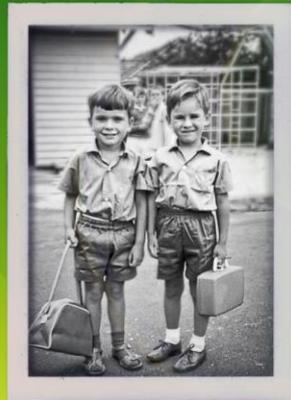


# Sandringham East Primary School

Celebrating our **80<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary  
on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011



**Always Our Best**  
Think... Imagine... Become!



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# Introduction by Laureen Walton

## Principal 2001 to present day

The 80th Anniversary of the founding of Sandringham East Primary School provides the school community with an exciting opportunity to explore our proud history. It allows us to reflect upon what makes Sandringham East Primary School such a unique school, and a vital part of the Bayside community.

I am proud to have been principal since 2001 and recognise that this great character and culture of Sandringham East Primary School is due to the fact that we are a close knit community of wonderful parents and teachers who genuinely care for our children. Schools are a reflection of their community and Sandringham East Primary School definitely has the advantage of children who are happy, enjoy learning and strive to achieve to their best. The staff are committed and willingly give their time and energies teaching our students, making a difference to their lives. Sandringham East Primary School is a school where students enjoy being challenged, and who share and take risks in order to achieve their potential. The parent community is an amazing support and actively involved in the development of the school's goals.

Eighty years for the Sandringham East Primary School community is a milestone. There is much cause for celebration and our present students will enjoy our 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration through activities which recognize our past as well as look to the future. Research of our history has found familiar themes throughout the decades - the continual battle for facilities and resources, children who enjoy memories of school, enthusiastic parent volunteers, fundraising activities to support the needs of students, and teachers who are fondly remembered.

We hope you enjoy reading this record of wonderful memories and are inspired and confident that our Sandringham East Primary School community will continue pursuing dreams and aspirations to encourage students to Think.... Imagine.... Become.

I welcome you to our 80th birthday - enjoy reflecting on our past, looking to the future and celebrating with our present and past Sandringham East Primary School community.



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*Principal Laureen Walton with students.*

## Forward – Graeme Disney OAM

It is inspiring to see a school record its history at such an important milestone, and while some early pupils are still able to contribute. This document will become an important part of recorded information about this area and its colourful history, and will be a valuable resource in twenty years time for the school's centenary.

I did not attend Sandringham East Primary School, but did attend Sandringham Technical School next door which opened in 1949 whilst the girls section began in 1958. This was a newly erected school for boys and was housed in two large cream brick buildings, with aluminum pre-fabs behind. My strongest memory of Sandringham East Primary School is of the school band which played marching tunes with great enthusiasm, and our teachers had to pause until the recital ended, before continuing to speak to the class. When we rode home after school we took a short cut through the back of Sandringham East Primary School to Bay Road, I don't remember ever riding down Holloway Road. The whole area was very sandy and infested with bracken fern and it was not unusual to see lizards and snakes.

The Boonerwung, sometimes referred to as the "Coastal Tribe" were the original inhabitants of the land where the school stands today. They were not a large tribe and moved around the coast and adjacent areas in small groups, coming together for special occasions. They were a part of the Kulin Nation and were the first Victorian Aborigines to come into contact with white settlers, at Sorrento. The Boonerwung were attracted to this area because of the springs, swamps and streams, which meant a good supply of drinking water and an abundance of wild life, birds and small marsupials. The only reminders of these people today are kitchen middens containing old shells and bones, and wells along the foreshore and inland, but we know that they lived here for thousands of years.

When Melbourne was first settled in 1835, much of this area was leased as cattle runs, and soon squatters came and began small farms for which they paid an annual fee to the government. When Victoria became a state, separate from New South Wales in 1851, the new government had the area surveyed and proceeded to sell the land by auction. Josiah Morris Holloway purchased the land where the school now stands, but the block was very large, stretching from Bay Road to Balcombe Road and Bluff Road to near Reserve Road. He is said to have explored the district before the sales and followed the aborigines to find the land with the best available fresh water.

Holloway subdivided the land and sold it for use as farmland and later much of it was used as market gardens. After the First World War much of the area was further subdivided into house blocks and many new houses were built.

When the new electric tram line opened along Bluff Road in 1919 the area had good public transport to Melbourne via the train from Sandringham station, where new electric trains had just replaced the steam trains. This caused a building boom, and as new families came to the area the need for more primary schools became very urgent.



*Graeme Disney, when he was Mayor of Bayside, visiting students from SEPS and Bayside Schools.*

# History of Sandringham East State School

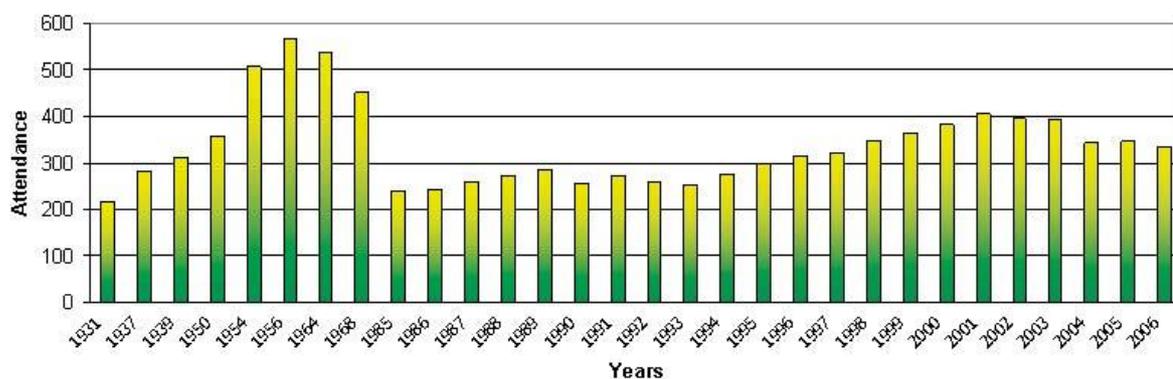
## No. 4429



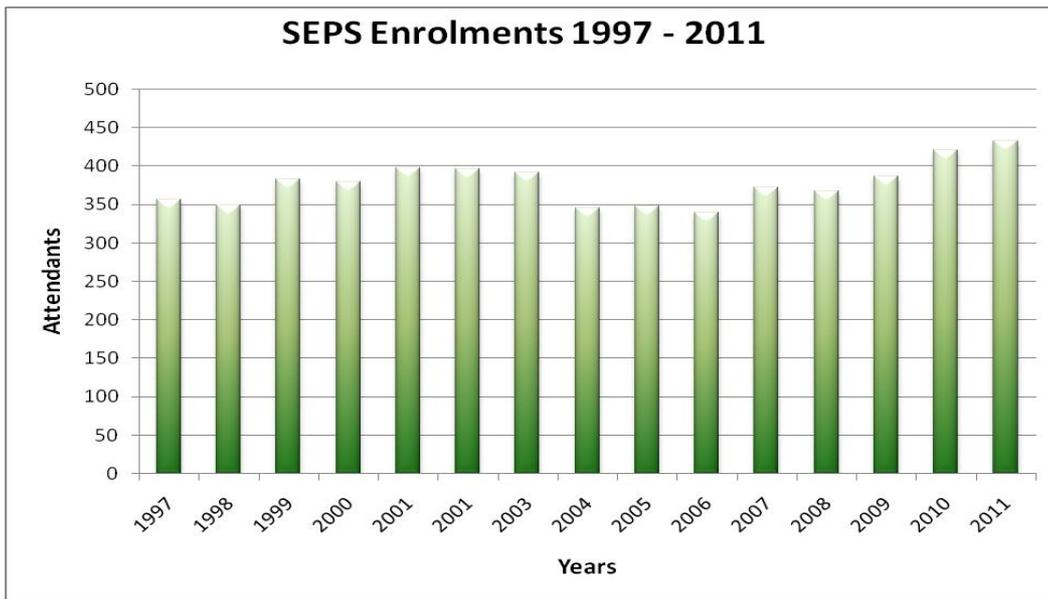
*Early Aerial View of the Sandringham Area in 1930's.*

Since the late 1920's local parents were calling for a school to originate in the Sandringham East area. Fluctuating enrolments throughout the years and the demands for accommodation to cater for all students and their learning are common themes that have emerged throughout this recollection of our history. As we discovered through research, parents have always worked to ensure the very best for their children, and accommodation has been creatively sought after over the years by School Committees, School Councils and Principals.

Today these issues are still a focus as we look towards the provision of quality education for students and the optimum environment in which this can be achieved.



*Sandringham East Primary School enrolment throughout the years... 1931 - 2006.*



*The success of our forebears is seen through the development of Sandringham East State School and the Official Opening on July 30th 1931.*

In 1923 Mr. Farrell of Hume Garage called a meeting at his Garage to discuss the possibility of creating a new school in the east of Sandringham. Until now, the local children had been attending Black Rock Primary School and as numbers were on the rise, school accommodation was becoming overtaxed. Seven parents attended this initial meeting and elected a provisional committee to look for a suitable site for a school.

A position for the school was chosen and is described as such: "...the land is situated in a fine elevated and healthy population and is in a position with open paddocks..." In 1927, the School Committee agreed to purchase the piece of land, which covered 4 acres and 15 perches, for the cost of 3,500 pounds.

On July 20th, 1927, Mr. Farrell, Chairman of E.S.P.S Committee, wrote a letter to the Minister of Education. It read:

*"Dear Sir, We (the residents of East Sandringham) have been endeavoring for the past few months to have a State School established in Holloway Road, midway between Sandringham and Black Rock schools. Mr O.R. Snowball, our member, has interested himself in the matter and has been the cause of your department agreeing to purchase a site. Of the three offered, one, my committee are decidedly opposed to on the grounds that it is an old refuse tip. It is offered by a man of the name J. Stephens. There are two other sites, either of which would admirably suit, because they are high and dry, and naturally drained, whereas the old refuse, the parents consider, would be likely to contain the germs of diphtheria and other infectious diseases. Of this likelihood you will agree. Why not decide upon Hill's two and a half acres and one and a half acres from Brady's? That would be the area (four acres) your department considers necessary for school purposes. Both the above named owners are becoming restless and ask for a final answer. I am certain if the department procrastinates much longer*

*they will have to pay a much higher price for this land. There are quite 200 children who are ready to attend immediately as both Sandringham and Black Rock schools are crowded out and more children are coming into the locality every day. I trust you will give this matter your immediate attention for which you will have the committee's appreciation."*

In 1928 District Inspector Robert Stephenson recommended that: "a new building be erected in Holloway Street.....to accommodate 250 pupils". In late 1928, rates were abandoned and the Department of Education assumed ownership of the property. Owing to a lack of funds, tenders were not invited to begin construction of the school until late 1929, and finally, after two years of waiting, contractors J. C. Brockie and Sons were engaged to erect a brick school house, a detached caretakers quarters, fencing and outhouses (toilets). All work and construction was finished in 1931, and except for fencing, was completed for the sum of 6,200 pounds.

It is rumored that aboriginal remains were discovered when the school was being built, however this remains unverified.

S.S. 4429, Sandringham East opened five classrooms on February 15, 1931 under Charles Addison Rowell who was transferred from being a Temporary Assistant at Sandringham Primary School to the Temporary Head Teacher at Sandringham East. He writes in his opening speech, the bittersweet experience in initiating a school:

*"I have the honour to announce that I have started a garden, and also that the asphalt has been finished, but all is useless. On arrival at the school today I found that cattle and sheep had marked the asphalt, and on two occasions I had to drive away the straying cattle from off the schoolyard. I strongly suggest that a post and wire fence be erected to keep the garden from being trampled and asphalt marred."*

The lack of fencing caused some consternation. As new fences were erected to keep children within the schoolyard and wandering livestock out, a neighbour of the school Mr. J. Pettit, also requested that another fence be built between his property and the school. He writes; *"I find it very difficult to keep the children away from my property, and the constant disturbing of my hens has a very bad effect on the output of eggs. If the Department of Education would supply the material I would erect a fence free of cost."* The Department of Education, who claimed they would not make any special contribution toward a fence to protect his private property, promptly turned down Mr. Pettit's request for material. Mr. Pettit was duly notified and sorely disappointed possibly never to have a fresh egg laid again!

The official opening ceremony of the school took place on July 30, 1931 and was conducted by Mr Tate, Director of Education. The first Head Master was succeeded the following year by W.G. Adamson, the first permanent Head Master, in 1932. Mrs Gunn was the inaugural president of the Ladies' Committee, which organised a successful first fete. James Spence was the first student registered at the school.

The new school was originally built to accommodate 250 students and by 1939, attendance had risen to 312. Principal Adamson requested that a new portable classroom be erected to help alleviate overcrowding problems. Prompt action was taken with the removal and relocation of a pavilion classroom from S. S. 3829 Caulfield North in September of that year. In 1940, as the classrooms were sufficient to accommodate the numbers of children attending, Caretaker D.H. Walker requested a chip bath heater to be installed in the caretaker's quarters. Without this heater, hot water for baths had to be carried from the washhouse, through the house of about a distance of twenty yards, and as each bath took about twelve gallons of water, "great effort was required to supply four persons with hot water."

Throughout the 1940's, the State Housing Commission had erected a great number of houses in the area, and consequently the attendance at Sandringham East increased greatly. After the end of the war an army hut had been converted into two classrooms to accommodate the rising numbers.

In 1950 further classrooms were requested as enrolments rose to 61 students in 1951. District Inspector N.C. Heathcote granted the request and two additional classrooms were built from prefabricated "Bristol" units in June of that year which currently comprise the multipurpose room. This prefabricated classroom was occupied by the infant grades in 1952, and the old unlined band room was converted, again, into another classroom. In the face of many new additions to the school, some were destroyed. In June 1953, H.T Hassell informed the Department of Education that a fire had completely gutted one classroom while two others were severely damaged. And although details of the fire are not recorded, the damage was resolved and restoration completed, one long year later in July 1954 for 1,271 pounds.

Hon. School Secretary, Stanley C. Batiste, in June 1954, discussed the need for a school canteen. The Department of Education considered the request, but rejected the call for a canteen as it had been found "upon investigation that there were three substantial businesses within a quarter of a mile from the school applying a variety of food suitable for pupil's lunches." Many attempts were made by the Mothers Club to secure a canteen for their school, as it was felt that the "foodstuffs offered by the businesses concerned" were detrimental to the health of the public. Ultimately, the Department of Education rejected the final call for a canteen, and all attempts failed.

Whilst the call for a canteen was rejected, proposals for additional classrooms were approved. Hon. Sec. Batiste declared in 1954, that attendance had risen to 507 students and accommodation was severely overtaxed. The Department of Education responded by promising a new timber block that would comprise of four classrooms. This would be part of a new building program, at an estimated cost of 15,684 pounds. Army huts were removed in 1955 and the construction of this new block took over two years. In 1956 the building was completed and ready for occupation by the growing number of students coming to Sandringham East. A library was established in 1956 and was born out of the converted Band Room. A shelter shed was also erected in the yard for 540 pounds as the average attendance had increased to 568 pupils.

In 1961 land was exchanged with a local resident to consolidate land and extend the school grounds to Bay Road. Extensions to the East Wing plus library and canteen facilities were completed in 1965 and the library was officially opened by the Assistant Minister for Education the Hon. J.F. Rossiter MP on 30th September, 1965.

In the March 1969 edition of 'The School Bell' an advertisement records Sandringham East Primary School as: "Serving a middle-class residential area and has a record of quiet behavior, co-operation and excellence in sport...the school has recorder, melodica and fife classes."

A master plan of the school was made in 1976 by a parent, Robin Cocks, and following this the adventure playground was erected and many trees and shrubs were planted in the grounds. Rooms one and two were turned into a multi-purpose room in 1981. In 1983 the multi-purpose room was deemed too noisy and so the location was changed. In 1982 a 50 year celebration was held with former and present teachers and parents who were invited to the school for the day.



School was in for the first time for five-year-old Jim Marmarou last Tuesday and it's obvious he was not too pleased at all. He looked very un-

happy as he said goodbye to his father, and not even a reassuring word from teacher Mrs. R. Lacey could bring a smile to his face.

The first day of school was more exciting for Lisa Evans, below left and Amanda Hill, and it looks like they had been looking

forward to it for a long time. Jim, Lisa and Amanda are attending Sandringham East Primary School.

*"First Day Blues for Sandy East Bubs."*

SANDRINGHAM EAST S. S. No. 4429

New Site.

No. 21

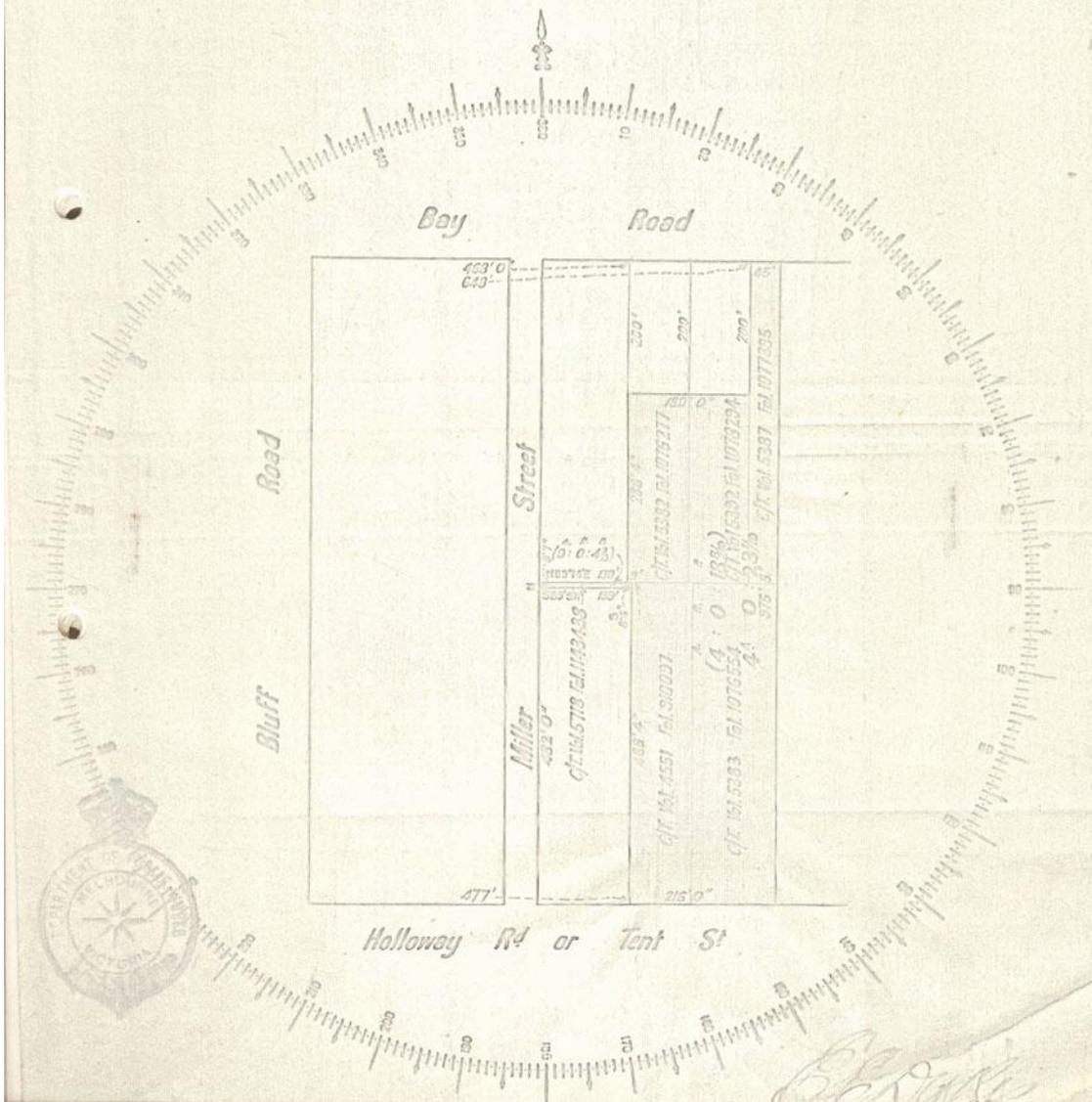
PLAN OF  
Part of Crown Portion 35

At Sandringham East Parish of Moorabbin

County of Bourke

Scale: 200 Feet to an Inch.

