped out the 1917 harvest and the growers were prepared to support research into crop diseases. The Merbein Research Station began as an entirely local effort with funds provided by a levy of 2s.6d per ton on all growers' fruit.

Mr A. V. Lyon, an agricultural science teacher from Mildura Agricultural High School was appointed to direct the research. His children attended The Lake School. From 1919 State and Commonwealth grants supplemented the growers contributions and after 1927 the CSIRO administered the station although the packing companies and ADFA still contributed.



Mr Casey hot dipping fruit with the students of 1915.

In 1925, Mr Lyon was giving 1/2 a day a week instruction in horticultural science to senior students at Mildura High School with the blessing of both the Education Department and the Mildura Vineyards Protection Board (his employer at that time). While his children attended The Lake, I suggest he no doubt shared some of his agricultural expertise with Mr Casey, the Committee and the students.

The War had a great impact on the Lake District. Mr Casey lost his brother Frank on active service. Other local men enlisted, some lost their lives. Prices for dried fruit rose as the other world producers Greece and Turkey became battlefields. The settlers involved in the industry were optimistic about its future. After the war a returned soldier settlement was opened at Birdwoodton. The area was a hive of agricultural activity as these Diggers set about establishing their blocks and homes. Most of the Birdwoodton children attended the Lake School and the working bees on the school block became an accepted social activity. The parents supported the teaching Mr Casey gave in agricultural science and the activities connected with the school block.



The men working at the Birdwood Branch of the Co-op in 1926:

BACK: Joe Rickard (manager), partly obscured, Wally Worcester (classeur), Tom Stevenson, Jack Slade, Bill Harris, Jack Lamb, Len Watkins, Frank Lamb, Norm Andrews, Wally Mayne, Bert Trethowan, Bill Wesley.

MIDDLE: Hee Lawn, Jack McMillan, Peter Wilcock, Ted Beauman, Reg Armstrong, Bill Slade, Paddy Coar, Jim Alexander, Tom Coar.

FRONT: Jack Green, Lindsay McKay, Ray Slade, Bill Mayne, Mr Slade (senior), Mr Ross, Tolley Vincent (foreman).

On 17th January 1919 the Mildura Co-op opened a branch at Birdwoodton. It was called the Birdwood Branch of Mildura Co-operative Fruit Co. Ltd. and was built on the corner of Mena Road and Main Avenue. It was the largest shed owned by the co-op and serviced the settlers from Mildura South to Merbein South.

Many of the workers there were parents of the school. The branch was closed in 1933. It was too distant from a railway and improved roads and transport meant growers could take their fruit into Merbein or Mildura.

The Public Records Building file entry of April 1922 says -

'The Minister inspected some very fine examples of fruit packing work carried out by the scholars for exhibition purposes.'

The Inspector's report of May 1925 says-

'The head teacher has now on hand a fine exhibit of dried fruits which he proposes to exhibit at the next Royal Agricultural Show.'

John Dedman remembered picking currents on the school block to pay for a hat ribbon, one penny a bucket. John attended The Lake from 1922-1927.

Mrs Tess Jolly wrote for the 1990 reunion: 'Mr Casey was our teacher and had us bottling fruit to send to the Melbourne market - always got a good result.' Tess Carney attended the school from 1919-1926.

Dorothy Hawson remembers being taught preserving - peaches and pears, and preparation of dried fruit - sultanas and currants in special boxes for the Melbourne and Mildura Agricultural Shows. Dorothy attended from 1922-1928.

Keith Flenley who transferred from St Arnaud in 1928 into Grade 3 at The Lake, remembers helping out on the school block: '...just at picking time... [we] had to roll all the hessians in a ball and put a chaff bag on [them] if it was going to rain.'

Keith also remembers some of the innovations and changes in the industry... 'Racks were coming into use...the old time rack was a 12x4 frame, with netting. You spread your fruit on that, then it had a cleat on each end and you put another frame on top. That's what the first rack was like. Then they did away with the old frame and built racks. They were wooden frames with fixed cross pieces. They didn't have the dowels like now, everything was fixed. Rack shaking was done by hand then, and with the help of a pitch fork.'

The inspector's reports of 1922 and 1923 give praise to the gardens and grounds of the school.

'The site which was formerly a windswept waste block considered practically useless has been well planted with wind breaks, has a nice lawn and garden with good shrubs and a revenue returning plot of one acre of vines. All these improvements, added to the aspect it overlooks Lake Hawthorn, render it one of the finest school sites to be seen. It is securely fenced but in places the netting needs repair.

From the vineyard £25 was raised for school equipment...

'The produce from the vineyards has been dried and stacked, and from its sale money is available for school equipment, and what is more important an all round training in viticulture.'

George Gallie remembers...

'We had a school block. The kids did the picking. We got 1d a bucket. It was put out on hessian to dry along the edge of the sports ground. One day my brother and I went past and took some fruit off the hessian to eat.

Bob Dickie said: 'The head wants to see you.'

We got the cats for picking fruit.'

(George was at The Lake 1924-29)

Olwen Walters tells: 'I was going to the lavatory. You had to go around a curved flower garden to get there. I stepped over the edge. Mr Casey must have been watching because and when I came back inside I got a smack on the leg for walking on the garden!'

Olwen was a pupil from 1922 - 1928.

Mrs Aleitha Mills in an interview with Midweek 1980 related...

'I remember best the garden! Oh, it was lovely then. Such beautiful Spring flowers. Stocks and phlox and hollyhocks. And then there was that lovely big poppy (back in those innocent times) that people wouldn't be seen dead with today!

We always had an entry in the garden competition, and we always won it. too! We used to win prizes at the Show too. It was an agricultural school, and we pupils—the girls as much as the boys. Learnt to cultivate and irrigate, prune and pick the grapes and fruit from the trees in the small plot at the back. 'Nilhil sine Laborer'—that was our Latin motto, written across the top of each page. 'Nothing without Work', and by golly, it meant just that!

Some of the parents volunteered help in the produce garden, and I can still remember one of the committeemen following those lovely old Clydesdales with the plough.

Mr Casey had been Supervisor of Horticulture for the Mildura District as well as being head master.'

[Aleitha Lay attended The Lake from 1918-1925]



These photos we believe were taken of the garden in the early 1930's.

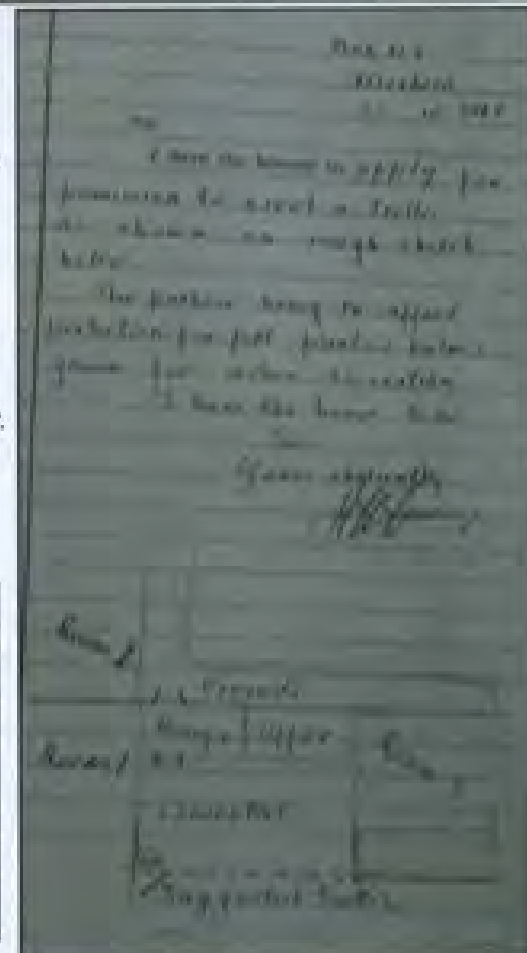
The school gardens were awarded these prizes around 1923 by the Mildura Floral & Beautification Society.

In 1933 the Inspector writes: 'The garden beds allocated to the middle and junior departments are well cared for. Other garden beds are tended by respective 'Houses'. A new flagpole has been erected.'

And in 1935 Inspector Bennett notes: '...respect for property is apparent and there is an entire absence of litter. Children play freely with an absence of shouting. Pride in the appearance and care of their school is evident...'

Later students may remember this sketched area in front of the office where we played on the concrete squares. The trellis had long gone. No hint of plants either, just a bare space. (Mr Casey transferred in May 1929 so maybe the trellis was never built. It is not evident in the top photo.)

In the days before shade cloth and shade sails, even with a trellised wall it may have been an ambitious project to try to grow indoor plants there.



Do you remember this poem from the Fourth reader?

*'Down in a green
and shady bed,
A modest violet
grew;*

*Its stalk was bent,
it hung its head
As if to hide from
view...'*



With Mr Casey transferring, the School Committee were keen that the next Head Teacher continue the interest in horticulture. They wrote to the Department 4th April 1929 asking: 'when recruiting a new Head teacher consider his horticultural experience.' The Department obliged.

Mr Casey transferred to Colac in May 1929. He had certainly laid the foundations for a great school environment. His extra classroom teaching in the areas of horticulture bore results as the children moved onto working their own blocks.

His effort to beautify the lake area and create a swimming facility for the use of the school demonstrates his commitment to the community environment.

His legacy lives on. This was recognised in 1994 when Kevin Heinze opened the Herbert W. Casey Plantation as a tribute to his vision and industry for the school and the district.



*'The school had a garden, I used
to water it with a bucket...*

*We had plots of grass and we
used to water them with a cup or
tin of water.'*

Keith Flenley
(pupil 1928-1931)



When interviewed
Tilly Allen recited perfectly this poem by
Pixie Harris, learnt
with Miss Leyonhjelm.

*'I wonder, I wonder if
anyone knows,*

*Who lives in the heart
of a golden rose?*

Is it a goblin?

Is it an elf?

*Or is it the queen of the
fairies herself?*

Mr Romeril, an enthusiastic young single teacher was appointed. He was a keen gardener and continued the involvement of the school and community in horticulture. He enjoyed designing the layouts for paths and gardens. Jack Forbes quotes Mr Romeril as saying, 'There is no beauty in a straight line'. This is evident in his garden design. These photos taken about 1930, show the amount of work that has gone into the laying out of the gardens. All the paths are edged with turned bricks and arches provide the walkways between areas. It is hard to identify the plants except for the palms.

The school produce was prepared and exhibited. In 1930 the school was given permission to have Mildura Show holiday because they were exhibiting there.

*'My father had 10 acres with no house on it, but it joined the
school block. Dad would fill the pool and water the school block
when he was watering his block. He was on the men's committee.*

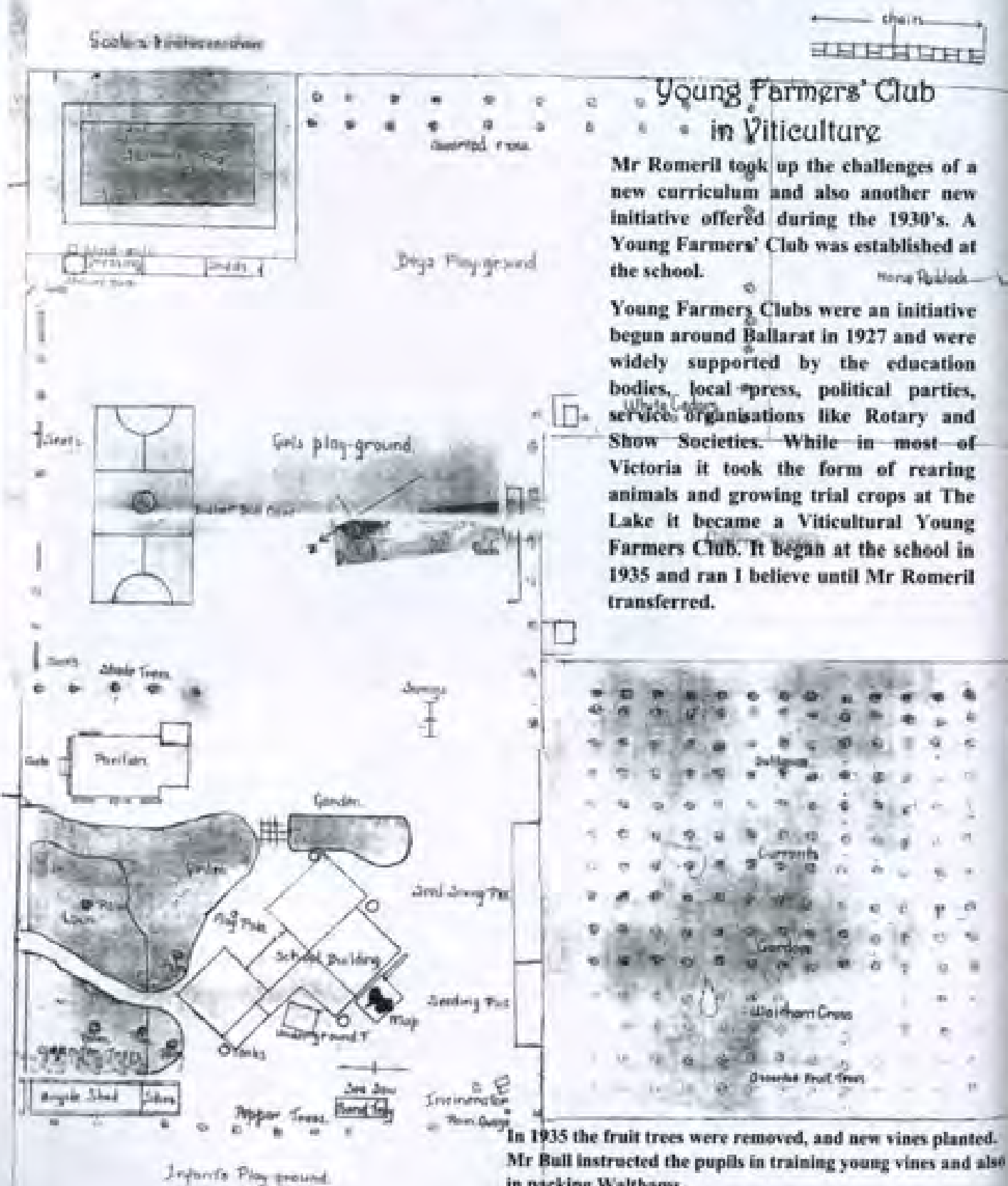
*The Head Teacher Mr Romeril, boarded with the Hepworths. He
had a car and sometimes, not very often, he would pick us up. The
school had lovely gardens; the plantation was small trees then.'*
Heather Geyer Cannard (pupil 1931 - 1938)

*'Wednesday afternoon was gardening.
We all had a section to weed and look
after. We had to dig a drain to it and
coax the water along to water it. The
boys were supposed to dig the drains.'*
Tilly Allen (pupil 1935 - 1943)

PLAN OF
SCHOOL N^o 3581

Mr Romeril continued the wonderful work on the gardens and the grounds.

This plan we believe was drawn up by him of the school ground possibly about 1931.



Mr Spencer, continued the involvement of the pupils in gardening, growing vegetables for the war effort, propagating and planting up the garden each year. The boys were still involved in the vineyard. During his time the standard roses were planted along the front path. The gardens, plantation, vines and outdoor environment contributed to the life of the school.



The next keen gardener in the position as Head Teacher was Mr McGillivray. He spent many hours of his weekend and after school time keeping a beautiful garden. The front path was edged with gazanias, snap dragons and annuals. By this time gardening was not part of lessons and pupils were certainly not allowed to play amongst the plants or walk into the garden.

Inspectors reported on the school gardens as part of their grounds report. Inspector Blackburne reports:

'The garden is particularly attractive. Trees and shrubs provide a background to well kept lawns and flower beds. Early spring annuals are already making a gay show of colour — An additional 4½ acres of land adjoining the site has recently been acquired, so that the grounds now extend to approx. 10 acres. Scrubby growth on the newly acquired land is being cleared and later, the area will be graded and grassed for a football field. A new shelter pavilion is under construction. Several more tanks for storing rain water are to be supplied by the PWD.' — 11th August 1949

'Although the abnormally dry season has delayed the planting of flowering annuals, garden plots are neat and tidy, whilst the lawns give evidence of very careful attention. A plantation of trees established two years ago has made extremely rapid growth. It should prove to be a valuable wind break in years to come. The swimming pool is put to very good use in the summer season. Pipes have been laid to replace the open ditches which conveyed water to the pool from irrigation channels. The shelter pavilion has been much improved by the laying of a concrete floor and the latticing of the walls' - 12th May 1953

'There were a number of sugar gums around the school. A couple outside the pavillion with a seat between and a row along the edge of the school block leading up to the toilets. The last gum in the row was in a convenient position to be the score board for rounders. We scratched the tally marks into the bark. The sugar gums were lopped a few times by weekend working bee. I think at one of these working bees one of the Dads fell and was injured.

Along behind the bike shed grew a row of oleanders. These were removed because it was decreed they were poisonous. It was a pity because they provided a good place to play and they looked nice in flower.

We had a couple of palm trees, one each end of the quadrangle. They always had birds in them. In the Spring the baby birds sometimes fell out and we would nurse them until they died and the ants got them. The palm near the front arch was our hidey base. There were Athol pines (we called them 'salt trees') near the swimming pool. The pine needles underneath made fine houses and cubbies too. There was also a large shady tree at the front near the pavilion under which Miss Fregon parked her car. On the front fence was a wattle tree which was beautiful in the Spring.

Pop's garden featured a tall native frangipani tree. Each Monday morning when we repeated the oath and loyalty, gazed at the flag, it would flap against the background of the frangipani tree. **Recollections of the trees**

The School Committee took over responsibility for the working of the block and the income from the crop each year added to the finances of the school. The vines have moved location a few times and the varieties grown have changed over the years. But children at The Lake benefited from the extra resources and support the money from the block provided.

'The school had a block which we worked as part of our lessons. We picked and pruned. I recall pruning the Gordos because they were small - low. We also had sultanas on which we did the 'pulling-out' in the winter. There may have been currants and Walthams too. Only a few rows of each. I guess the school benefited from the income.'

Ed Geyer, pupil 1935-41

'My husband Ian attended The Lake. His father was Alexander Cannard and they lived near the school. He worked the school block when he did his own. He also looked after the plantation and pool. When Ian was 16, his father died from heart damage caused some years before when he tried to move a rack end. Ian ran the block there until 1957. Because of the family's involvement at The Lake school, Ian and I continued to support schools for the rest of our lives.'

Gwen Cannard

'I remember a reading lesson when I was in Grade 3. Mrs Taylor asked us what a vineyard was. Silence. She asked again, saying we should know. Silence. She asked us to line up at the door and we went outside and stood in front of the block and she said "That's a vineyard!" I wondered what she was showing us because all I could see was a block!

We talked about it at playtime and figured out that a block must be a vineyard!' Helen Petschel

John Smith came as Principal to The Lake in 1975. He enthusiastically took on the grounds and spent many weekends on the tractor in the block. This endeared him to the school community of blockies and boosted the community involvement in the school again.



This great view of the school was taken by John Smith during his time as Principal. It shows the shelter shed, pavilion, the tractor, the school before any major changes in buildings and it has the palms that many of us recall as part of our school days. Notice too the cricket wicket - a metal bin.

The school is still noticed for its gardens.

Here we can see the front gardens blooming with the effort put in by the school community supported by John Smith and Dennis Cavanagh's enthusiasm.

Notice the caravan park and its shady gums over the road.



In 1920 the Australian Natives Association established a prize for noteworthy school gardens. They wished to encourage in children the love of gardens and Australian flora. The prize was to be judged by the District Inspector - hence the reports on the grounds and gardens each time the Inspector visited. Prizes were Australian Art prints, Art books and flags.

This effort won the
ANA Most Improved Garden Award
1976

A four square court under the big shade tree and the pink oleander in flower beside the pavilion. The adventure playground was built around this time too.



Best Garden in the State 1994



Our gardens won many awards in the '90's beginning in 1994 with the Regional and then State Garden Awards. A panel of gardeners arrived by helicopter on the school oval to inspect and award the prize to Principal Ian McMahon, staff, students and the parents involved.



The School Block is still part of the community of The Lake today. The Rix and Trigg families look after the general running of the block during the year with working-bees for special maintenance. Working bees like this one in 2000 may look a little different from earlier days. The grapes are no longer dried but sent to a winery. The community spirit is still present and the crop sure helps the finances.



Maybe one day the land will be needed for school development but for 100 years we can say we have been...



"The Best School on the Block"



This great photo featured in the *Herald Sun* newspaper with an accompanying story in 1997. It's a great picture with the vine leaves in autumn gold and the children in blue and gold.

It appeared again this year accompanying a reader's opinion survey.

Some lovely letters written to the school for its 97th Birthday...

Dear The Lake School,

I love the way the big, old peppercorn tree sits on the other side of the oval watching us play. I love the gardens in spring with all the flowers blooming into colour and the birds flying from tree to tree. I love the smell of the hot jam donuts before play lunch on Friday when they're getting cooked,

From Francesco Marco Bozzi.



Dear Lake School

I like the smell of rain when it hits you. It is a pleasant smell that fills the air with gladness and I like your garden in spring when flowers bloom and bees hum. But I never, ever like having to go home. Happy 97th Birthday.

From Mitchell.



Dear Lake School,

My favourite part of you is the way you are always changing.

I like the smell of the flowers in Spring! I love it how you are always the right temperature in the right season!

My favourite season, when I'm here, is Autumn, because I like how all the leaves fall off the trees and sometimes Michelle and I like to go to a tree and shake off the leaves and walk through them!

I like the way you look in Autumn with all the yellow leaves on the ground!

I like how you make me happy when I'm sad! Happy 97th Birthday!!