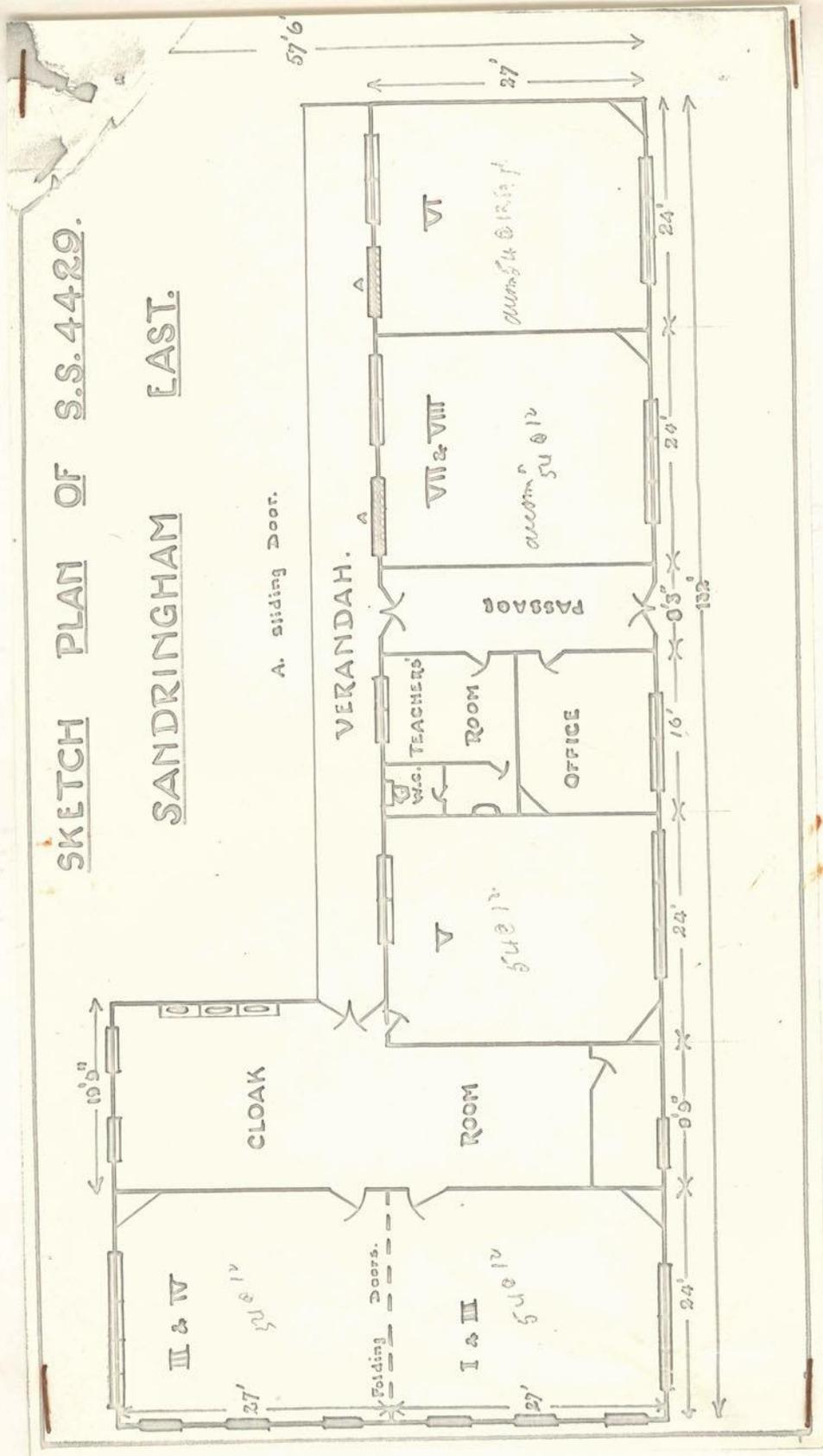
For School purposes.



Plan of Sandringham East State School 4429 9<sup>th</sup> July 1931.

SKETCH PLAN OF S.S. 4429.

SANDRINGHAM EAST.



Plan of rooms in main school building.



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## Evolution of Buildings and Grounds

- 1923** Local residents met at the Hume Garage opposite Royal Ave and formed a committee to discuss the desirability of establishing a school in the East Sandringham area.
- 1927** Continuous letters re setting up of school in Holloway Road. Purchase of land for 3,600 pounds for building of Sandringham East State School.
- Aug 1928** Inspector Robert Stephenson; "I recommend that a new building be erected in Holloway Street....to accommodate 250 pupils."
- 1929** Messers. J.C. Brockie & Sons were engaged to erect a brick schoolhouse, detached wooded caretakers quarters, fencing and out out-houses (toilets). These buildings were completed by February, 1931 for 6,200 pounds.
- 1931** Sandringham East School opened for students (Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 1931).
- Mar 1931** Headmaster is to pay 17 pounds towards the cost of having electricity connected to the school BUT must get permission from neighbours to allow wires across their property. Caretakers Quarters to be erected at Sandringham East with sixteen shillings rental charged per week. Maintenance allowance, 3 pounds 19 shillings per fortnight, to be paid on the condition that the cleaner receives 3 pounds 8 shillings and 8 pence per fortnight.
- Jun 1931** Electric supply delayed due to neighbours' refusal to allow wire to dangle over their properties.
- Jul 1931** New building cost 4,690 pounds to accommodate 200 children but with overcrowding at Sandringham State School and a number of young children not in attendance at school. It is now decided that Department of Education will provide for 250 children by erecting an additional classroom.
- Jul 24th 1931** Official Opening with 193 students enrolled.
- Aug 1931** Post and wire fence suggested for school grounds.
- Sep 1931** Caretaker occupies caretaker quarters.
- May 1932** Erection of two shelter sheds - one for girls and one for boys.
- Feb 1933** School requests funds for drainage and asphaltting.
- Aug 1933** Filling and gravelling site, then sealing and tar paving.
- Sep 1934** Permission for workshop.
- Nov 1934** Noxious weeds Boxthorn and Furze are a problem on the school site.

- Dec 1936** Cost of painting the school building - 26 pounds.
- Aug 1938** Sowing grass and grading school grounds completed.
- Dec 1938** Painting the exterior of the school completed.
- Mar 1939** Sandringham East State School to receive pavilion classroom from Caulfield North State School after request from Head Teacher Adamson.



*The old wooden building above, which was used for the library, and then a classroom, has currently been transformed into our Japanese room. The container to the right was used for the school uniform shop, and has now been relocated to the left of this building and is currently used for archives.*

- Oct 1939** Request made for 5 pounds to cover removal of noxious weeds Boxthorn and Furze as well as repairs to school grounds. Drainage is poor. Roof tiles are blown away in strong winds.
- Jun 1940** Application is made for an electric radiator for the teachers' room at this school.
- Sep 1942** Department of Education records state: *"It has been noted that the caretaker discovered this morning damage to the teacher's room caused by fire. It appears that the caretaker mistakenly left a pail of burning ashes on the floor next to the hearth, thus causing the floor to burn overnight and causing quite serious damage."*
- Jun 1943** A councilor on the school committee notes that the school's fire extinguisher has not been serviced for quite some time and notes: *"Annual charge to service such item SODA ACID TYPE will be 10 shillings 1/2 yearly."*
- Mar 1944** Request for an additional shelter shed.
- Mar 1945** Continuing issue with the Department of Education re: maintenance of building. Two army huts were moved and used as classrooms.
- Apr 1947** Request Asphalt due the number of children falling over and cutting themselves. Technical school being erected next door.
- Jul 1949** Request for the Department of Education to look into fencing the property, asphaltting, linoleum in the classrooms and the general upkeep of classrooms.



*School Buildings (after 1949) at Sandringham East Primary School showing Sandringham Technical School in the background.*

- Apr 1950** Due to lack of electric lights in classrooms it is recommended that skylights be fitted to the roof.
- Aug 1950** There is a proposal to build a scout hall at the end of the school oval.

- Oct 1950** Request for a tidy up of Tea-tree and grounds which also need fencing. Department of Education responds with request for measurements. Estimated cost of two additional classrooms is 5,000 pounds.
- Nov 1951** Request for more shelter sheds as there are only two.
- Oct 1952** Request for asphaltting to be completed.
- Nov 1952** Boys and girls toilets changed to toilets only for the girls and new toilets constructed for boys.
- Jun 1953** Fire badly damaged three classrooms.
- Sep 1953** Infestation of rats at the school and help was requested from the Department of Education.
- Dec 1953** Request to the Department of Education for one new classroom for extra children.
- Feb 1954** Proposed building of two new classrooms due to an influx of children as there are to be eighty-four new flats to be constructed in Bluff Road, Highett.
- Apr 1954** Request for bicycle racks is not something that the Department of Education feels it should pay for, but it will help subsidise.
- Jun 1954** Department of Education has been sent plans for a canteen and because there are no measurements or details, plans cannot proceed. The Department of Educations' policy states: *"If there are shops a quarter of a mile or less it can supply the food for the pupils so there is no need for a canteen."* A letter was sent by a parent saying that the pies bought at that shop are cold and are not wrapped.
- Jul 1954** Permission given to use scout hall in Holloway Rd.
- Dec 1954** Mothers' Club requests a Tuck Shop Canteen again.
- May 1955** Two army huts were removed to allow space for the construction of four additional classrooms.
- Nov 1955** Request for more shelter sheds as the school only has two 20ft x 10ft in size.
- Dec 1955** Beautification of the front of the school completed.
- Jul 1956** Request for a dividing fence between Sandringham East and the Sandringham Technical School.
- Oct 1956** Request to purchase land at the Bay Road end of the school oval.
- 1961** Land was exchanged with a local resident to consolidate the school land and extend it to Bay Road.
- 1973** Open Air Theatre constructed with bluestones used for the stage and SEC poles used for audience seating.
- 1980** Log seats were required for the open air theatre. Grass had to be cut behind the sheds as a complaint was received that the area could harbor snakes. Discussions were in progress about the consideration to sink a bore for the source of water instead of renewing pipes.
- 1983** Two classrooms were converted into the present Multi Purpose room.
- 1984** Caretaker David Hearsom organised a team of Department Of Correctional Service workers to carry out painting of the caretaker's cottage. Additional lights were installed in the multi-purpose hall. Painting of exterior of the school was completed. Ceiling fans were erected in east wing classrooms.
- 1985** David Hearsom requests that the old incinerator be demolished. Permission was granted.
- 1986** A fence was erected around the dustbin area. Works were in place to upgrade the art room.
- 1987** Renovation of art room and general office completed.
- 1988** Priority rating received for minor works - \$8,000 for repairs to ceilings, spouting, down pipes, plumbing, taps, toilets and window frames.
- 1990** Purchase of new play equipment cost that \$11,000. Upgrade of the drainage and removal of the concrete spoon drains completed. Notification by the Department of Education that the cleaner's cottage is to be closed and no more money will be spent on its upkeep. Large gum tree at front of school was removed.

- 1991** Caretaker's residence cleared away and work commenced by the staff and students of Holmesglen TAFE to provide landscaping and erected the Shade house away from the dumpster area for staff and children.
- 1992** The Frank Fielding garden was built on the site of the caretaker's cottage, in conjunction with a TAFE college. Gardening guru, Kevin Heinz, came to open the gardens. Because of the BER building in 2011 this garden was relocated outside the portable classrooms.
- 1993** Highett Primary school closed and saw twenty-two Highett PS students transferred to Sandringham East Primary School along with a vast array of resources, materials, musical and playground equipment. A small grant of \$23,000 for staff upgrades was used to enlarge the staff room and to build cupboards, new floor coverings etc. This made for much lighter, brighter staff facilities. The staff toilets even got some attention.
- 1994** A grant of \$150,000 was required to replace the old brick toilets which stood where the Friendship Garden is now located. Instead, led by our architect Ian Douglas (past school council president) a wing from the closed Highett P.S. site was transported at a cost of \$30,000 and eventually gained new toilets, new canteen, new hall, new staff toilet and shower, a toilet for the disabled and two new classrooms.



*Students enjoying a teachers versus students match. Note: the shelter shed (which was transformed to the Japanese room) and the Dolls House which has since been demolished in 2011, along with the Japanese room to make way for the BER (Building Education Revolution Stimulus). The old brick toilets were demolished and the Friendship Garden developed on the site of the toilets.*

- 1995** First portables arrive to cater for the growing school numbers. The beginning of installment of evaporative cooling system to have the whole school cooled in summer. Brick paving in the Frank Fielding Gardens was made using the bricks from the old toilet blocks. These bricks were used in 2011 to pave the new barbeque area. The first security system was installed at Sandringham East Primary School. Bayside Council began the popular Holiday Care Program at Sandringham East Primary School.
- 1996** In November Bernadette Neville was appointed as a consultant for our major upgrade. The pedestrian crossing in Holloway Road is finally approved after many long meetings with Bayside City Council.
- 1997** Our major upgrade gave us, an urgent electrical upgrade, larger classrooms, sky lights in corridor, improved lighting, floor coverings, internal and external painting and much more. A shelter shed was converted to a much needed Language room for Japanese classes.
- 1998** The telephone system was upgraded and new P.A. system installed. Ramps were built to the portables. The Pigeon Relocation Program was implemented to relocate the pigeons from the school buildings.
- 1999** Installation of oval automatic watering system (just in time for drought!).
- 2000** Two more portables arrive allowing fifteen rather large classes.
- 2001** A container was installed and used as the music room for piano tuition as well as

the school shop. Friendship Garden mosaics, made by students in the art program, were installed.

- 2001** Staff toilets were revamped by Principal's husband, Geoff Walton.
- 2002** Container was moved next to old wooden building to make room for new classrooms. New Mod 5 relocatable, with two classrooms, was erected adjacent to the playground.
- 2002** Assistant Principal's Office was built on the end of main brick building – funded by School Council and built by school parents, Lloyd McDowell and Greg Patterson.
- 2002** Wayne Judson & Laureen Walton led development of Master Plan which was developed by Architect Mal Taylor and paid for by School Council.
- 2002** Communication system installed – telephone system installed in all classrooms.
- 2002** Handyman employed by School Council for two days a week to continue the general maintenance of the school, supported by monthly working bees.
- 2003** Master plan presented to Department of Education & Training.
- 2003** Paving of Friendship Garden area with named brickwork and art murals installed.
- 2004** Overcrowding in existing school office – an occupational health and safety issue! Classroom adjacent to foyer claimed for office expansion in line with Master Plan. This was fully funded by School Council. The old small office was initially used as a Conference room and is currently the Principal's office.
- 2004** Coastal Bird "Artist In School" Project – coastal bird sculptures were installed around the school and in Frank Fielding Garden.
- 2005** Front garden development – brick entrance, perimeter fencing and planting was completed with the help of Sandringham Rotary Club. Kingsley Parkes (ex SANDRINGHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL student and Sandringham Rotarian) completed most of the project with the financial support from Buxton Real Estate via Sandringham Rotary Club. A brick path installed at the front of the school.
- 2005** The Dragon tile mosaic project was installed along the driveway wall. An art tile drawing project from all classes was installed under the veranda of the brick building.
- 2005** Vegetable garden was initially established by parent, Grant Bell.
- 2005** External painting of the school building was completed. The Hihett wing roof was replaced. Installation of driveway security gates was completed.
- 2006** Proposed new library development - funded by Investing in Schools Program, Federal Government (\$150,000) and School Council (\$100,000). Planning and design by SAAJ Architects - Andrew and Sally Bartholomeusz. Tenders were called and builders Bowden Corp Pty Ltd were successful.

- Jul 2006** School Letter Box - Steve Cumming and son Oscar spent some of their holiday time repairing the school letter box. Steve is pictured working and Oscar is overseeing his dad's work standards!



- Aug 2006** Planet Ark - Saving Endangered Eco-Systems. Our children planted, and helped to maintain the 'School Sanctuary' to help rejuvenate the native plants which encourages native birds and camouflage the buildings surrounding the school. Parent coordinators, Grant Bell and Katrine Lee, led this work.
- Oct 2006** The library project commenced using the design by Sage Architects with Federal funding of \$150,000 from the Investing in Schools Program supported by around \$180,000 by the school community.

The site of the SANDRINGHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL Library to the right of the main brick building meant the demolition of the Assistant Principal's office and adjacent foyer. The brick colour was carefully selected to match the existing school building.



*Pictured are Andrew Bartholomeusz, the architect from SAAJ Architectural Design, James Bowden from Bowden Corp Pty Ltd and Warren the onsite supervisor getting the site ready.*



*The concrete pour was exciting for the students to see and the huge crane fascinated them.*

Nov 2006



*The front of the library wall has the word 'READ' and on the glass door & 'LEARN'*

**Feb 2007**

Installation of our new year 1 classrooms.  
The Department of Education is gradually replacing the small Mod 2's which are old and not the best environment for student learning.

*Old MOD 2 Portable Class Room*

*New Portable Class Room*



**Mar 2007**

The library is looking fantastic ! Noreen Carr and many of our students worked very hard to get the books back on shelves



**May 2007**

**Official Opening of Library**



  
The Australian Government has provided  
\$150,000  
To  
**Sandringham East Primary School**  
for our new  
**Library Building**  
Under the *Investing in Our Schools Programme*.  
The Sandringham East School community  
have also contributed significant funding of \$180,000.  
Project opened May 18th 2007 by  
Hon Andrew Robb AO MP - Federal Member for Goldstein,  
Laureen Walton - Principal  
Ben Solly - School Council President

**Jun 2008** Facilities Projects continued with many willing helpers from our Sandringham East Primary School community. Parent Andrew Newton was a dynamic Facilities leader and harnessed some fantastic helpers to ensure quality developments which were well built. The palatial veggie patch has garden boxes and fences are all in place and the children were very excited about planting the garden boxes. What a home the chickens have in their “castle” built by parent David Barry! The development of the oriental garden also is a great asset to the school. We are fortunate to have such dedication by our community which benefits the students at Sandringham East Primary School.

**Mar 2009** We looked forward to exciting developments at Sandringham East Primary School as we become involved in the Federal Labour Govt’s “Building the Education Revolution” program. \$12.4 billion for the *Primary Schools for the 21st Century* package delivered infrastructure to benefit Sandringham East Primary School as one of Australia’s 7986 primary schools. Priority was given to construction of new libraries and multipurpose halls. These buildings provide students, teachers and the wider school community with access to a range of high quality resources, information and cutting edge tools to support learning and improve the quality and diversity of learning environments. Funding allocations were determined according to the size of the school with Sandringham East Primary School able to access around \$2,250 000.

**Mar 2009** National School Pride Program - \$1.3 billion was also available for the *National School Pride Program*. The school applied for funding through BER for small scale infrastructure building and refurbishment funding of up to \$150,000.

**May 2009** The National Pride Funding of \$150,000 was approved for Sandringham East Primary School. Our proposal was to modernise/refurbish the Prep classrooms to make them a stimulating learning environment as well as better able to cater for the children’s Investigations through the Walker Learning Approach. A wet area was included as well as an outdoor access to the front garden which was developed into a learning area.

The plan also included a refurbishment of the administration area which expanded into the current classroom next to the office to include a conference room, Assistant Principal office and Uniform Shop. The whole brick building was painted internally and carpeted.

**Jun/Jul 2009** School Council, Principal Mrs Walton, Assistant Principal Ms Parker and a number of school staff spent many hours finalising the plans for the refurbishment of the Prep/Office building. The successful tenderer was WP Contractors and Dorel Muresan was the “Hands on” project manager. This was a very exciting time for SANDRINGHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL. The Prep classrooms were totally refurbished to create a great environment for our Preps. The refurbishment continued into offices and admin area with our admin work areas looking professional. The uniform shop was relocated next to the office and an electric door at the front entrance was installed to stop the wind tunnel that we used to get through the school entrance on windy days.



The wheels are in motion for the Building Education Revolution Round 2 program. This is another exciting development for Sandringham East Primary School not without some pain as we had to relocate the barbeque area, dolls house, water tank, Frank Fielding garden and Prep play equipment.

#### **Jul 2009**

Refurbishment continued with the erection of a wooden front fence to ensure that students were safe when working in the outdoor learning environment which was now accessible from the Prep classrooms. This was funded by the school. Parents Andrew Newton and Russell Bennett are pictured working below.



#### **Aug 2009**

Our Prep Learning Area was completed and the Prep teachers and students moved back into their vibrant, spacious new classrooms. The design of the Prep Learning Centre followed key design principles of 21st Century learning. The open design now promotes active, student-centered learning through flexible, functional spaces. The Department of Education's Effective Schools Model provides a framework and context for developing stimulating learning environments, conducive to high quality teaching and learning. It is recognized that students' learning outcomes and attitudes, along with teacher practice and skill development, are strongly influenced by their learning environments.

The flexibility of the new Learning Area allows students to engage in a wide range of learning activities - individual, small and large group work. Teaching is no longer a sole activity and the new design allows for collaborative teacher practice.

These new learning environments support a diverse range of student centered approaches required for the 21st Century Curriculum, with an emphasis on learning to learn and developing skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication and team work. The storage areas ensure ready access to required resources. The use of mobile technology, in the form of our mini notebook computers, further facilitated the notion of flexible learning. The access to the new front garden is a fantastic addition to the new Learning Area and will provide many opportunities for Investigations for our Preps, and other classes within the school.

The refurbished administration area is much improved and allows the office staff to work more effectively. The Principal Lauren Walton has moved to the outer room which now provides her with a view of students in the playground. The inner office (previously Principal's office), has become a small meeting room complete with a working fireplace which is used for special occasions, which our forebears would be pleased about. The new Assistant Principal's Office is now much more visible with Assistant Principal Kendra Parker also able to look out at the playground. The new conference room is a great asset for meetings by parents, School Council and teachers.

**Mar 2010** The Victorian Schools Plan was the Labour Government's commitment to transform Victorian schools by funding the rebuilding or renovating of schools by 2017 and Sandringham East Primary School along with Sandringham College were invited in the DEECD Victorian Schools Plan, *Building Futures* process. Southern Metropolitan Region successfully completed Stage 1, *Project Identification* and Sandringham East Primary School and Sandringham College developed Stage 2, Educational Rationale as well as a Pedagogical Plan. An architect was appointed – Wayne Stephens from Clarke, Hopkins and Clarke and consultation with school communities began with Assistant Regional Director as well as the architect.