From one of your students, Teagan!



The Floral Carpets

During the 1950's and 60's Mrs Hammerton from Mildura West Mother's Club organised a floral carpet display and competition for local Mothers' Clubs. These displays became an annual event and The Lake mothers enthusiastically entered each year. This involved organising a design, growing chrysanthemums, marigolds and other suitable flowers, and a full day working bee to make the carpet in damp sand on a 8x8 foot tray. They were displayed in the old Town Hall, the Drill Hall and a few times out in the open. The Lake Mothers' Club most often took out a prize.



For the Royal visit in 1954, a few district Mothers' Clubs were invited to carpet the sides of the steps to the platform in Deakin Avenue from which the official ceremony was to take place.

The Lake mothers were excited to be asked. The picture below right, shows the brown and gold leaf design they were part of creating.



Eric Wilson tells: When I first started on the School Committee I was younger than the others. The Committee men would set up for the 'Floral Carpets' the night before the event. Everyone was keen to go. I went with Lindsay Dickie, Bill Farrell and Tup Foreman. We set up and then went down to the Club afterwards for a drink. I wasn't a member but they were and they could get you in anywhere!



School Colours

Our first recorded school colours appear to be brown and gold. These were the colours which we wore when playing sport against other schools. For the combined athletic sports we wore mid brown cotton shorts and white shirts/singlets and a brown 'bib'. Mrs Thelma Taylor tells: *'The Mothers' Club bought the material for the shorts and Kath Fregon and I made them.'*

On our picnic sports day we competed in Sturt and Chaffey houses. Sturt was blue representing the water of the Murray and Chaffey was yellow or gold representing the wealth of the district. (Brown and white may represent better our 2008 district: white for the lake and brown for the dry land!)

When the Mothers' Club decided in 1965 to introduce a uniform it was the blue and gold colours they chose. The first uniform included a blue and yellow striped tie, grey tunic or shorts as pictured. Girls did not wear shorts. Summer uniform for girls was a blue and yellow check dress.

Uniform was optional and did not include a hat.

School bags have changed too over the years. About 50 years ago girls had a case and boys a leather bag as featured on the back cover. Next came the shoulder bag like Jeanette Wilson has below, with readers going home protected by the old cardboard 'School Paper' cover.



The Copper Family



The Football team adopted Hawthorn colours.



These early uniforms were mostly made by mums at home or at a working-bee. For the first summer uniform the mums purchased the material to make their daughters' frocks.



Sports Colours

The basketball team (netball) changed from brown to this great little uniform in orange.

and School Uniforms



Today's uniform is a bright and colourful blue and golden yellow. It includes the school logo designed in 1978 by pupil Alistair McBain. Children have a uniform hat which is compulsory wearing when outside. Other items available include a reader bag and school bag. Grade 6 children have specially designed shirts as a memento of their year. Uniform is compulsory today.

Captains Ken Wilson and Christine Peschel with the flag, 1966.



1988 Cricket Team



1991 Grade 2 with Miss Bianchi



Photo Album



Dwarf Lantern Bush



A 'sunburnt country... of droughts and flooding rains' - The Lake has seen it all. The teachers have encouraged an awareness of the environment and its impact on our land in the programs developed for the classroom. Featured here is an endangered plant the children propagated for replanting; response to a drought appeal; the Feb 1983 Duststorm; the bird hide on the Lake Environmental Trail; salinity testing of the lake; and the old method of irrigation for the oval.



25 Years On ...

Cabarita Chronicles

The News Of
1933

SUNRAYSIA'S OWN RADIO STATION-3MA

Sunraysia Broadcasting Station begins transmission as Radio 3MA Mildura.

The reports received and the interest shown in the Sunraysia Broadcasting Station is very gratifying. Every effort is being made to improve on the already high standard of the programmes presented and no expense is spared in making the standard of 3MA equal to any provincial broadcasting station in Australia.

The Management will be pleased to arrange for those interested to be shown over the station. As, for obvious reasons, there must be a restriction placed on the number of visitors each evening, admission is by invitation only. Invitation cards are available in generous quantities either at 3MA, or at 'Sunraysia Daily' Office.

3MA MILDURA

333.1 METRES
BETWEEN 4RK AND 7HO

Let 3MA Carry Your
Advertising Message!

Full particulars, rates, etc., from
THE MANAGER, 3MA

Timmer's Buildings, Langtree Avenue
Telephone Mildura 25.

NEW CURRICULUM IN SCHOOLS Schools Asked To Fund It Mildura Shire Council to Approach Minister

Mildura Shire Council decided to co-operate with deputations to the Minister of Education during his visit.

Cr D. A. Walters said there was an urgent need to reorganise the department's activities. Two schools were applying the new curriculum, and it was necessary for the teacher to incur an expenditure of £40 in the purchase of new books. If the department introduced a new system of teaching it should find the money to carry it out.

Great interest is being shown by pupils at the Lake school in the new curriculum, this school being only one of two in the district adopting the system in its entirety.

A dance has been organised by the Mothers' Club on Saturday to raise funds to provide equipment and books for the work of the new curriculum.

BIRDWOODTON CO-OP CLOSES

The Birdwoodton Branch of the Mildura Co-op. is to close its operation. After the devastating duststorm earlier this year which covered 2000 tonnes of fruit with dust, the fruit had to be sent to the Merbein shed where it could be washed and packed. The shed has served the Birdwoodton and surrounding fruit growers well since 1919. It was the largest shed owned by the Mildura Co-op. The Birdwoodton shed was limited without access to a railway siding making transportation of fruit more costly.

BATHING AT THE LAKE

Shire Engineer Mr M. Johansen recommended that dressing sheds be erected at Lake Hawthorn. He said that hundreds had been bathing in the lake at night, using bushes for undressing and these were thin.

Mallee Horse Week June 5 to 10

Enter for the

WHITE HORSE CUP

Donated by

White Horse Distillers Ltd. Glasgow

Awarded to the

Champion Draught Horse of the Mallee

Competition is open to all working draught horses on Sunraysia Mallee and Irrigation Farms. Horses must parade at the nearest railway station to owner's farm.

Judged by Mr W. J. Dawkins
(Gawler SA)

Australia's pre-eminent Clydesdale
Breeder, Judge and Lecturer.

Wonderland

Indoor Theatre and Open Air
(Weather Permitting)

BIG MATINEE

Today 2.30pm

See This Amazing Thrilling
Film

The terrible battle
between an Eskimo and a
Polar Bear.
Nothing like it has ever been seen
before!

IGLOO

Supporting Programme
and News

BIRD MIMIC SEARCH

Royalty Invited To Listen
3DB TO BROADCAST
FINALISTS' CALLS

The Gould League of Bird Lovers in Co-operation with 3DB is conducting a State-wide search for the best school boy or school girl bird call mimic in the State. The campaign is being launched in schools with competitions, followed by semi-finals then the finals which will be broadcast by 3DB throughout the world via special short-wave transmissions. His Majesty the King and the Prince of Wales will be invited to listen.



This is the food
to give your boy!

RAFT
Cheese

WEDDINGS

Davies—Hawson

The marriage of Nellie, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Hawson, The Lake, and Joseph Howard, eldest son of Mr and Mrs E Davies, Bristol (Eng) was celebrated at St Margaret's Church of England on December 6.

The Bride, who was given away by her father, made a sweet picture in her frock of biscuit faille tricotine, with silk straw hat of the same shade and shoes and stockings to match. She carried a sheaf of pink gladioli and fern.

A dainty bridesmaid was Dorothy, sister of the bride, in a frock of pale blue crepe-de-chine, with grey straw hat and shoes and stockings in tone. Her bouquet was of pink carnations and fern. The bridegroom was supported by Mr Lindsay Dickie, as best man.

RAINBOW FAIR

Members of the Lake School Mothers' Club are already busy preparing for the big Rainbow Fair to be held early in November in aid of the school funds.

Magazine for Women

A new magazine published for Australian women will be sure to be eagerly read, called, The Australian Woman's Weekly, it will be available at newsagents from June 10.

This Week's Recipe HONEYCOMB TOFFEE

One pound of loaf sugar, pinch of cream of tartar, two tablespoonfuls of golden syrup, one gill cold water, half teaspoonful bicarbonate soda, one dessertspoonful of warm water. Put the cold water, sugar, cream of tartar and golden syrup into a strong saucepan. Put on a low heat. Stir occasionally with the thermometer until the sugar has dissolved. Boil without stirring until the mixture reaches 310 deg. F. Remove the saucepan from the heat, mix the bicarbonate of soda in the dessertspoonful of warm water, and add to the boiling toffee. Stir gently and pour at once into a greased tin.

PALMOLIVE

Keep that schoolgirl complexion.

Pure. Natural. A soap to make wholesome beauty radiant! That's Palmolive. Begin its use today.

Groceries

G.A. Nash Ptd. Ltd.

Robur tea 1/7lb.

Tomato Soup 9d 1-lb tin.

Pear's Soap 8d cake

Toilet Rolls 3d each

Envelopes 3d Pkt.

Axe Handles 2/-.

Eighth Street PHONE 37

Melbourne Prices Plus Freight

Shop Here And Bank Your Savings

Fresh Bread and cakes Sponges 10p lb.

ORDERS DELIVERED

Service, Civility and Satisfaction Guaranteed

1933 Statistics

Enrolment: 144

Grade 7

Elizabeth Benham
Colin Bull
Jack Cupper
Thelma Hepworth
Nancy Kinniburgh
Malcolm McKenzie
Mavis Payne

Grade 6

Max Allen
Eileen Box
Joan Cupper
Mavis Flenley
Jean Forbes
Iris Heysman
Nancy Hocking
Frederick Knudsen
Vivienne Lever
Laurence Litchfield
Gladys McKenzie
Ronald Nolan
June O'Conner
Gladys Sloane
Kathleen Smythe
Arnold Thompson
Stanley Walters
Florence Warcham
Milton Whiting
Valma Wilson

Grade 5

Ida Asher
Florrie Benham
Bruce Brastrap
William Brown
Dorothy Chaplin
John Crozier
Phyllis Dasher
Evelyn Flenley
Mavis Goodie
Ray Hayes
Elizabeth Hopkins
Ken Hudson
Aubrey Jackson
Elsie Knudsen
Fred Langdon
Laurence Mayne
Robin McDonnell
Ellice McTaggart
Norma Thompson
Gwenda Walters
Graham Whiting
Fred Wood

Grade 4

Betty Alexander
Mavis Bailey
Betty Box
Stan Bradley
Joan Brown
Norma Crozier
Nola Dasher
Maxine Flenley
Neil Forbes
David Harris
William Harris
William Hudson
John Kinniburgh
Harold Lamont
Bertha Langdon
George Linney
Verna Lyon
Edgar Rainbow
Cecil Thomson

Grade 3

William Allen
Donald Alexander
Gwenith Box
Trevor Bull
Heather Camard
Keith Charles
Peter Corbould
Bessie Cupper
Stan Cupper
Andrew Dickie
John Forbes
Fred Goucher
Murray Heysman
Fred Hocking
Philip Hopkins
Esme Hunt
Constance Jowett
Joyce Knudsen
Edna Lamont
Hilda Lang
Dennis Langdon
Roger Larkin
William Lyon
Keith Palmer
Harold Payne
Gilbert Sloan
Robert Tyson
Edith Watts
Kathleen Warcham

Head Teacher: Louis J Romeril

Teachers: Miss Aherne, Miss Gilbert, Miss M.N. Carroll

(The years 1933 to 1935 inclusive are missing from the Public Record files. The teachers above have been compiled from students' memories and newspaper entries. It often happened that Junior Teachers only stayed a few months. If a female teacher married she had to resign.)



Miss Aherne's Farewell - September 1933
Nancy Hocking, Gwen Lane, Thelma Hepworth,
Kath Smythe, Dawn Flenley, Mavis Flenley.

Grade 2

Donald Arnold
Colin Bailey
Eunice Callas
Margot Corbould
Elliot Crozier
Desmond Fletcher
Ray Hepworth
Valmai Hudson
Kathleen Langdon
Lorna Mayne
Nannette Rainbow
Laurence Sawyer
William Sloan
Agnes Thomson
Leonard Willcock
Valda Wood

Grade 1

Ivy Allen
Alice Andros
Robert Bentley
Geoffrey Cameron
Alex Dasher
Leslie Dasher
Alfred Downing
Valma Flenley
Brian Forbes
Vera Hampton
Beryl Kinniburgh
Sydney Knudsen
Dorothy Lane
Kevin Mayne
Arthur Nolan
Margaret Palmer
Graeme Payne
Pay Rowe
John Schottler
Roy Schottler
Colin Scott
Leslie Stack
Verna Stack
James Telford
Dawn Wood
Russell Warcham
Irene Young

Preparatory

Basil Langdon
John McKenzie
Max Whiting
Eric Wilson

Mr Romeril said "To be a teacher you have to have
a sense of humour" - Olwen Walters

School Work

The teacher's Course of Study was set by the Education Department and the District Inspector ensured that standards were kept. He often tested the pupils on his visit to the school. The inspector's visit was feared by teachers and pupils and much effort went into preparing for it as Sharon Sutherland writes: 'There were not many words that would strike fear and trepidation into teachers' hearts, but 'inspector' was one of them. The word would spread like wild fire that the inspector was in town. A full scale working bee would precede the visit. Classrooms would be tidied, work programs brought up to date, building and grounds spruced up. Inspectors visits also affected the children who were threatened with any manner of punishment if they 'put a foot wrong' during the inspection. One ex-student recalls that during the early years at the Lake the children were not only aware of the pressure to behave but also that they were afraid to respond to questions for fear of giving the incorrect answer.'

The Course of Study was revised in 1912 and a Merit Certificate was issued to pupils successfully completing an exam usually at Grade 8. Provided the pupil was over the age of 13, attainment of their 'Merit' meant they could leave school having been 'educated.' Success of a school was gauged by its success with qualifying and attaining Merit certificates.

Note the letter from Mr Casey to explain why he had not presented students for Merit examination.



Miss McAskill with Grade 3 and 4, 1930: 'Sit up straight, open your books to page 94, begin reading Milton!'

Herbert W. Casey, 95, 115 reports re absence of Merit Certificate at the Lake School.

NOTE: - Classifications regarding Different Subjects must be made in separate letters.

Dear School No. 3581
The Lake
4/11/32

I have the honor to inform you that this school has only been in existence slightly over two years and that only 3 examinations have been conducted, the first being within 3 months of the date of the opening of the school on 23/7/31.

All the children enrolled at that time were exceedingly backward, only 3 being able to do the work of Class II. Only one of these was present at the next examination and only one of those who were in Class III is at present in attendance and none who were in higher classes.

The work of the school has also been seriously handicapped by the fire & insufficient accommodation - inadequate repairs, and although the average attendance is sufficient, no help can be obtained owing to the distance of the school from Ballarat and it being considered that the salary is insufficient to attract anyone coming that distance.

The year our child was presented for Merit Certificate and only has a further term in the school. I therefore respectfully beg to submit that it has been absolutely impossible for me under these circumstances to have obtained certification.

In reference to the latter part of your memo I am firmly convinced that, if the present building is given to this district and that the necessary help be obtained as a country mission is in line of one that permission be granted to appoint a master, then this branch of the work will be carried on with better results.

I am, Sir, Dear Sir,
Yours sincerely,
John William Jones

'Model' Country School

By 1914 the Inspector's Report tells that Mr Casey was running a model school: 'All the lessons given by Mr Casey this morning reached the standard of very good. The lower grades are taught chiefly by Miss McLane, Sewing Mistress, who does good steady careful work and supervises satisfactorily. The head teacher also teaches in these grades on necessary occasion. Considering the advanced school age at which many of the pupils have entered this school and the fact that 3 years ago the school was burnt down and not replaced for a year, and no means of children attending elsewhere, this school is in very efficient state generally.'

Under Mr Casey's management and teaching, very good work - some of it excellent - is being done at The Lake School. I have no hesitation in recommending this school as a 'model' country school... I can state with pleasure and confidence that Mr Casey's school is on the whole, the best managed country school I have seen during my inspecting.'

Up to Merit Certificate at The Lake

In July 1923, Mr Dixon on behalf of a select committee of parents sent a petition to the Minister of Education via the sitting member Mr W Crockett, requesting that he 'use the influence of [his] office in pressing forth our claims' for 'the status of the Lake School No 3581 be raised to that of a seventh and eighth grade school.' 113 people signed the petition. The school Committee also put their views on this matter to the Inspector when he visited in October.

The October Inspector's report comments on the school but not on the parent agitation. 'The children are alert and intelligent. They speak freely and clearly. There is rather too much noise in the larger room when all classes are in. Children should be encouraged to work more quietly.'

Grades 7 & 8 were phased in, 1933 and 1934.

For some subjects like needlework, and woodwork the students went to Merbein Higher Elementary to complete.

Here is a cute letter sent to the Children's Page, Aunty Beth's Birthday League, Sunraysia Daily (11th November 1932).

'Dear Aunty Beth - I would like to be one of your nephews. I will be 7 on October 15. I go to the Lake school, and like it very much because I have such a nice teacher, Miss Ahearn; she is so kind to all the little girls and boys.

Will you please give me a name for my little kitten?

Best wishes to the Birthday League from Leonard Willcock.'



Grades 5 and 6, with Mr Romeril, 1930: Rows of desks from left - 1. Florrie Allen, Jim Lyon, unknown, Vic Charles, Joyce Rainbow, unknown, unknown, unknown, Lionel Walters, unknown, unknown, unknown, Nancy Kinsburgh, Pope Litchfield, unknown, Malcolm McKenzie, Don Bridley, Mary Dickie, Ray Cupper, Jean Crozier, 3. Doug Tiller, Mona Dasher, Margaret Rodwell, Maurice Plummer, Mary Lyon, Len Hestrop, Ron Bailey, Doris Vincent, Margie Fletcher, Fred Young, unknown, Leila Brown, 4. Joyce Plummer, Viv Wilson, Joyce Payne, Rae Payne, Frank Dodman, Marie Thomson, Edna Plummer

The New Curriculum of 1934

Following a Curriculum review in 1932 The New Course was inaugurated in 1934. The Lake School was one of the few schools to trial it in 1933.

The Wall Street crash of 1929 marked the beginning of the Depression. Teachers salaries were cut and promotion ceased. It was not until October 1936 that salaries were restored and a new system of payment by fortnightly cheques introduced.

Books to support the new curriculum posed a cost to a community recovering from the depression. The Lake Mother's Club held dances to raise money for curriculum support and the School Committee again lobbied the Minister. By the end of 1934 most books were on the free list and curriculum support was being published in the Gazette and 'The School Paper'.

What was the New Curriculum? - teachers were given freedom to choose topics related to the child's interest, the children were to be more involved in their learning. They made models, read child-centred books (Grade Readers introduced) made observations and completed 'projects'.

'nature study has its appreciated place in the school curriculum, but the experience of staff and scholars at the Lake school on Thursday afternoon was surely outside the limits of the school syllabus. Investigating a noise in the storeroom, a brown snake, 4 ft 6 in. in length, was dislodged and dispatched.

Miss Gilbert, junior teacher at the Lake school for the past two years, has been transferred, taking up duty at the Golden Point, Ballarat, school.' Sunraysia Daily, March 1933

'Miss M.N. Carroll, of the Mildura High School, has taken up duty at the Lake State School, bringing the Staff up to full strength.

An outbreak of measles has interfered with the attendance at the school during the past week or so....' Sunraysia Daily, March 1933



1933 Students dressed up for a concert item

1915 Subjects

(taken from Inspector's Report 24/7/1915)

Reading and Recitation
Language
History and Geography
Manual training and Needlework
Agriculture
Grammar
Spelling
Arithmetic
Singing
Recorded Work
Physical Training

1929 Subjects

(taken from John Robbins' Report Card)

Reading and Recitation
Spelling
Writing
Composition
Grammar
Arithmetic and Mental Arithmetic
Geography
Viticulture
History
Drawing
Occupations

Childhood Health

Without the medical help we have today, in years gone by childhood illness was a serious problem. The school environment aided the spread of infection and epidemics often needed to be stemmed with the closure of the school for a period of time. Some of the records we have at The Lake include: **October 1913 Whooping cough** the school was not closed but only 18 pupils were in attendance. **Diphtheria** closed the school from

1945 Subjects

(taken from Inspector's Report 5/4/1945)

Speech Arts
Reading & Poetry
Written Expression
Handwriting
Spelling & Grammar
Arithmetic
Social Studies
Science and Nature Study
Physical Education
Music
Manual Work (Art)

1969 Subjects

(taken from Sharon Cupper's report)

Speech
Reading (included SRA colour level)
Literature
Composition & Grammar
Spelling
Handwriting
Mathematics
Social Studies
Science / Nature Study
Physical Education / Health
Art / Handwork / Needlework
Music

June 24th to July 28th 1914 and again in July 1932.

In 1937 the Polio epidemic closed many local schools, The Lake included.

The Allen girls tell how the teacher Miss Walters rode her bike to each household leaving and collecting the lessons from the bread box at the front. They could watch her come but weren't to make contact with her.

2008 VELS

(Victorian Essential Learning Standards)

Physical, Personal & Social Learning:

Health & Phy Ed
Interpersonal Development
Personal Learning
Civics & Citizenship

Disciplines:

Arts
English
Humanities— Economics, Geography,
History

LOTE – Indonesian
Mathematics
Science

Interdisciplinary learning:

Communication
Design, Creativity & Technology
ICT
Thinking

The school offers an extensive music program. Christian religious education is offered through ACCESS ministries volunteers.

'We knew the school number ~ 3581, off by heart.

Whenever I met Ainslie we would recite the school number!'

Kevin Schultz



Illustration from The Holydays, Second Book.