**May 2010** Due to the rise in our school enrolments a new Mod 3 classroom was located adjacent to the art room and school office. This brought us up to our classroom entitlement and allowed us to have a performing arts space again in the multi-purpose room.

**May 2010** The BER program commenced with an initial site meeting with the project manager and also the builder, Contract Control. The first task was to relocate the year 2 classrooms as they occupied the site for the new BER buildings - a library learning centre (six new classrooms and toilets) through the Government's Stimulus Package. For Sandringham East Primary School this meant changes including:

- Temporary loss of play area.
- Relocating two year 2 classrooms next to the art room.
- Relocating the Doll's House next to the Veggie patch where we hoped it would become a kitchen classroom – this did not eventuate because of the condition of the Dolls House which had to be reluctantly demolished.
- Demolition of the Japanese room which was a modified shelter shed was a sad day for Sandringham East Primary School. The Japanese room could not be relocated as it was on a concrete slab. Transformation of the existing old wooden classroom using the furniture and features kept from the original Japanese room.
- Relocation of the water tanks near the barbeque area.
- Relocation of the bike shed to behind the garage and PE sheds.
- Demolition of the pergola and barbeque area – rebuilt again near the existing veggie patch.
- Removal of Prep play equipment which will be replaced.
- Relocation of the big sandpit (originally built by past student and present parent Steve Cummins) adjacent to playground equipment.
- Resiting of netball courts when the new building is completed.

**May 2010** What a wonderful parent community we have at Sandringham East Primary School! It was fantastic to see the instant support for teachers moving classrooms. The other year 2 parents also took up the challenge and moved resources and furniture then, when the rooms were empty, they thought that painting it would be a great idea and “hey presto” - a newly painted classroom. Again our Sandringham East Primary School community spirit reigned when all parents and teachers worked hard to implement these moves and it is what makes Sandringham East Primary School so special.

**Aug 2010** We were thrilled to be invited to proceed to Stage 3 - Master Planning for the Regeneration Project with Sandringham College. This, we hoped, would be an exciting time over the coming years for our school community. Master Planning does not guarantee funding for our project but was seen as a positive step along the way.

Jennifer Huppert, State Member for Southern Metropolitan Electorate visited the school to discuss the project.



*Sandringham College Principal's Wayne Perkins & Kim Stewart, along with Laureen Walton and Jennifer Huppert.*

Sandringham College and Sandringham East Primary School, Elwood Secondary College and Brighton Secondary College were among a number of Southern Metropolitan Region schools invited into the 'Building Futures' program. Each school had been identified as requiring substantial modernization of outdated and poor facilities. All have worked tirelessly on developing their Education Rationale to support their case for providing 21<sup>st</sup> Century education in purpose built facilities.

Clarke, Hopkins and Clarke were our appointed architects and Wayne Stephens, our architect for the Sandringham Education Precinct. Their work is renowned and has won many significant awards. We were particularly impressed with their understanding of how children learn and the transformation of learning spaces required for new millennium students.

**Jan 2011**

The year 3 and 4 classrooms were transformed into open learning spaces so that the students and teachers can work collaboratively.



**Mar 2011**

We continued to work with Sandringham College and the Department of Education and Early Childhood (DEECD) on planning the best education for our Sandringham students. A 'Pedagogical Plan' was completed which outlines the teaching and learning that we envision. The Preferred Context statement is included below that provides a vision for the profile of a Sandringham education precinct:

*The Sandringham Education Precinct is highly regarded for its educational excellence, and for its broad range of academic, vocational and applied learning pathways.*

*The Sandringham Education Precinct has a transdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning. Learning occurs in a student centered environment based on rich relationships, trust, collaboration, responsibility and participation. It embraces creativity, achievement, enterprise and leadership; values imagination; encourages considered risk taking; and develops in students a belief that learning is powerful and valuable.*

*The Sandringham Education Precinct fosters a sense of community and creates environmentally aware students who are responsible and underpins our philosophy and all that we do.*

*There is a consistent approach and understanding of how personalized learning is facilitated, with a focus on the developmental stages of learning. Students move seamlessly through the school, accessing programs at their point of need.*

*Learners take on challenges and engage in high level thinking and creating in an ICT rich environment and in flexible learning spaces.*

*Teachers and students are supported by mentoring, coaching and continual feedback on the progress of their learning. All teachers actively participate in Professional Learning to ensure teaching practice is at the cutting edge.*

*Processes are in place to facilitate the delivery of quality programs that capitalise on staff expertise across the school*

*The Sandringham Education Precinct continues to develop productive partnerships with parents and the local and global communities, other educational sectors, businesses and industries, wherever they may be.*

We do not know what the next steps will be for what was the Building Futures Program and we eagerly await some news that will allow us to continue with our planning.

## May 2011

Our BER building is very near completion with mainly inside fittings to be done. The landscaping will be the final task. The year 1 and 2 team are very excited about teaching in such an inspiring new space. Teachers have undertaken an enormous amount of professional learning with the focus on teaching and learning pedagogy in flexible learning spaces. They have visited many other schools and read extensively, looking at current research. Many of our teachers are already working in flexible spaces in Prep, year 1 and year 6.



*With over 1,000 photo's to choose from, it was very difficult to decided which would capture the amount of work that has been carried out.*

## Jul 2011

Following the completion of the BER many projects were taken on by parents to restore our facilities lost to the BER.

The barbeque area was relocated next to the vegetable garden with a new structure and paved area. The barbeque was also relocated and the two tanks reinstalled. Parents Russell Bennett, Andrew Newton and Adam Hall were assisted by working bees to prepare the area.



The bike shed was located behind the sheds and bike and scooter racks were made by parent Warren Cay. Students will now have a much improved bike shelter area which will be secured.

The Frank Fielding garden area now relocated next to the playground and portable classroom was restocked with the bird sculptures.

The remainder of the bird sculptures, were placed in the Friendship garden area.

The wooden classroom was transformed into a Japanese room following the advice of interior designer Keiko Fujiwara from the Japanese Saturday School. The original doors and furniture was saved from the demolished room and used for the refurbishment.



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The move into the BER building occurred in the school holidays with teachers and parents enthusiastically working to ensure that all was in readiness for the commencement of term 3. Additional cabinetry, display boards, doormats, were installed to ensure the building was as efficient as possible.

Landscaping around the new building commenced largely following the plan designed by parent Michael Howard.

Tree planting Day on July 19<sup>th</sup> was supported by Bunnings who supplied both labour and plants for the native corner behind the new building.

The working bee on July 23<sup>rd</sup> continued plantings around the new building, including:

- Playground installation and new seating.
- Barbeque area rebuilt and paved by parents Adam Hall and Russell Bennett.
- Barbeque reinstalled.
- Japanese room refurbished with original fittings.
- Air conditioners installed in Prep classrooms.
- Grounds cleaned and tidied by George.
- Year 1 and 2 classrooms moved to new buildings with great work by teachers and parents—an enormous task achieved brilliantly.
- Display boards in foyer and new building.
- Garden bed installed outside new building.
- Bike racks & scooter racks installed thanks to Warren Cay and Dean Mills.
- Russell Bennett has been very busy disposing of rubbish and generally catching up on many “odd jobs” around the school.

*Patient children who while their time with our wonderful mums Alida Williams and Julia Pryor, who cared for them whilst the classroom move was on. This allowed parents and teachers to move “mountains” with the knowledge their children were safe.*



The Final certificates are now in place and we have official occupation of the new buildings.

*David Baker (APP project manager) and Sean Robinson (Contract Control project manager) pictured handing the final certificate.*



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Workers, barricades and lots of trucks covered the asphalt to dismantle and take away the two portable classrooms. The children are looking forward to having more space to play on the asphalt.



*The old Grade 2 rooms being taken away.*

In 2009 the Australian Federal Government's response to the Global Economic Downturn of 2008 was The Nation Building - Economic Stimulus Plan, which included a commitment of \$16.2 billion to Australian school facilities through the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program. This program generated thousands of jobs across Victoria. It provided Victorian government schools with 21st century learning environments for current and future students. The BER templates created an opportunity for schools to transform their pedagogy and more effectively cater for the individual needs of 21 century students, through collaborative teaching and learning and utilising flexible learning environments. This was an unprecedented opportunity for Victorian schools and communities.

The Sandringham East Primary School BER building was completed on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011. 150 excited students from years 1 and 2 moved into the new spacious facility on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2011, the first day of Term 3. The building was officially opened on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 which coincided with the Sandringham East Primary School's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.



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**Senator Chris Evans**  
Leader of the Government in the Senate  
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs  
and Workplace Relations

## **TO THE COMMUNITY OF SANDRINGHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

On behalf of the Australian Government, I would like to congratulate Sandringham East Primary School on the opening of the library and classrooms, built under the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program.

I regret I cannot be with you today. I look forward to seeing first-hand the great benefits that this much needed revitalisation will bring.

It has been a busy time for your school and the education sector in Australia as we see the BER, a critical component of the Government's Nation Building - Economic Stimulus Plan, deliver new infrastructure and resources to meet the needs of 21st Century learning, while supporting Australian jobs.

Whether a project involves the refurbishment of a classroom, the construction of a covered outdoor learning area or a new library or science centre, each is a valuable addition to a school's learning environment and to the quality of the education Australia provides.

I would like to acknowledge the work and effort that your school has invested. I believe this effort and the wider Education Revolution initiatives that we are all working on together will benefit the school and broader communities for many years to come.

I extend my gratitude to the staff at Sandringham East Primary School for constantly meeting the demands that are placed upon you in nurturing your students.

The Australian Government is committed to working with schools to ensure that students have the opportunity to achieve to the very best of their abilities.

Yours sincerely

CHRIS EVANS

30 July 2011

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Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Telephone (02) 6277 7860 Fax (02) 6273 4115

# Important Milestones in Our History.

## World Events in the 1930's

FINANCE DISCUSSION BY FEDERAL CABINET — Page 2

WEATHER FORECAST:  
Fine; moderate temperatures

*The New Swift Pen*  
10/-  
Made and guaranteed by the ONOTO people.  
USE ONOTO INK FOR ALL PENS

*The Sun*  
NEWS-PICTORIAL  
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
THE MORNING POST

No. 2635. Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by post as a newspaper. MELBOURNE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1931 (24 Pages) 1½d.

**Dame Nellie Melba Dies After Long Illness**



MELBA'S OPERATIC CAREER WAS ONE LONG TRIUMPH from 1886, when she first went to Europe, a mere girl in appearance (left). Other pictures recalling the heyday of her singing fame are (second from the left) her earliest characterisation of Ophelia; (centre) as a famous French artist sketched her 10 years ago in Paris; and (right) two portraits of her taken during her Parisian season in 1889.



A VOICE THE WHOLE WORLD KNEW AND LOVED IS HUSHED IN DEATH.—Phases in the romantic career of the late Dame Nellie Melba, who died in St. Vincent's private hospital, Sydney, yesterday afternoon, are reflected in these pictures. Left: The great soprano as Mimi in La Boheme. Centre: A recent portrait, taken just before her fatal illness. Right: Dame Nellie Melba as she appeared when taking her final curtain at the close of her last opera season in Melbourne.

The Great Depression began in 1929 when world commodity prices fell dramatically making much of Australia's primary production uneconomical. By 1930 unemployment was at 19% and in 1931, 28% and growing...

- 1930 Batsman Don Bradman scores a record 452 not out in one cricket innings.
- 1930 Phar Lap wins his first Melbourne Cup.
- 1931 Sir Douglas Mawson charts 4,000 miles of Antarctic coastline and claims 42% of the icy mass for Australia.

- 1932** The Sydney Harbour Bridge opens.
- 1932** The Labor government falls and Joseph Lyons becomes Prime Minister.
- 1933** Western Australia votes at a referendum to secede from the Commonwealth, but the vote is ignored by both the Commonwealth and British governments.
- 1936** The last Thylacine (Tasmania Tiger) dies.
- 1937** The radio series *Dad and Dave* begins.
- 1938** Sydney hosts the Empire Games the forerunner to the Commonwealth Games.
- 1939** April, Prime Minister Lyons dies in office and is replaced by Robert Menzies and the first Menzies Government.
- 1939** September, Australia enters the Second World War following the German Invasion of Poland. The 2nd Australian Imperial Force is raised.
- 1939** The first flight is made by an Australian-made warplane, the Wirraway.
- 1939** Victoria is devastated by the Black Friday bushfires.
- 1939** Australia's non aboriginal population was 7 million.



*Corner Bluff and Bay Roads, Sandringham in the 1930's. The corner Grocer's Shop was owned by Mr Fred Frost where students from SEPS bought their monthly school paper for one penny.*

## School Life at Sandringham East in the 1930's

- 1931** Sandringham East Primary School started classes in February and officially opened in 24th July 1931 by first Head Teacher Mr. Charles A. Rowell, under the Education Minister Mr. John Lemmon. "The Education Gazette" of March 19, shows that initial attendance for 4429 was 190 students.
- 1934** Victorian Centenary celebrations attended by the Duke of Gloucester. Schools from all over Melbourne attended the celebrations at the MCG, dressed up in old fashioned clothing and recreated the songs and dances of 100 years ago.



*1931 Prep students (then called Bubs) with 34 children in the class compared with recommended 21 students today.*

- 1937** 'Inspectors Report' stated: Poliomyelitis (Paralysis epidemic) has infected and killed several children in the community and caused wide spread panic amongst parents. While several schools closed temporarily and didn't meet indoors to stop the spread of infection, no cases were actually recorded at Sandringham East Primary School. During August and September there were no pupils in attendance.
- 1939** 'Inspectors Report' - Early in year the school is hampered by an epidemic of influenza and measles. The Junior School is the most affected with lack of attendance.
- Oct 24th Black Friday bushfires which devastate Victoria.
- Sandringham East Primary School Mother's Club raised 40 Pounds from school fete for relief.

Whilst the need for a new Sandringham East school was obvious, and generally accepted, the consequent removal and transfer of children from the overcrowded schools to Sandringham East created controversy and disruption in those families that had to leave their old schools behind and to relocate.

While the official records show many letters written asking permission for their children to attend the new East Sandringham School there are as many pleas from those who wanted to remain at existing schools. The Department of Education considered these requests and only those children living within certain zones were allowed to remain at their old schools. One parent writes in trying to make good, a difficult situation, "I have got a little bike which my daughter can ride to the new school in East Sandringham School, so as to save her energy."



*Children at Sandy East celebrated by performing at the Queen's Concert.*



Included in the picture above are; Joyce Robinson, Julia Britten, Noel Payne, Nancy Ford, Barbara Donaldson, Stella Myres, Joyce Crawford, Jack Knox, Joyce Britten and Ron Gun.

In an effort to recruit new teachers for the school, extensive correspondence exists between the Department of Education, and Members of Sandringham East's Committee. In a request to appoint a new teacher, who were predominantly female at the time, Principal H. G. Adamson asks the Department of Education that a *“male teacher be given preference as without male assistance I should find it very difficult to maintain the outside activities in horticulture, drill and sport”* and signs this appeal *“your obedient servant.”*

Applying for employment in the Ministry was an arduous task and rejection of applications due to reasons that are unheard of today, were common.

*Mea Incha*  
HIGH SCHOOL, S.A. Awell  
23rd August 1938

The Secretary,  
Education Department,  
Melbourne.

Dear Sir,

I am a pupil in the above School and have applied to be a student teacher in 1939. Last week I went to the School at Ararat for interview and medical examination. At this examination I was told by the Medical Officer that owing to bad circulation in my feet I would have some difficulty in being accepted as a student teacher. I was advised to see my family doctor for treatment. I have done this but my doctor assures me that my trouble is merely the effect of chilblains and that this should not interfere with my chance of going out next year as a teacher. Meanwhile the only treatment I require is the application of ointment.

I am enclosing my doctor's certificate to this effect and I wish to ask that as a result, I should be given an opportunity to go as a student teacher in 1939 if I am successful at the examinations.

I am,  
Yours obediently,  
Lorna B. Reed  
P. G. Samson H.M.

*I consider the candidate unsuitable for appointment. S. J. G.  
31.8.38*

Letter above from Lorna Reed.

Lorna Reed, a young teacher seeking work had suffered bad circulation in her feet and was denied work. She appealed the decision that she could not be employed due to bad health but is finally appointed to Sandringham East.

Young women made up the majority of the teaching body in the 30's, but often their careers in teaching were short lived, since as soon as they were married they would leave the Ministry.

As the attendance rates at Sandringham East fluctuated, so too did the number of teachers employed. Phenomena that directly affected attendance to Sandringham East were the Scarlet Fever, Measles and Mumps epidemic that saw a loss of students throughout the year of 1937.

Furthermore, the rental market in the local area strongly determined whether families were to stay in the area and send their children to Sandringham East. Winter rent was cheaper, and therefore attendance rose, while in the summer properties were expensive, and numbers dropped as families unable to afford rent, moved on.

During the Depression, times were tough and it was an additional expense, and therefore considered a luxury to send a child to high school. Many girls and boys went to work in factories and trades, straight out of primary school, as money was a valuable contribution to the household income.

Readers (books for students to read) were provided to children of unemployed parents, which was common in the 30's given the economic hardship of the Depression.

To be completed and forwarded to the Education Department on the last School day of the months of March, June, September, and December.

STATE SCHOOL No. 4429  
Sandringham East  
31<sup>st</sup> March 1937

STATEMENT showing the number of Victorian Reading Books sold during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> Jany. to 31<sup>st</sup> Mar. 1937; and the number on hand on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar. 1937

NUMBER OF BOOKS SOLD.				NUMBER OF BOOKS ON HAND.				
	No.	Rate.	Amount.		For Sale.	Teacher's Copies (Free).	Rate.	Amount.
First Book .. ..	<u>22</u>	<u>4d.</u>	<u>. 7 4</u>	First Book .. ✓	<u>38</u>		<u>4d.</u>	<u>. 12 8</u>
Second Book .. ..	<u>22</u>	<u>6d.</u>	<u>. 11 .</u>	Second Book .. ✓	<u>26</u>		<u>6d.</u>	<u>. 13 .</u>
Third Book .. ..	<u>31</u>	<u>10d.</u>	<u>1 5 10</u>	Third Book .. ✓	<u>17</u>		<u>10d.</u>	<u>. 14 2</u>
Fourth Book .. ..	<u>25</u>	<u>1s.</u>	<u>1 5 .</u>	Fourth Book .. ✓	<u>25</u>		<u>1s.</u>	<u>1 5 .</u>
Fifth Book .. ..	<u>24</u>	<u>1s.</u>	<u>1 4 .</u>	Fifth Book .. ✓	<u>12</u>		<u>1s.</u>	<u>. 12 .</u>
Sixth Book .. ..	<u>18</u>	<u>1s. 2d.</u>	<u>1 1 .</u>	Sixth Book .. ✓	<u>22</u>		<u>1s. 2d.</u>	<u>1 5 8</u>
Seventh Book .. ..	<u>5</u>	<u>1s. 3d.</u>	<u>. 6 3</u>	Seventh Book .. ..	<u>0</u>		<u>1s. 3d.</u>	<u>. . .</u>
Eighth Book .. ..	<u>23</u>	<u>1s. 3d.</u>	<u>1 8 9</u>	Eighth Book .. ✓	<u>13</u>		<u>1s. 3d.</u>	<u>. 16 3</u>
TOTAL .. ..			<u>7 9 2</u>	TOTAL .. ..				<u>5 18 9</u>

Cheque for £7 9.2 herewith.

APR 5 1937

I certify that the above statements are true and correct in every particular.

Signature of Head Teacher W. J. Adamson

T.509/10.35-1147.

An order for readers by Principal Adamson in 1937.

### School Drum and Fife Band

Many people recall the School Drum and Fife Band established by Mr Adamson in the 1930s. The band won many school Band Competitions. 1934 Band is pictured below.



## Recollections of the 1930's

### Ray Sims, Original Student 1931 - 1936

"Sandringham East Primary School early years coincided with the Depression. Times were hard. Many students were undernourished and poorly clothed. The mother's club started providing milk and soup during the winter months. When Sandringham East Primary School was established, it drew pupils from Black Rock and Sandringham.

I was in the Prep grade and so had all my primary schooling at Sandringham East Primary School (unlike others who had to transfer schools). Sandringham East Primary School was really situated in the back blocks. Holloway Rd was an unmade dirt track. The East boundary of the school ground was pasture and Orchard. Children walked to school. School hours were from 9.15 to 4pm with many students walking home for an hour for lunch."

### Original Students - Lyla Davies (Lugg) and Joyce Heath (Bodsworth) - best friends

They are pictured below when they visited the school to discuss the 75<sup>th</sup> celebrations and Joyce spoke to students at Monday assembly. Joyce rode her bike from her home to Dingley to visit Lyla regularly and participated in bike rides around Victoria.



*Lyla Davies and Joyce Heath, Original Student 1931 – 1937*

One of the worst memories was when there was a polio epidemic in 1937 and the school was closed for 3 or 4 months, and we weren't allowed to play with our friends - we were very anxious to get back to school. In the 1930s Sandringham East Primary School catered to students from bubs (now Preps) through to grade 8. This was indicative of the times.