Connie Jowett was enrolled when she turned 5 in October 1930. In 1980 she wrote: 'my Grandfather, Sydney Hanson (School Caretaker) enrolled me at the Lake School, Mildura and after a few preliminaries with my Headmaster, Mr Romeril, I was taken to a large, light classroom where the teacher was standing on her platform (she looked enormous). I announced that 'I am Constance Margaret Jowett and I'm five today.' I loved school and soon made friends with Heather Cannard, Edna Lamont, Joyce Watts, Andrew Dickie and Eunice Collas. I lived with my Grandparents at Cabarita Post Office and always took a packed lunch which we ate sitting in the pepper trees at the school entrance, near the swimming pool –or in the large hall (with a stage) where I was once a Japanese girl in a school play. In 1933 we planted trees in a field adjoining the school. The good grounding I received in those formative years at the Lake School stood me in good stead as I continued my education in England in 1934.'

Nina and Olwen Walters talk about the teachers. They were enrolled 1922. Olwen was also a student teacher at The Lake from 1937 –1939. Their brother Jack was a student teacher there in 1928.

'Mr Casey was severe. Mr Casey pushed me through grade 5 and 6 in one year. I went to High School at 10!' (Nina)

'Mr Casey taught us basketball (Netball) and invited a team from Merbein Higher Elementary to come and play us. They were older as they had grade 7 and 8 and one big girl picked me up like I was a baby. (Olwen)

'After Mr Casey came Mr Romeril; Mr Bill Carney; Doug McDonald taught us as a student teacher with Jack; Miss Grace Blair, she boarded with us. Mum took her in as there was nowhere else for her to board. She never put soap on her face, just washed with water. She married Mr Keddie from Irymple; Miss Ray became Mrs Ward; Miss Aherne then Miss Fairhall. Mr Olney, I was a student teacher in his time. He was very nice, very capable.

Jack was a student teacher there too. Jack never forgot a child he had taught. Jack was a Prisoner of War in Burma. He was just skin and bone when he came home.

You had to do 1 year as a student teacher if you were a man and 2 if you were a woman. To pass you had to have Intermediate Arithmetic or Teacher's Maths. I didn't have maths so I had to sit the Teacher's Exam in the Town hall in Mildura. I was coached after school. After I did the exam I came home on the bus. Mr Olney and the man who coached me were waiting to see how I went. I only had one wrong. At teacher's college I finished with an outstanding mark and I think it was partly due to the 3 years I did as a student teacher. Only 6 teachers in the state got outstanding. (Olwen)



Grades 1 & 2 in the large Infant Room, 1930.

Closest desks: Laurie Mayne, Ken Hudson, Graham Whiting, Lorna Mayne, Bill Harris.

Next desks from front: Elsie Knudsen, Betty Alexander, Jack Crozier, Bill Brown, Dave Harris, Jack Wood, Mavis Goodie, Betty Hopkins, Bill Hudson, Ray Hayes, Joan Doucher, Evelyn Fleming.

Some others in the next row include: Norma Crozier, Gwendolyn Walters, Betty Box, Maxine Fleming and Stan Bradley.

(Note the Honor Board on the wall near the door)

Congratulations on your 100th birthday. I really love learning here. You have lots of fun things that we can do.

Jaylin Grimmer Grade 3, 2008



To the best school.

You're 100!

I'll miss you when I go to high school.

Connor Farr, Grade 3, 2008

Miss Fairhall, aged 30, began teaching as the Infant mistress in 1937. The headmaster at this time was Mr Gladstone Olney. She remembers it as a happy school where the teachers knew and cared for all the children – not just those in their classroom. The second headmaster she served with was Mr John Spencer. Both he and his wife are remembered with respect and affection.

'Paper was very scarce during the war years, and students were expected to use every space available on both sides of the paper, before another piece was used. Bicycle and tyre tubes were also extremely scarce during this time.'

Subjects taught included arithmetic, spelling, physical exercise, handwriting and art. She later questioned the value of the art program followed – the teacher would show the children an activity or concept and the children had to copy exactly what they saw. No room for artistic flair!

Miss Fairhall (Mrs Jenkins) returned to The Lake for the 90th celebrations and was impressed by the school and its surrounds, especially the gardens. She was pleased to know that The Lake School still considered itself to be a caring, family school. She lived to her 100th year, still in contact with past students and still a gracious and caring lady.



Back: Syd Knudsen, Ray Schottler, Kevin Mayne, Geoff Cameron, Brian Forbes, Morris Williams, James Telford, Russell Wareham
Next Row: Max Whiting, Bernard Hopkins, Brian O'Connor, Basil Langdon, John McKenzie, John O'Loughlin, Alan McKenzie, Henry Cronier, Leslie Daucher, Alexander Daucher, Gordon Copper, Arthur Nolan
Next Row: Judith Flenley, Eunice Walters, Irene Young, Jean Box, Margaret Palmer, Gwen Lane, Loma Mayne, Dawn Flenley, Norma Connors, June Hampton, Margaret Nolan, Ivy Allen
Front: Laurie Connors, John Schottler, Ted Connors, Eric Wilson, Ted Wareham, Graeme Payne, Ron Lazarus, Charles Ford, Max Lane, Ivan Shaw.

42 pupils of grades Prep, 1 & 2 in early 1934. 13 more enrolled at the Prep June intake!

'We had Mr Romeril for a time, then Mr Olney and Miss Fairhall. When she got married we all took something for her. We wanted something each so Mum had to ride up to Merbein to buy something so that we each had a gift for her. Mrs Jenkins (Miss Fairhall) had navy and white shoes. I used to admire them and always hoped I'd have some one day. I never did.' Kath and Tilly Allen

'Mr Casey was a good bloke. He was strict. If you did the wrong thing you got the cuts. Mr Romeril took over, he was a good bloke too. They were dedicated. We were all in the one room except for the Infants. We sat in desks, two to a desk. We had fans on the ceiling.

Jack Walters taught us. He was only 16. He was teaching there and then he went away to university. He was only a few years older than us. I was one of Jack's first pupils. He was a wonderful bloke. He finished up on the Burma Railway as a prisoner of war in WW2.' George Godkin

'Mr and Mrs Casey had a block. Mr Casey was headmaster, he took the older kids. Miss McAskill, Grade 3 & 4; Miss Aherne taught little kids. Not too many kids, it wasn't a big school. There were three rooms... one of the rooms was really big – grade 5 & 6. Jack Robbins was better than me at everything. I was always second place, but then, he went to Mildura South.' Keith Flenley

'I came to The Lake School around 1937. I was from Yamba School, S.A. where our writing was a little different. I remember my first day at school we had spelling and the girl next to me had to correct it. She marked all my work wrong as we did different T's and R's in South Australia.

My teacher at the time was Mr Olney. Later Mr Spencer came as our teacher. About 30 years later I was walking down a street in Bendigo and Mr Spencer recognised me from all those years ago.

My best friend at school was Lorna Mayne.' Joyce Knight (Thomas)

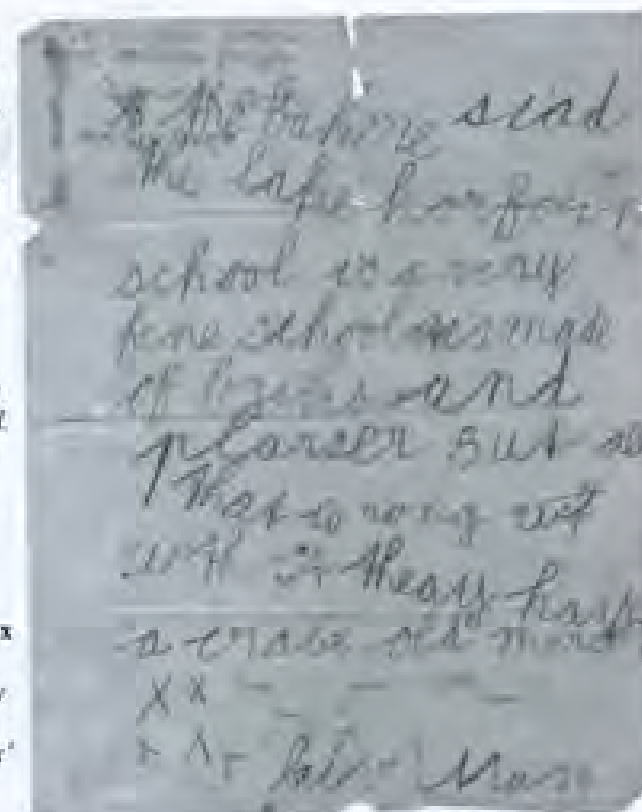
'I was shy and quiet. Miss Cullinan was my first teacher. I am left handed and she tried to make me write with my right hand. I used to go home crying. I think Mum must have had a word to her because she stopped making me change hands. I sat with Joyce Knudson and Nola Duscher. Other teachers were Miss Olwen Walters and Miss Fairhall. They were nice.'

Heather Cannard (Geyer)

The insert, right, is an extract from a letter that 5 year old Max Whiting wrote to his Aunt.

It reads: '...the baker said the Lake Hawthorn School is a very fine school – it's made of bricks and plaster – But all that is wrong with it – they have a crabby old master, XXX love Max'

A commendable effort for a 5 year old!



Grades 3 & 4 1934

Back: Jim Copper, Fred Goucher, Fred Hocking, Don Alexander, Neil Forbes, Jack Sloan, Don Arnold
Next Row: Philip Hopkins, Peter Corbould, Jack Forbes, Dennis Langdon, Ron Nolan, Elliot Crouzier, Ray Hepworth, Laurie Sawyer
Next: Nanette Rainbow, Joan Thomson, Kath Langdon, Heather Cannard, Joyce Watts, Beanie Copper, Nola Daucher, Mavis Bailey, Gwen Box, Margot Corbould, Eime Hunt, Kath Wareham, Joyce Knudsen, Eunice Callas, Edna Lamont
Front: Des Fletcher, Len Wilcock, Colin Bailey, Harold Payne, Trevor Bull, Keith Charles, Bill Lyon, Keith Palmer, Murray Heysman, Andrew Dickie, Bill Allen.



1939 Grades 1 & 2

Back: Colin McKay, Bob Henderson, Ian Kneebone, Colin McKenzie, Brian Smythe, Peter Hedley, Bob McGaughie, Max Lane
Next Row: Jim Firth, Alfie Freeman, Rhonda Allen, Margaret Whiting, Olive Slaughter, Pat Traeger, Margaret Watts, Dawn Copper, Kevin Traeger
Next: Doris Allen, Dawn Woodberry, Shirley Palmer, Jane Broadstock, Janice Barrow, Gladys Simmons, Kevin McKay, Bill Connors
Front: Don Rix, Eddie Allen, Noel Hedley, Lester Bull, John Simmons, Ainslie Copper, Noel Sawyer, Alan Bull



Grades 3 & 4 1939

Back: Frank Box, Reg Bull, Fred Sutherland, Harry Crozier, Charlie Traeger, Herb Henderson, Neville Mayne, Wilson Hampton, Ron O'Loughlin
Middle: Tillie Allen, Maude Firth, Pat Alexander, Lois Gilkes, Kath Allen, Millie O'Loughlin, Beth Whiting, Pam Hudson, Margaret Baker, Priscilla Simmons, Miss Layonjehs
Front: Dorothy Down, Ian Cannard, Tony Connors, Roy Telford, Les Woodberry, John Smith, Charlie Ford, Mavis Allen

[Herb Henderson became a skilled football player. He played 130 VFL games for Footscray, from 1950-1958. He played in their premiership 1954 team and was named as fullback for the Bulldogs' 'Team of the Century'.]

The Merbein District Children's Library

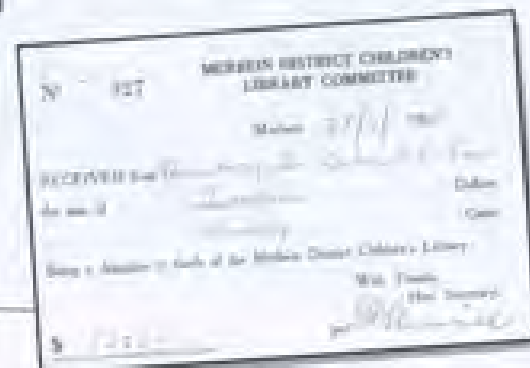
In 1940 a group of Merbein residents supported by the Shire Council opened a circulating library for the benefit of the five Merbein schools.

Cr David Walters was chairman of the Merbein District Children's Library and correspondent for The Lake School. He supported and encouraged the success of this project.

The books available for years 3 to 8 were shelved at Merbein Higher Elementary School. Each affiliated school could borrow a selection for a term.

'I can remember Mrs Taylor reading us 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' as a serial when I was in Grade 3. It came from the box of Merbein library books. I eagerly waited each term for more of CS Lewis's books to read.'

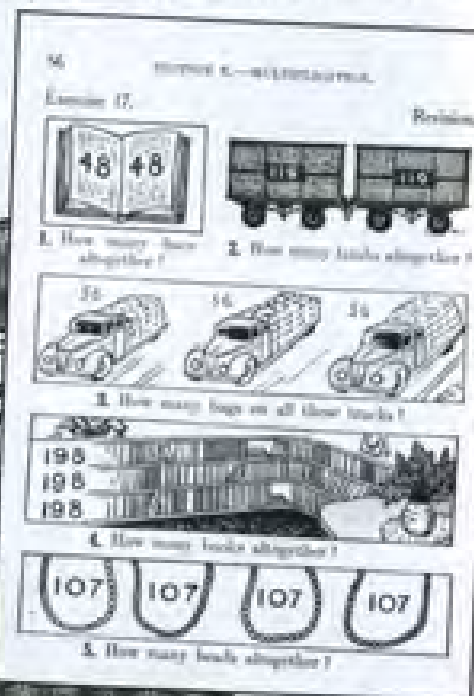
Helen Petchel



'Although it is 70 years since I left The Lake, I remember Mr Casey's teaching with pleasure, and recall one day planting a tree. I said, 'Near enough' and Mr Casey's voice came from behind me. 'Nothing is NEAR ENOUGH in this world Dedman!' I have tried to work that way ever since.' John Dedman, for the 1998 publication. (sadly, John passed away recently)

Do you remember Mrs Taylor's stamps? They were kept in a wooden box with drawers organised into themes. We got a stamp in our books for neat writing, each time a different picture.

A new curriculum was written - the '1954 Course of Study'. The 'new' readers: John and Betty, Playmates and Holidays, entered the infant classrooms replacing the First and Second Books. The 1954 Course influenced teaching in all curriculum areas until the early 1970's. The curriculum was revised, rewritten, redirected and revamped many times over the next 50 years. This was in response to the changing times, current research into teaching and learning, political pressures and community expectations. The report forms and reporting methods have seen great changes in the last 20 years. The advances in technology have aided this with children able to show their parents what they have learned and achieved in digital format at a school interview or at home in their lounge room.



Lesson 14
Topic: 30 yrs

*In your golden chair of
friendship, regard me as
a little thing.*

School 1111

Record Book

Some of our teachers - Herbert W L Casey, Vincenza Litchfield, Priscilla Tunkin, Ida McInnes, Allie Deig, Lillian Nagle, Olive T Robertson, John Pedrazzi, Constance Gamble, Irene Carney, Rita Constance Casey, Miss Ray, Grace Blair, Iris P Huhs, Violet Taylor, Margaret Olive Knight, William Carney, Leslie McAskill, Jack Hughes Walters Miss I Luck, Louis J Romeril, Douglas M McDonnell, Joyce Walters, Dorothy M Perry, Patrick F. Kiniry, Miss M N Carroll, Miss Cullinan, Lorraine McCallom, Walter Cass, Frances Coote, Margaret Aherne, Miss E Eithert, Dulcie A Gilbert, Philip J Cahill, Eileen M Tyrell, Gladstone A Olney, Florence Fairhall, M. P Cuthane, Olwen Walters, Eileen Holden, Lesley Leyonhjelm, Mary Young, John Spencer, Annie VE Hall, Constance Phillips, (exchange from WA), Miss MA Kemp, Muriel Kent, Ronald Robson, Michael Fallon, Alan C McGillivray, Lauris Kendall, Gwen Pinchfield, Shirley Down, Agnes Wilson, Barbara Kneebone, Kath Fregon, Thelma Taylor, Neil W Edgar, Frank Comer, Ronald J Neville, Neville Olsen, Norma O'Donnell, Denise Griffiths, Jenny Funston, Cheryl Neaves, Marg Cook, Mrs Howe, Russell Noble, Mr Robertson, Maureen Varco, Chris Crow, Laurie Schultz, John Smith, Frances Parsons, Marg Schultz, Sue Mudford, Jenny Chapman, Andrea Sutherland, Sue Parker, Kaye Farley, Peta Downing, Andrew Uthmeyer, Ann Kiely, Dennis Cavanagh, Ray Jones, Wal Robson, Dave Evans, Kaye Dickinson, Sue Wookey, Pam Stone, Ian McMahon, Teresa Jordan, Kristen Wade, Mema Straub, Liu Bianci, Georgia McNair, Lyn Clark, John Hocking, Bob Reither, Alan Jackson, Marg Eckert, Kerrin-Lea Doyle, Sue Graham, Alison Amott, Maureen Liddell, Donna Harkness, Brendon O'Brien, Sharon Sutherland, Tracy Kerridge, Kathryn Goddard, Kerrie Robson, Tracy Tarrant, Sally Newton, Tony Probert, John Bell, Jen Ditchfield, Carol Allen, Marg Pongrac, Cherie Hudswell, Lisa Allen, Libbie McBain, Rodney Pearce, Melissa Kelly, Georgina Keith, Carmen Huszar

Head teachers and Principals -
Herbert W L Casey (20 yrs),
Louis J. Romeril (7yrs), Dorothy A. Reed
(1 yr), Gladstone A Olney (3yrs),
John A Spencer (6 yrs), Ronald Robinson
(short term), Michael Fallon (short term),
Alan C McGillivray (23 yrs),
Kath Fregon (singing), Neil W Edgar (1yr),
Ronald J Neville (2yrs), Neville E
Olsen (1yr), Norma O'Donnell (singing),
Laurie Schultz (singing), John I. Smith (8 yrs),
Dennis M Cavanagh (3yrs),
Wallace C Robson (7 yrs),
Ian R McMahon (14 yrs),
Rodney Pearce (current)

Some teachers at the 1998 Reunion -
Marg Carter, 89-91,
Norma Haindon
(O'Donnell), 68-73,
Ian McMahon, 83-86,
Sharon Sutherland, 97-
07,
Florence Jenkins
(Fairhall), 77-82,
Thelma Hewitt,
(Taylor), 48-66, &
Lauris Krens,
(Kendall), 1946.

*Keep your face to the sun
and shadows will fall
behind*

*As I Young
10 Dec 1939*

*88 Helen
10 Dec 1939*

VICTORIAN SPELLING LIST

Grade 1

and the first part of the list is as follows:

1. a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

2. a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

3. a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

4. a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

5. a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

6. a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

7. a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

8. a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

9. a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

10. a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

THE
HAWTHORN HERALD

GREET THE DAY WITH THE HERALD

FIFTY YEARS ON, TELLING YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE DISTRICT AND THE COUNTRY

Choral Festival Success

The Annual School's Choral Festival has been held this week at the Merbein Hall. The Lake School Choir again accepted much applause with their rendition of three songs. They have been practising for many weeks during their lunch hour under the direction of teacher, Mrs Thelma Taylor. Mrs Taylor said she was very proud of their effort and thanked sincerely the pianist Mrs Joan Hill who volunteered many hours to accompany them. She also thanked the mothers who had taken much effort to dress the children, the girls so lovely in white frocks and the boys smartly with ties.

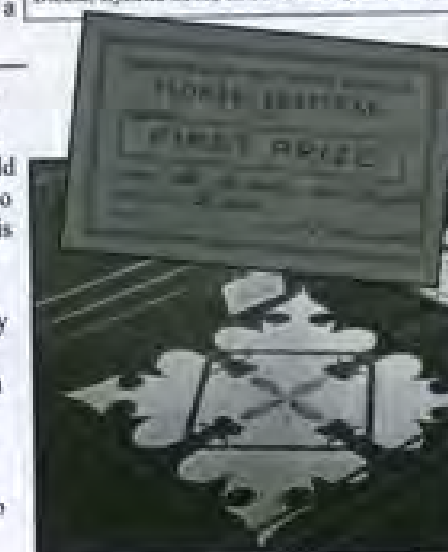


Teacher and choir conductor Mrs Thelma Taylor with the students of The Lake State School who perform so well every year at the Merbein Town Hall. Their accompanying pianist is Mrs Joan Hill. Back: Myra Parry, Heather Killingbeck, Tina Parizza, Colleen Thomson, Ann Barich, Kay Farrell, Pat Rodwell, Janice Power, Marg Knike, Vince Polifrone, Ellen Brosham, Susan Hill, Robert Freeman, Middle: Kay Wood, Dorothy Killingbeck, Peter O'Brien, Ian Foreman, Rodney Corey, Bill Scamghan, Charlie Sedgman, Victor Barich, Dawson Knike, John Stevenson, Bruce Treen. Front: Dul Dascher, Max Thomson, Marlene Knike, Jonie Killingbeck, Margaret Taylor, Glenys Dickie, Lynette Scott, Eileen Baric. (Photo taken in the Merbein Hall supper rooms 1956)

The evening begins with the National Anthem, after which each participating school sings three songs. The night is completed with a massed choir made up of all participating schools. It takes some effort and organisation to quietly crowd them all onto the stage but the effort is worth it. There is nothing more likely to bring a tear to the eye than one hundred children singing in unison. All who attended enjoyed a wonderful night of entertainment.

MOTHERS' CLUBS BUSY

District Mothers' Clubs are preparing for the Floral Carpet Display to be held this year at the Drill Hall in San Mateo Ave. The event is held in May and it is organised each year by Mrs Florence Hammeton and a committee representing the six schools involved. They begin planning many months before. Each school selects a coloured design then the mothers need to organise planting to produce the selected coloured chrysanthemums needed for their design. The Lake Mothers' Club were equal winners last year.



Shillidays

Summer Sale
THIS WEEK ONLY

Cotton Frocks Reduced Below Cost Sensational Value
SIZES 32-40



THE LAKE SCHOOL SPORTS: HOUSE HONORS TO STURT

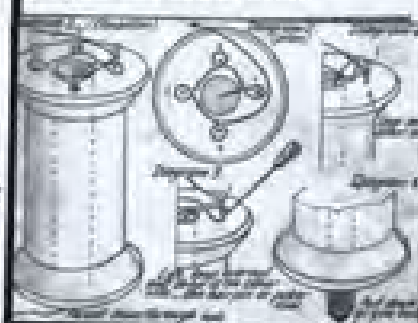
The annual Sports of The Lake State School were held at the Kenny Park, Merbein on Friday last. Despite the far from ideal weather conditions, there was an excellent attendance of parents and friends and competition in the various events was exceedingly keen. The scholars were conveyed to the Park by bus, where they were provided with luncheon and tea by the Mothers' Club associated with the school. The House cup was won by Sturt with 59½ points to Chaffey's 48½ points. Members of Sturt House were congratulated on their fine win and Chaffey were commended on their good performance and fine sportsmanship. Sporting contests in which the team spirit was emphasised were of distinct value in education. The Mother's Club provided a wonderful spread for lunch with fresh sandwiches, home made sausage rolls and cakes available for all to enjoy. The events included: running races, skipping races (for girls) boot jumble, sack race, orange race, egg and spoon and relay races. Other events enjoyed were the ex-students race, married ladies race and the 'elopement race'. Boys participated in the three-legged races, high jump and long jump as well. Prizes were the usual bags of lollies put together by members of the Mothers' Club. Eric Wilson was the starter and men of the Committee judged the winners. It was very pleasing to see so many ex-students there to help the Mothers' Club and the Committee to provide such a successful day for the students. The children enjoyed the

1958 Highlights

Jan 14 – Qantas Airways introduces a round the world air service from Australia to London.
Feb 14 – The Queen Mother visits Australia
April 15 – Monash University is founded in Melbourne.
May 31 – Henry Bolte's Liberal Government is elected in Victoria
Aug 6 – Herb Elliott sets a world record for the one-mile (3:54.5)
Sep 30 – The ANZAC Day Act 1958 receives Royal Assent making 25th April a national public holiday.
Nov 1 – 'Bandstand' goes to air hosted by Brian Henderson

Australian Engineer, Dr David Warren constructs the first flight recorder ('Black Box')

Junior members you can make a 'Tomboy Stitch' knitting reel and enjoy this popular pastime in the playground and at home.



NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

The newly completed Mildura water tower on Orange Avenue is opened and in use. The 'Champagne Glass' design is an example of unique engineering, towering over the Mildura skyline. Mildura residents can be quite proud of their water facilities as some of the best in country areas.

The Lake School Mothers' Club are concerned that the roadside signs near the school are inadequate. They considered approaching the Country Roads Board to have 'School' painted onto the road to warn motorists to take care in school hours. But it was decided to agenda the matter for the Vic. Federation of Mothers' Clubs next meeting as it was considered of state-wide concern.

District Schools are pleased that over the next few years septic tanks will be installed in all school grounds. Max Whiting from The Lake School said they had been asking for this for some years and had been refused. They were very pleased with the decision. The toilets at the school sometimes had more odour than the lakes opposite. The school has been using a windmill to supply water to the toilets and this will be utilised with the septic system.

The children enjoyed the raspberry and orange cordial provided by the mothers and ice-cream in a cone. The Mothers' Club had organised a bus to take the weary children and parents back to school at 5.30pm if they didn't have other transport.

The fascinating educational programme that appeals to all ages!

The Johnson-Johnson

QUIZ

KIDS



with **JOHN DEASE**

Broadcast every Sunday night at 7.30

2LF . 2PK . 2MG

and 3GB 2MX 2NM 2CA 2WL 2LT 2MV

A.B.S. radio network

(sometimes, and playtime, ignored him. We don't remember any teacher doing yard duty although we ate our lunch in or around the shelter shed with teacher supervision. Mr McEliff was always warm to us to the residence for lunch. He had a little yappy, Scottish terrier dog which sometimes came over to school. We think he was called "Squire", like the man in the yard!!

Every morning we lined up on a rectangle of sealed surface near the Rappaport for assembly. On Monday we sang "God Save the Queen," boys saluted the flag, we recited the oath of allegiance with our hand over our heart and marched in to band music from the speakers. During the cooler mornings we did about three folk dances before assembly.

Head teacher: Mr Alan McGilivray
Enrolment: 125

5/6 bag
over.

There were two enormous peppercorn
trees. These were nice and shady and this
is where we had our morning walk.

We drank rumour from the tank outside Mrs Taylor's room. It had wriggled in it but then didn't bother us.

Miss Barbara Taylor: Grades 3 and 4

Margaret Patterson, Leslie Kilgusbeck,
Mary Kilgusbeck,
Esther Matlock, Christine Pongracz

Yolande Bailey	Carmela Parisi	typed Disches
Chris Bradley	Richard Reid	Don Harborth
Brian Corbin	Chris Smith	Marcus Jarvis
Maryann Crippen	David Simpson	Justin Prosser
Green Crippen	Peter Smith	Valy Pridemore
Laura Coleman	Pam Bailey	Leslie Pridemore
Ben Harborth	Kim Harris	Carol Smith
Wayne Krinke	Gary Hummel	Patricia Wood
Mary Martin	Lee Benson	Mary Pridemore
Margaret Miller	Lynette Crippen	

For sometime in Mrs Taylor's house there was a small bed lying on the ceiling in the corner. It came out at night to feast on insects and slept safely all day up high in the classroom.

The front garden was always edged in flowers. At the end of the path there was a school sign which made us wish to walk under

The play equipment was laid out in a strip from the oval to the front fence. We had maypole rings, large ladders mounted back to back, a brick edged square sand pit, a metal climbing frame and a plank rising. Some of this equipment is now considered too dangerous but we learnt to be careful and survived. There were a few accidents with children falling down the 'churnery' in the centre of the climbing frame. This was when the ambulance was called and we were shepherd away to so we couldn't see the drama.

play
ground

Some Headteachers of The Lake



In August 1968, Mr McGillivray retired after 23 years as Headteacher and senior school classroom teacher. He is pictured here on his last day amongst some of the students of that time. The 50's and 60's were unique years for staff at The Lake. Miss Fregon, Mrs Taylor and Mr McGillivray were the only teachers during most of that time.

Mr McGillivray is remembered by his staff and many ex-students. Here are some memories:

'During afternoon recess this day the inspector arrived with the then Minister of Education. After we gave them afternoon tea (out of mugs), the inspector asked Mr McGillivray to call the children together to meet the Minister. Mr McGillivray's reply was "I'm sure they wouldn't be the least bit interested." Kath Fregon and I didn't know which way to look although we always knew Mr Mc. didn't stand on ceremony.'

Thelma Hewitt (Taylor).

'I consider Alan McGillivray was the best teacher I ever encountered...'

'There were quite a number of scholarships, ten I think, presented by Merbein business places for all the pupils in the Merbein area who were leaving Primary education. Every year Mr McGillivray's Grade 6 pupils won about six of those scholarships out of the ten.'

Katia (Kath) Fregon

'The numbers dropped at the school and Alan was going to have to move schools to maintain his position. I had to represent the School Committee and speak to the Department authorities to support him staying at The Lake. They obliged, but within a short time the numbers increased again anyway.'

'Mr McGillivray could recite Australian poetry. For me, none can surpass my memory of his rendition of "The Man From Snowy River" or "Clancy of the Overflow".'

Helen Petschel

Mr Neville Olsen wrote a book about his experiences of growing up in the Mallee. He retired from The Lake in 1974 to establish a music centre in Mildura. The Caravan Park had a great influence on the school. Mr Dennis Cavanagh (Mr Cav) developed a 'breakfast program' and Mr Wal Robson established an 'After School Hours Care' program to address some of the changes it brought.



The Lake has had its champion teams. The football team only lost a game in 1968 and this team was undefeated in the 1969 season. The parents and teachers who volunteered to coach our teams over the years, deserve a big thankyou. I would like to mention two whose names have been given to me by many I have spoken to: **Keith Flenley** and **Val Lucas**.



Back: Jimmy Cavallo, Don Cavallo, Steven Nelson, Gary Dorring, Mario Cavallo.
Middle: Frank Ferraro, Chris Kulaner, Frank Piscionei, Stephen Petschel, Peter Heaysman, Jeff Scott
Front: Terry Hunsyrdi, Alan Heaysman, John Drury, Geoff Hepworth (Captain), Peter Dickie, Nick Cavallo, Ian McGlashan



Standing: Roxanne Kraus, Wendy Holman, Amber Brooke, Bindi Miller, Kerry McDonald, Natalie MacDonald, Stacey Harley, Zoe Guy
Kneeling: Rebekah Miller, unknown

Left: The Softball Team of 1985.

Softball was one of the sports Keith Flenley was involved in coaching, as were baseball, athletics, basketball/netball, and tennis. This involvement spanned possibly over 40 years as he supported his children and grandchildren's school sport at The Lake.



Shot put on Sports Day 1982



Above: Val Lucas with the Netball Teams of 1982.

Val coached many teams to premierships. Her enthusiasm for basketball/netball and her skill as a coach encouraged many girls to play out of school and into adulthood.

'Jack Walters taught us. He was only 16...I was one of his first pupils. He was a wonderful bloke. He was a very athletic footballer and cricketer. He used to coach us. Every year we had sports in Mildura. I was a pole vaulter. I said to Mr Walters. "I'll have to drop out of this." He spurred me on and I won, not just the junior but also the senior.'

George Godkin.

Photo Album



The 1997 staff are good sports; Umpire 'Dickie' McMahon, 'Howzat' Hargadi, 'Golden Duck' Dave, 'E's Out' Eckert, Steve Waugh, 'Square Leg' Jordan, 'First Telp' Tsonkatos, 'Grabber' Graham, Maggie 'Catch It' Carter.



1985 Cricket Team, L to R: Stephen Ginn, Michael Lyons, Ricky Herbena, David Ken, Robert Ginn, Michael Mannin, Anthony Dichiera, James Stewart, Paul Kneke, Tony Trinick, Vernon Kraus, Jason Jeffrey, Robert Thomson, Shane Trinick



Right: Staff at the Kenny Park Picnic
Left and below: The sack race and captain ball at Sports Day on the School Oval, 1982.



1994 Football Team:
Back: Sam Dean, Simon Hancock, Dean Wallace, Frank Cavallo, unknown
Middle: Larry Cavallo, Joe-Roy Johnston, Paul Cavallo, unknown, Troy Johnston
Front: unknown, James Anand, Paul Holman, Brett Copper, Blake Davis, Matthew Hardie



The School Grounds ~ 'Remember The Days Of The Old School Yard'

'Teachers didn't do playground supervision. There were very few accidents and we all played well together. Girls had their play area and the boys theirs.' **Frank Geyer**

During the 50's and 60's the oval was the western paddock of the school ground. The cement cricket pitch was also there. Later the vines were moved and an oval created closer to the school. It was flood watered with FMIT water and consequently always so green and inviting to play on.

'The back oval was lawned with various prickles. The boys played football and cricket there. We also practiced our running races there. I liked to run in bare feet which was a bit painful.' **Helen Petschel**

'I can recall the number of hours of hard work involved in preparing the boundary line around the old gravel school footy oval. Some of the boys showed great improvisation by physically towing an old furrow shovel to eventually scratch a rough boundary line around the oval' **Phil Copper**

The Lake



There is no doubt The Lake School had one of the best environments in the area being situated overlooking the lake. Our first head teacher recognised this and the lake was used for swimming lessons, nature study classes and picnics. This is the earliest photo we have been able to find of the lake.

The lake was filled seasonally with the river's rise and fall. It was part of the Old Mildura Sheep Station and early records mention a brush fence running through from north to south and extending around to Bruce's Bend defining the 'home paddock' of the station run. Some of our early settlers had worked as shepherds on the station and took up land in this area possibly because of its lake environment.

When the school was built the lake was a natural spot to have swimming lessons and to cool off. Mr Casey records in his history of the school, (Sunraysia Daily, 1922) that 'when the high temperatures were reached (if there was water in the lake) the school adjourned to the lake side and teaching carried on in the shade of the trees.'

Some recollections of the lake and surrounds before drainage schemes changed the natural water cycle may give us a picture of the environment our first settlers and students enjoyed around the lake.

Keith Charles tells 'Lake Hawthorn was mostly dry except in time of flood. I recall chasing emus across the dry lake bed on our bikes after school. In those days, the lake was surrounded by what I remember to be quite large trees, probably Box...'

Keith Flenley recalled 'I remember Lake Hawthorn as a large circular depression with a very flat bottom... no holes or channels but flat. Deep gullies ran from the road to the lakes edge. On the east side gentle slopes back to Riverside Avenue were covered with Blue bush [with] not even a tree... Black wattle lined the edge of the lake except for the west side where a small forest of trees and bushes grew... On the north west corner was an inlet and a depression that ran back to the river and filled the lake on very high river or floods.'

In September 1912 a Mr H B Williamson mentioned in a report to the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria: 'Near the school is a splendid specimen of *Acacia homalophylla*, Myall about 25 feet high, and very symmetrical. It was a mass of bright yellow bloom, and I had to spend several minutes admiring it from various points of view. At the edge of a small lake nearby, trees of *Acacia stenophylla*, Eumong, were noted. In this locality also are to be seen miniature canyons, examples of the work of rapid corrosion of water courses, the soft clay being carved into narrow gorges ten or twelve feet deep and only a few feet

Lake Hawthorn ~ Lake Hawthorne?

Who named our lake 'Hawthorn' and why?

At first we could not find a definite answer to our question on the origin of the name. We posed the question in a story for the *Mildura Weekly* hoping someone had some knowledge. This introduced us to a local historian Peter Richardson who has assisted us in our research on this and other aspects of the history.

We found the early maps just referred to the lakes as 'Dry Lake' or 'Lake'. The area was often called the 'Lakes District', the shire named it the 'Lake Riding' and early names for the school referred to it as 'Lake State School'. By 1901 the names Ranfurly and Hawthorn appeared on maps as titles for the lakes.

Lake Ranfurly is so named because Lord Ranfurly's Estate bordered it to the north and east. We reasoned there may have been a landowner by the name of Hawthorn, after whom our lake was named. The 1896 Report of the Mildura Royal Commission lists a settler by the name of Harold Hawthorn with land in the vicinity of the lake. This was a good lead and we pursued it. This is what we learnt:

A Mr Hawthorn accompanied by a female Hawthorn (whether as wife, sister, child or other relative we have not proven) arrived in Adelaide from London in 1891. A Mr A. Hawthorn aged 29, arrived in Melbourne in May, 1891 also from London.

In July 1891 Harold Hawthorn a settler from England bought 40 acres from Chaffey's out on Ash Avenue (Block E, Section 76, Lots 1,2,3 & 4 - near the back of the airport today) and also 31½ acres transfer from Gibbs. Gibbs



This is what the Royal Commission interview with Harold Hawthorn reveals:

The report refers to Harold Hawthorn as being young. He owned 71 acres with a gross return anticipated in 1896 of £800, and net return of £400. 'I came from England in July, 1891. I wished for a country life... saw the advertisement in the papers and went down to London... and made enquiries.' He had 71 acres, 30 planted by contract, not himself. 'trees doing well, 800 lemon trees on 12 acres, 600 orange trees, 5 acres of vines Gordo Blanco raisin.' Some were suffering from lack of water.

It was obviously a substantial property and his account of his house and plant would support that he had financial means - total expenditure on property including the purchase payments £2,300, plus house and stables of £500, which was more than the amount spent by most settlers. His property was only 4½ years old then and he had lived for those years with no income from it only expenses.

bought land, approx. 53 acres, between Mc Edwards and Robertson street in 1891. This land Harold Hawthorn acquired from Gibbs was on the corner of Regina and 17th street and is possibly where he lived, being closer to access to water and other civilisation (Block E Section 36a Lots 10, 11, 12). The rate books show Harold Hawthorn's paying rates from 1892 on both these properties until the last entry in the rate book of 1919/1920.

We can see he was a young man of financial means and he had established his holdings with the intention of staying. His home and orchards bordered the lake. Unlike Lord Ranfurly his name does not appear in the social accounts we have read of the time. He may have left the district although he did not sell within 30 years. His properties were both mortgaged.

It is quite possible the lake is named after Harold Hawthorn, an early lakeside vine and citrus grower.

There was a time when you could enjoy swimming in the lake. The first students had lessons in the waters of the lake. When the lake dried in 1914 the school looked to create a more permanent pool for swimming.

Mr Casey tells: 'January 1914 saw a move on foot to establish a swimming bath in the school ground. A subsidy was asked for from the government, but it was not forthcoming. During the year the parents excavated a dam in the bed of the present lake on the south side of Dyar Avenue, permission having been obtained from the college council, who were in possession. The water, which was granted free by the First Mildura Trust, was obtained through the school grounds. It passed along Seventeenth street, crossed under the road at Dyar Avenue and thence across the open land to the dam. The school was greatly indebted to Mr A.D. Thompson, who supplied the levels for this channel free of cost. In this dam the first swimming lessons were given to the boys; only a rough shelter had been erected. In 1915 the Murray floods entered



the lake, and the swimming pool of the previous season was no longer necessary. The committee erected a dressing shelter near where the present dressing rooms have been built.' [Possibly at the end of Dyar Ave. Notice the dressing-box in the picture]

Visit by Frank Beaurepaire

After his success in the 1908 Olympics, Frank Beaurepaire was employed by the Department to encourage Victoria's children to learn to swim. He made a trip to South Merbein School in March 1915 and a swimming carnival was held in McMillian's dam. The *Cultivator* reports: 'Though some 55 horses... regularly visit the dam, it was practically filled to the brim and provided a fine swimming basin, some 30 yards in length.'

The head teacher from South Merbein, Mr Oliver Keddle organised the day with Mr Wishart (Merbein State School) and Mr Casey (Lake) assisting. Boys participated in events like the cork hunt, sculling race, cork and spoon, greasy pole and even a diving event! These are all described in detail in *The Cultivator*, the highlight being the Beaurepaire Gift: 'The Beaurepaire Gift proved a good race. Ernest Traeger came first, but C. McSwain and George Riley were adjudged to be level. In the swim off McSwain won by a touch.'

The carnival concluded with Mr Beaurepaire giving a 'much admired exhibition of swimming'.

'In 1916 the matter of making a swimming pool was shelved, but owing to the lake again drying, it was revived in 1917. Prices were obtained for scooping the pool and raising the rubble, but owing to good swimming water becoming again available the matter was allowed to lapse for the second time. It was revived in 1919 when the hole was excavated and eighty yards of rubble raised. The necessary drainage was provided and the hole filled with water to consolidate it. It was found to hold well, and was used by the boys, the dressing-box having been brought up from the lake.

The high cost of cement and the inability to obtain it called a halt in the proceedings. Owing to the filling of the lake in 1919 and the subsequent formation of the Lake Swimming Club, the matter was allowed to remain in abeyance. The swimming club offered the school children free bathing facilities with the right to become members on the payment of 6d. A high river the following year gave the lake an extra supply of water...'

A swimming carnival held in 1919 at the Lake raised £20 for war funds and bonds to the value of £1500.



Dated 1918, this shows an outing to the lake. With cars and dogs in the picture it is not a school excursion but a private trip.

The lake was used for recreation and picnics, for relief from the summer heat and for swimming instruction.

In April 1920 the Mildura Shire Council discussed the securing Lake 'Hawthorne' by purchase of about 450 acres between the rail line and 17th street at a very reasonable price. The Birdwoodton Soldiers' Association petitioned the Shire Council in March 1920 asking that the Lake 'Hawthorne' be utilised for recreational purposes. They considered building an embankment near the pumps to hold the water from running back into the river after the Lake was filled. This appeared to have been done as Mr Casey mentions 'a high river the following year [1920] gave the lake an extra supply of water, and much of this was impounded by a dam near the Merbein pumps.'

CASE OF SNAKEBITE

A little girl, Daisy Jones, a step-daughter of Mr Donohue, living near the Lake, was playing amongst the grass in a paddock when a small snake bit her on the left ankle. Word was telephoned to Dr Shammay, who was on the spot five minutes after receiving the message. The little girl received emergency treatment, and was then brought in to the Hospital, where she is now progressing satisfactorily.

Merbein Irrigatorist Jan 21st 1920

[Note the commendable response time]

and 'Mr Woods spoke commending the teachers action in taking the young children down to the shade by the lake during the recent hot spell.'

Inspectors' reports each year have a comment about the swimming instruction, this example from 1922 says: 'Lessons are regularly given in swimming in the lake opposite the school'.

Hawson's beach is often referred to as the spot for picnics. As Hawsons had the Post Office on the south corner of the lake we can assume it was along that beach these were held.

Both George Godkin and the Walter's girls mention the swimming lessons in the Lake.