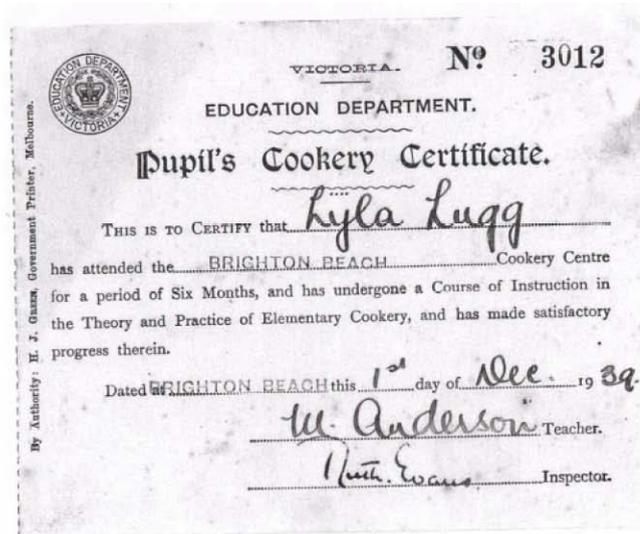
Many students did not go on to high school as it was not compulsory to attend and completed their education at grade 8 in primary school. School learning age ended at 14 years or earlier if you had your Merit Certificate. Those students who were looking to go on to high school sat Qualifying Exams at the end of grade 6 year. In the 1930s the local high schools were Hampton High School or Brighton Technical School - neither still exist today.

The back of the school property in the 1930s was all scrub and tea-tree and at lunch and break time kids use to make big huts out of the trees and break off the branches. The boys used to dig trenches in the ground out the back amongst the tea-tree and line them with planks and play war games. One of the best memories was the open fireplaces with lovely log fires in the winter.

The Head Teacher Mr Adamson wrote the message below in my autograph book.

*A simple maiden in her flower  
Is worth a hundred coats of arms.  
Sandringham East School. M. G. Adamson.  
21. 12. 37.*

Lyla recall... I loved playing sport, basketball (now netball) and rounders against other schools. In my time Sandringham East Primary School was very successful and we won several trophies. I remember that the Gardenvale basketball team were all very tall. In my day in netball the girls used to snatch at centre to start the game. I remember being made to learn our mathematic tables which were printed on the back of exercise books and learning to spell words listed in our school papers we had to learn them all for homework. I kept in close contact with two girls I started school with in 1931 at the age of 4 years.



*Lyla, pictured with her basketball.*

### **Joyce Heath (nee Bodsworth), Original Student 1931 - 1939**

The most important thing about Sandringham East Primary School was making friends with Lyla Davies (nee Lugg) which is a long life friendship – it's about laughing at the same things, really being understood unconditionally, it's about picking up right where you left off.

My best memory was playing team basketball for school competition I enjoyed sports and the School Annual Individual Sports Competition at Brighton Beach and swimming at Brighton Beach Sea Baths for certificates F.S.B. My worst memory was booking sewing classes at Brighton Primary School and EXAMS! In those days we had extreme discipline, which was difficult to come to school from loving parents and family, it affected my pleasure and learning in school years.

One morning play time my tennis ball rolled around to the front of the school. Except for arriving and departing from school, students were strictly not allowed at the front. I was seen by the Headmaster and was given three straps on both hands...OUCH!



*They are pictured with 2006 Prep students Jack and Charlie.*

In those days you learnt things by repetitive learning. In the classrooms there was the chanting sound of times table being read out aloud by everyone in the class. Classes and curriculum was the same format every day - regular reading, writing and arithmetic. I had to recite an individual poem and was off sick one day. The next day I had to come in and stand in front of the principal in his office and recite the poem by memory. Mine was 'Daffodils'.

*The picture (left) highlights 75 years of the school's history. Pictured from the left is Rosina Wilson, Florrie Brindley (nee Molloy), Lyla Davies and Joyce Heath.*

### **Florence Molloy, Original Student 1931**

I remember a particular teacher, Mr Rowell wasn't a nice man at all. He had two of his own sons at the school and I remember him kicking them. He had everybody in my grade crying. Even the boys - he had them all crying at times. He had it in for me, I was hopeless at school work. He said to me one day, "I'll make you cry yet".

Of course I went home and told Mum. And the next day up comes Mum to school with her basket on her arm to see the head and our class room was right next door to the office, and Mum was really having a go at him. I remember the boys in the class room where I was were saying, "Come on Mrs Molloy". He never had a go at me again.

### **Matt Molloy, Original Student 1931**

Here I am having trouble remembering what I did yesterday. I am faced with the task of having to go back 80 years. Some events stand out in my mind quite clearly though. I was going to Black Rock State School, when we were informed that the pupils living north of, and encircling Edward St. and Tulip St, were to attend Sandringham East State School. I am not sure of the date that the school was actually opened, but I do know that we Molloy's (6 of us) all started on that opening day. I recall that the school consisted of a cloakroom, four schoolrooms, an office, a quadrangle, a flagpole and boys and girls toilets (I remember that the boy's toilets had quite a low wall and the bigger kids tried to urinate over the wall as a dare.)

There were no shelter sheds in those first years and the school grounds had no back fence and comprised of dense tea tree. The east side of the paddock had some horses on it and also a very dense and big area of boxthorn. The girl's favorite past time seemed to be building huts in the tea tree, while the boys played what are now banned games, "hoppo bumpo, " British Bulldog, and cock fights. Sometimes we played footy and or bat and ball and when the grass was long we would have clod fights.

Ginger Brown would play his drum and gather forces of children while Bob Fisher would gather his supporters and all would throw clods of grass at each other until the grass was bare or we were stopped by teachers. Till the bitter end! This reminds me now of the Headmaster, Mr. Rowell, who without a shadow of a doubt was the first headmaster, and the worst man!

I remember like it was yesterday when he dragged myself, and other kids who were barefoot, out in front of the whole school and berated us for being little "tramps". It was the Depression and that episode left a huge impression, affecting my life and my future political leaning. He also said to my sister Rose that she was the only one that he had not made cry but he would eventually do so. She told Mum when she went home, and Mum being Mum went straight up to the school and tore strips off him. It got so heated that everyone in 7 and 8 could hear it and they all started clapping and cheering Mum! It wasn't long after that, that we had a new headmaster Mr. Adamson - "The Boss" as we affectionately called him. He was a wonderful man.

Some of my friends and fellow students died in the War. Don and Brad Aitkin, Bob Loudan, Wally Mcinalry all joined the navy and went down with the ship here in the bay. Wally Bodsworth, the Crisps, and the Saddingtons also fought in the war. Ginger Brown was the first Australian to be wounded in the Middle East. I remember Joyce Jones, whose books I used to carry.

Teachers have the most responsible job and have a tremendous influence on children. They see more of the child than fathers or mothers in their formative years.

### **Rose Molloy, Original Student 1931 – 1933**

There was a boy my brother used to fight all the time, and this boy had it all over him - used to beat him. So I remember the time my Dad said to him you go and give him the biggest hiding and I'll give you sixpence if you win. So unbeknownst to my bother, Dad followed him up to the school and he hid in the trees to watch them fight. And my brother beat him up and the boy left him alone after that.

Another brother of mine was hit in the eye with a stone that someone threw at school and went blind in both eyes. The specialists in the hospital were waiting for a surgeon to operate but he was lost in the war. By time they did anything his good eye went blind as well with infection. He ended up being Captain of the vision impaired cricket team.

He's a real inspiration, working for the Blind Association and teaching braille and he travelled doing work overseas for World Vision with the blind.

### **Tom Stayner, Student 1934 – 1940**

When I first started school we were still in the depression and many students came to school barefoot, we were given free milk, we walked miles and I think this did me good as I considered myself reasonably fit for my age.

I was frequently getting the strap, so one day when the teacher was called away, two of us got his strap and first cut it into two, and then with razor blades cut it into thin strips and fed it into the ventilator. Years later the teacher got in touch with me and asked whatever happened to his strap.

I sat behind a girl with long plaits, so I thought it would be a good idea to put one of her plaits in my ink well. When she got up the ink went all over her dress and I got 6 cuts with the strap and a big talk from her mother.

### **William (Winkie) Horn, Student 1932 - 1938**

I began at Sandringham East State School at age five and a half in 1932 and left after the 8th grade in 1938. It would probably be very difficult for present students to realise that there was no Secondary College on the Eastern side then as it wasn't built until much later and the fields stretched as far as the eye could see, and that's where we played sports whenever time permitted. Even across Nepean Highway at that time the open fields stretched for miles. Just beyond the school across Holloway Road it was also open land and during the spring there'd be many varieties of orchids for anyone interested to look for them.

It would be around 1934 I can remember a boy who brought a bag of cakes for lunch and there were a number of us who tried to get him to share them, but this was depression time and times were really tough for many people and reply was "you can't have any, these are the only cakes I'll have this year" so the rest of us went without.

We only went on three outings the whole time I was at school. The third outing was in 1934 during Melbourne's centenary celebrations, we were given the afternoon off to attend a film showing at the then Hampton cinema and if I remember correctly it was about Queen Victoria. However there were no school buses in those days and very few families had cars, consequently most of us had to walk and it was a long way particularly for small legs, but we made it.



*Class photo with 36 students in the class.*

### **Norm Sinclair, Student 1931 - 1937**

Mr. Adamson was the Headmaster and had a large black car I think a Buick, and one of the boys was stupid enough to scratch along the side of the car. The car was the Head's pride and joy so he was certainly not amused. Myself and two other boys were taken aside and given the strap even though we didn't do it...the culprit got away with it.

### **Dorothy Newman, Student 1930's**

I spent all my primary school days at Sandringham East Primary School in the 30's. I don't have a lot of memories about that time but know that it was enjoyable.

My cousin, Norm Sinclair, lived in the surrounding area. Norm was 8 years older than I.

His sister May Sinclair was in my grade all through the primary school days. I only remember very clearly that my last year there was spent in a portable class room and my teacher was Mr. Dent, and we could look out the window to see cows grazing in a paddock. This distraction did not affect me as I had high results. When my year in grade 8 was completed I had not reached leaving age of 14, so I spent a little time in the next year helping out with the primary classes before leaving and furthering my study at Zerchos' Business College.

### **Clarrie (Clarence) O'Mara, Student 1931**

Clarrie and his brothers Les and Bob and sister Thelma started in 1931. Another brother Alan also attended the school in later years. In that time there were no secondary schools to go to, so primary school went to year 7 and 8 and at the completion of this a Merit Certificate was awarded. Clarrie received his Merit Certificate in 1933. The school was made up from pupils from Black Rock State School and Sandringham State School, which included the O'Mara family.

"When I first arrived at my new school it consisted of the main brick building with toilets out the back and an asphalt assembly area. The school was surrounded by scrub and all the boys were put to work clearing the scrub and making a garden. The roads were unmade. Mr. Adamson was the principal and his wife also taught at the school. They had a car which they drove to school but everyone else used to walk to school. A cottage was built on the grounds for Mr. Wigg the caretaker and his family.

I remember when the school was officially opened and there were many dignitaries and all the parents came along for the occasion.

The subjects I remember studying were History, Geography, Maths and English and once a fortnight the boys went to Brighton School for woodworking classes and the girls went to another school for needlework classes. The students were asked to choose the school colours for football and they chose green and gold, because the Sandringham Amateur Football Club had those colours.

Every Wednesday afternoon was sport, the boys played football and cricket and the girls played rounders and basketball. All sport was played outside the school against other schools in the area. Some games were played in the paddock next to the school which is now the site of Sandringham Secondary College and others were played at the oval in Spring Street. The football competition between schools in the area culminated in the premiers of the Brighton district playing in finals against other districts at Olympic Park and Moorabbin oval. We had to walk to Sandringham Station to go to these matches and then walk from the station to the oval at the other end. My brother Les and I played in two district premiers sides. Inter School sports were held every year at Brighton Beach Oval and ribbons were awarded for the various athletic sports.

All the students were housed in the main building and the bubs class and Grade 1 and 2 were separated by folding doors. I think most of the older students had separate rooms. Some classrooms had open fires and the boys had to chop the wood for the fires every morning. I remember large fires in the classroom and the teacher would stand in front of the fire but all the students could not get warm and I was always very cold in winter.

Every Monday morning we had assembly and sang God Save the Queen and raised the flag. I think the flag was the Union Jack not the Australian Flag we know today. We all marched to our rooms to the beat of a kettle drum played by one of the students. On Anzac Day we always had a service and a speaker.

There were no footpaths in those days and the only made road was Bluff Road. We could walk across paddocks to Moorabbin Station. There was lots of skylarking walking to and from school and occasionally fights erupted between various groups.

We lived in hard times then and my family could not afford to send me to school any further. Once I left Primary School, I went to work in factories. Five years later I was apprenticed in Plumbing and I had to go back to Technical School and passed my Junior Technical Certificate at night school. This was around the start of the Great Depression and there was much hardship in the community. I found it very hard trying to study after work and I did not have very much knowledge of the subjects I was studying.

During this time bicycles became popular as transport and later on I took up competitive bike riding winning many competitions. I worked at plumbing for many years and went into my own business,

being a Master Plumber for 30 years. I retired from plumbing in 1980 and went to live in Frankston. I attended the 50th Year celebrations for the school in 1981 and met many old friends then and also at the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.



*The photo above shows Clarrie's footy team.*

### **A letter to Rob Cook from Lorna Osborne re: 1930's memories written in June 2006.**

Dear Rob, Unfortunately Bob is unable to communicate now so I will jot down what I can remember.

Bob never forgot Mr Adamson, his name has been mentioned over the last seventy years, quite often. Bob was quite good with his hands. He ended up working in metal work but he was equally good at woodwork, as he built our home. He gave Mr Adamson a model ship which was always displayed in his office. If Mr Adamson left anything at home, mostly his glasses, he would get Bob to ride his bike to Sandy Station (and) catch the train to his home in Gardenvale. He always said to me "I could pick the home out today." In Bob's eyes Mr Adamson was the best. There is no way this could happen today.

Bob played in the school band, played the drums. Apparently there were competitions in the area and Sandringham East Primary School came out tops. In 1936-37 there was a break out of infantile paralysis and some boy at Sandringham East Primary School developed it. Bob and others had to stay home for a short time.

Well Rob, they weren't always good boys. One day when the teacher left the room they had a fit of pen throwing, and they put something in the ink. Guess the kids today don't know what pens were like those days.

Bob was also on the School Council. His son Bruce, started school in 1956 and four years later his other son Neal, started. I am not sure the years he was on the S.C. but on one of these years it was voted to sell the bottom part of the school ground, and just keep enough for the laneway up from Bay Road, as the area in the other side of Bay Road was just developing, which is Hightett, and that is where our home is. Most of the oldies have gone from this area now and young people with families live here. Bob, Bruce and David - three generations at Sandringham East.

One of the ladies that attended School Council used to always complain about the men smoking, as her hair was full of smoke, and that didn't please her husband. I was a member of the Mothers' Club. Often up till midnight making things for the fetes and Mothers' Day gifts for the children to buy. I was Treasurer for some time. Jim Stephens and David Brewer, who started in 1931, have been friends all their lives. David passed away around 2004.

Now to the school motto, ONLY THE BEST. Well my grand-daughter came home, could have been the late 90's and said "Par they have changed the school motto". "What, What." Bob was lost for words. "You tell someone that can't be done". She did. The answer was, "you tell you Par he is old hat" or words to that effect. Just a little story about the school motto - Jim Stephens always said the two friends I know in my mind that have always lived up to the school motto were Bob and David. Jean Stephens was president Mothers' Club, late 50's to early 60's.

This is a note about a block of land next to Sandringham East Primary School where the Tech is or was. Bob's mother owned it and in 1948 the Department of Education. procured it and only paid 85 pounds 10 shillings. Bob's mother had paid 125 pounds for it. Our block here in 1947 cost us 69 pounds. Rob, hope this is some help.

For now, Cheers. Lorna Osborne

Lorna's husband Bob, children Bruce and Neal, and grandson David all attended Sandringham East Primary School.

### **Students today (July 2011) who attended Sandringham East Primary School in the 1930's**



*From left to right: Nancy Sturgess (nee Ford), Audree Dobson (Bouillon – a friend they've known since high school, but did not go to SEPS), Marcia Bennetts (nee Cowan), Nancy Gallagher (nee Fletcher), Kathleen Bunn (nee Gapes).*

Kathleen lived in Holloway Road when at the school and then 5 out of 6 of her kids also went to Sandringham East Primary School.

# World Events in the 1940's

**DIVORCE SUIT AGAINST DELYSIA — Page 2** WEATHER: Cold, Further Rain

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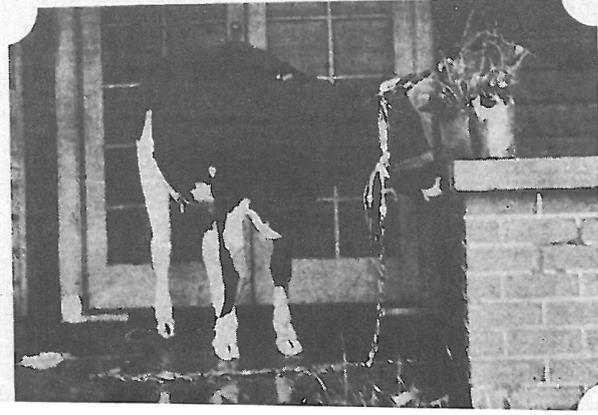
No. 3808 Registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne, for transmission by post as a Newspaper. Melbourne: Saturday, December 1, 1934 (40 Pages and 4 Page Supplement) 1

### MAROONED FAMILIES RESCUED BY POLICE AT HAWTHORN



WADING AT TIMES up to their armpits, three constables from Hawthorn yesterday rescued families in Kaikoura Avenue, who were trapped in their homes by flood waters from Gardiner's Creek. The rescues were effected as shown on the right.







1940 A team of scientists, under Howard Florey develops penicillin.

- 1940** Italy enters war, Royal Australian Navy engages Italian Navy in the early stages of the Battle of the Mediterranean.
- 1941** 3 Divisions of the the 2nd Australian Imperial Force join operations in the Mediterranean. After initial successes against Italy, 2nd AIF suffered defeat against the Germans in Greece, Crete, and North Africa.
- 1941** Apr-Aug, Australian garrison (*Rats of Tobruk*) halt advance of Hitler's panzers for the first time during the Siege of Tobruk.
- 1941** Menzies resigns and John Curtin becomes Prime Minister in the Curtin Government of 1941-45.
- 1942** Feb, Fall of Singapore. 15,000 Australians become Prisoners of War of the Japanese.
- 1942-43** Japanese air raids - almost 100 attacks against sites in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland.
- 1942** The Royal Australian Navy and 6th and 7th Divisions of 2nd AIF are recalled from Mediterranean Theatre to participate in the anticipated *Battle of Australia*.
- 1942-43** Sparrow Force engages in guerilla campaign in Battle of Timor.
- 1942** Battle of the Coral Sea - United States and Royal Australian Navy halt advance of the Japanese towards Port Moresby (Australian Territory of Papua).
- 1942** Battle of Kokoda Trail - Australian soldiers halt Japanese march on Port Moresby.
- 1942** Aug-Sep, Australian forces inflict the first defeat on the Imperial Japanese Army in the Battle of Milne Bay.
- 1942** Jul-Nov, Australia's 9th Division plays crucial role in the First and Second Battle of El Alamein, which turned the North Africa Campaign in favour of the Allies.
- 1942** National daylight saving is introduced as a war time measure.
- 1942** The UK *Statute of Westminster* is formally adopted by Australia. The Statute formally grants Australia the right to pass laws that conflict with UK laws.
- 1943** Australia wins its first Oscar, with cinematographer Damien Parer honoured for *Kokoda Front Line!* documentary.
- 1943** 2,815 Australian Pows die constructing Japan's Burma-Thailand Railway.
- 1943-44** Australian forces engage Japan in New Guinea, Wau, and the Huon peninsular.
- 1944** Cowra breakout, mass escape of Japanese prisoners of war occurs in NSW.
- 1944** Japanese inflict Sandakan Death March on 2,000 Australian and British prisoners of war - only 6 survive. The single worst war crime perpetrated against Australians.
- 1944** Australian forces battle Japanese garrisons from Borneo to Bougainville.
- 1944** The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is introduced, providing subsidised medicine to all Australians.
- 1945** The Liberal Party of Australia is established with Robert Menzies as its first leader.
- 1945** Australian forces lead Battle of Borneo.
- 1945** 7 May, Nazi Germany surrenders.
- 1945** July, Prime Minister Curtin dies and is replaced by Ben Chifley and the Chifley Labor Government.
- 1945** 14 August, Japan Surrenders.
- 1945** Australia becomes a founding member of the United Nations.
- 1945** The Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race is held for the first time.
- 1946** Minister for Immigration Arthur Calwell introduces the major post-war immigration scheme.
- 1946** Norman Makin, is voted in as the first President of the United Nations Security Council.

- 1948 Minister for External Affairs, Dr. H.V. Evatt is elected President of the United Nations General Assembly.
- 1948 Australia becomes a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- 1949 Construction of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme begins.
- 1949 All indigenous ex-servicemen and any Indigenous Australians who are eligible to vote in State Elections (NSW, VIC, SA and TAS) are given an unrestricted right to vote in Federal Elections.
- 1949 The Nationality and Citizenship Act is passed. Rather than being identified as subjects of Britain, the Act established Australian citizenship for people who met eligibility requirements.
- 1949 Menzies returns to power as leader of the new Liberal Party Menzies Government.