George says 'it was nice and

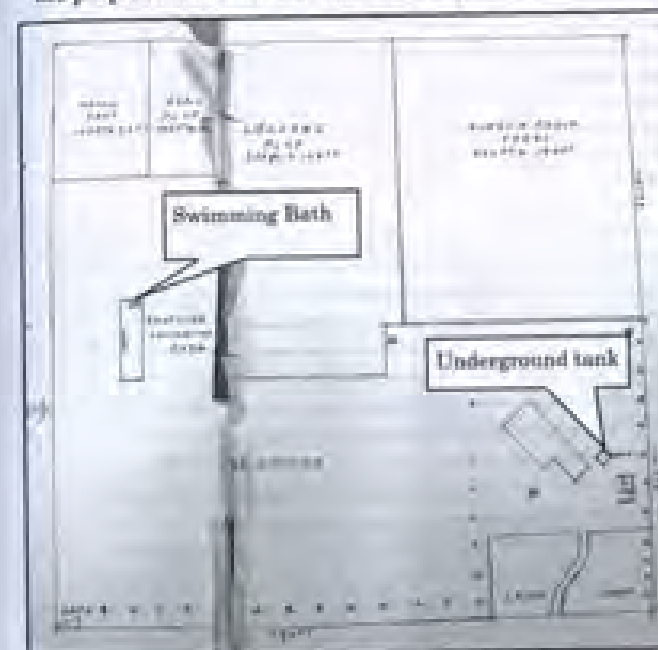
clear then. They used to sail on it'

Nov. 1921 School Council Minutes: permission was given for the Lake Swimming Club to hold a dance in the school to raise funds for the club

Mr Casey had plans for the beautification of Lake Hawthorn and commenced tree planting.

The School Pool

We are not sure when the first pool was built in the school grounds. As mentioned earlier it was proposed for 1914 but the lake being full the next year and subsequent years the proposal was shelved. This was the plan:



It was planned to be 60 x 15ft and 2ft to 5ft deep. The estimated cost of £80, the Department had no funds to offer towards this at that time.

In 1922 Mr Casey had a plan which he submitted to School Council, to move the windmill down to the bank of the swimming tank and use it as a reservoir, for watering from; the committee to pay the cost of moving, extra pipes etc. We assume the 'tank' is in the school grounds and not by the lake side and that this is the bath as proposed 1914. In 1923 the inspector writes that the pool is to be cemented.

Department correspondence of 10/11/27 has a letter stating:

'I have the honor to report...a swimming pool has been constructed (of cement) at the above school...

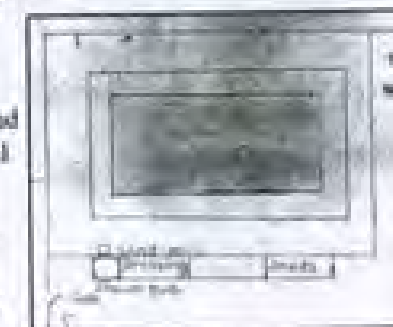
The amount expended to date is considerably over two hundred pounds. At present no bathing boxes are provided and as no further funds are available I respectfully request that the Department assist us in this matter.

The pool is one hundred feet long and forty feet wide. The average depth is three feet six inches.

The water for this pool is being supplied twice each irrigation free of cost by The First Mildura Irrigation Trust, Manager Mr Hutchinson. The pool can be emptied into the lake by a pipe placed under the road.

Yours obediently, HWL Casey.

Mr Romeril was a qualified swimming examiner and had district responsibility in this area. We believe this is his plan, about 1931. It shows the pool in the location nearer the fence as later students remember it.



In February 1933 the pool was renovated and received an additional surface of cement.

In February 1935 the committee discussed the use of the pool by outsiders as it was becoming a problem. They decided to put a notice in the paper warning people not to use the pool and trespass on the school ground and erect notices to that effect at the pool site. They were prepared to notify the police if necessary.

9/6/1936 The Inspector reports - 'Swimming is very popular in season. The school has its own pool. The head teacher [Mr Romeril] continues to render excellent service to the district in matters pertaining to swimming and F.S.S.H.S [Vic. State Schools Horticultural Society]. A visit to this happy school is always a pleasure.'

School Council of 1938 report cracks in the pool needed attention; and in 1942 a pipe to empty swimming pool was not sufficient and they were investigating the possibility of putting a larger one under the road.

School Council of 1944 '...that the following notice be put in Sunraysia Daily on Tuesday and Saturday: 'The Swimming pool at the Lake State School is reserved for scholars only. All other persons are trespassing and are liable to prosecution.'

1946 Inspector's report - 'The dressing room at the swimming pool has fallen into disrepair and should either be repaired or pulled down.'

By May 1947 the dressing sheds had been removed and the committee were planning to erect a new shelter shed; another sign warning trespassers was erected.

Heather Geyer (Cannard) - 'Dad would fill the pool and water the school block when he was watering his block... We swam in the school pool. We changed in the toilets. I learnt to swim in Lake Hawthorn.'

Kevin Schultz - 'At first we swam in the lake then we swam in the school pool.'

We used to have to wait for the school bus after school so we boys would 'skinny dip' in the pool.

One afternoon someone yelled 'GIRLS COMING! One boy ran and jumped so far in the pool that he struggled for a while out of his depth.

After that our pool misdemeanours were dispensed with.'

Miss Fairhall (Mrs Jenkins) told 'Pupils at The Lake were fortunate to have access to two swimming venues - namely the school pool and Lake Hawthorn - neither of which boasted ideal swimming conditions. My most vivid memory of the pool was the dirty water it contained. Teachers and pupils swam in the 'murky waters'. I recall one ambitious student calling out to me: 'Watch me, Miss Fairhall, I'm swimming!' as he slowly sank into the murky depths, before thankfully finding his way to the surface.' The water quality of Lake Hawthorn was apparently no better than the Lake School pool.

After 7 years of drought, Ern Geyer's family walked off their farm in 1935 and moved to Deakin Avenue. They enrolled at the Lake school. Ern relates: 'My most embarrassing time was when it was time for swimming at the school pool. I was the only one who had no idea of how to swim, having never been near any water for swimming.'

By 1960 the swimming pool ceased to be used and it was eventually filled, the children being bussed to Merbein for swimming. During the late 60's the department employed a district physical education teacher, Mr John Sheahan who organised swimming programs for the schools to implement. John also led the Grade 5 Lake Cullulleraine camping experience which hundreds of Lake School children have enjoyed over the years. This involved outdoor sporting, adventure and nature study activities in and around Lake Cullulleraine. In the late 70's and 80's a physical education teacher, Peter Kearney was appointed to the Merbein area schools. He supervised Phys.Ed which included instruction at the Merbein pool for the district schools. The Lake Hawthorn Park built a pool for its tenants and they generously offered the use of it for swimming instruction. This was very convenient and allowed for more effective individual instruction with less disruption to timetabling - the classes only having to walk over the road. In recent years the children have used Club Aquarius facilities and currently are bussed to The Waves in Mildura.



Swimming lessons for students Joseph Zappia and Jaylin Grimmer.

Current pupils go into the big pool...



Norma Hazendonk (O'Donnell) tells: 'I managed to save Charlie Zappia's life twice. One lunch time there was a knock on the staffroom door, and a very loud rasping noise could be heard. The teacher who answered the door kept asking the child to speak. More rasping noises were heard so I quickly investigated. There was Charlie looking very distressed, with half a mandarin in his hand. I realised the other half was stuck in his throat! A really hard slap on the back didn't move it, Charlie's eyelids had started to turn grey and his eyes rolled. So after warning him I was going to hit him hard, I held his arm and gave him another sharp hit. Thankfully that moved the mandarin.' Charlie revived, 'I think I was still shaking half an hour later.'

My second rescue was at the Merbein Pool. After a lesson in the infant pool, I would often take the children into the shallow end of the big pool to get them used to deeper water. Fortunately it was a cold day and my group was quite small. I was standing near the steps when Charlie asked if he could come into the pool. I realised a few seconds later he wasn't in the pool with the group. After a quick look around I saw Charlie half way along the pool, where he had jumped in and couldn't touch the bottom. I managed to get to him as he was going under for the third time.'

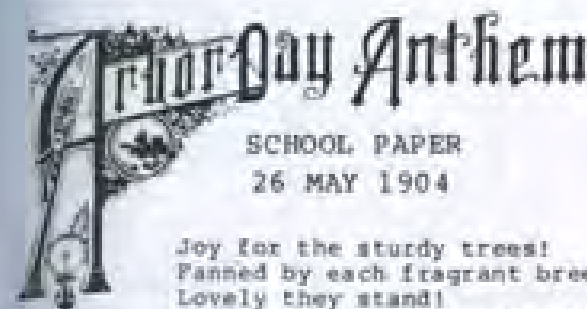
The renovated swimming pool to provide a boom, swimming classes being held each afternoon while the warm weather continues.' *Sunraysia Daily* March 1933

Judy Jenkins (Killingbeck) remembered the leeches in the swimming pool and its rough concrete sides. (1998 reunion)

Helen Petschel 'We only used the pool for a few years and by the time I got to grade 3 we were going by bus to the Merbein pool for swimming. I remember if it was hot we had swimming in the afternoon and if you didn't have bathers you just swam in your knickers and singlet. Girls changed in the Infant room and boys in the pavilion. I remember we had a bit of a giggle once when a little boy did a streak around the pavilion. The pool was filthy on the bottom and not very enjoyable but it kept us cool.'



Grade 3 boys, Tye Ansimakopolis and Caleb Klassen enjoy The Waves.



SCHOOL PAPER
26 MAY 1904

Joy for the sturdy trees!
Fanned by each fragrant breeze,
Lovely they stand!
The song birds o'er them thrill,
They shade each tinkling rill,
They crown each swelling hill,
Lowly or grand.



Students planting cuttings of the endangered dwarf-lantern bush for replanting in the Merbein and Lake area.

Forest reserve - Mr Casey from the Lake State School has announced to the Mildura First Irrigation Trust that he has obtained a block of land of an area of 30 acres situated in Flora Avenue for the purpose of a forest reserve, with the idea of establishing endowed scholarships. He said that he believed 'The Ridge' was to be handed over to the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and he requested that this land be used to dump any waste water from irrigations instead of putting it in Lake Hawthorn. The proposal was agreed to under certain conditions. (16/4/1926)

Mr Casey was keenly interested in the beautification of the Lake area.

--This article tells of a visionary environmental project he proposed - pity it wasn't followed!



Nature Study and The Environment

Arbor Day was an idea developed to assist the hundreds of little rural schools to beautify their grounds and establish plantations for a future income. It supported the Nature Study curriculum and was promoted with articles in *The School Paper*. The State Schools' Nursery, every year, until it was closed in recent years, sent hundreds of little native plants by train to schools all over Victoria to be planted around that State.

Can you remember the trees you planted when you were at school?

'On Arbor day we planted trees on the shore, Mr Casey had it all mapped out near where the creek went into the lake. I don't think many of them lived. It is too salty now. We used to catch yabbies in the creek.'

Mr Litchfield made a boat. We had races in it. Dick Litchfield used to time each of us with his watch. We rowed a course and the winner had the fastest time. Dick died in the war.' *Olwen and Nina Walters*

'Each year the school on Arbor day would take a walk through the gullies looking for the brightly coloured kingfisher birds [Rainbow bee-eaters] that built burrows in the chalky sides of the gully and the hundreds of swallows that built their mud nests in the little caves, then around the lake to the bottom of Regina Avenue where the native trees, shrubby plants and flora grew.' *Keith Flenley*

Inspector's reports:

1952, 'trees planted last year in conjunction with the Apex Club and forestry officer are flourishing under very good care'

Mr Tate, April 1963, 'Initial plantings in the newly established arboretum have met with substantial success. Another 73 trees, partly to replace losses, are available for planting in the next few days.'

The opening of the Lake Environmental Trail by Russell Savage 19th April 2002

The Lake School still leads the State in its environmental focus. For their involvement in a wide range of environmental projects the school won the prestigious Australian Reader's Digest Environmental Award for 1999.



Certificate of School Participation

This certificate acknowledges the participation of
The Lake Primary School
in the Schools' Garden Awards 1998.

The Lake Primary School

100 Years of Education

Special forever

Special forever



Friends of the White-browed Treecreeper
-propagation of plants for habitat
rehabilitation for this threatened bird



From the 1990's, encouraged by Principal Ian McMahon and School Councillor Ian Sluiter, the school community became involved in many environmental projects. These are some of the awards and achievements in that time.



Schools' Garden Awards 1998



Congratulations

The Lake Primary School

For winning Best school in the
Schools' Garden Awards 1998

Compliments to the parents, teachers and students
for the work being done to improve the
grounds and gardens.

John Long

Chairman, Victorian Schools' Garden Awards

100 Years of Education

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Clean up Day

Presented to

The Lake Primary School
In recognition of
your outstanding contribution to the
Friday Schools Clean Up 1995

Clean Up Australia Day thanks you for your help
in making this country cleaner than ever before.
Thank you for your support.

John Long

Chairman, Clean Up Australia Day

100 Years of Education

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever



1994

STATE WINNER

ENROLMENT - 81-850 PUPILS

THE LAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

• Vineyard studies

- Saltwater
- Waterwatch
- Special Forever
- River Health Conferences
- UV monitoring
- Friends of the Hooded Scaley-foot lizard
- Butterfly monitoring at Chaffey Landing



The Lake Primary School

100 Years of Education

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever



1997

CONTRIBUTOR DEVELOPMENT

AWARD

LODDON CAMPASPE MALLEE

THE LAKE PS



Rural Pride

The Lakes Primary School

100 Years of Education

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Certificate of Registration



100 Years of Education

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

The Lake Primary School
Dwarf-Lantern Bush

100 Years of Education

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever



• Propagating & replanting the
endangered Dwarf Lantern-bush
and providing plants for the
Royal Melb. Botanical Gardens



SCHOOLS' GARDEN AWARDS

100 Years of Education

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

Special forever

• Revegetating areas of Lake Hawthorn and
establishing a walking trail

Handwritten notes and signatures, including "Will done, please" and "John Long".

The Lake School
ground was
registered as a
'Land for Wildlife'
site
in September 2001



ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Mildura Power Boat Club

In the early 1950's a caravan park was established on the shores of Lake Hawthorn by George Pearse. George planted trees on the lake shore and took an interest in supporting activities on the lake.

Soon after, the Mildura Power Boat Club was formed. A lease was granted to the club by the FMIT for the foreshore of the lake. It was something like one shilling a year!

Thanks to Max Giles and Ron Day for information and photos for this segment.



Joshua McBain, Alister's son created this Lake School Logo.

MILDURA POWER BOAT CLUB

PROGRAMME

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY
REGATTA

LAKE HAWTHORN
Sunday, 11th June, 1972

* 15 EVENTS *

Commencing 1 p.m.

ENTRÉE & PROGRAMME 75c



Commodore Ron Day presents cheques on the closing of the Power Boat Club.

At the end of 1977 the Power Boat Club wound up operations at Lake Hawthorn. Many of the members had families and joined the Mildura Ski Club where the children could water ski. The Club generously donated its funds, \$1700 to The Salvation Army and \$1000 to Sunshine House, Christie Centre.

The lease was transferred to the Sunraysia Area Scouting Association. During that period a grant was received to purchase some small sail boats in kit form. The scouts were involved in assembling these boats and learning to sail them. Due to lack of an experienced sailor they were never fully utilised. In 1975 a teacher, Ron Vivian, and his wife Sheila moved to Mildura. Ron drove past Lake Hawthorn daily and as a qualified sailing instructor he thought what a great lake it would be for sailing. Enquiries revealed the Scouting involvement and Ron offered to teach the scouts to sail.

Our School Logo was designed by Alister Mc Bain when he was a student at The Lake in 1976.

It features a yacht sailing on Lake Hawthorn.



These were designed by Dominic Monteleone, Hayden Schoele and Nathan Shaw.

and Lake Hawthorn Sailing Club

Soon all the available craft were in use and people were bringing their own boats along to sail. The "Sunraysia Area Scout Assoc. Lake Hawthorn Sailing Club" was formally established and the first AGM was held on the 19th October 1976. During the rest of the 70's and through the 80's it was common to see 30+ sailboats on the water of a Sunday.

In April of 1980 Ron Vivian died suddenly. Sheila became the club's first Life Member for her contribution as secretary.

In 1981 the boat shed was extended. The club held many functions for the junior members - discos which were very popular and also fancy dress nights. Charity fundraisers

were held with river sails and road trials. The club raised funds for improvements by pruning, picking grapes and providing security at the Davis Cup tennis when held in Mildura.

Annual Inter Club Regattas were held with yacht clubs from Broken Hill (Menindee Lakes), Lake Bonney, Lake Cullulleraine, Lake Boga competing with Lake Hawthorn. Seeing up to seventy sailboats on Lake Hawthorn was a magnificent sight.

During the night of 12th May 1997 the boat shed was found to be alight and burnt to the ground. A new boat shed was built in a new site close to Dyar Avenue. To cover the shortfall on funds the inaugural Mildura Boat Show was held on site at the lake. This was a huge success and was conducted for another 5 years at the Ornamental Lakes as a Father's Day event.

During this rebuilding time that the Sunraysia Area Scouting Assoc. decided it was unwilling to continue with the water activities side of scouting in the format of a sailing club, and the non scouting members were offered the opportunity to take over the lease and establish a new club. On the 20th August 1997 the Lake Hawthorn Sailing Club Inc. was formed. The Club continued to provide a service to the scouting community as well as schools and the general public in the way of sail training and availability for canoeing and other water activities.



Prep camp at the lake, 1986



On 29th January 2002 the club house was burnt down. The insurance did not fully cover the rebuilding cost and club members and other supporters donated many hours of skill and labour to complete the rebuilding. The greatest loss was the honour boards and some of the history they contained. It was soon after this fire the caravan park closed and the site was subdivided for housing.



Lake Hawthorn had in the early days been planted with wheat and only contained water during flooding of the Murray. The water was able to drain back into the river. Due to the installation of the underground drainage system installed to remove saline water from the vineyards, this water was drained into Lake Hawthorn and prevented from flowing into the Murray. The irrigation water flushed through this drainage system was sufficient to keep the lake full, until the early 2000's when it was determined that much more efficient ways of watering had to be used and the implementation of those methods, combined with year after year of drought, reduced the water level of the lake until now at the start of 2008 the lake is almost dry and it is unknown when, or if, sailing will resume there.

Thanks to Max Giles for writing this segment.



Making 'Grunk the Sewer Monster'.

Joie Carmichael (Kinniburgh) tells 'For a treat my Dad used to put the punt in the lake for a row at weekends. The whole family would go'.

'The Lake' was the playground for the locals. There was a pier and a diving platform between the school and Dyar Avenue. The area was well used in the summer months. Our Uncle Len Setford swam across that part, opposite Dyar Avenue, it was a great feat. My brothers, together with two other friends and I also swam across the narrower end of the lake. Our parents never knew of our escapade.

The gullies around the lake were also used for our amusement. Boys games!! Cowboys and Indians comes to mind" Jack Forbes

Lynne Bentley remembers making a movie when she was a senior student in 1977 or 78: '...we made a monster (called Grunk), took him over to Lake Hawthorn, towed him behind a boat, had people fishing, swimming, lying on the beach and having picnics. The movie was called 'Grunk the Sewer Monster'.

She also recalled they 'went sailing with Lake Hawthorn Sailing Club one year.'

Below: Preps fishing off the jetty, 1966
Environmental work around the lake in recent years.



Grades 5 & 6, 1968 Back: Debbie McGlashan, Anne Fullerton, Jenny McKay, Julie Hill, Carol Lewin, Helen Copper
Next: Ian Connors, Terry Hanyadi, Alan Hanyman, Peter Dickie, Rodney Foreman, Stephen Petschel, Chris Kahaner,
Next: Vince Piscione, Ian Beavers, Neil Thompson, Roger Meyer, Geoff Hepworth, John Drury, Robert Walker
Seated: Susan Copper, Roslyn Cooper, Joanne Whiting, Ida Zappia, Teresa Zappia, Dianne Scott, Kerry Foreman.



Grades 5 & 6 1975, Back: Susan Bell, David Lewin, Paul Herbert, Scott Olsen, Karen Barich, Donna Pyffe, Daryl Fletcher
Middle: Mandy Simmons, Janette Wilson, Ron Dowdy,
Dino Dravin, Maria Coppola, Tracey Attwood
Front: Maria Simonetta, Phyllis Cavallo, Janine Cetinich, Phyllis Zappia
Teachers: Andrew Uthmeyer and John Smith

Above Left - Grades 5 & 6, 1970 with Mr Neville; Back: Jim Cavallo, Stephen Copper, Stephen Nelson, Gary Downing,
Next: Geoffrey Lewin, Jeffrey Scott, Peter Hanyman, Frank Piscione, Barry Shields, Ian McGlashan, Frank Piscitelli, Next: Heather Petschel,
Alison Dickie, Julie Beavers, Margaret Walker, Jenny Farrell, Front: Sharon Copper, Elizabeth Hanyman, Dianne Connors, Roslyn
Crosbie, Suzanne Wilson, Susan Lucas, Marianna Palamara



Grades 4-6, 1973 with Mrs Hore & Miss Denise Griffiths
Back: Janine Fletcher, Donna Bruce, Yvette Lucas, Karen Buchecker, Sharon Law, Angela Palamara, Karen Barich, Donna Drury,
Next: Charlie Zappia, Mark Attwood, Frank Pedifrone, Chris Damatopoulou, Phillip Sloane, Peter Lucas, Vince Capogreco, Shane Trainor, Ben Shields, Michael Olsen
Next: Maria Coppola, Janette Wilson, Carolyn Copper, Paula Crosbie, Janet Crosbie, Raeline Fletcher, Susan Bell, Teresa Ferraro, Tracey Attwood
Front: Enzo Piscitelli, Ronald Dowdy, Terry Palamara, John Hatfield, Billy Cavallo

Photo Album



Grades 1 & 2 1968, Back: Paul Meyer, Andrea McKay, Janet Drury, Linda Law, Dianne Fletcher, Loris Petschel, Don Piscione,
Next: Daren Foreman, Larry Dimasi, Pat Piscitelli, Ken Scott, Leon McGlashan, Peter Lucas, Greg Kahaner, Mario Cavallo, Vince Capogreco,
Front: Angela Palamara, Janet Crosbie, Belinda Scott, Celia Zappia, Marion Pappin, Faye Lewin, Donna Drury, Fortunata Palamara



Grades 1&2, 1986, with Mrs Pam Stone
Back: Sam Fogliano, Trevor Connors,
Shane Trisick, Paul DeBoroli, Glenn
Wallace, Michael Francis, Richard Lyons,
Ross Hara, Theresa Karl-English,
Next: Julianne Cavallo, Lisa Polifrone,
Jaclyn Dean, Stacey Norwy, Daniela
Miller, Romney Guy,
Next: Kate Midgley, Kate Dickie, Tamsyn
Brooke, Elizabeth Thomson, Debbie Ray-
son, Rachelle Kerr,
Front: Caroline Sparks, Tennille Gerke,
Kellyanne Jeffrey.



Grade Prep 1989 with Mrs Teresa Jordan
Back: Larry Cavallo, Katrina Moore, Peter Massey,
Renee Davis, Paul Holman, Michael Leaver, David
Harkin, Skye Stott.
Front: Ricky Surman,
Leith McHarry, Adam
Surgey, Erin Hepworth,
Jacinta Bedford, Car-
mine Zappia, Timothy
Needham, Michael
McDonald



Little Teresa Lake
pictured right, was a
student at The Lake
from 1961 to 1966 and
returned as a teacher
(Mrs Jordan). She is the
2008, Grade 4/5 teacher.

Photo Album



Above: The Library MARC Van
Right: Grades 3 & 4, 1976 with
Mr Russell Noblett
Back: Tania Pyfe, Patricia Stewart, Belinda
Humphries, Kerri Axen, Sonia Berri, Patricia
Piscinelli
Middle: Brett Hullah, Christopher Hocking,
Bernie Humphries, Lyndon Kranz, Campbell
Olsen, Randall Smythe, Ian Fletcher
Front Seated: Marianna Coppola, Lynne
Bruce, Jenny Bravin, Jenny Carfora, Sharon
Kranz, Judith Lucas, Sandra Fousheas, Lucy
Palmaria
Ground Seated: Tony Marcius, Bradley
Kranz, Frank Zappia



75 Years later...

The Calder



Community Times

1983



Craig Smith pictured with Snow.

Horses Escape

The Lake School horses, Sasha and Snow were found taking a run down Dyar Avenue, midnight Easter Saturday. Teacher, Ian McMahon woke to a phone call informing him of their adventures. He drove out from Mildura to round them up. They were herded back down the street and into their run none the worse for their adventure.

The horses are part of the school's 'Ponyco' program. 'Ponyco' involves all the students in a weekly lesson in responsibility and care for animals. Developing skill and care of animals is funded as part of the school's Disadvantaged Schools Program (DSP). Mr McMahon the teacher responsible for the program said: 'We believe this is a unique way to develop confidence and self esteem in children. They make a commitment to taking responsibility to care for an animal.'

Every year on the first of August, official horse birthday, the school has a birthday party for Sasha and Snow. This involves lots of carrots and apples.

Recently the local Naval Cadets gave lead ropes for use with the horses and a special buggy has also been donated for the use of the school children. The program involves keen ex students who volunteer their time to care for the horses and work within the class program. These students and their families also care for and exercise the horses during vacations and on weekends.



Snow and Sasha safe in their run.



Ex students helping the preps with riding.

MILTON WHITING MLA
YOUR MEMBER FOR
MILDURA

Local Boy attending The Lake School
and growing up in the Merbein area
Representing You in the Mildura Electorate

Titch and Maureen Hewson
FOR OPALS

See our large range of fine specimens, collected from
Australia's best opal fields. See opal cutting demonstrated.

Lake Store

(opposite Lake Hawthorn)

Seventeenth Street, Mildura 1pm - 5pm Week days.

The Lake School looks out on a different vista today than it did twenty years ago. These photos reveal the change.



Today—the Lake Hawthorn Caravan Park left, with its shady gums, vans and amenities as seen in 1983.

Yesterday – The view of the lake, right, with virtually no vegetation was taken by teacher Miss Kath Fregon in 1961 when she was teaching at the school.



Left: Sailing is very popular on Lake Hawthorn.
Below: The Lake Hawthorn Bocce Club



1983

Occasions and Events

- Feb 9th Magnificent dust-storm rolls over the state (see photos page 72)
- Feb 16 Ash Wednesday fires claim the lives of 71 people in SA & Vic.
- Mar 5 Bob Hawke wins federal Election
- Sept 24 Hawthorn defeat Essendon to win VFL premiership (140-57)
- Sept 26 Australia II wins the America's Cup

IBM launches the personal computer in Australia
Song 'I Was Only Nineteen' by Red Gum hits the airwaves

ANSETT'S LAST FLIGHTS FOR MILDURA

The last Ansett flight from Mildura left on the first Saturday in May, 1983. Ansett flight 707, a 40-seater Fokker Friendship, with former Mildura man Captain Graham Bysouth at the controls circled farewell as it headed to Melbourne for the last time. Murray Valley Airlines will now provide 25 flights to Melbourne each week.

Bocce Proves Popular

Out along the way to Lake Hawthorn the Bravin family have a popular secret in their backyard – a Bocce Club. The club have regular busses of visitors from other clubs as far away as Broken Hill. These interclub days are a great social occasion finishing with a sing-a-long and dance to the accordion. The Bocce Club has also proved a popular venue for The Lake School Committee social functions and has been used by The Lake students for a game.

BRUNO & ELVIRA CAPOGRECO AND FAMILY

Welcome all Visitors for Wine Tasting and Sales
Call at

CAPOGRECO WINES
Riverside Avenue, Cabarita

LAKE HAWTHORN CARAVAN PARK 17TH Street, Mildura GARY AND VERA FYFE

Invite you to come and stay and enjoy the scenic and restful location by the lake.

- 100 powered sites
- Kiosk
- Swimming pool
- Water skiing facilities

WILSONS

STEEL AND SALVAGE YARD
OF LAKE HAWTHORN
FOR ALL YOUR HIRE NEEDS

- Post hole diggers
- Concrete breakers
- Mobile cranes
- Air compressors

Open week days

1983

Enrolment: 134

Principal: Mr Dennis Cavanagh
Teachers: Sue Woakey, Ray Jones, Ian McMahon, Ann Kiely and Kaye Dickenson.

Grade 6

Debbie Anderson
Robert Anderson
Jenni Andrewartha
Jane Bell
Leeanne Brand
Robert Dichiera
Con Dimoulas
Jodie Golitschenko
Che Guy
Grace Fraser
Garry Fyfe
Jillian Kranz
Maria Lamanda
Anthony Lando
Julie Lanspown (Hill)
Ann Leigh
Donovan Milburn
Natasha McFarlane
Ricky Oldfield
Tammy Oldfield
Marce Pedder
Bradley Pollard
Vince Pollifrone
Tony Scullino
Craig Smith
Donald Young

Grade 5

Jason Andrewartha
Narelle Carney
Mary Ciscowski
Jim Georgiou
Lee-neata Gimm
Yvonne Hastie
Christopher Herbert
Troy Kittley
Antonio Lamanda
Darren Midgley
Simon Nicholls
Donna Pappin
Maurice Ridgeway
Nyrene Sherson
Justin Short
George Stewart
Michael Thomson
Jason Zoch

Grade 4

Kevin Brand
Josie Capogreco
Anthony Dichiera
Elizabeth Dimoulas
Veronica Douglas
Kathryn England
Tom Georgiou

Paul Krake

Maxine McLeod
Kerrie MacDonald
Caroline Petagna
Travis Pollard
Anthony Pollifrone
Bruce Sanders
Samuel Taylor
Rebecca Wade

Grade 3

Linda Alcock
Nicole Bull
Michael Cronin
Leanne Demasi
Paul England
Robert Gimm
Reilly Hamilton
Stacey Harley
Justin Hastie
Glen Johnson
David Jory
Justin Kittley
Vernon Kranz
Paiton McKay
Elise Midgley
Katrina Preisig
Janine Rayson
Rosslyn Sinclair
Sharon Sinclair
James Stewart

Grade 2

Elizabeth Anthony
Marie Bishop
Amber Brooke
Desmond Cambell
Sonya Carfora
Russell Charles
Peter Ciskowski
Kylie Crooks
Zhoe Guy
Ricky Herbert
Wendy Holman
Lee-ann Parkinson

Nicole Sinclair

Kathleen Taylor
Robert Thomson

Grade 1

Garth Aves
Jason Bull
Tammy Charles
Joseph Dougherty
Elaine Douglas
Karen Francis
Steven Gimm
Brett Herbert
Peter Jory
Rachelle King
Rosanne Kranz
Julie Lamanda
Natalie MacDonald
Michael Mannix
Chad Oldfield
Scott Preisig
Shawn Petagna
Kelly Rowe
Tony Trinick
Michelle Twaddle

Prep

Catherine Anthony
Tracey Bishop
Naomi Bull
Frank Carfora
Graeme Cronin
Trevor Crooks
Guiseppina Demasi
Joanne Demasi
Benjamin Derrick
Kelly England
Nadine Harley
Renee Hastie
Belinda Herbert
David Kerr
Sharyn Krake
Michael Lyons
Justin McKenzie



Horses: Snow and Sasha





1981 John and Corinne Smith

In 1929 the Committee requested a school residence but it was not granted as Mr Romeril was not married. Again in August 1935 a request went in for a residence and it was put on a list for consideration. It was decided to locate it on the old horse paddock site. The school community lobbied the Minister of Public Instruction, the Hon. Sir John Harris, when he visited on 21 May 1936; he stated: 'I think you will get a residence if I get the money.' By May 1938 there were plans and the building was completed in October 1938 at a cost of £830.18.7. Mr and Mrs Olney were the first tenants.

When John and Corinne Smith came up to live at Cabarita they had two small children. The toilet at the residence was an outside type. Corinne said it was so cold in the winter she bought foam covers to put over the seat so that it was warmer to sit on in the morning.

The Smith family were the last school headteacher's family to rent the residence. They were there until 1982 when they moved to the Western District but have such happy memories of raising their family in the Cabarita community.

The Day the Kitchen Burnt ~

John had organised a working-bee for July, 1979. Corinne was asked to go into Merbein to get some things he needed for it. She had some oil on the stove and some chickens in the oven. She flicked the switch from low to off in such a hurry that it went past off to high! When she returned smoke was billowing out of the house. The fire was extinguished and the kitchen eventually rebuilt. The Smith's had to live in Eric Lucas's caravan for 2 months, all through the cold winter.

The date it burnt? Friday 13th!



The headteacher's wife became an important part of the school family. We know that Mrs Casey, a qualified teacher, stepped in many times to teach when needed. Sick children were often cared for by the wife in the residence. Mrs McGillivray ran Junior Red Cross at the school. Mrs Bassham tells how Mrs Smith permed her three granddaughters' hair for them!

It was sold in 1996 and moved to Merebin Court Merbein. The current owners, Bob and Jeanette Harcourt have restored it and surrounded it with a beautiful country garden. The little residence is well loved and cared for again!



This poem is dedicated to Valda Lucas

The Lake P.S. 1975-1982

"We're going to 'The Lake', John said, "I know you'll love it there."
 "The where", I squeaked, my voice filled with despair.
 Our moving day came very fast; we packed everything we owned.
 I really didn't want to go, what have we done, I groaned.
 The hottest day in all the year, we traveled south to north.
 I felt just like a pioneer, as the four of us set forth.
 Five hundred k's we traveled, along that dry, hot road.
 The kids were tired and cranky, our car on overload.
 Arriving at 'The Lake' at last, I thought, "It looks OK,"
 The vines were lush, green and vast, I'll take it day by day.
 Then up the track a car appeared, a group to welcome us.
 "It may not be so bad," I thought, "These people are a plus."
 Dot and Eric, Luky and Ray were the four that came that night.
 They made us feel so welcome that I felt it could be right.
 It was time to meet the locals, some names I'd never seen.
 Not in any book I'd read, or any magazine.
 Pollifrone, Shaw, Argen, Zappia and Bravin but to name a few.
 Names I'd never heard of, I didn't have a clue.
 The kids were great, the families too, they had no parallel.
 Come and have a bite they said, and a drink or two as well.
 Before too long a child was born; Karen, Craig, now Tim.
 He is our dinkum northerner, and everyone spoils him.
 The staff were young and eager, and gave their very best.
 The children sure did benefit, as you saw with yearly tests.
 We loved the different cultures, we sure did learn a lot.
 And with Valda coaching netball, Gee! our teams were hot.
 Who remembers the Wilson camp, out Werrimull way?
 It was voted the best by far, and the kids all wanted to stay.
 What about old "Snow", the horse, the school and pupils owned.
 And with Mrs. Farley's help, many equestrians were honed.
 Dust storms, flies and heat and then a frost or two.
 Anything you thought of was there within our view.
 The parents always helped the school; you only had to call.
 And with Jack Herberts joking, we all had a ball.
 Eight years on we moved, and I cried all the way.
 I didn't want to go; I thought that we could stay.
 Our special northern family, they live within our heart.
 But it doesn't matter where we live; we're never far apart.

Corinne. 2008.

Our thanks to 'The Lake P.S. and community for all it did for us during our eight years there.



The Choir has been mentioned elsewhere in the magazine but we must make mention of it again in this section. For years it was an annual event and many ex-students have commented on their time in the choir, the big night and their choir dress.

Mrs Taylor writes: *'One of my great joys was the choir. We did some wonderful work with them and I'll always be grateful for Mrs Joan Hill's help'*

Thankyou
Mrs Joan Hill
From
The Lake School.

We appreciate the many hours Joan volunteered to accompany the choir in practices, rehearsals and on festival night. She also accompanied schools without a pianist and played for the Massed Choirs.



Margaret Wilson in her white, choir dress.

'When Ian first started school, his teacher was Miss Kath Fregon, who impressed him. He told us, 'She can even play the piano with one finger.' His Nanna played with two hands.' Lorna George (Geyer)

When I spoke to Julie Marshall (Hill) on the phone about her memories, she burst into singing:

*'When the daffodils dance in the sun and the rain
Then we know that the Springtime is coming again..
Tra la la la la Tra la la la la*

Then we know that the Springtime is coming again.' She said, 'when it was a dull rainy day we would sing that and the sun would come out and we would think it was because of our bright singing! Also we sang:

*'Good morning Mr Sun
The day has just begun
We like to see your shining face
Good morning Mr Sun'*

I remembered those songs too, and after Julie's call, they were in my head for the rest of the day! HP



Music



You & Me

The river's dropping and there's on stopping
Unless we get together and do a little propping
Come on now we all need the water
So lets look after it like we ought'a, like we ought'a

There used to be so many trees but now only some
So how about planting for environmental fun
Come on now and see our land
If we work a little harder it could look so grand,
look so grand

Down came the trees up came the salt how will
anything survive?
We don't want our river to taste like the sea
The solution is here in you and me, you and me.

We care about ourselves and we care about our river
We won't be polluting
Our river is the future of every living creature
Salinity and carp we won't let them beat ya,
they won't beat ya

You're our future
Murray River

Lake Students Song Writers

The lyrics for 'You & Me' were written by a group of eight students for the Murray Darling Basin Commission, International River Health Conference of 2001. Local musician Steve Curran worked in schools to produce a CD for the event and The Lake School students, Grace Camisotto, Georgina Blythman, Kylie Cavallo,

Kassandra De Bortoli, Chelsea Foreman, Carly Sutherland, Laura Newey and Caitlin Hancock, won the honour of having their effort chosen for the conference song.

'The recording experience was excellent, it's so good to be involved with a song that's going to be on a CD.' Chelsea Foreman told the press.

The 'School Paper' always had a song on the back page. This was the song which was taught via the radio broadcast. Do you remember the ABC broadcast books? These also had songs which we learnt by broadcast. Each morning the teacher used a tuning fork to give the key and set us off into singing a scale. The Inspector would assess the class on its singing when he made his visits.

In recent years, The Lake children have regularly performed in concerts, Carols by Candlelight at Merbein, the Mildura Eisteddfod, school special occasions and events. Mr McMahon ran music assemblies where the children had an opportunity to sing individually and in a choir. These were enjoyed by all. This year the children have been preparing items for the centenary celebrations.

Care for Children After School Hours

The caravan park had a great impact on the school. The Principal, Mr Wal Robson was concerned about the number of children who were going home to a lonely caravan after school. He and his staff began to organise activities for the children after school so that they were supervised and happy. There was also a growing number of parents who worked in Mildura and found it difficult to pick up their children at 3.30pm. This led to Mr Robson receiving funding to start an After School Hours Care program at the school, the second only in the district. This program still runs today. The first coordinator was Mrs Dowdy and today it is organised by Lina Dichiera and Toni Hamence.

Parachute Play



Illustration from Playmates

Cup Day Fashion
winners:
Abe Kortekaas and
Leah Klaassen.



Disadvantaged Schools Program (DSP)

During the 1970's the Commonwealth Government provided schools, assessed to be disadvantaged, with supplementary funds to overcome that disadvantage.

The Lake School had a very high student mobility, in fact second only to the school at the RAAF Base, and this qualified it for DSP funds. This changed the curriculum considerably and all children benefited from the most wonderful educational experiences. Some of the areas the programs supported were nutrition, environmental awareness, pet care - 'Ponyco', library and reading skills, hobbies, swimming, computer, excursions and camps. The programs were well planned, documented and evaluated but students, teachers and parents found school a welcoming and energetic place of learning. During this time Mr Ian McMahon started the environmental awareness program and Mr Dave Evans the school camps program. Mr Wal Robson remembers flying in a light plane up to Broken Hill to visit the school camp there. They all came to the airport to welcome him. It was a wonderful time at camp and he came home with them on the bus.

Parents comments, 1987: *'The children benefit in so many ways. I am pleased to be involved with DSP especially with the younger children in the hobbies program. It is very rewarding to see their pleasure when*

they achieve. I believe that this particular program gives them self esteem.' Jennifer Wallace

'Whether it is helping with hobbies, going on excursions, cooking nutritional lunches or listening to the

young ones read. I can only say that I enjoy doing this very much and find it very rewarding seeing the children grow and learn and knowing that school is a fun place to be.'

Diane Young

Food



Specials
The secretary to order 16 gals. ice cream,
400 square cones, 1 block ice, 2 galls. raspberry.
Members to bring 2 plates cakes, 1 sandwich.
Also a sheet. Party to be held on Friday, 14th
at 1.30 pm. Points to be wrapped on 14th.
at Mrs. Stromphou's, at 1 p.m.

Class Cooking



The Mothers' Club Christmas Party food.

Special school lunch days:
pizza, hotdogs
sausage sizzles,
salads, 'try something new',
meals etc.

School Milk

The 'Free Milk' program began in Victoria in 1949 for children from metropolitan schools. The next year the Commonwealth Government financed free milk to children under 13. The State Grants (Milk for School Children) Act was passed in 1950. The Department of Health ran the program. Milk was delivered each day to every school. At first it came in small third of a pint bottles, then later in bags or tetra packs. Milk monitors brought it in before morning play and distributed it to everyone. The morning break which had previously been 15 mins was extended to 20 mins so that milk could be organised (afternoon play was 10 mins). The parents at The Lake purchased a fridge in 1962 so that the milk and children's lunches could be kept cold. The program ceased during the 70's.

Remember the camp oven meals, yum!

This one pictured was for a visiting school from Richmond. Mr Evans told them they were eating emu and rabbit!



The Centenary Sentinel 2008

100 years on...

'Sailing into our Second Century'

By The Lake Primary School Principal Rod Pearce

As The Lake Primary School continues its outstanding journey towards the July 16th centenary milestone it is opportune to cast our eyes to the immediate future. I would like to touch upon some of the likely changes in the coming years.

Certainly the pace of change has been rapid over the past 20 years. Teaching and learning practices have moved well beyond the 'chalk and talk' practices of a bygone era. In its place is a teaching style based upon a 'modernised' curriculum with essential learning standards providing the guideline for an outcome-based focus. The teacher will continue to direct and coordinate the learning with computers and information technology playing an even more significant role.

The Lake Primary School is currently completing a new Computer Hub. In coming years I would anticipate computers to become far more compact and more affordable. Each student will eventually have individual access to their own hand-held computer which will be linked to the Victorian Education Department's 'Utranet' system.



Principal, Rod Pearce sees an exciting future for The Lake.



Preps Joel Maione and Maddison Hutchins, use the computer lab with Grade Five buddies Rachel Stevens and Breanna Wilkie.

All student and teacher course, assessment work and student reports will be stored on this system which can be accessed by parents at home 24 hours each day. Communication between home and the school will be far more accessible than ever before. Electronic whiteboards will be present in all classrooms as will digital projectors.

In 2008, The Lake Primary School has introduced a 'Teacher Coach' with expertise in the English curriculum area. The current focus is Writing and Reading which is aligned to the school's Annual Implementation Plan priorities. I can see this supportive approach extended in coming years to the stage where a fulltime coaching role is part of the school's Workforce Plan. Classroom teachers will continue to share and collaborate with colleagues. Open-style buildings will be the norm with walls being removed to aid student group work, individualised learning and the creation of 'work stations' catering for individual student needs and interests. The school will continue to embrace change and develop and implement a broader-based curriculum designed to educate the 'whole' child. The focus will continue to be upon developing decision-making and thinking skills rather than learning and recalling a large number of facts and figures.