### **School Life at Sandringham East in the 1940'S**

- 1942 'Inspectors report' (July) – "During the past few months air-raid shelters in the form of slit-trenches have been placed in the school enclosure. These are being timbered and when completed adequate protection should be provided. Attendance at the school hampered as families fearful of air-raids." During the war years young male teachers were overseas fighting in the war effort. Consequently females predominated as teachers. The school functioned as normally as possible throughout the war years, many children seeing their fathers, if they were lucky once every two years or so. Many, however, lost their fathers or were reintroduced to them later as total strangers having spent many years overseas fighting. Clothes were rationed to children so children were weighed and measured annually, as any exceeding five feet and above a certain weight were granted additional coupons.
- 1944 School maintains a WW2 relief effort and raises funds by knitting and contributing to the War Savings Group.

### **Mystery Writing...from 1948**

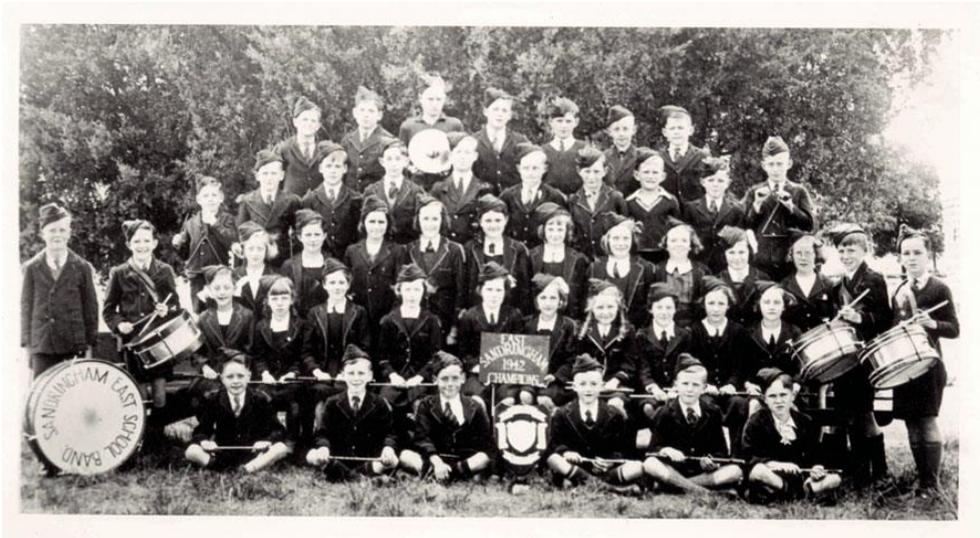
When renovations to the school were completed in 2004 a bookcase was removed with the names of John Crisp, Bob Miller, Gordon Higginbotham and Neil McNabb. After publicity in the Bayside Leader it was discovered that the bookshelf was made by Crisps Joinery. John Crisp worked for his father and the boys probably wrote their names when the bookshelf was being installed – great initiative! Neill McNabb, Bob Miller and Heather Crisp responded to the Newspaper with this information.



*Happy kids at Sandy East.*



*Students in Grade 4 – 49 of them in 1943.*



*School Band 1942.*



*Students in year 1 in 1944 – 40 students in the class!*

## **Recollections of the 1940's**

### **Ken Wilson, Student 1943 - 1948 ... 3 generation family**

'SPUDSY' Tate was the Head Master (Principal) at this time. He drove a Ford Pilot car with a gas producer fired by coal on the back. One of my jobs was to clean out the burnt out old coal weekly, and replace it with new coal. I would end up looking like a coal miner - filthy black. From memory there was only the main building, (grades 1-5), then a wooden building outside the last room.

The only heating was a pot belly stove near, of course, my teachers table, who's name was 'Fat' Burns. The stove was often fired mysteriously by wooden rulers after 'Fat' Burns had taken her anger out by rapping our cold white knuckles with the rulers!

At the end of Holloway Rd. there used to be a huge swamp full of frogs, tadpoles and other wild life. A great joy for us boys after school. We had 44 gallon drums cut in half, which we used as boats for adventure on the swamp. This later became the Dunlop or Good Year battery factory, now known as the Balmoral Estate.

We used to play football against Black Rock and Sandringham State Schools on the Spring St. destructor site (tip). It was not the best ground in Aussie.

I can also remember our school fife and drum band would always win their competition. We would also play at assembly in the mornings.

### **Barbara Roberts, Student 1943 - 1948**

Mr Carney was my grade 5 teacher. I asked him if he would write something in my autograph book and he wrote...

Life is mostly froth and bubble

Two things stand like stone

Kindness in another's trouble

Courage in your own.

I don't remember the poet's name but this verse has always stayed with me.

### **War years at the school...**

There were war bonds that children had and these were bought by paying something each week. Air raid practice occurred with very little preparation in this regard.

The school playground was divided into the boys side and girls side. This was from the middle of the original toilet block in the middle of the yard and consisted of a row of small growth trees that included lucerne trees (with white flowers and many bees) running from the back of the toilet block to the rear boundary. Girls played on the beach side of the trees and boys the Tech side which was farm land then. Air raid practice was for girls to run down and lay on the ground in a row alongside these trees. There may have been a shallow hollow but no formal trench dug and certainly no depth to it.

### **Home life during the war...**

My friends as far as I can recall all had their fathers at home during these years (perhaps their occupation prevented them from enlisting.) My father, a carpenter, enlisted but was rejected on health grounds so he joined the Civil Construction Corps and was sent to various places in Victoria and Queensland where men were required to fill the now existing vacancies due to the manpower shortage because of enlistments.

He was away for around 18 months. I remember mum would bake fruit cakes and these were mailed to (the Red Cross I think) for distribution to the soldiers. The cakes would be baked in a round tin that had a lid and were then wrapped in calico which was then securely stitched around the tin. She also knitted gloves or mittens and I think socks too.

Dad's family were from Guernsey, Channel Islands and the people there suffered terribly with food shortages with the German occupation soldiers having to be supplied first with what ever was produced or grown and the residents got what was left if anything at all. Mum used to send food parcels over including eggs which were packed into Golden Syrup tins that had been filled with

dripping, the dripping preserved the eggs and the dripping could be used as needed for eating/cooking.

We had fruit trees and a vegie patch, also chooks so we had plenty of jam and preserved fruit. I remember the ration books which the grocer dutifully cut out the required coupons. I think clothing and manchester were the hardest to buy and sheets were patched and clothes altered or passed on.

Petrol was very scarce and rationing continued after the war for several years, dad would syphon off a little each time he could buy petrol and saved this in a large container towards our annual holidays at Tooradin which was a very popular place at that time.

### **John Taubman, Student 1944**

**Principal Mr. Tate** (feared by the boys for giving the strap)

**Teacher Mrs. Gibbs** - Very nice lady, who rode her bicycle from her house in Rose Street and was married to the Station Master at Sandringham Station. She had her own young family.

**The Era** - The Second World War was taking place in Europe and in the Pacific. In Melbourne and suburbs we had blackouts at night all over windows had to be covered so that no lights were visible from the air for fear of Japanese planes. Food and petrol rationing in place, most cars were converted to gas producers.

**The Surroundings** - The area where Sandringham Secondary College is built was a large paddock with uncut grass. One boy in year 2, Rolly Brooksbank lived in a large tent with his father. (Times must have changed because he later attended Scotch College.). There were many grassed areas in the "Sol Green Estate" which was around Green Parade and Cooke Street, south of the school. At some stages gypsies frequented this area, descending on the suburb in groups. The ladies wore ankle length coloured dresses.

**School Attendance** - We walked to school, in my case from Royal Avenue through to Victoria Street and up to Bluff Road. Some of the older boys rode bicycles, occasionally they might give you a dink home from school. Victoria Street could be a trouble spot at times. On the north side occasionally boys heading in the opposite direction to the Sandringham Catholic School in Fernhill Road were renowned for their bullying. On the south side near the present Army property an eccentric lady, "old Ma Anderson" would stand at her front gate hurling abuse at the students going by and on a few occasions threw eggs at the students. The curriculum at school was much based on the "three R's". Handwriting was most important in Grade 1 and we all used "copybooks" to learn good handwriting.

**The Students** - John Randall became a top athlete, he represented Australia in the Commonwealth Games, competing with Kevin Gosper in the 440 yards sprint and 440 yards hurdles. I think the only students to go on to Melbourne University were Ian Batiste (Science) and John Taubman (Commerce). Ian became a school teacher and rose to be Deputy Headmaster at Brighton Grammar School, sadly he died of cancer in 1991. Margaret Cockcraft became a qualified Pharmacist.

### **Lorraine Mance (nee Wilks), Student 1948 – 1954**

Lorraine remembers with pride that she was Dux in 6th grade in 1954. She tells of a fearsome teacher Mr Cook and she was his favourite because she did her work well. Husband Alan says that Lorraine was a "goodie two shoes!" However Lorraine says the same cannot be said about husband Alan who she says was the naughtiest boy in the class! It seems that Alan has no good memories about Sandringham East Primary School because he was punished for his naughtiness.

### **Pat Shields (nee Moir), Student 1946 - 1948**

I transferred to Grade 4 at Sandringham East in 1946 from Murrumbeena Primary School, where we went through the war with air raid shelters across the playground and collected silver paper and toothpaste for the war effort. We were a part of a big influx into the area moving into brand new Housing Commission homes around the streets - Grange Road, Vincent Street and Duncan Avenue. My father had been in the Air Force so we were eligible for this housing.

My only recollection of grade 4 was that we were in a portable behind my grade 6 room, and we had a pot belly stove in the room for heating. We all tried to get as close to it as possible during the winter! We walked home from school through the tea-tree bush at the back of the school out onto

Bay Road.

The school had a Drum and Fife Band which played us into school in the mornings. I was always envious of the blazers the children in the band wore.

In 1947 we transferred into the main building and thought ourselves very grown up. Grade 5 and 6 had their own libraries – a shelf on the wall, and if we finished our work early we were allowed to take a book and read it. I think my love of reading stems from this time. We learnt to read with only our grade papers and the School Paper, which came out I think once a month. I still have my grade 5 School paper Cover.

Rationing was still in here, but things were very bad still in Britain and food parcels were sent from Australia to help feed the people. In Grade 5 we collected tins of food to send over, and our teacher let us write our names and addresses on the inside label. I bought a tin of Sweetened Condensed Milk, and duly wrote my name. Imagine the thrill to a ten year old to receive a letter from England thanking us all for the gift. I still have the letter – nearly sixty years old.

We also collected eggs from friends and neighbours for the big city hospitals, which were covered with “keep-egg” to preserve them as food was so scarce.

In Grade 6 I remember we had to learn a poem off by heart and then go one by one into the Headmaster’s office and recite it for him. It was a fearful exercise, but I can still recite the poem today, aged 69. Being of Scottish descent I chose “My Heart’s in the Highlands.” We also all had to learn “My Country” by Dorothea McKellar.

Our school ground was divided down the middle by a tea-tree hedge with the girls and boys strictly segregated. We “big girls” discovered that when playing rounders, a good hard, high whack with the bat would send the ball clear over the hedge into the boys’ yard, enabling some girl a legitimate reason to enter this forbidden area, and the batter time to make a home run. I was a very good batter!

We also had two student teachers that year, Mr Pope and Miss Pople, which we thought was an omen, and we delighted in trying to bring them together. Poor things, they were probably so embarrassed.

These are my vivid recollections, and I hope they are of some interest. I loved my time at Sandringham East Primary School, and also at Hampton High, and I think these good vibes encouraged me when I went into teaching as a mature age student in my late thirties. I had sixteen wonderful and rewarding years as a primary teacher, and I hope my teachers had just as happy a time as I did.

59 Fairfield &  
Bramley.  
Leeds.  
Yorkshire.  
England.

Jan. 12/48.

Dear Miss Moit,

You may wonder why I am writing this letter, as I am a stranger to you. Well, the reason for my writing to you is that my husband and I, being old age pensioners, received a parcel from Australia. They were given out by the Lord Mayor of Leeds. On one tin of sweetened milk we found your name and address written on the label. So we decided to take this opportunity of writing to you and thanking you, and all the other people of Australia, who were kind enough to make contributions towards the parcels for such people as ourselves.

The food situation here is not all that could be denied, so you will understand how grateful

We were to receive the parcel. And in our case it was especially welcome, as it helped us to make a nice tea to celebrate our Golden Wedding anniversary, which took place last week.

So once again we say many thanks to you, and we wish you all the very best of luck for this New Year.

I remain,  
Yours very sincerely,  
Mrs. G. Cobbold.

Letter of thanks received by Pat Shields from England after she sent a food parcel during the war years.

37 students in grade 6 with Pat Shields (nee Moir) Pat cut herself from this photo as she didn't like the photo of herself!

SANDRINGHAM EAST P.S.  
GRADE 6  
1948



Back Row: 1.X, 2.Malcolm Johns, 3.Barry Johns (twins), 4.X, .  
5.? Brooksbank, 6.X, 7.Gary Dove, 8.X, 9.? Henry,  
10.X, 11.X, 12.Brian Burnell.

Centre Row: 1.Joan Middleton, 2.X, 3.Greta Hayton, 4. X,  
5.Marjorie Usher, 6.Beverley Bowe, 7.Pat Moir (I didn't  
like my photo, so cut myself out!), 8.X, 9.Ann Neil,  
10.Ida Morey, 11.Janet Ainsworth??

Front Row: 1.George Mance, 2.Rex ?, 3. X(American boy), 4.X,  
5. Valerie ?, 6.Joan Corrie, 7.X, 8.X, 9.X, 10.X.

On Ground: 1. Mick ?, 2. Dick Wall ?, 3.X, 4.X.

46 Edward Street,  
Sandringham S.S.

7-12-46

The Honourable, The Minister for Public Instruction,  
Treasury Buildings,  
Melbourne, C.2.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to request that I be granted permission to send my son Shane Lachlan Carney to State School Sandringham East next year. He is now five years and will be commencing school after the Christmas vacation. We live on the border of the Black Rock and Sandringham East zones, my house being on the Black Rock side of the street.

My wife has had an operation for cancer, and has to attend her doctor for periodical examinations. As there is always the dread uncertainty that she may have to go to hospital for further treatment, it would add greatly to the peace of mind of both of us if I were granted permission to take Shane to the school at which I teach.

I am enclosing the permit so do this granted by the Black Rock School Committee, and should deem it a great kindness if you would sanction this course of action.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
W. J. Carney.

Letter from Mr Carney who taught at Sandy East requesting that his son attend the school with him.

### **Dorothy Singleton (nee Potter), student 1940 - 1945**

My parents and I came to Australia from Vienna, Austria. Some of my friends from those days in Sandringham tell me they were interested in my family as we were a little different in the totally "anglo" locality. I was never aware of this.

I used to live above our Grocery on Bluff Rd in Black Rock. The shop has been used for various businesses over the years, including a restaurant. A golf links was opposite and a tram ran along Bluff Rd, past the shops from Sandringham to Black Rock and back. I could look out of my upstairs bedroom window and watch people playing golf in all weathers.

The one strong memory I have from those days is 'conducting' the fife band. I think that's when my love of teaching began. I taught for short periods in schools in Victoria, mainly Mt Eliza and then moved to Sydney where I taught for 25 years at Oyster Bay School.

I remember having a birthday party at my friend's house. It was later sold to Bob and Hazel Hawke whose children (Susan, Steven and Roslyn) went to Sandringham East State School.

## World Events in the 1950's



**1950-53** Australian troops are sent to the Korean War to assist South Korea.

**1950** Voters reject a referendum to change the Constitution to allow the Menzies Government to ban the Communist Party.

**1951** Australia signs the ANZUS treaty with the United States and New Zealand.

- 1952 First nuclear test conducted in Australian territory by the United Kingdom off the coast of Western Australia.
- 1954 Elizabeth II and Prince Philip make a royal visit; the Soviet diplomat Vladimir Petrov defects, leading to the Petrov Affair and another split in the Labor Party.
- 1955 Democratic Labor Party splits from Australian Labor Party over concerns of Communist influence in the labour movement.
- 1955 Australia becomes involved in Malayan Insurgency.
- 1955 Hotels in New South Wales no longer have to close at 6 p.m., ending the "six o'clock swill".
- 1956 Television in Australia is launched.
- 1956 Melbourne holds the Olympics.
- 1956 performing artist Barry Humphries introduces Edna Everage to the Australian stage.
- 1957 the song "Wild One" makes Johnny O'Keefe the first Australian rock'n'roller to reach the national charts.
- 1957 Slim Dusty's Australian country music hit '*Pub With No Beer*' becomes the first Australian song to attain international chart success.

## **School Life at Sandringham East in the 1950's**

Much of Sandringham East's school correspondence throughout the 50's to the Department of Education is connected by the common call for additional classroom space to accommodate the growing school population. Unlike the years of the Depression decade, the school begins to develop and funding is granted for more than just primary accommodation. Attendances rise to 507 students and as a result the present east wing was constructed at a cost of 15, 684 pounds. Together with this major addition, the school is also granted subsidies for its first shelter shed in response to an inundation of neighbours complaints about bicycles being left against private fences, both a danger to neighbours and "unsightly to boot."



*49 year 1 students in 1950*



Yet while food and health issues are at the foreground of the mid 50's, far more serious events emerge. Head teacher, Hassall writes in June of 1955: *"At 10.45 am today a fire broke out in the roof of a wooden detached classroom, but little damage was done owing to the promptness of the Sandringham Fire brigade. ...I feel I must commend the actions of the teacher in charge of the Grade, Mrs. R. J. Mathews who got the 56 children out of the room and to a safe distance to it, very quickly and without any panic or bustle whatsoever. After lunch the students went back into their classroom but the Army stove cannot be used until it is reinstalled."*

While stoves posed a constant threat to classroom safety, overcast days and insufficient lighting caused discontent. Rowland Hassall writes again in one of his many reports to the Department of Education, "on dull days in June, it is very difficult for the children to read the work set on the blackboard or from their textbooks."

Natural light on bright days was sufficient to study by but he requests that "electric light be installed" as some classrooms are just too dark." Calls for better lighting leads to pleas for modern heating systems as the old fire places were becoming labor intensive and ineffective in cost. It was estimated in the mid 50's that the cost of overhauling the entire heating system would be 1,900 pounds and would save the money in costs for cleaning and firewood.

Enormous changes were made to the facilities of the grounds in the 50's and The Mother's Club and the School Committee were instrumental in calling for these changes. They were the first body to set the process moving in establishing a library for the school. They raised monies to provide books and other equipment. But it would be several years before the hope of a library would be realized.

John Fields, the Hon Sec. Parent's Committee writes in his letter to the Department of Education "that since the Headmaster of the school is without any modern office equipment, it is only fair that he receive a typewriter and a spirit duplicator. The time saved having this machinery would "easily cover the cost of the typewriter and duplicator for one year".

In the 1950s Australia entered a more prosperous age and education of older children was given higher priority. It was then that the majority of students started going on to high school and grades 7 and 8 were phased out of primary schools. In the 1950's the first year of school (previously known as bubs) was changed to Preps.

## **The school houses**

The school houses started in the late 1950s. Houses were named after Australian explorers.

Hovell	William Hovell (1786-1875) was an English sea captain and was known as Hume and Hovell who traveled from Sydney to Port Phillip Bay in the course of exploration to Spencer Gulf, in South Australia.
Batman	Named after John Batman (1801-1839) the early settler and explorer, known as the 'Founder of Melbourne'.
Mitchell	Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, (1792-1855) led four expeditions of exploration and carried out most of the surveys of Eastern Australia, which led to new grazing lands being established in southern Victoria.
Sturt	Charles Sturt (1795-1869) solved the riddle of the inland river systems in NSW and SA. He discovered and named the Murray River and Lake Alexandrina.

For more information on these explorers log onto the following website under A for Australia Explorers. <http://www.kidcyber.com.au>.

## **Recollections of the 1950's**

### **Jillian Molloy, Student 1950 – 1957**

Jillian was one of the first 2nd generation of Sandringham East Primary School families to come through Sandringham East Primary School. Her mother Rose, Aunty Florence, all her cousins and brothers and sisters went to Sandringham East Primary School.

I still have life long friends that I made at school. My worst memory was of my 6th grade teacher Mr. Cooke.

My best memories were leading the school band at morning assembly but I couldn't play the instrument – flute. I wore the special blazer with braid on it in leaders position.

### **John Frederick Bryant, Student 1956 – 1962 (Current Instrumental Music Teacher)**

One of my best memories from school was being asked to play number one drum for Monday team practice in grade 3 and then being asked to join the band, which normally didn't happen till grade 5. My career in music and teaching all began here as Band Captain training the drummers. Playing drums was a large part of my life at school. I used to collect the drums from the main foyer, and set up and play for assembly. It was always exciting.

The band in the 50's and 60's was a drum and fife band. The girls usually played the fife and were trained by one of the teachers. The boys playing drums were trained by the captain and vice-captain. Band practice took place on a Wednesday morning before school at 7:45 in the middle shelter shed which is now the Japanese Room. I was captain in grade 6 with Doug Dalton as vice captain. Students would have their own drumsticks and we would teach them drum patterns and sequences on the seats before they would go on a drum. The captain and the vice captain would choose the band and draw up a roster under consultation with the Headmaster. The band would play at assembly "God Save the Queen" and then the students would march into class each day. There were also special times the band would play during class time such as for the marching team practice before school sports.