From page 1

As the South Mildura and Cabarita areas continue to expand, the Lake Primary is well-placed to cater for the increased residential growth.

I would predict that the school will be catering for 200-300 students in the coming decade. The current school block might eventually become the site for a brand new school building with its own Kindergarten annex on school grounds. A new gymnasium and Multi Purpose Room will be essential additions to the school. Before and After Hours Care and Vacation Care programs will be introduced/expanded to support families. After School and Vacation Support and Extension programs may be introduced.

The immediate future for The Lake Primary School is exciting. The school will endeavour to retain its wonderful sense of community and valued parental involvement whilst embracing change and keeping pace with 'best practice' teaching and learning theories, content and strategies. I'm certain that the school will continue to adapt and adjust to changes in curriculum, technology and community needs and expectations as it sails into its second century.

Note: The Lake Logo on front, by Amanda Summons

ICT Programs

The school has a smart board and is just completing a new computer hub. The facility has 22 new computers with an enormous array of software installed. Students in all 7 classrooms are timetabled to use it each day. The school now has over 40 computers connected to the network for student use throughout the school. Teachers also utilise the overhead projector for guided reading sessions and the data projector on occasions.

Congratulations on your 100th birthday. I really enjoy being at this school. Cal

Happy Birthday. You are the best school in the world. Caleb

Sport

Sports this year include: football, volleyball, netball, soccer, coach-pitch, tennis, cross country, athletics, swimming, and basketball. The children also participate in fitness activities and classroom physical education and health programs.



An interschool football game against Merbein on the school oval.



Environmental Programs

The children are involved in water saving programs. Grades three and four attended the Environmental Awareness Day at the Old Mildura Homestead early this year. 'Special Forever' is part of the environmental language program and effort is made each year to contribute work in this. The school continues to maintain the Environmental Trail at Lake Hawthorn.

Celebrating 100 Years

This term the pupils have been involved in learning about the history of The Lake and preparing for the celebrations in July. Here are some Grade three's with their party hats and some of their messages to the school.



Congratulations on your 100th birthday. I will always remember all the fun times I had at The Lake Primary School.

From Stephanie

Best wishes for your 100th birthday. I hope you enjoy your birthday presents. I will love this school forever. Emily.

Congratulations on your 100th birthday. I hope you have a great birthday. I have liked you since Prep. You are the best school. Tye

Happy Birthday to you! Baylee

Best wishes on your 100th birthday. Hope the next 100 are just as great. Cameron

Fund Raising and Fun



Lauren Fullgrave with 'Mad Hair'



In the school's early days fund raising was geared at war funds. The children and parents had projects like growing onion seed for Britain and harvesting fruit for the Caulfield Hospital. Today the students raise money for many charities. The active and enthusiastic Junior School Council run their own activities like selling popcorn at lunch time movies and 'Mad Hair' days.

'There was an annual fair - The Lake School Fair or Strawberry Fair. It was held in the daytime on a school day with stalls in the big hall. Mum made food for sale but we didn't get to go - didn't have the money. We had games organised for us.' Ed Geyer

'Our dedicated mothers Club had great fetes and used to have lovely boy and girl dolls dressed in beautifully hand knitted outfits for the raffle.' Judi Jenkins (Killingbeck)

'Fetes were held, flowers shows, cake competitions etc. The Mothers' Club were always very supportive of 'The Lake School'. Dances were also held to raise funds.' Jack Forbes

The Floral Festival was a joint Mothers Club venture which raised money for the schools involved. In 1958 it raised £61 for each school involved. The College Lease Fund, a legacy of the Chaffey's, provides a significant supplement to general school funds.

In recent times the school parents have run auctions and fetes, market days, pizza nights through a local pizza shop, raffles, a range of 'a-thons, and numerous other enjoyable and fund raising functions.

The funds raised have changed the facilities at The Lake. It is now a puzzle to solve for older ex-students to discover the school they knew!



What did you buy
with your money?

1910
no money

1920's
no shop yet

1930's
Mrs Hawson's
toffees

1940's
Mrs Geyer's
fudge

1950's
Mrs Steven's
aniseed balls

1960's
Mrs Hammence's
liquorice straps

1970's
Mrs Hewson's
umbrellas

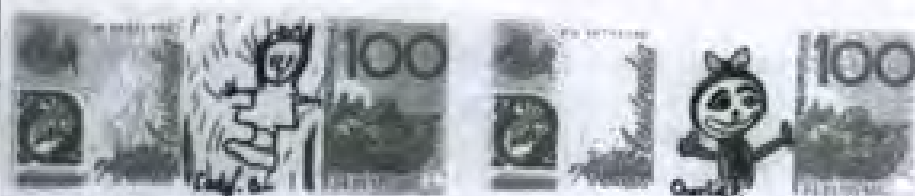
1980's
No shop

Money, Money, Money

Some of us were lucky enough to have pocket money to spend and the shop near the school had a great array of treats for children.



In 100 years time, if we still have \$100 notes,
these preps might feature on them as
Famous Australians in their field!



'No one can forget Mrs Hewson's famous pies from the Lake Shop - the unmistakable aroma and her trade mark old blanket covering the pies in an attempt to keep them warm. Speaking of warm, it was a toss up as to what was the warmest, Mrs Hewson's pies or our enforced daily quota of bottled milk, often sitting in the sun for a while on a hot day before consumption' Phil Cupper

'Our lunch was tomato sandwiches which were wrapped in sultana leaves. We used to have to run out every morning and get the loaf for our lunch [to be wrapped in]' Tilly and Kath Allen

'In the Petschel kitchen making the school lunches was a regimented process each morning. Mum would lay all the bread out along the bench, butter and add a variety of fillings. The lids were put on and the sandwiches cut. Every lunch box lined with waxed paper, got a variety of savoury and sweet. Home made biscuits and fruit in season completed the assembly line.' Christine Cook (Petschel)

Illustration from Playmate the First Grade Reader



Betty likes to help mother.
John likes to help mother, too.

Remember...

Traffic Lights
Liquorice
Fruit Tingles
Mint Leaves
Fags
Musk Sticks
Raspberries
Freckles
Humbugs
Milk Shakes
Bananas
Juicy Fruit
Bulls Eyes
Chocolate Frogs
Violet Crumble
Cherry Ripe
Sherbet
Jelly Babies
Castlemaine Rock
Milk Kisses
Smarties
Chico's
Milk Bottles
Gob Stoppers
P.K. Chewing Gum
Jelly Frogs
Snakes
Lifesavers
Choo Choo Bars
Black Cats
Bullets



'On Monday we could have a bought lunch from the shop. This was either a pie or pasty. I think they cost 11d. After school on Thursday we had to pick up the Weekly Times and the New Idea and we were allowed to buy some lollies with the change. The lolly counter was behind glass and we would buy an assortment of our favourites usually amounting to about 3d altogether. In the summer we often had money for an icepole to cool us on the way home. The shop sold petrol, groceries and papers and children were allowed to walk to the shop at lunch time if they had money for an icecream or icy pole. I think the pies and pasties were delivered to the school.' Helen Petschel

Ainslie Cupper remembers, on rare occasions, being allowed to take home-made pies over to the school residence, where Mrs Spencer would kindly heat them up. ...the other children 'drooling' as the special treat was being devoured.

Eric Wilson remembers there being a travelling troupe who set up each autumn on the lakeside. They had donkeys and a camel or two. It was 3d for a ride.

Brush-ins
with Merbein Community Health





Grade 401—Mrs. Teresa Jett
Lashelle Collette Jo Davis, Gabriel Ferguson,
Prophet McMillen, Indiana McMillen, Dabney
Foster, Charles Rex, Brad Edwards, Eric
and Eric Davis, Tony Gaudin, Kay Goss,
J. Augustine, Anna Anna McMillen, Anna
Marie Smith, O'Leahue, Anna Davis,
Anna Davis, Anna Davis

Grade 2—Mr Tony Probert
Chase, John Chase, Kaitiaki
du Maurier, John Gurney,
Joel McLean, Tasha McLean,
Roy, Todd Brown, Dennis
Schall, Nathan Shaw, Nye,
Trevor, David Wills, James
Zappa

Miss Judy Peterson - Customer

BLICK (B)
Computer Hub and Library
4 Lake College - Computers Available

[illegible]

1st Amendment
 and Citizens United
 2nd Amendment
 3rd Amendment
 4th Amendment
 5th Amendment
 6th Amendment
 7th Amendment
 8th Amendment
 9th Amendment
 10th Amendment
 11th Amendment
 12th Amendment
 13th Amendment
 14th Amendment
 15th Amendment
 16th Amendment
 17th Amendment
 18th Amendment
 19th Amendment
 20th Amendment
 21st Amendment
 22nd Amendment
 23rd Amendment
 24th Amendment
 25th Amendment
 26th Amendment
 27th Amendment

Congratulations on your
100th birthday.
I hope you're still around in
another hundred years.
From Amy Trigg

Master Story - Miss Shante Lewis
Mr Phil McDonald and Miss Alison McGinn
After School Homework programme Coordinator
Mrs Linda Deakin

MULTIPURPOSE BLOC

THE LAKE SCHOOL
2008

[illegible]

Mrs Angela Rix
Mr Alistair McBain
Mr Nathan Gebhart
Mr Gary Glossop
Mrs Tanya Green
Mrs Sue Mulder
Mr Craig Schoele

Mrs Brenda Stevens
Mr Wayne Wilkie
Mr Rod Pearce
Mr John Bell
Mrs Teresa Jordan
Ms Marg Eckert

SCHOOL ONAL

Around the School...

Congratulations on your big birthday. I will treasure this school even when I leave. This school has been the best. I will have great memories of this wonderful school.

From Brittany Cooper

P.S. I am thrilled that you are still here.

Responsibilities: ink well duty, milk duty, flag duty, music for assembly—the cord went through the office window to connect the speaker with the record turntable, sometimes the girls boiled the kettle for teachers' morning tea.

1926 Football & basketball bought
1930 Pump replaces windmill
1931 Bicycle shed built
1936 Electricity connected
1936 Typewriter bought with Show prize money
1938 Residence built
1939 Wireless purchased
1940 Duplicator & projector bought
1943 Cricket bat and balls bought
1946 Lease land for back oval
1946 New shelter shed
1947 Sandpit built
1949 5 acres, 0 rods, 30.4 perches acquired
1950 Shelter shed built
1951 Apex Club plant trees
1953 New playground equipment
1953 Flags bought for Royal Tour
1954 Bike shed & cricket pitch built
1969 Block moved to Dyar Avenue
1970 New oval built on old block
1973 Slasher bought for oval
1974 DSP Funds (for 23 years)
1975 Trampoline & barbeque built
1976 Air-conditioning
1979 'Ponyeo' (for 11 years)
1995 major upgrade of buildings
1996 Residence sold
2007 Multi-purpose room built

Lots of fun
A really good school
Kind students
Exciting everyday
So much work
Cool camps
Happy times
Oh what cool teachers
Oh what a lot of Homework
Learning is the best
Josef Moissidis

Best wishes for your 100th birthday. I hope you have the best birthday you have ever had. I wish you all the best. **Hayley Moore.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
I love you. All the best
for your 100th B-day.
I've loved this school
since Prep.
THANKYOU!!
Love
Shannon Stevens

Congratulations on
your 100th birthday.
I love the way the
school was made. I
have a great time at
The Lake P.S.
From
Brandon Van Beek



I hope you have a great
birthday -
Nathan Hill



Happy birthday and thank
you for the past 4 years.
They have been brilliant.
Congratulations on living
for 100 years.
From Georgia Burt

The school cat would have her
kittens in the eaves somewhere
and each year we would watch
her carry them down in her
mouth, one at a time, using the
diagonal drain pipe as a walk-
way. It was quite a balancing
feat.

A memorable incident from Mr Cavanagh (Mr Cav): 'During the 1980's some parents decided that the big oleander bush in front of the pavilion had to go as it was poisonous. (See it in bloom on page 65). They held a working-bee one weekend. It was a massive bush with a massive root ball and took some digging but they did get it out. Then they tackled some suckers around. Some days later the teachers thought they could smell gas. An investigation revealed the gas pipe between buildings had been damaged when the suckers were removed and gas was rising up through the ground. The school had to be evacuated.'



Illustration from The Swing
Third Reader



Mr McMahon had a very pale Tele-
com technician burst into his office
one day— he had removed the lid
from the box he was to work on and
all the wires were moving! A nest of
baby snakes were angrily wriggling
around in there. Snakes have been
common visitors to the school over
the years but not welcome ones.

Remember films in the pavilion with Mr Saunders. His favourite was
'Lost in the Bush' and he showed it every month!



by August Churche



The Infant room had a
blackboard along one wall
with cupboards under-
neath. Most of the black-
board was covered with
flash cards of John and
Betty words and sentences.

Many of us collected bird's eggs as a hobby. The cereal
packets had collectable cards showing Australian birds and
their eggs. We collected them too.

'My Poppy, Bob Maynard, lived in Merbein and when he
was a little boy he used to ride with his friends on their
bikes opposite the Lake Primary School where the new
houses are built and there used to be big cliffs and my
Pop would ride his bike down them.
His favourite teacher was Mr Jack Walters who used to
teach at The Lake ... but then taught ...at Merbein'
by Breanna Wilkie Grade 5, 2008

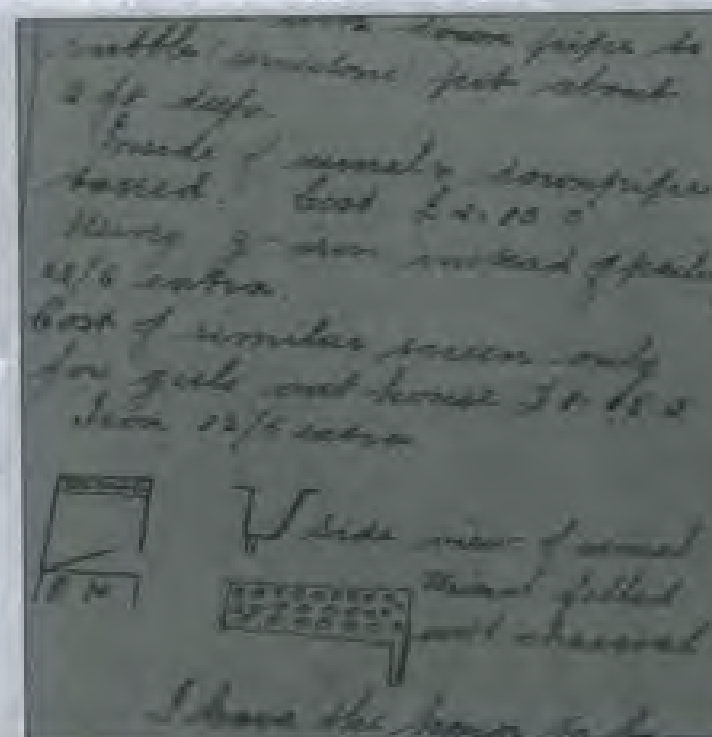
'On the wall above the blackboard in the senior
room were a couple of paintings. The one I re-
member was of a beach with palm trees and a
rocky cliff. It was in pink shades like a sunrise or
sunset. I remember day dreaming into that picture
— it would be a peaceful Coral Island or adventur-
ous Treasure Island, Grace Darling's beach or a
scene from any story I was reading at the time.'
A daydreamer!



Mr Casey coming to school by Domenic Monteleone

Toilets We had to include this plan
found in the building file at the
records office Melbourne. Dated Oct 14th
1908, it shows the plans to build the urinal!

A septic system was installed 50 years later
but the old corrugated iron toilets (out
offices) weren't decommissioned until years
later. The photo shows the working-bee to
demolish them.



Acknowledgements

This magazine has been written and compiled from documents, writings and personal contribution through conversation, interview, letter and photograph. I'd like to acknowledge all those students, staff, parents and The Lake community members both past and present, who supported it with their contribution. They have made the pages live with their photos, drawings, impressions, anecdotes and memories.

I am also grateful for the efforts of Heather McMahon who sourced and scanned all the photos and documents. I thank Chris Cook, Faye Brown, Sharon Sutherland, Ian McMahon, Peter Richardson and Bob Walton for historical support. To complete the magazine Chris Cook has compiled an index of family names for which researchers in the wider community will be grateful.

This production has been supported by The Lake School through the Centenary Committee.

References and Sources of Research

Merbein District Historical Society Collection, Commercial Street, Merbein, with assistance from Bernadette Wells and Max Whiting

Mildura Carnegie History Centre, Deakin Avenue Mildura, with assistance from Barb Cornell

Mildura Genealogical Society, with assistance from many volunteers there

Mildura Rural City Council, Maddern Ave. Mildura, for maps

Mildura Rural City Council Library, Alfred Deakin Centre, Deakin Ave, Mildura, Newspaper Collection on Microfiche: *Cultivator, Merbein Irrigator and Sunraysia Daily* early editions

Public Records Office Victoria, PO Box 2100 North Melbourne

- Education Department School No 3581 The Lake, Building Files, 1908-1956;

- Correspondence Files to 1908-1940

Blake L.J. (1973) *Vision and Realisation A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria*; Education Department of Vic.

Mathews M. [ed.] *The South End of The Settlement - A History of Merbein South*, Merbein South School Council

McLean B. (1978) *The Mildura Suburban Train Service 1922-28*

Merbein District Historical Society Inc. *The Newsletter* No 6 Dec 2001

Parsons Ronald (1990) *Where The Mallee Meets The Murray - A Centenary History of the Shire of Mildura*; Mildura Shire Council

Plumridge J. (1989) *Missing Family Reunion 1st October 1989*; Family Booklet courtesy Cr. Sue Nichols

Sutherland S. & McMahon I. (1998) *The Lake School No 3581 90th Anniversary Reunion 1908-1998*; School Booklet



Name Index

This index does not include the names listed on the selected school statistics pages throughout the magazine. They are as follows -

1908 page 11

1933 page 75

Teachers page 84

1958 page 87

1983 page 107

2008 pages 118,119



Aherne	75,77,79-80	Brebner	32	Clark	20,26,34,44
Alexander	23,57,79,81-82	Bridley	23,31,48,77,79	Clarke	48
Allen	26-27,34,40-42,45,48,61,77-78,80-82,116,120	Bright	46	Coar	57
Andrews	48,57	Brilliant	37	Cofield	47
Annand	90	Broadstock	20,22,39,42-43,82	Cobbs	119
Armstrong	57	Bromley	18,20-23,36-37,48,50	Colly	27
Arnold	81	Brooke	89,104	Connell	46
Assimakopoulos	46,96,114	Brown	20,23,43,77,79	Connors	26-27,42,80,82,103-104
Attwood	103	Browne	122	Cook	2,30,116,122
Austin	34	Bruce	5,10,35,39,103-104	Cooper	103,120
Axen	104,109	Bucke	103	Copley	32
Bacon	2,118	Bull	23,27,41,48,62,81-82	Coppola	103-104
Bailey	23,41,45,77,81	Bunny	20	Corbould	39,81
Bains	37	Burt	120	Corey	85
Baker	20,82	Butler-Kerridge	46	Cornell	122
Bannister	37	Buxton	33	Corrie	45
Baric	45,85	Bysouth	23,106	Cox	37
Barich	45,48,85,103	Cain	48	Crockett	77
Barnes	48	Calder	31	Crosbie	103
Barnett	15,38-39	Callas	79,81	Crozier	23,27,42,77,79-82
Barrow	42,82	Cameron	55,80	Cullinan	81
Bassham	43-45,85,108	Camisotto	110	Cupper	23,34,39,41-43,45,70,77-78,80-82,90,103,116-117
Baylee	19	Campbell	55	Curran	47,110
Beauman	57	Cannard	25-27,33,41,44, 61,64,79,81-82,95,114	Damatopoulos	103
Beaurepaire	6,93	Capogreco	103,106	Davies	74
Bedford	104	Cardy	22-23	Davis	20,22,90,104
Beevers	103	Carfora	104	Dawkins	73
Bell	47,68,103	Carmichael	102	Day	100
Benham	27,33,36	Carney	22-23,48,57,79	Deakin	6
Bennett	59	Carroll	45,75,77	Dean	90,104
Bent	6	Carter	84,90	DeBortoli	104,110
Bentley	35,102	Casey	4-5, 9-11,13-15,17- 22,28-29, 32,36,43,49-60,76-77,79-80,83-84,91,93-95,97,108,121	Dedman	22,32,57,77,83
Berri	104			Dennett	21,50
Bianchi	71			Dichiera	90,111,119
Billson	18-19			Dickenson	107
Blackburne	63	Cavallo	89-90,103-104,110	Dickie	22-24,31-33,44,45,48,58,69,74,77,79,81,85,89,103-104
Blacker	22-23	Cavanagh	84,88,107,120		
Blair	24,35,45,79	Cetenich	45,103	Dimasi	103
Blakemore	27	Chaffey	19,31,92,115	Dixon	22,77
Blythman	110	Chapman	48	Dodd	47,118
Box	23,42,48,79,80-82	Chapple	45	Doering	89,103
Bozzi	68	Charles	31,77,81,91	Douglas	45
Brastup	23,32,77	Churches	12,121		
Bravin	103-104,106,109	Cirillo	47		

Index pages illustrated by Mrs Jordan's Grade 4-5.