During my time at Sandringham East Primary School I learnt recorder at school which started me reading music and Trombone with the Sandringham Junior Brass Band. I can remember bringing my Trombone to school in grade 6 and performing to the class. Most students had not had that experience before, however these days it is quite common to see and hear all the instruments. Bands in primary schools have changed very much in the last ten years with the advent of Concert Bands. Sandringham East has contracted Musicorp P/L to provide a program for several years now. Students learn a wide range woodwind, brass and percussion instruments and form the concert band. These days we have the opportunity to get together with other schools that run the same program and have music workshop days.

Our grade five teacher used to send a student to pick up lunch orders from the fish shop on the corner of Bluff and Bay Roads. The student's nickname was "Tom" and he would drive his imaginary truck down the corridor making revving sounds and honking his horn. He would then park it and come in to collect orders, always about 15 minutes before lunch.

It is amazing to think that I am back at my old school teaching band in 2011.

### **Robert Cook, Student 1955 –1960**

I was the flag monitor for the crossing in Bluff Road. I played music in the fife band although I couldn't read a note of music. I picked it all up by ear but I don't think the music teacher ever realized.

I enjoyed being able to do the schoolwork without any trouble. Today I would probably be called a "nerd". I remember I was so bad at sport on Friday afternoons that I got to mow the front lawn instead. It sure suited me.

I remember one thing that annoyed me was that my best friend's father was a doctor and if we had been kept in he was always allowed to go as the doctor must not be kept waiting. Very unfair, I thought. My first memory of the school houses was in 1959.

### **Jennifer Cook, Student 1952 - 1953**

As a disabled person, it was great to be so unconditionally accepted by staff and students at Sandringham East Primary School. I only attended in the afternoons as I still had to complete each day's schoolwork from correspondence school first. My worst memory is witnessing for the first time in my life, two students receive the strap for misbehaving.

As I arrived at school each afternoon, on a specially modified bike, there was much jostling by students to "help" carry my books as fast as possible and then take turns riding my bike!

After some years of schooling at home, I was helped by Sandringham East Primary School teachers to speak up and join discussions, increase my confidence, cope with day to day activities in strange surroundings, accept help when needed.

While scoring for basketball, I was knocked totally off my bike by a direct (accidental) hit to the side of my head by the ball. Not injured but caused much consternation for school. Our family saw the funny side of this for years.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Sandringham East Primary School and there always seemed to be something I could do when an alternative activity was needed, scoring, rope-turning, sorting equipment, relaying messages, etc. I was quite spoilt by students and made totally welcome by all.

### **Patricia Richards (nee Cook), Student 1951 – 1956**

Both my best and worst memories are of teachers. My worst was when I first started school I had a teacher, Mrs Gibbs. She frightened the hell out of me, she was very overpowering. My best memories were when I was in Year two and had a teacher, Mrs Ebbs and she was very nice and helped to make the day as pleasant as possible.

When I started school I thought that lunch time was home time so I started to go home and my mum came to explain to me it was only lunch time. I had eaten my lunch at recess so I was very confused.

The teacher in Year 5 was Mr Sword who would always say, "Keep it up and keep going and going and work hard and you will succeed".

I got into a bit of trouble when in Year 2 we were told to spell "any" and most of the class spelt it "eny" so we all had to write it out 20 times, but we didn't forget how to spell the word.

My biggest and proudest memory is I had to look after my big sister when she came to the school in Year 5 and 6, two half days a week. She rode her 3 wheeler bike. She is a spina bifida and now in a wheelchair and she drives a hand controlled car.

### **John Wilson, Student 1951**

The band had about 20-30 fife players and about 4 kettle drummers and 1 base drummer. I was 3rd drummer after Rod Neal who was 1st and Peter Clarkson who was 2nd. If you were looking down on the band in the quadrangle it formed a square with the 5 drummers spread out enough to make up the back line and then the fife players made up another 4-5 lines standing in front of us. All the drummers were boys and – I think – all the fife players were girls. We stood at the back of the assembly.

I recall we played most mornings for assembly and each class peeled off and marched into their rooms to the beat of the music. The march that we perfected and which we played most of the time was 'Moonlight & Roses' (I heard it recently on Golden Days Radio and was riveted to the spot). I think we had 'Colonel Bogey' pretty well off pat as well. The 'Band Room' was the 4th grade room, which was on the east side of the quadrangle (Basel Bookworm's room).

No uniform was required for the normal everyday playing but we took a great pride in the blazer that was required when we went into band competitions with other schools. The blazer was a sort of felt and was midnight blue. Around all the edges on the blazer, including the pockets, our mothers had to sew on a braid, which was green, and gold twisted together. I loved the look of the finished article. The blue, green and the gold had a magic about them. I suppose it is the night sky, nature and the sun.

I recall going to a town hall somewhere in a bus with the band so I guess we won a local competition and then went to compete against various winners from other areas of Melbourne. I remember we did not win this level, as we never went on any further.

### **Beverley Broad, Student 1950's**

Hi my name is Beverley Broad and my siblings and myself attended your school in the 1950's. My sisters are Maureen Daniels and Sandra Myrwoda who is the Principal of McKinnon Primary and my brother Philip is a pilot in Queensland. We have all been successful in our adult lives, maybe from the start we achieved at Sandringham East!

### **Christine Douglas (nee O'Mara), Student 1952**

I commenced school at Sandringham East State School on 6th February, 1952. I remember this very well because it was my 6th Birthday. My teacher in Bubs was Mrs. Gibbs and I remember her as being very strict. I wasn't very happy in this first year of school and was very frightened of Mrs.

Gibbs. I don't remember learning very much in my first year, but I do remember the readers and how I loved to read them to my parents. In the following years I got to like school more and I was in the school band, played basketball and generally had a good time. I began to show an interest in Geography and this interest has stayed with me. As my father recollected Monday morning assemblies, we too had these assemblies and being in the band, we got to play God Save the Queen and then marching tunes while the other children marched to their classrooms. I played the fife at first but graduated to the flute when I was older

I was always small for my age, and my nickname was Tine (pronounced Teenie), Tiny, Titchy, Weeny and I got called this a lot. I hated it. Playing basketball I was always the smallest in the team and got knocked around quite a bit. I was always going home with grazed knees. I wasn't very good at athletics but I always enjoyed trying out for teams and supporting school teams at the interschool athletic meetings.

In Grade 4 we had a teacher called Mr. Matthews who encouraged me to research our family history for a project. I wrote to the local newspaper, which was then the Standard, and asked them if they could send me any information on the O'Mara family pioneers. The result was a half page article in the newspaper with the headlines "HERE'S YOUR ANSWER, CHRISTINE". This article provided a lot of information not only on my family but other pioneering families in Sandringham and became a great source of information for the whole grade. Needless to say I got very good marks for that project. Mr. Matthews always called me "Connie" after Connamara in Ireland, and said that with a name like O'Mara I must have Irish blood in me. I always insisted that we were Australian.

I left after Grade 6 and continued my studies at Highett High School until Year 11, after which I went to Business College and then onto work as a Secretary. I remember my time at Sandringham East Primary School with great fondness and look forward to attending this celebration.

### **Hayden Bingham, Student 1952**

My brother, sister and I along with four of our cousins attended Sandringham East State School between June 1952 (me) to about 1965. Three of my nieces and nephews attended in the 70s and 80s. One of the teachers in our time - Miss Harper - taught my sister in about 1956; she also taught my mother at Sandringham State School in 1930/31. In my 6 1/2 years at the school (I was part of the huge intake of "baby boomers" whose commencement in the "Bubs" was staggered in two intakes) the staff were: Headmaster - Mr R Hassell, Infant Mistress - Miss Nixon, Grade 1 - Mrs Hargreaves, Grade 2 - Miss Francis, Grade 3 - Mr Matthews, Grade 4 - Mr Dunnell, Grade 5 - Mr Sword, Grade 6 - Mr Cook.

Other teachers in those days were the formidable Mrs Gibbs, Mrs McCartney, the much loved Miss Murphy, Mrs Dewan and her sister, Mr MacKellar and the venerable Mr Ramsey to name a few. Miss Simpson came in to teach singing and married Mr Sword. Mrs Dunnell from the Salvation Army and Miss Hand, a Deaconess from Sandringham Presbyterian Church, attended to our Religious Instruction. The members of my family who attended in the 50s and 60s are: myself Hayden Bingham, Sally Bingham, Lindsay Bingham, Judith Wilson, Stephen Wilson, Andrew Wilson and Melinda Wilson. My sister's children attended in the 70s and 80s - Adam, Brendan and Catherine Ladd.

The school was quite primitive compared with the ones my children teach in today. It consisted of the main brick building along the unmade Holloway Road and two metal portables plus a small wooden "ye olde country schoolhouse style" classroom. The toilets were disgraceful - open top brick building divided in two for the boys and girls. The wing alongside the Tech School was built about the mid 1950s. There was no such thing as a canteen - a woman collected our lunch orders and delivered them in a handcart from a milk bar half way up Bay Road hill. You could also lodge an order with the Tuck Shop on the corner of Holloway and Bluff. Many kids, myself included, walked home for lunch - quite safe in those days as there were always people on the streets and tracks around the school area. It was a grim place comfort wise, but we had a lot of fun and accepted the freezing cold buildings (boiling in summer), dreadful toilets and muddy school yard as the norm in those days.

The staff, with a few exceptions, were caring and nurturing - although physical punishment was rife for miscreants and anyone associated with them!



*Class with Hayden Bingham and friends in 1958 with 44 students in the class.*

### **Bernice Coleman, Parent 1957 – 1971**

Three of our children attended Sandringham East Primary School between '57 and '71 going from Prep – Year 6 before attending secondary school. Living next door to the school Principal, Mr Rowland Hassell, they and other children who lived in the street were often taken in the head teacher's car.

Each school morning hands could be seen waving goodbye from the car as they set off. I've often wondered how many head teachers would set off to school with a few of their pupils in the car? Being a trained infant teacher myself I was often called upon in an emergency and therefore had another personal involvement with the school.

### **Keith Nance, Student 1953 – 1958**

We lived in Miller Street and some of my earliest memories are walking up the narrow lane to the schoolyard with my good mate, Peter Ralston. One of the teachers that I remember was Mrs. Gibbs the "bubs" teacher, some-one that every student seems to remember. There was also Mr. Sword, who was the sports teacher and I think taught fourth or fifth grade.

The most memorable was Mr. Cook, the sixth grade teacher who had all of us terrified of his Friday morning Maths Tests, but looking back he remains one of the most innovative teachers I have had. What other sixth grade teacher would have made his students learn by heart fractions, decimals, and not just ordinary multiplication tables but up to 19 times tables.

I have wonderful memories of Sandringham East Primary School and I still see at Kingston Heath Golf Club ex-students such as Andrew Jamieson, Kingsley Parkes and Ray Pascoe. Ray only recently gave me a photo of the 1956 school football team of which we were both in. Unfortunately the photo was in black and white not the famous green and gold!

### **Joan Nance, Parent 1950's**

My son, Keith Nance, has already sent you an email, and I asked him if he mentioned the fire, to which he replied that he had no memory of such. We lived very close to the school, and one day when Keith was in Grade I, he was back home within 10 minutes, and when I asked why, he replied "school's burnt down". (A small boy's dream!) Apparently the two grades in the prep school had had a fire. I cannot remember the name of his teacher at that time, it was not Mrs. Gibbs, but I do know that she was extremely concerned, as in her class room she had photos of all the little children she had taught over the years, and they had gone. I was able to replace one of Keith's for her, and I presume other parents did also.

My daughter, Glenda Nance, attended the same school, running a year behind Keith, and although Keith would not have told you, we were very proud parents, as both children became dux of the school, and have gone on to have very successful careers. It was a very happy school and I am glad that as parents we were fortunate to have had the care of the staff and headmaster of Sandringham East State School, as it was called then.

## World Events in the 1960's

# JOHN KENNEDY ASSASSINATED

**P**RESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY, 46, was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, early today (Melbourne time).

He was shot down as he drove in a motor parade through the streets of Dallas — and he died in hospital soon after.

The President, who was driving in an open car with the Texas Governor, John Connally, slumped to the floor as a burst of shots rang out.

His wife, Jacqueline, cradled his head in her arms as secret service agents raced to the car.

Australian Associated Press, reporting the news, said that police had detained a youth almost immediately after the shooting.

## Rushed to hospital

Governor Connally, wounded in the back by the shots, was also rushed to hospital.

A secret service agent, Clint Hill, who was assigned to the President, said: "He's dead" as the President was lifted from his car.

The President died at 5 a.m. Melbourne time.

After the burst of gunfire cut down the President he was rushed to hospital where blood transfusions were given.

Priests were summoned to his bedside for the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church.

Mrs Kennedy, who was unhurt, sobbed "Oh, no", as the President slumped back with a shot in his head.

## Slumped over

The assassination took place near a three-highway intersection, close to the business area of the city.

Within seconds of the shooting, Mr Kennedy slumped over in the back seat of the car, face down.

Mr Connally lay on the floor of the rear seat.

Three bursts of gunfire, apparently from automatic weapons, were heard. Secret service men immediately unslung their automatic weapons and pistols.

Mrs Kennedy and the Governor's wife, who was also in the car, both crouched over the inert forms of their husbands as the big double-topped car sped towards the hospital.

The President was conscious as he arrived at the hospital.

Vice-President Lyndon Johnson, who now becomes President of the United States, was in the car immediately behind the President.

He is to be sworn into office as soon as possible.

A White House medical officer said President Kennedy was shot in the right temple. "It was a simple matter of a bullet right through the head," he said.

The identity of the assassin or assassins was not immediately known but one young man near the scene of the shooting was taken into custody.

A television reporter on the scene said he saw a rifle being withdrawn from a window on the fifth or sixth floor of an office building shortly after the shooting.

## Vast dragnet

The President died in hospital three quarters of an hour after the shooting.

Immediately after the shooting police spread a vast dragnet over the city as they hunted for the assassin.

The Associated Press of America said authorities believed the fatal shots were fired by a white man. The murder weapon was reportedly a 30-30 calibre rifle.

12,841. Melbourne, Saturday, November 23, 1963. 56 Pages ( Film 4-Part Back Guide )

MR KENNEDY      MRS KENNEDY      MR JOHNSON

## "... Something awful, tragic"

**D**ALLAS, Sat.—Senator Ralph Yarborough, who was riding behind the President in the motorcade, described today's shooting this way . . .

"You could tell something awful and tragic had happened," he said, crying.

"I could see a Secret Service man in the President's car wringing his hands in anger, anguish and despair."

One eye witness of the shooting said President and Mrs Kennedy were looking at a dog in the middle of the street when the gunfire came.

"There were three shots.

The President grabbed his chest and fell over his seat and Jackie fell over him," the eye witness, Mrs Jean Hill, said.

Another eyewitness said that immediately another shot rang out he saw a policeman fall to the ground, pull his pistol, and yell "Get down."

He went on: "A negro man across the street picked up his little girl and ran. A woman nearby fainted."

- 1962 Robert Menzies' *Commonwealth Electoral Act* provided that all Indigenous Australians should have the right to enrol and vote at federal elections, removing remaining restrictions applying in QLD, WA and NT.
- 1962 Malayan Insurgence ends.
- 1964 The Beatles tour Australia. 82 sailors die when HMAS *Voyager* sinks after being rammed by HMAS *Melbourne*. The editors of *Oz* magazine are charged with obscenity.

PM Robert Menzies announces the reintroduction of compulsory military service for men aged from 18–25 years old. First troops sent to Vietnam War.

- 1965** Indigenous Australians gain right to vote in state of Queensland.
- 1966** The ban on the employment of married women in the Commonwealth Public Service is lifted. Menzies retires as Australia's longest-serving Prime Minister and is succeeded by Harold Holt.
- 1966** Decimalisation - on 14 February the Australian currency is changed to dollars and cents, with the Australian Dollar replacing the Australian pound.
- 1967** Large areas of Hobart and south-eastern Tasmania are devastated by bushfires on 7 February that kill 62 people. Prime Minister Holt drowns and is succeeded by John Gorton. The constitution is changed to allow Aboriginal Australians to be included in the population count and for the federal government to legislate for them. Sydney is rocked by a series of brutal underworld killings; talkback radio is introduced. British comedian Tony Hancock commits suicide in Sydney; Gough Whitlam becomes leader of the Labor Party. Ronald Ryan becomes the last person legally executed in Australia.
- 1968** Australia signs the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Aboriginal boxing champion Lionel Rose defeats Masahiko "Fighting" Harada in Japan to become the world bantamweight champion. Australia's first liver transplant operation is performed in Sydney.
- 1969** French conceptual artist Christo 'wraps' Little Bay in Sydney; renowned author-artists Norman Lindsay and May Gibbs die. The Australian production of the rock musical *Hair* premieres in Sydney. Top pop groups The Easybeats and The Twilights break up. Tim Burstall directs *2000 Weeks*, the first all-Australian feature released since Charles Chauvel's *Jedda* in 1958.

The decade of the 60's and 70's defines a period and a spirit of great change. Traditional political, social and religious practices were challenged by a generation of the children of the baby boom. The Department of Education underwent review and in 1960 the Ramsay Report outlined a plan for these challenges and the role of the school in the community, promoting the idea that students should forgo the "pleasant present" for the sake of "future prospects." Schools were beginning to deal with new ways of teaching science and the introduction of new technology.

## **School Life at Sandringham East in the 1960's**

By the early 1960's enrolments at Sandringham East Primary School continued the rise above 500 students while the corresponding staffing body consisted of 15 members. Fourteen classrooms existed and enrolments were steady and it was considered these numbers were likely to remain stable.

Today there are junior classes with a ratio of 1:21 compared to the classes of above 40 students in earlier days. The schools budget, staffing and room allocation depends on the number of students enrolled on Census day in February of each year. Today in 2011 we have 17 classrooms with 433 students and 18.5 teachers – an average of 23 whilst in the 60's the average was 36 students per class.

## **Recollections of the 1960's**

### **Memorium to George Boyd, Teacher 1962 - 1992**

George Boyd taught at Sandringham East Primary School for 30 years, retiring in 1992. He was one of those teachers whose name came up repeatedly in the preparation for this history.

Recurrent memories of George include him playing his favorite outdoor activity – continuous cricket and doing his signature 'hand stands' outside the classroom to reward good classroom behavior. While George was not the only teacher to utilise corporal punishment, the cane, ruler and strap feature in many memories of early education, 'Clarence' the strap, does make an appearance in many memories of Mr. Boyd. They recall part of the ritual of being introduced to Clarence included

Mr. Boyd rubbing his hands together and saying "You beauty". The strap was phased out by Principal Ron Palmer in the early 1980s but still sits above the mantle shelf in the Principal's office as a part of our history.

Unfortunately George Boyd passed away on December 27th 2005. We recognize his contribution to the students at Sandringham East Primary School. A plaque is still in place above the room where George spent most of his teaching days.

Speaking with his wife Nancy she remembers those students who were inspired to become teachers after themselves being taught by George. She says that when computers came into the school George was the reluctant learner and Frank Fielding pleaded with George to have just one computer to keep the parents happy – students ended up teaching George and he was hooked on technology after that!



TEACHER George Boyd with his wife, Nancy, left, and daughters Tamra, seated, and Narelle ... happy with the Sandringham primary school he has taught for 25 years. 21/10/02

## Surprise gift pleases teacher

SANDRINGHAM East Primary School recently presented teacher George Boyd with a ballpoint pen in appreciation of his services to the school for 25 years.

Mr Boyd was delighted with the gift, but said it was so smooth, "I'm almost scared to write with it".

He said the presentation was a complete surprise.

He was called to the front of a general assembly, after a school choir performance, to receive a "This is your Life" speech by the

vice-president of the school council, Mr Tony Johnstone.

The school had arranged also for Mr Boyd's wife, Nancy, and his two daughters, Tamra and Narelle, to attend the ceremony. His son, George, was unable to attend.

Mr Boyd said his most memorable experience at the school had also been his most unpleasant.

After being at the school for only six months, he was told by the principal that his teaching did not correspond with Sandringham Primary's standards.

Mr Boyd said that students' expectations at Sandringham Primary

were totally different to those of pupils at previous schools in which he had taught.

After complying with the new requirements, Mr Boyd said he has been happy there ever since.

In fact, he was so satisfied with life at Sandringham East Primary that he planned to remain there until he retired.

He said that as a Grade 6 teacher, he found it rewarding to help pupils make the transition from primary to secondary, and to see that "they are not behind before they start".

— MELISSA CROSBIE

*George Boyd's retirement from Sandringham East.*

*The quick brown fox  
jumps over the lazy dog*

Many students remember the writing practice sentence above which used most letter of the alphabet for the handwriting style.

### **Marg Hendrie, Parent 1959 -1972**

Although our family lived at No 16 Holloway Road, Sandringham for 13 years from 1959 to 1972, my memories of the school and its activities are more general than specific. Our house was directly opposite the main entrance to Sandringham East Primary (in fact the original name of it was Reno Park, from whence the names of Reno Road and Park Avenue evolved) The rear portion of the house is still there to this day, with the veranda around the front, and the entrance on the side.