Name Index

Dow	31	Fyfe	103-104, 106	Hazendonk	47, 84, 96
Dowdy	103, 111	Gamble	20	Heaysman	41, 43, 81, 89, 103
Down	42, 48, 82	Gardner	48	Hedley	21, 82
Downing	37	Gaulke	34	Heinze	60
Doyle	42	Gelly	26	Henderson	27, 82, 86
Drury	89, 103	George	48, 110	Henley	44
Duscher	23, 34, 37, 42, 48, 77, 79, 81, 85	Gerke	104	Hepburn	64
Dyar	31	Geyer	26-27, 33-35, 41-42, 61, 64, 81, 90, 95-96, 110, 115-116	Hepworth	23, 32-33, 61, 75, 81, 89, 103-104
Eckert	90	Gibbs	31, 92	Herbert	34, 44-45, 90, 103, 109
Edgar	84	Gilbert	75, 77	Hewitt	84, 88
Elliot	86	Giles	37, 100-102	Hewson	105, 116
Ellis	37	Gilkes	82	Higginbotham	68
Evans	90, 111-112	Gimn	90	Hill	85, 103, 110, 120-121
Fairhall	41-42, 45, 79-81, 84, 96	Glossop	121	Hocking	23, 31, 75, 81, 104
Fallon	84	Godkin	23, 26, 32, 46, 58, 80, 89, 94	Holman	89-90, 104
Farley	109	Goodie	23, 37, 79	Hope	24
Farr	80	Goodison	27	Hopkins	23, 39, 79-81
Farrell	44, 48, 69, 85, 103	Goucher	43, 81	Horne	22
Fatt	23	Graham	90	Hose	103
Ferguson	114	Gray	19	Howard	20, 23, 27, 32, 36
Ferraro	89, 103	Green	47, 57	Hudson	23, 27, 79, 82
Finch	46	Gregory	44, 48	Hullah	104
Firth	23, 27, 82	Grimmer	80, 96	Humphries	104
Fishlock	48	Griffiths	103	Hunt	33, 81
Fitzpatrick	119	Guy	89, 104	Hunyadi	89-90, 103
Flenley	23, 33, 42-43, 45, 57, 61, 75, 79-80, 89, 91, 97, 103, 104	Hamence	118	Hura	104
Fletcher	20, 23, 32, 37, 42, 48, 77, 81, 103-104	Hammence	111, 116	Hutchins	113
Flint	20	Hammerton	69, 85	Hutchinson	95
Fogliaro	104	Hampton	42, 80, 82	I'Anson	48
Forbes	23, 44, 61, 80-81, 102, 115	Hancock	90, 110	Inglis	18, 21, 50
Ford	27, 80, 82	Harcourt	108	Jacob	48
Foreman	42, 48, 69, 85, 103, 110	Hardie	90	Jamieson	31
Foster	27	Harkin	104	Jeanes	114
Fousekas	104	Harley	89	Jeffrey	90, 104
Fox	23	Harriman	18	Jeffries	51
Francis	104	Harris	23, 43, 57, 79, 108	Jenkins	41-42, 79-80, 84, 96, 115
Freedman	82	Hatfield	103	Johansen	73
Fregon	33, 44, 63, 70, 84, 88, 106, 110, 121	Hawson	22-27, 33, 36, 57, 74, 79, 94, 116	Johnston	90
Fricke	47	Hawthorn	92	Jolly	57
Fullerton	103	Hawthorne	36, 57	Jones	19, 21, 50, 107
Fullgrave	115	Hawtin	27, 33, 36	Jordan	90, 104
Fulton	48	Hayes	23, 79	Jowett	79
Fussell	39			Karl-English	104
				Kearney	96



Erin Davitt



Kye Grimmer



Austen Keating



Kane Razis

Keddle	79, 93
Keeble	45
Keens	84
Keith	46
Kemp	68
Kendall	84
Kerr	90, 104
Kiely	107
Kilborn	36
Killingbeck	44-45, 48, 85, 96, 115
Kinniburgh	23, 43, 77, 102
Klaassen	47, 96, 111, 114
Knoebone	27, 36, 48, 82
Knight	37, 81
Knudsen	23, 41-42, 79-81
Kortekaas	111, 119
Krake	45-46, 48, 85, 90
Kranz	34, 48, 89-90, 104
Kuhanez	31, 89, 103
Lake	104
Lamont	23, 79, 81
Lando	46, 114
Lane	22, 75, 80, 82
Langdon	23, 27, 42, 80-81
Larkins	37
Latin	37
Lawn	57, 103
Lay	20-21, 58
Lazarus	80
Leaver	104
Lever	20
Lewin	103
Leyonhjelm	61, 82
Linney	23, 43
Litchfield	11, 14, 23, 38-39, 41, 77, 97
Lizzi	119
Livingstone	17
Lloyd	37
Lowry	4
Lucas	20, 37, 89, 103-104, 108-109
Lumb	57
Lyon	23, 56, 77, 81
Lyons	36, 90, 104
MacDonald	118
Maiorana	113
Mannix	90
Marcus	104
Marshall	33, 110, 121
Martin	22, 48
Massie	104
Mathewson	31
Maynard	121
Mayne	23, 27, 42, 57, 79-82
Mazza	27
McAlvey	33

Name Index

McAskill	76, 80
McBain	71, 100-101, 118
McCallum	48
McCarthy	32, 43
McDonald	79, 89, 104, 119
McDonell	23
McEachern	5, 9, 17, 38-39,
McEdward	31
McGann	119
McGauchie	32, 42, 82
McGillivray	34, 48, 63, 84, 88, 108
McGlashan	89, 103
McHarry	104
McInnes	77
McKay	31, 57, 82, 103
McKelvie	23, 43
McKensil	20
McKenzie	23, 42, 48, 77, 80, 82
McKiernan	5
McKimple	20
McLaren	19, 21, 38-39
McLean	30
McMahon	2, 42, 66-67, 84, 90, 98, 105, 107, 110-111, 120, 122
McMillan	57, 93
McNamara	23
McSwain	31, 93
McTaggart	23, 43
Meyer	103
Midgley	104
Miller	49, 89, 104
Mills	58
Mitting	4, 5, 9-10, 21, 38-39, 53
Moisidis	46, 120
Monteleone	100, 121
Moore	46, 104, 120
Moritz	48
Morrison	23
Munn	47
Murley	36
Murray	42
Nagle	20
Needham	104
Nelson	89, 103
Neville	84, 103
Newey	104, 110
Nichols	122
Noblett	104
Nolan	80-81
Norman	18, 21, 23, 43
Northcote	5
Noyce	22-23, 32
O'Brien	48, 85
O'Connor	36, 80
O'Donnell	47, 84, 96
Olney	79-81, 84, 108



Olivia Taylor

Chelsea Rice



Dalton Robert

O'Loughlin	42, 80, 82
Olsen	84, 88, 103-104
O'Rourke	34, 48
Ozerkewski	48
Pain	37
Palamara	103-104
Palmer	80-82
Pappin	103
Parizza	85
Pasini	39
Patterson	19
Patty	85
Paul	17-19
Pawluk	48
Payne	23, 43, 77, 80-81
Pearce	3, 113
Pearse	84, 100
Pedrazzi	20
Petschel	2, 26, 30, 33, 35, 44-45, 64, 71, 82, 88-90, 96, 103, 116-118
Pickering	14
Piscioneri	89, 103
Piscitelli	103-104
Pitchford	48
Plummer	77
Pointon	48
Pollifrone	45-47, 85, 103-104, 109
Povey	48
Power	85
Presley	34
Quinn	23
Rainbow	23, 77, 81
Ralph	42
Ranfury	4, 30, 92
Rawlings	19
Ray	79
Rayson	104
Reed	84
Richardson	92, 122
Rickard	57
Riddell	6, 21, 50
Rigby	31
Riley	93
Riordan	37
Rix	27, 67, 82
Robbins	41, 78, 80



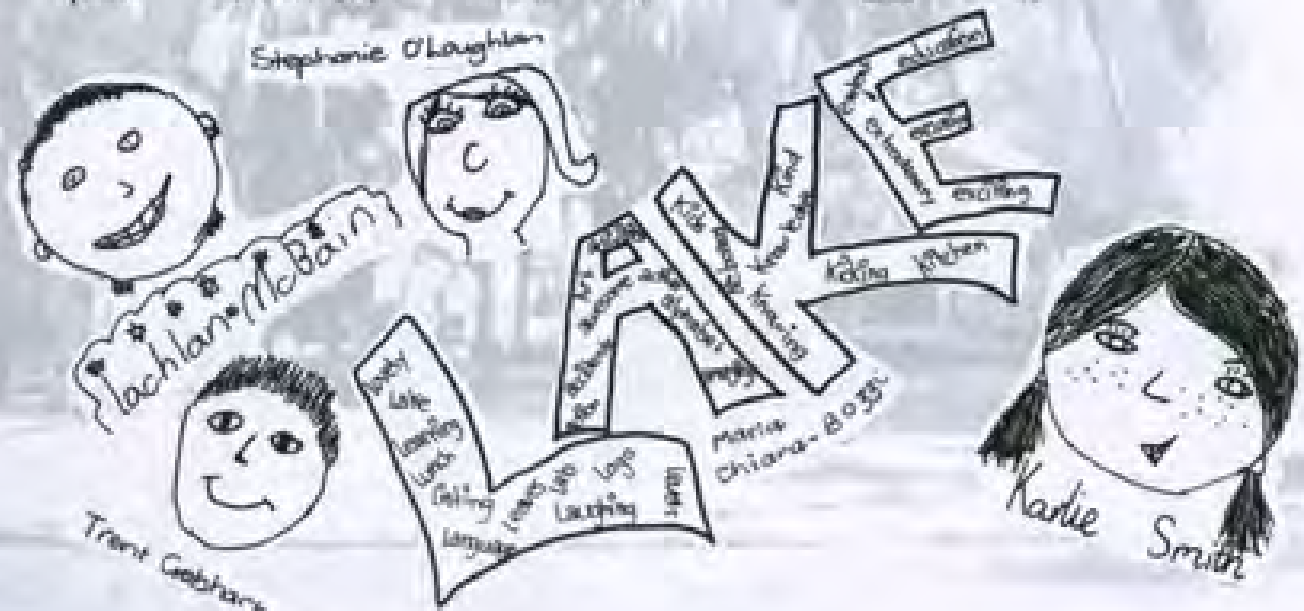
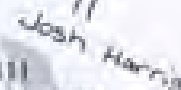
Brock Rowett



Acacia Isaac-Wallace

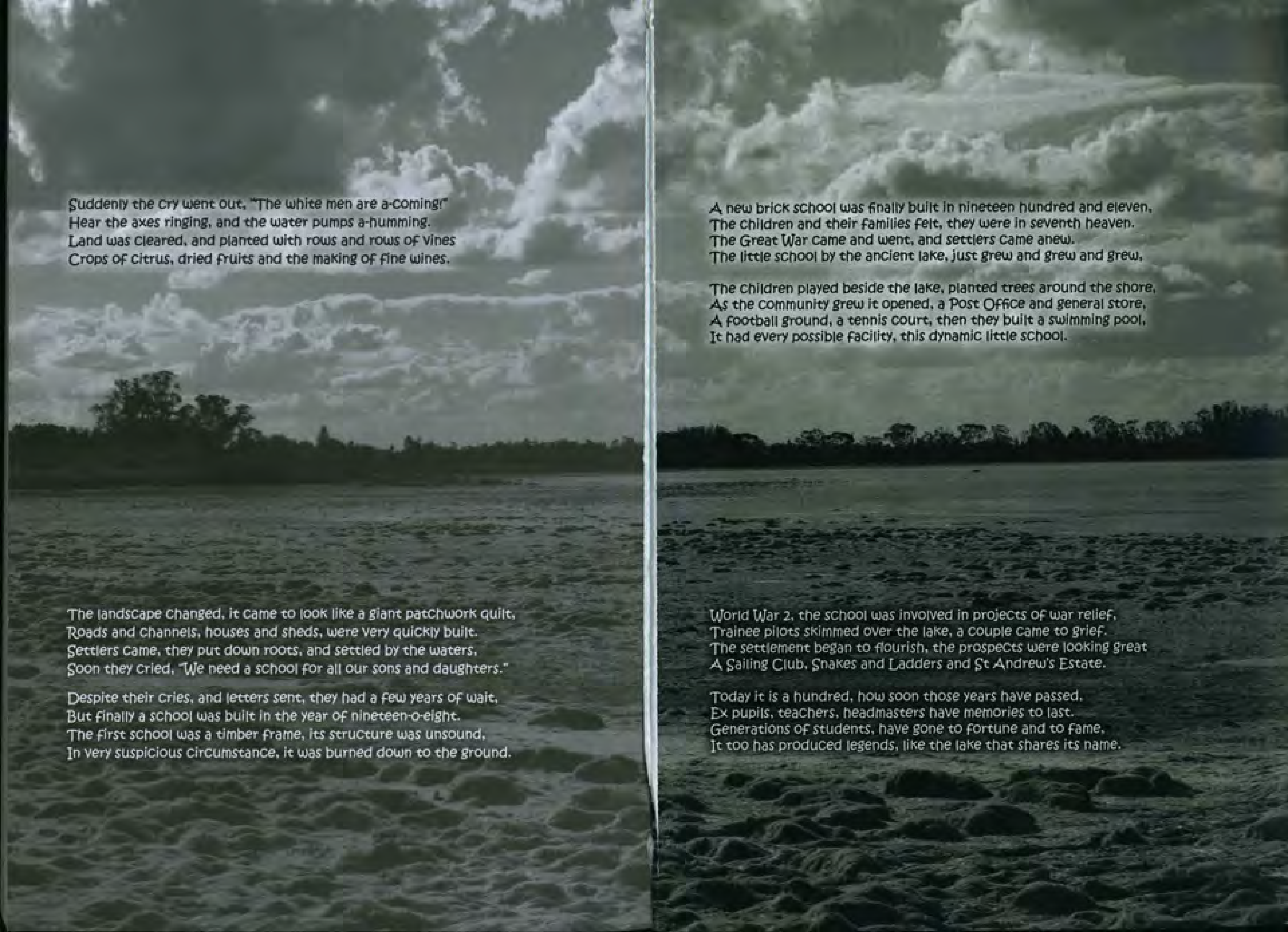


Robertson	3,20,31	Stafford	5	Vernon	36
Robinson	23,27,36,78,84	Stevens	12,47,113,116,120	Vincent	42,57,77
Robson	84,88,111	Stevenson	57,85	Viney	36
Roecca	48	Stewart	90,104	Vivian	100-101
Rodwell	31-32,39,43-45,77,85	Stockdale	34	Walker	103
Romeril	61-62,75,77,79,80,84,95,108	Stone	104	Wallace	47-48,90,104,111
Ross	57	Storer	12	Walters	22-23,27-28,33,42-43,58,73,75,77-82,89,94,97,121
Russell	21,50	Stott	104	Walton	122
Saunders	121	Stranaghan	85	Ward	79
Savage	97	Sturt	31	Wareham	23,80-81
Sawyer	34,81-82	Surgey	104	Warren	86
Schoele	100	Surman	104	Watkins	37,57
Schotler	42,80	Sutherland	2,41,76,82,84,110,122	Watts	79,81-82
Schnitz	34,41-42,48,78,84,95	Tate	19,97	Wells	122
Scott	48,85,89,103	Taylor	33,44-45,48,64,70,82-85,88,110	Welsley	57
Sedgman	41,85	Telford	42,80,82	White	48
Sendy	39	Thomas	42,81	Whiting	23,35,40-42,44-45,79-82,86,103,105,122
Setford	5,9,18-21,36,50,54-55,102	Thompson	23,27,32,36,43,45,48,93,103	Whitney	23,41
Shaw	26,41,80,100,109	Thomson	19,22,77,81,85,90,104	Willcock	42,57,77,81
Sheahan	96	Thorne	35	Wilkie	13,113,121
Sherwill	82	Tiller	23,39,77	Williams	80
Shields	103	Tompich	34	Williamson	49,91
Shillington	14,21,38-39,50	Tragar	32,42,82,93	Wilson	23,30,34-36,42,44-45,48,69-71,77,80,86,88,103,106,109,117
Simmonetta	103	Trainer	103	Wishart	93
Simmons	82,103,114	Travaskis	118	Wood	45,79,85
Simkin	34	Treadwell	36	Woodbury	20-21,43,48,82
Simpson	45	Treen	85	Woods	20,45,94
Slade	57	Trethowan	57	Wookey	107
Slaughter	82	Trigg	67,119	Worcester	57
Sloan	42,81	Trinick	90,104	Yates	23
Sloane	103	Tsoukatos	90	York	36
Sluiter	72,98	Tunkin	20,32,40	Young	77,80,84,111
Smith	2,20,27,32,39,45,47,64-65,82,84,103,105,108-109	Turvey	37	Zappia	47,96,103-104,109,118
Smythe	23,43,75,82,104	Tyson	9,20,23,37	Zma	48
Sparks	104	Ulfmeyer	103		
Spencer	40,63,80-81,84,117	VanBeek	120		



1908 'Lake' School began with 34 to 38 pupils
1909 Short Christmas holiday so that children could have picking time off
1910 School burns down, Dec. 16th
1910 Railway opened to Merbein
1911 New brick school completed
1912 New building officially opened Easter Thursday
1913 Sunday School operates at school
1913 Boys caught stealing fruit
1914 100 books in the library
1914 Swimming baths built in school ground
1914 Murray too low for pumping
1915 Swimming tank underwater due to flood
1915 Windmill erected
1917 Successful Flower Show
1918 War ends
1919 The Lake Swimming Club formed
1919 Flower Day and Swimming Carnival raise money for the War
1919 Total war effort raised £352/10/01
1920 Boys dig the holes and empty the toilets
1921 Over 110° F children go to the lake to cool off
1922 Mr Casey erects bathing sheds and beautifies the lake foreshore
1923 New classroom built
1923 Inspector reported classes too noisy
1924 Cabarita Post Office opened by the Hawson family
1925 Mother's Club commenced
1925 Enrolment reached 139
1926 Bazaar and dance held by the light of the moon.
1928 Lock 11 and weir completed
1929 School fruit won at the Royal Melbourne Show
1929 Education Department rejected name change to Cabarita School
1929 Mr Casey transfers after 20 years as Head Teacher and Mr Romeril commenced
1930 Telephone installed
1930 School exhibited at Mildura Show so half day holiday granted
1931 Scout Pack formed at the school
1932 Heatwave for the first week of school - temperatures over 115°F
1932 Golf Club opened on McEdwards St.
1932 Mother's Club Fair
1933 White ants in the toilets

1970 New oval made on old block
1972 Mr Olsen new Head teacher
1972 Good harvest from school block
1974 Mr Olsen left to open a music business in Mildura
1975 Mr Smith appointed new Head teacher
1976 Air conditioners installed
1976 School Logo designed by student Alistair McBain
1976 Most Improved School Gardens ANA award
1979 'Ponyco' commenced
1979 Kitchen in residence burnt
1981 Lake School Mothers' Club won Floral Carpet competition again
1982 Mr Smith is farewelled
1983 Mr Cavanagh is appointed Principal
1983 'Ponyco' horses escape.
1985 Prince Charles and Lady Di visited Mildura
1985 Mr Cavanagh is farewelled
1986 Mr Robson is appointed Principal
1986 Preps camped in the Sailing Clubrooms on Lake Hawthorn
1989 After School Hours Care Program began
1990 School robbed.
1992 Septic overflowed again!
1992 Mr Robson retired
1993 Mr McMahon became Principal
1994 Kevin Heinze arrived in a helicopter to present the Garden Award & launched the arboretum
1995 Old toilets demolished
1995 New '5 Mod' arrived
1996 Pigeons blocked up box gutter and flood the classroom
1998 School celebrated its 90th Birthday with a reunion
1999 Schools' projects win Reader's Digest Environment Award
1999 School residence sold & moved
1999 Victorian Garden State Award
2001 Song 'You & Me' written by pupils selected for the River Health Conference theme
2001 School grounds registered as Land for Wildlife
2002 Art shed moved by crane
2002 Lake Hawthorn Trail opened
2003 Friends of the Hooded Scaley-foot lizard, Victorian habitat winner
2006 Mr Mac is farewelled after 23 years at The Lake.
2007 Mr Pearce began as Principal
2007 Multipurpose hall completed
2008 We celebrate our 100th Birthday!



Suddenly the cry went out, "The white men are a-coming!"
Hear the axes ringing, and the water pumps a-humming.
Land was cleared, and planted with rows and rows of vines
Crops of citrus, dried fruits and the making of fine wines.

The landscape changed, it came to look like a giant patchwork quilt.
Roads and channels, houses and sheds, were very quickly built.
Settlers came, they put down roots, and settled by the waters,
Soon they cried, "We need a school for all our sons and daughters."

Despite their cries, and letters sent, they had a few years of wait,
But finally a school was built in the year of nineteen-o-eight.
The first school was a timber frame, its structure was unsound,
In very suspicious circumstance, it was burned down to the ground.

A new brick school was finally built in nineteen hundred and eleven,
The children and their families felt, they were in seventh heaven.
The Great War came and went, and settlers came anew.
The little school by the ancient lake, just grew and grew and grew,

The children played beside the lake, planted trees around the shore,
As the community grew it opened, a Post Office and general store,
A football ground, a tennis court, then they built a swimming pool,
It had every possible facility, this dynamic little school.

World War 2, the school was involved in projects of war relief,
Trainee pilots skimmed over the lake, a couple came to grief.
The settlement began to flourish, the prospects were looking great
A Sailing Club, Snakes and Ladders and St Andrew's Estate.

Today it is a hundred, how soon those years have passed,
Ex pupils, teachers, headmasters have memories to last.
Generations of students, have gone to fortune and to fame,
It too has produced legends, like the lake that shares its name.



BIRTHDAY
REGATTA
LAKE HAWKE
Sunday, 11th July
* 15 EV
Commencing
TREE & PROGRA

The
Happy



THE LAKE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

1908 - 2008

FIRST PRIZE

NEEDLEWORK, ROOMS.
PRIMARY SCHOOL
GRADE 5. ART
KNITTED THIS

HOLIDAYS