The main part of the house was demolished long before 1959 and two houses were built on the land, going west towards Bluff Road, and the little unmade side Street.

The house was originally built by Thomas Holloway, hence the name of the Road.

During those early years we used to watch all the comings and goings of youngsters on their first day at school, being literally prised from their Mothers skirts, midst lots of wails and sobbing. Eventually our four children were enrolled there – Cathryn, Michael, Elisabeth and Jamie.

The headmaster originally was Mr Bateman, then Ron Palmer took over later on.

It was a small, very friendly school - Miss Skelton was in charge of the infant school – a very stern but thoroughly dedicated and compassionate lady. Just what the young children needed in those first years of separation from family. She stood no nonsense, but loved those children dearly, and they respected her for it, as did the parents.

I helped disentangle a girlfriends' son from the downpipe of the school into the arms of Miss Skelton on his first day – quite a traumatic experience for everyone – he is now a very successful 42 year old, and none the worse from his experience.

I also vividly recall when we purchased a “cubby house” from the woodwork class at the Technical School, to be placed in the back yard of our house for the children to use. It was so heavy we had to hire a crane to take it from the school, over the road, down the side driveway of the Thompson's house next door, then swing it high into the air and over our back fence into place. The dogs in the street went berserk, and all the classrooms of children were hanging out the windows, watching the activities. A very expensive cubby house in the end. Sandringham East Primary always had a very good reputation within the Department of Education for being a small, friendly and efficiently run school, and it was a marvelous grounding place for our four children to experience their early education.

### **Allena Hamilton, Teacher 1992 – 2004**

George Boyd retired from Sandringham East Primary School in 1992 and was an amazing person. The classroom was silent and the children worked through booklets for English and Mathematics. The booklets were structured to cater for individual abilities. All children learnt to perfect their handwriting skills with George, especially the naughty children who had lunchtime detention. They were required to write “The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog.” numerous times. He also had a strap in the desk drawer – ‘Clarence’.

### **Drew Nowlan, Student 1968 – 1974**

A teacher named Mr. Boyd seemed to be able to get the best out of most people. Mr. Boyd pushed you in the direction he thought most suited you. Twenty years later he still remembered our names. I remember getting into trouble riding through the school ground, playing on the girls' rounders court, arriving at school too early, having water fights and talking in class. Then Mr. Boyd gave us the strap!

Mr. Boyd was the school cricket umpire and coach, whilst Mr. Alexander was the school football coach. Mr. Boyd had a different approach to teaching in the form of questions on cards with the answers printed on the back. When you completed one block of cards you had a fellow student check your answers and then Mr. Boyd would stamp your book and you could then progress to the next level. If you were caught cheating (and it did happen) you would have to return to the beginning.

Discipline in Mr. Boyd's class was hard but fair. The class or an individual would be warned once, then twice and when it came to three times, Mr. Boyd demanded silence. If you were caught talking then boys would receive the leather strap and the girls would receive the ruler across the back of their legs. Nine times out of ten it was the boys that were caught.

Mr. Boyd would often leave the classroom and we all thought we could do as we liked, but unbeknown to us at the time he was watching us. He referred to his classroom as the “fishbowl”.

### **Kerry Hickey - Student 1960's**

I was a student at Sandringham East Primary School in the sixties. Some of the students names I recall were Mary Thackeray, Elizabeth Bland and Vicky LeCornu. One of my teachers was Mrs Maher and my sports teacher was Frank Bateman, My name then was Kerry Hickey. My sister Sheryl also attended the school. My parents had a business in Bluff Rd.



*Julie Anderson, above, with her 32 year 1 students in 1968.*

### **Julie Anderson, Teacher 1968 - 70 and 1993 - 2006**

One of my best memories was watching man walk on the moon in 1969 with my Grade 5 on a borrowed television set in the library. The TV's were small by today's standards (a 17 inch and a 21 inch). Not all families had TV's in the 1969. I am not even sure we had some at school. However as usual the parents came to the rescue and brought up enough TV's with portable aerials (like bunny ears on top of the television) for groups of classes to watch together. I had a grade five and we joined a group of senior classes watching it all in the library. The teachers made the decision that if it became unsuitable for students we would switch it off immediately as the previous Russian flight had attempted to land on the moon and had failed spectacularly with the rocket crashing! So we all sat and watched with the reception pretty grainy but it added to the atmosphere and every one was enthralled.

Schools in the 1960s were a different place compared to today for teachers as well as students. As a young teacher, the pecking order was truly in place. We had to be very careful we were not “rude” to the older teachers. (I'm not saying anymore) We did our best. Men teachers had their staff room and women theirs. Schools did not have the extra curricular subjects we do today –teachers either took the subject themselves or visiting teachers came in. Teachers took one hour of art a week with their classes. The present library room was where the old art room was located. A visiting music teacher gave a lesson to each class, once a fortnight.

A visiting physical education teacher came once a fortnight for one lesson to each class.

Through the years some of my Sandringham East Primary School students became teachers themselves: Karen Watts (Beaumaris North PS), Julie Graham, Jenny Corr and Rachel-Ann Burgin.

When there was a train strike teachers who could not get to their school went to their nearest neighborhood school and reported for duty. With our big classes we loved the extra assistance. My two most memorable moments were meeting Bob Hawke at Parent Interviews to discuss his son's progress and evacuating the school then watching the fire in the Givonni factory that was at the back of the school.

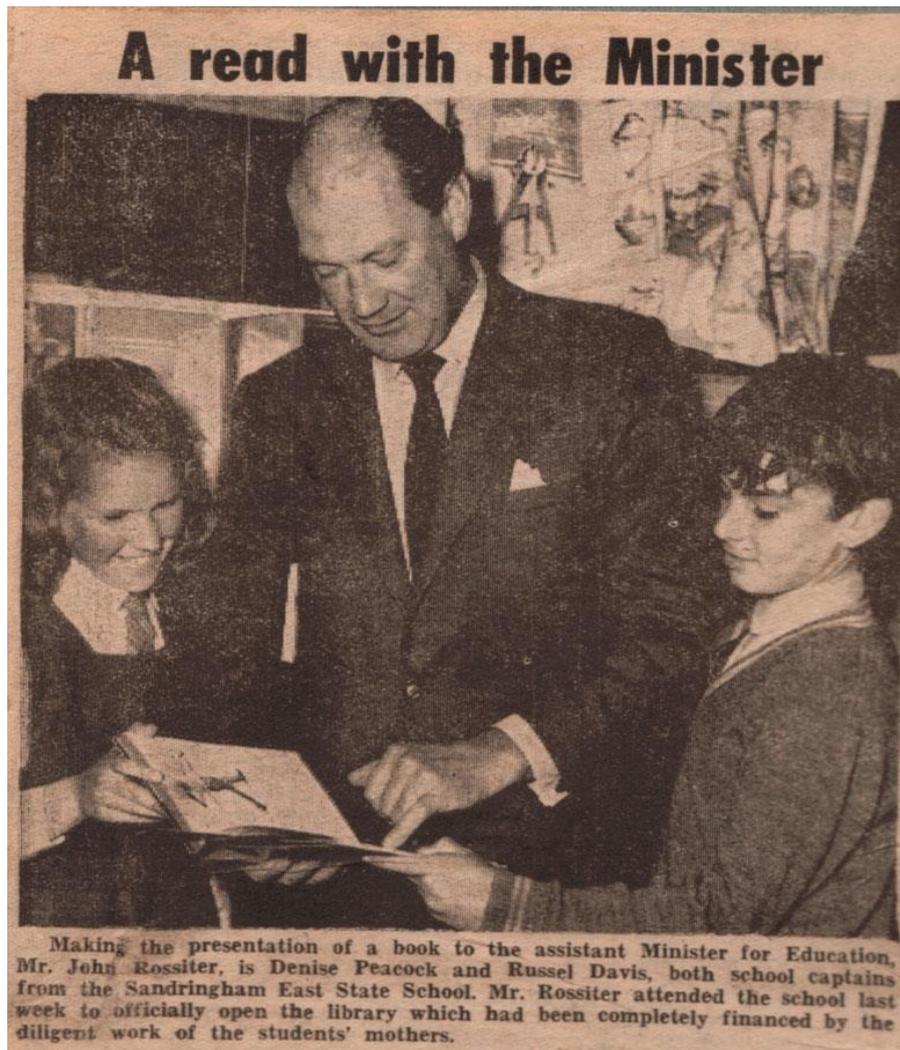
### **Robyn Toniolo (nee Feben), Student 1960 – 1966**

My first teacher was Mrs Gibbs in grade one - I was assessed in Prep and put into grade one after one day as was done in those times as I was a July baby. Later I had Miss Tully in grade two and we made butter.

My grade three teacher got married and some of the children in the class attended the wedding.

My children also attended the school from 1988. Andrew began in grade two with Mrs Coventry and Catherine began in Prep with Mrs Cotterill later Mrs Adams. Sally began in 1990 with Mrs Shinick as her Prep teacher. Cathy brought our dog Ted who is now 16 years old as Toto for book week and Cath was Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz.

The children saw the new adventure playground being built and we attended the great school fetes and many working bees. We all have many fond memories of our school days at Sandringham East Primary School.



*Official opening of the library 1965 by the Minister for Education, Hon. John Rossiter.*

### **The Library's Official Opening by Ian Campbell (student 1960's)**

On Thursday, 30th September 1965, history was made at Sandringham East State School when the Hon. J.F. Rossiter MP, the Assistant Minister of Education officially opened the new library and classrooms. The ceremony began when Mr Nuttall, the head teacher, welcomed the visitors. Mr Bryan, the Mentone District Inspector also made a speech. Then Mrs Kavanagh, representing the Mother's Club, talked about the fete and previous money raising features.

### **Joan Bingham, Parent circa 1965 to 1975**

I was secretary of the Mothers' Club in the late 1970's and Sallie Winterbottom was president. I was canteen supervisor for two years. We used to provide, pies, pasties, sausage rolls, filled bread rolls, cream buns, apple slices, meringues, Sonny Boy drinks, and crisps - which may not be approved today. Bill was treasurer of the school council sometime in the 70's. In 2003 Bill joined Sandringham East Primary School again to take CRE classes, and in 2011 he is the convener for CRE and still teaches students. He enjoys the involvement with the school very much.

Our three sons Leonard, Alan and Murray attended Sandringham East Primary School, as it was known. Leonard from 1965 to 1970, Leonard was never in Preps, went straight into grade 1, Alan from 1966 to 1972 and Murray from 1969 – 1975. Leonard went to Sandringham Technical School until 1975, then took his HSC at Melbourne High School. He completed a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Sociology, Media Studies and Philosophy at Swinburne University, commenced Post-graduate studies in Sport Psychology, part of the course he was required to coach a sport and chose tennis which became his full time occupation, he never finished his study, but he coached in Sandringham at Royal Avenue Tennis Courts for many years with several stints overseas in Santa Barbara and Montecito, California, USA, Florence, Italy, and in Denmark.

Alan died as the result of a motor accident in 1981

Leonard died as the result of an asthma attack in 1997

Murray became a model and has worked in Australia, New Zealand and Japan both in fashion and television. Murray is married to Nicky Buckley and they have 3 sons. Cooper, Jasper and Baxter and they live in Bells Beach.

One thing that seems to be foremost in our minds was the creation of an oval at the Bay Road end of the school ground. The area was made level and hard wearing grass was planted by volunteer labour. A neighbour of the school, the late Sam Richards, an original greenie, planted a native nature walk at the rear of the houses in Miller street, from the lane-way to the rear of the houses in Bay Road. An open air theatre was created in the north-west corner, this included "seats" made from lamp posts given to the school by the S.E.C. also done by volunteers (parents and friends). There wasn't a lot of money around at the time but people were willing to give of their time.

Principals were Ray Horn, Mrs Collins, Ian Williams. I think there was another male whose name escapes me. Dennis Cooke was a great musician. Bob Eames coached the cricket team. Frank Bateman coached the basketball (netball). In late 1975 I remember receiving a phone call from Ian Williams, before 9 am, to come to the school and collect Murray who had been practicing cricket, had hit a series of fours and was called on to do so again but misjudged the flight of the ball and received a hit in the face. He suffered a broken nose which necessitated a visit to a plastic surgeon and had to be straightened a week later.

There were three unrelated Bingham families at Sandringham East Primary School. Lindsay, Sallie and Hayden, and Keith. I think they were all ahead of our boys. This Bingham family shared in many happy times at Sandringham East Primary School.

### **Ann Short (nee Maunder), Student 1964 – 1971**

The worst memories I have was of Mrs. K Maher teaching me in Grade 3 and 4. Those were the days where she would cane you for the smallest thing. Even if you did nothing you would get caned. She would always yell, "Do I have to yell like a fishmongers wife?" Those words have always stuck with me.

I still think about those days as I work in the education field myself. You wouldn't last a second these days. The best memory was having Mr. Boyd teach me in Grade 5. What a breath of fresh air, after the last two terror years. When I was in Grade 6 Mr. Ryan would send two people down to the milk bar to buy him "Life Saver" mints. That would not go down well these days!

### **Joy Kavanagh, Student from 1959-1965 (Parent of Rodney)**

Joy was Secretary (1963 and '64) President (1965) of the Mother's Club and remembers working hard to organise fetes to raise money for the new library. Some of Rodney's writing about the fete is included on display.

### **Steve Cumming, Student 1969 – 1972 (and current parent of the school)**

Having moved from a two roomed country school, at first this “big” school was a bit daunting, but Sandringham East Primary School soon proved to be just a “bigger country school”, it is still a friendly place. In 1971 our teacher, John Locco, locked the whole class in the room for some misdemeanor or other. Student Janine Reed, promptly climbed out the window and went home, the remaining students howling with laughter, and Mr. Locco was lost for words.

### **Drew Nowlan, Student 1968 – 1974 (whose children also attended SEPS)**

The school has changed shape from how I remember it. The caretakers, Mr and Mrs Hurrey lived on the school site in a house situated where the barbeque sat (now the BER building). They used to look after the grounds and clean the school. The toilets were situated where the friendship garden now stands for girls and boys toilets were a little further back facing the school building. There was a huge pine tree where the school hall sits today. I have fond memories playing up and under the tree. Students attending Sandringham Tech would walk through the school grounds as a short cut and all accepted this as the norm.

We used to play cricket before school. Whoever was first there, was the batter, then bowler, then wicket keeper. This rule was changed because we were arriving at 7.30am.

School rules that were in place at the time I attended for outside were;

- Boys were definitely not allowed on the netball or rounders courts.
- Just prior to morning recess we received a small bottle of milk, which we all had to drink. Sometimes it was warm but we had to drink it.
- Before playing sport you were required to spend 15 minutes in the shelter sheds ensuring you would eat your lunch. Boys and girls did not share shelter sheds.
- No riding of bikes in the school grounds. As far back as Grade 1, I can remember riding to school and the bike shed was large and packed (no bike education in those days).
- If it rained you were not allowed to leave the classrooms even at recess or lunch breaks. Sun hats were not required at any stage whilst I attended.

The weekly newsletter had articles from students from all levels including trivia and short stories of fact and fiction and sporting results. It was encouraged that all students try to have something printed in the newsletter.

School sports consisted of football, cricket and Newcombe Ball (a variety of volleyball, but you were allowed to catch the ball) for the boys and Rounders and netball for the girls. There were no mixed sports. We would compete against Highett Primary (since closed), Brighton Beach Primary, Brighton North Primary, Black Rock Primary and Sandringham State School. Our school was always competitive. We also competed in house sports, which were fiercely contested.

On days of assembly we would sing “God save the Queen” and raise the flag, which was situated out the front of the main office in the school grounds. Whilst the flag was raised the drum band played the drum roll. One class at a time would march off to drum band, which consisted of two or three drummers and one bass drum. The fife, recorder and drums or school choir were the options for students that wanted to learn an instrument or sing.

Five members of my family attended Sandringham East Primary School and now I have put three of my own children through the school.

### **Jo Raydan, Student 1967 – 1973 (whose children also attended SEPS)**

My best experience was having the lead role in the school musical and playing in the school orchestra with Sandringham Technical School. My worst experience is being caught cheating on the SRA cards. We did have one “mad” teacher who would do some crazy things. One time he locked us all in the classroom at lunch so we all escaped out the window and walked into the playground. Another time he took us for a walk in the rain as “water can’t hurt anyone”. Our parents were not happy.

I learnt that if you cheat you will lose. I learnt that hard work has its rewards. I learnt that being involved in things makes life more interesting. I learnt to stand up for myself even when most people

were against you.

My father was a science teacher at one stage and he visited Sandringham East Primary School. He was a good friend with the principal, Mr. Alexander. I also remember feeling very self-conscious when Mr. Alexander came to our place for dinner.



*1965 year 1 students with only 29 in the class!*

### **Wendy Higgins, Teacher 1962 - 1963**

Sandringham East Primary School was a joy to work in as my first teaching position since leaving college - a lovely introduction to my time in teaching. As well as teaching Preps I conducted the school choir in the years I was there and played the piano for the music classes.

You would find very few men teaching the younger classes and it seemed to me at the time, that all the positions in the higher grades and of power, like the Headmasters in Education, were held by men. It was sign of the times and a reflection of the era in which we lived, but as a young woman just out of training I had not yet the experience to dare challenge this.

We had a separate women's staff room and each woman had her own designated chair around the tables. Because I was the youngest and the newest staff member, I not so fondly remember, having to eat my lunch on the couch away from the other teachers, as I did not have a chair.

The children in my grade had a routine in class, as did all the children each day. Morning Talk opened the day and then we sang the day and the date, which I wrote on the board. To bring some imagination into the class, the children and I would create a sentence for the day about the seasons, the weather or whatever reflected the theme for the week.

To study numeracy, we counted with beads, Cuisenaire rods and for Literacy we read from John & Betty. Little ones did not read the numbers of books they do today but concentrated on the one reader. There was no such thing as mother helpers.

After a sleep on their mats and lunch, it was Play and Nature study in the afternoon with some sport outside with balls and bats etc. Sometimes on a sunny day we would go and read stories under the trees. This entire curriculum was highly routine but very task oriented.

# World Events in the 1970's

## It's Evonne the great

# ... she's new champ

BUREAU SAYS. — CITY: Showers clearing through the day. Sunny periods. Expected temp. low 50s. Yesterday's top 54. • Details, Page 47.

**650,002**  
Average Daily Sale

**The Sun**  
NEWS - PICTORIAL  
5c  
94 BLINDERS ST. PHONE 61-0111 BY AIR 6c  
15,209 Melbourne, Saturday, July 3, 1971 52 Pages (Plus 4-Page Tarr Guide) & 28-Page Treasury Guide

**AUSTRALIA'S Evonne Goolagong took the women's Wimbledon crown in London yesterday with a smashing win over Margaret Court.**

The 19-year-old aboriginal girl from Barellan, in the NSW Riverina, won 6-4, 6-1. It was the first all-Australian women's final at Wimbledon. Evonne at no time gave her 28-year-old opponent — and friend — a chance to settle down.

### Youngest

She is the youngest girl to take the final since Janet Susman won it in 1962. As Mrs Court double-faulted to relinquish the crown, Evonne's coach, Mr Vic Edwards, and his wife, Eve, broke down and wept in each other's arms.

Miss Goolagong looked composed as Princess Alexandra presented her with the trophy, which signifies supremacy in world women's tennis. The princess spoke to Miss Goolagong for

### 'Super' to oust pension soon

THE FEDERAL Government plans to abolish age pensions soon. The Minister for Social Services, Mr Wentworth, said last night pensions would be replaced by a super-annuation system. He hinted that the main reason for the abolition of the pension scheme was the operation of the means test. "The operation of this test distresses me considerably," Mr Wentworth, 63, told the Queensland Council on the Ageing conference in Brisbane. "It is only a matter of time before the super-annuation scheme is adopted. The Bill is ready for adoption by the Federal Government now but business will delay its adoption." Mr Wentworth declined to give further details of the introduction of the scheme.

about two minutes on the green carpet rolled out on the centre court and the crowd applauded wildly for more than four minutes. "I just don't believe it," Ken Goolagong told Sun man Robert Johnson in Barellan last night. "I think I'll make a cup of tea," Evonne's mother said.

### 'Not a chance'

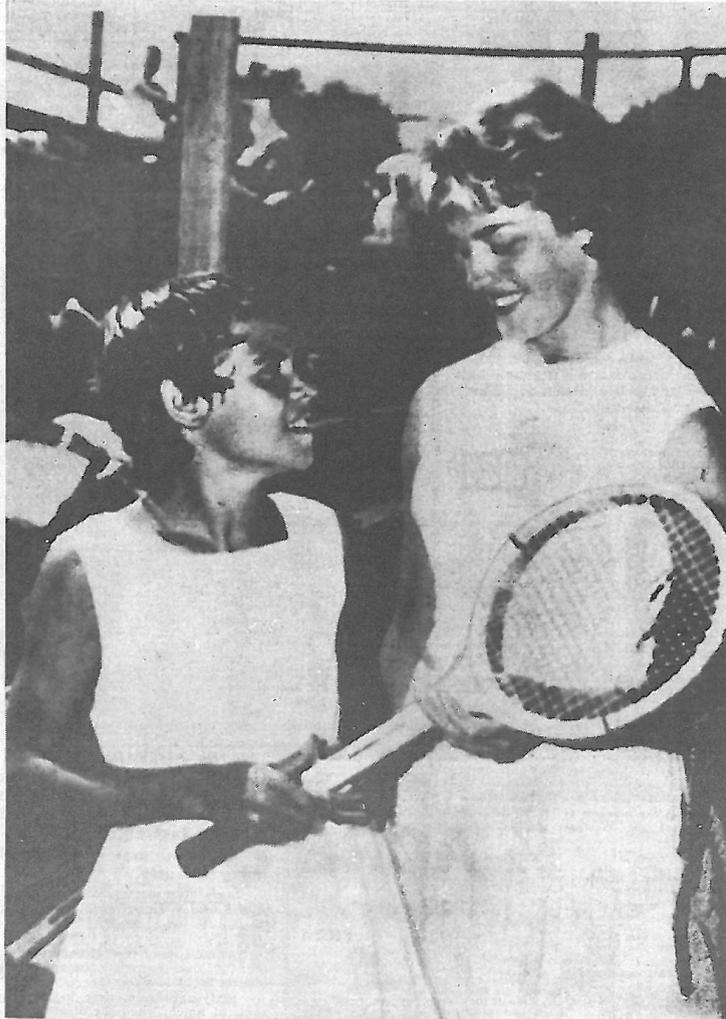
Neither parent had given their daughter a chance of winning. Even in the second set, when Evonne broke Margaret Court's service to lead 4-1 — and someone in the room said they thought Evonne would win — Mr Goolagong replied: "Not a chance."

Mr Goolagong rolled cigarettes throughout the tense game and occasionally sipped a glass of beer.

The seven other Goolagong children watched also, and were told curtly "Shut up" when they started to chatter.

"She looks nervous," Mrs Goolagong said as the camera closed in on her daughter when she led 4-1 in the first set.

After the last point was decided Mrs Goolagong said "Poor Margaret" and went off to make a cup of tea.



... Evonne Goolagong, then 11, congratulates Margaret Court, then 20 and plain Miss Smith, on a win in a NSW tournament. This picture is from Evonne's family album — two great champions in the making. And last night their roles were reversed.

### 8 years ago..

Champ town — Page 2  
The big match — Back Page

1970 More than 200,000 people participate in the largest demonstrations in Australian history, against the Vietnam War.

- 1971** Neville Bonner becomes the first Aborigine to become an Australian Member of Parliament; John Gorton resigns and is succeeded by William McMahon.
- 1971** The 1971 Springbok tour sparks protest all throughout Australia. Premier of Queensland Joh Bjelke-Petersen declares a state of emergency in QLD in response to escalating protest.
- 1971** Daylight Saving is introduced to New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory.
- 1972** The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission rules that women doing the same job as men have the right to be paid the same wage.
- 1972** Aboriginal Tent Embassy erected in response to the Coalition government's approval of exploration licences and mining tenements on reserves.
- 1972** The first Labor government since 1949 is elected under the leadership of Gough Whitlam.
- 1972** Australia recognizes the People's Republic of China.
- 1972** Queensland abandons Daylight Saving.
- 1973** The Sydney Opera House is opened.
- 1973** The White Australian Policy (established 1901) is officially dismantled.
- 1973** Vietnam War ends.
- 1973** The federal voting age is dropped from 21 to 18.
- 1973** Unionists save the historic "The Rocks" area of Sydney from demolition by introducing "Green Bans".
- 1973** Patrick White becomes the first Australian to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- 1974** Darwin is devastated by Cyclone Tracy.
- 1975** A constitutional crisis occurs when Malcolm Fraser blocks supply, bringing the nation to a standstill until Governor-General John Kerr dismisses Prime Minister Gough Whitlam on the 11<sup>th</sup> November Fraser wins elections and becomes Prime Minister.
- 1975** The 'Privy Council' (Appeals from the High Court) Act *removes the right to appeal High Court decisions to the British Privy Council. Appeals to the Privy Council direct from State Supreme Courts remain until 1988.*
- 1975** South Australia becomes the first state in Australia to legalise homosexuality between consenting adults in private.
- 1975** Whitlam government introduced the Aboriginal Land (NT) Bill into Parliament. The bill proposed land rights in the Northern Territory based on land claimed on grounds of need as well as traditional affiliation and traditional landowners maintaining control over mining and development.
- 1976** The Australian Capital Territory legalises homosexuality between consenting adults in private.
- 1977** *Advance Australia Fair* becomes Australia's official national anthem.
- 1977** Granville rail disaster killed eighty-three people.
- 1978** The First Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras kicks off in Sydney.
- 1979** Australian women win the right to maternity leave.
- 1979** Kakadu National Park and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are both proclaimed.



The application for the art room was approved and by early 1973, 11 classrooms were occupied by students, one used for infant assemblies and another for music and TV. The school also had a library. In addition to these facilities, District Inspector, John Romanes wished to create an Official Inspectorate Office at the school. An official telephone was installed and a registered mailing address effected. Principal Ian Williams and parents called for the construction of a Sick Bay in 1974 which was furnished by the parents of the school.



*Students Tansi Trigg (nee Wilson), Heath Wilson and Adam Wilson showing of their newly screen printed T-Shirts.*

While the school uniform is still not compulsory to wear, but highly encouraged, it has gone through a number of reincarnations. There was no insignia or logo for the first 40 years and it started out with navy blue jumpers. They were changed to grey woollen jumpers with stripes, in the 70s.

It wasn't until 1976 that Rana Wilson (Mother's Club president at the time) was organising screen printed t-shirts with logo, made up for the local kindergarten, and she thought they would also be a good idea for students at Sandringham East Primary School. The Sandpiper logo for the school came about from a competition that was run to name the weekly newsletter. Simon Leech who was in Grade 3 in 1970, won the competition. Since there was no logo at the time they questioned a bunch of parents and staff about what should go on it and it was decided that the Sandpiper was chosen to match the current newsletter. Since then the sandpiper logo has always been used as the Sandringham East Primary School logo.



*The Stained Glass Window of the Sandpiper which Hangs in the Hall.*

Designer unknown

Over the years this logo outline had become rounder through repeated variations and representations and became more like a seagull. In 2002 Principal Lauren Walton arranged for the redesign to once again look like a sandpiper.



In 1972 Bob Hawke was running for ACTU Secretary and his three children went to Sandringham East Primary School. There was a bomb scare and school evacuation.

Girls and boys had been educated in the same class rooms since the late 1920s, but segregation still existed in schools up to the late 1970's. Even when the organizational segregation of the sexes in the school system had been abolished it lingered on behind the walls of the classroom.

Boys and girls were still kept apart in handicraft and woodwork, and in gym lessons and other forms of physical education. At Sandringham East Primary School they had segregated shelter sheds and were punished if they were caught in the wrong one!

Students were not the only ones segregated as teachers tell of separate staffrooms as late as 1970's.



*The "Make Victoria Green" campaign was run by The Herald newspaper and taken up by teacher Dennis Cook.*

Teacher Dennis Cook, together with students, entered the competition outlaying reasons why they wanted to make Sandringham East Primary School 'greener'. So started continued the efforts to beautify the environment of the school.

Dennis Cook submitted a plan to the school committee to include an oval, basketball court, long jump, high jump, adventure playground, outdoor theatre, fernery and bush trail.

# Teacher's 'brain-child' a progressive step

The children of the Sandringham East Primary School have a new addition to their playground — an outdoor theatre.

The innovation was described by the District Inspector of Schools for Moorabbin, Mr. John Romanes, as one of the "most progressive steps taken in some time".

Mr. Ian Williams, principal of the school, said that English course activities including drama, music, and miming, would be enacted on the stage.

The theatre was originally the idea of Mr. Dennis Cook, grade four teacher at the school, who thought of it in March last year.

The school committee quickly took up his idea, and on Saturday, December 9, last year they had a "working bee."

With the help of a few parents, the school committee had built the theatre.

Positioned 23 feet above the ground, the stage is fringed with blue stone pitchers from old gutters, donated by the Sandringham Council.

Grass is intended for the floor of the stage and will be sown in the autumnal March to May period.

Twenty-one S.E.C. poles bought at \$1 each, are providing ample seating for the children. Even though the theatre is not in use at the moment, the infant grades do use the seats for outdoor lessons.

Trees behind the theatre form a natural backdrop for the stage and more trees at a total cost of \$30, are planted in an area leading up to the theatre.

About 100 native shrubs and plants, made available to the school when the Mentone Racecourse was subdivided for housing, were also planted in the same area last year.

A path bordered by tea-trees, winds its way through the natural garden to the theatre.

Unfortunately, vandals damaged eight newly planted trees during the summer holidays, and these will have to be replaced.

Mr. Williams said the outdoor theatre would be used as an extension of



activities formerly held in classrooms, and would allow more freedom and encourage interest within the children.

Mr. Williams said he had not heard of any other school having an outdoor theatre.

"Even if there was, this school would certainly

have been one of the first," he said.

Mr. Romanes said he would be "very happy to see other schools doing things like this".

The school also wants to build volleyball courts, jumping pits and a reading area for the pupils, sometime in the future. Ashogany gums will also be planted on the eastern side of the school playground to hide the sight of the recently constructed factories.

Mr. W. H. Cumming, Assistant Director of Primary Education for the Education Department, said the outdoor

The open air theatre will be wonderful for school plays, and if it rains the stage will be set for a performance of Somerset Maugham's classic book and film, "The Rain Came".

• Sandringham East Primary School grade four students having an English lesson in their open air theatre.

In March 1973 an Open Air Theatre was constructed. This was the brain child of teacher Dennis Cook – see article above. Today the bluestone blocks remain and the area is still called "the stage".

Ronda Henderson remembers her year 5 / 6 class who produced plays at the end of each term for the infant grades. The class would be divided into groups where the students wrote the plays based on fairy stories such as The Three Bears and then produced them in the outdoor theatre.

In 1973 a survey was completed on television viewing with 180 students aged from 7-12 years surveyed with the following results...

- Time spent watching TV each day – Less than 1 hour 3.3% 1 to 2 hours 11.7% , 2 to 3 hours 20% , 3 to 4 hours 25%, more than 5 hours 16.1%.
- Number of children who watch television before school – 41% overall with 8 year olds 46%, 9 year olds 50%, 10 year olds 30% and 11 year olds 38%.
- Number of children who watch television on both Saturday and Sunday afternoons was 61% overall with 8 year olds 43%, 9 year olds 73%, 10 year olds 61% and 11 year olds 58%.
- Number of children who have their evening meal in front of the television was 39% and the number of children who always have their meals in front of the television was 22%.
- Number of children who attend a club (Cubs, Scouts, Brownies) once a week was 62%.
- Number of children who play games or do hobbies with their families on some nights instead of watching TV was 55%.
- Number of children who regularly visit the local library with their family was 14% regularly,

47% sometimes and 39% never.

- Number of children who sometimes go with their family to the theatre or drive in was 76%.
- Number of families whose family never watch Channel 2 was 27%.
- Number of children whose families usually watch the news on TV was 80%.
- Number of children who have more than one television in their home was 32% - of these ten students had a TV in their bedroom.
- The most popular programs in priority order for the 7, 8 and 9 year olds were: The Brady Bunch, Cartoon Corner, I Dream of Jeanie, Partridge Family, Gilligan's Island, Matlock Police, Homicide, Jet Set, Nanny and the Professor and Here's Lucy.
- The most popular programs in priority order for the 10, 11 and 12 year olds were: The Brady Bunch, Matlock Police, Number 96, Partridge Family, Homicide, Gilligan's Island, Division 4, Jet Set, Cartoon Corner and Here's Lucy.

Lollipop people came into existence when in 1976 there were several accidents, some of them fatal. These school children were killed crossing the road in transit to and from school. A year after the accidents police started manning the crossings and in the late 1980's the first paid lollipop crossing supervisors started work. The traffic lights on Bay Road at the rear school entrance used to be a flag crossing until the early 1970s. We greatly appreciate the supervisors who look after our students on Bluff Road, Holloway Road and Bay Road.

School Council was redefined in the early 1970's as a government pilot with a choice of School Council makeup. The school had to vote on the ratio of teachers, parents and outside reps and who should sit on the council. John Ryan was one of the teachers and President Ron McInnis, John Forster, Brian Mitchell, Ronda Henderdson and Rana Wilson served on the first School Council when it was introduced.

Ian Williams Principal, left Sandringham East Primary School in December of 1975 and writes in the Sandpiper Magazine...

My years at this school will always stand out as the most enjoyable I have spent at any school. This has resulted from the wonderful cooperation I have had from all parent bodies, parents, staff and pupils.



*Staff in 1976 showing Ron Palmer Principal (top right) George Boyd (next to Ron) Elaine Coventry (Bottom right), Ronda Henderson (bottom left).*

## **Recollections of the 1970's**

### **Heather Douglas (nee McDonald), Student 1969 – 1975 (and parent of Ella and Fiona who also attended SEPS)**

Heather remembers the school magazine "The Sandpiper" which students could contribute to. She has kindly supplied a copy for our memorabilia. The Sandpiper and was compiled by a student committee who in 1974 were: John Dennison, Karen Cooke, Chris Stevens, Anthony Truscott, Katherine Driscoll, Kelly Payne, John Cooke, David Johannesen, James Houghton, Alison Gandy, Dimitrious Papadimitriou, Pam Smith, Tina Perovic and Carol Eccleston. The Sandpiper magazine published student writings and all students could contribute if they wished.

### **Ronda Henderson, Teacher 1970's**

Big Changes in Education at Sandringham East Primary School...

I can remember when I returned to teaching at Sandringham East Primary School in 1975, after the birth of my children, education was in a very progressive stage. Sandringham East was one of the leaders in the changes in literacy. I can remember as one of the three Prep teachers, throwing out "John and Betty", the Prep reading book, and "Playmates" and "Holidays", the grade 1 and 2 readers. They were replaced with lots of colorful and interesting readers. We introduced a scheme called "Breakthrough to Literacy" trialing it for the Department of Education. It was lots of words put together to make sentences. We invited parents into the classrooms to help with reading and to show that we appreciated the money which the Mothers Club had raised to purchase new readers. I can remember the three Prep teachers staying behind after school night after night to clean out all the cupboards in the infant school. It was out with the old and in with the new!

In 1976 I was in the senior school – grade 5 / 6. I can remember becoming passionate about mathematics. With the encouragement of our new Principal, Ron Palmer, I organised all the measurement mathematics equipment making a mathematics room at the end of the corridor. Ron and I encouraged staff to use the equipment with the result that many children were seen inside and outside the school measuring, weighing, and calculating. Once again we invited parents to help with these measurement sessions.

What a wonderful group of parents we had at that time!

Ron Palmer took the school forward at this time with the new curriculum and also new School Councils – two very big tasks and a time of great change!

"Joseph and The Technicolor Dreamcoat" was a fantastic production in 1978. Coordinating the costumes took a lot of time organising with so many parents. Costumes turned out to be very colorful and creative and the parents did a wonderful job. Many weeks were spent practicing in the Sandringham Technical School hall where we used to walk to every afternoon.

The school playground became united at this time. The staff decided to permit the younger Prep – Year 2 children to play down the back of the yard. Previously they were only allowed up to the toilets and only on bitumen. With all that grass at the back we felt it a shame that the younger children couldn't use it. We started with Fridays and when proven a success we let the yard become available for all children.

### **Tansi Trigg (Wilson), Student 1974 - 1981**

I remember the way George Boyd ran his classroom. Generally speaking we were not to "chat" to our classmates during class time... A difficult task when you are a bit of a chatterbox and probably why I remember it so well! If we did decide to share our thoughts with others at an inappropriate moment Mr. Boyd would place a mark next to your initials on his purposely designed class list. This was always done with a black fine liner and if Mr. Boyd left the room this became the responsibility of a student.

I don't think our hearing was as acute as Mr. Boyd's! Five marks next to your initials in one day were then converted to a "pinky". A pinky was not placed on the little class list but instead up on the blackboard for all to see, even your Mum. Three "pinkies" converted to a "Bluey" which meant staying in at lunch time to write out "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog". This sentence has all 26 letters of the alphabet and was said to be very good practice for your handwriting!

On occasions Mr. Boyd would waltz into class with his coffee and pipe and wipe the board clean. These were happy days. He did this a couple of times that year.

### **Sarah Waters, Student 1975 - 1981**

Best memories were: lunch orders, 50th anniversary celebrations, last day in grade 6 and writing over T-shirts.

Great teachers – Mrs Gaunt / Coventry, Miss Large, Boydo, (Mr Boyd) Pet mice and terrapin.

Great Games – elastics, May Day, Stingray, Joseph and Technicolor Dream Coat.

Worst memory – was in Grade 6 when Sandringham Technical School student throw rocks through classroom window.

Boydo chased him down while we watched the chase.

Humorous memories - Children running across the old wooded desk tops in RE, leaping from one desk to another.

Paper mache with toilet paper in the girls toilet.

Miss Waghorn's wrap around skirt blowing up over her head when on yard duty.

Loads of fun with emergency teachers.

Teacher memories - Boydo's pinkies and spelling sheets. No excursions because Boydo didn't like them. Boydo's pep talks and army stories.

Frank Park's reprimands to naughty students... "You horrible, horrible little specimen of a man".

### **Rana Wilson, Parent 1972 – 1983 (Grandparent of the Trigg girls)**

Rana remembers... serving on first School Council when Government introduced it as a trial, the 50th anniversary with hundreds attending, the library as a showcase for the Region, punishment was disallowed when Ron Palmer was headmaster, when we planted all the trees around the playground and asphalt, the new playground, happy Sunday family barbeques on the oval at Cheltenham Park and great community attitude.

### **Kay Douglas, Parent 1978 - 1990**

We came up with an idea to raise money for the school making Vine Wreaths. These were a big seller at a school fete and were made to order. The prunings were from an ornamental vine at my house and these were formed into wreaths, tied in a number of places and hung up to dry. These were then decorated with dried flowers, gum nuts or match boxes wrapped in Christmas papers and tied as tiny gifts and attached to the wreaths with bows. There are still houses in Sandringham with these hanging at the front door at Christmas time. Over \$1,000 was raised for only a few cents per item cost.

A lemon scented gum was cut down to make room for the garbage hopper. The arborist suggested the dried leaves could be used as a deodorizer. We dried the branches in a disused shelter shed. Then working bees were held after school drop offs in the mornings.

These gum leaves were put into calico bags with a puffy paint drawing of gum leaves and gum nuts and a card suggesting they be put in cars to help eradicate odour from smoking (yes, most people smoked in their cars at that time!). We sold over 1,000 at \$1 each, again made at a cost of a few cents each.



*This photo shows the happy and busy group of mothers plucking the dried leaves.*

### **Vanessa Thornton, Student 1972 – 1977**

Vanessa recollects in one of her years at Sandringham East Primary School the whole grade did a time capsule where everybody wrote a paper on something that was happening that year. Vanessa did hers on the King Of Moomba which was Mickey Mouse that year. She remembers it being buried under the art room but we don't know if it has ever been recovered – something to investigate!

### **Scott Forest, Student 1973 - 1979**

Best memory was winning the cricket Lightning Premiership in 1979 and hitting the winning runs.

An amusing story was when I had my first opportunity to kiss a girl and chickened out – very embarrassing!

Lasting Impression was when Mr. Boyd compared me to some of the worst larrikins that he had taught but said that there was something I had that they didn't and If I worked hard I could make something of my life.

I was in trouble all the time. I brought my collection of King Fu cards into school with my friend Andrew McInnes when I wasn't allowed – they were confiscated and never returned!

I was captain of the school football team for a week. It was the week that Trevor Barker, my idol, came to school and I had my photo taken with him for the local newspaper.

### **Andrew McInnes, Student 1972 – 1979**

Andrew remembers beating Highett in the Cricket Round Robin and Scotty Forest hitting the winning run. He also remembers Highett Primary kids crying when the underdogs Sandringham East Primary School won!

A lasting impression...“The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog” writing sentence. Andrew remembers being in trouble when he got the strap but can't remember why from Mr. Boyd. They were all good memories of Sandringham East Primary School!



*New playground in the front yard of the school, being tried out by six year old student, Sally Coutts.*

Sandringham East Primary School pupils enjoyed a range of new adventure playground equipment to use in the 1970's. Parents of the pupils at the school raised the money for the equipment through the school committee. Young Sally Coutts, 6, is pictured showing a Standard News photographer how it's done.

The playground was in the front yard of the school as can be seen from the picture. The playground was for the infant classes only and classes were rostered to use it. Teachers gave added supervision duty to ensure the safety of the children.

## World Events in the 1980's

**Royal wedding special**



**The Sun**  
NEWS-PICTORIAL

PHONE 63-0211 (Classified 63-0351) **15c**

84 Pages — including 16-Page Eastern Supplement  
Melbourne, Thursday, July 30, 1981 68 Pages

WEATHER — Bureau City forecast: Fine. Mostly sunny. Expected top 15. Yesterday 13. ☉ Details, Page 44.

**Inside: wedding reports, pictures**

— PAGES 2, 3, 4, 5 and Middle Pages.

# MY PRINCESS DI...



PRINCE CHARLES and Princess Diana, the new Princess of Wales, wave to the crowd after their wedding in St. Paul's

Cathedral, London, yesterday. Hundreds of thousands of people lined the streets to cheer the royal newlyweds as they

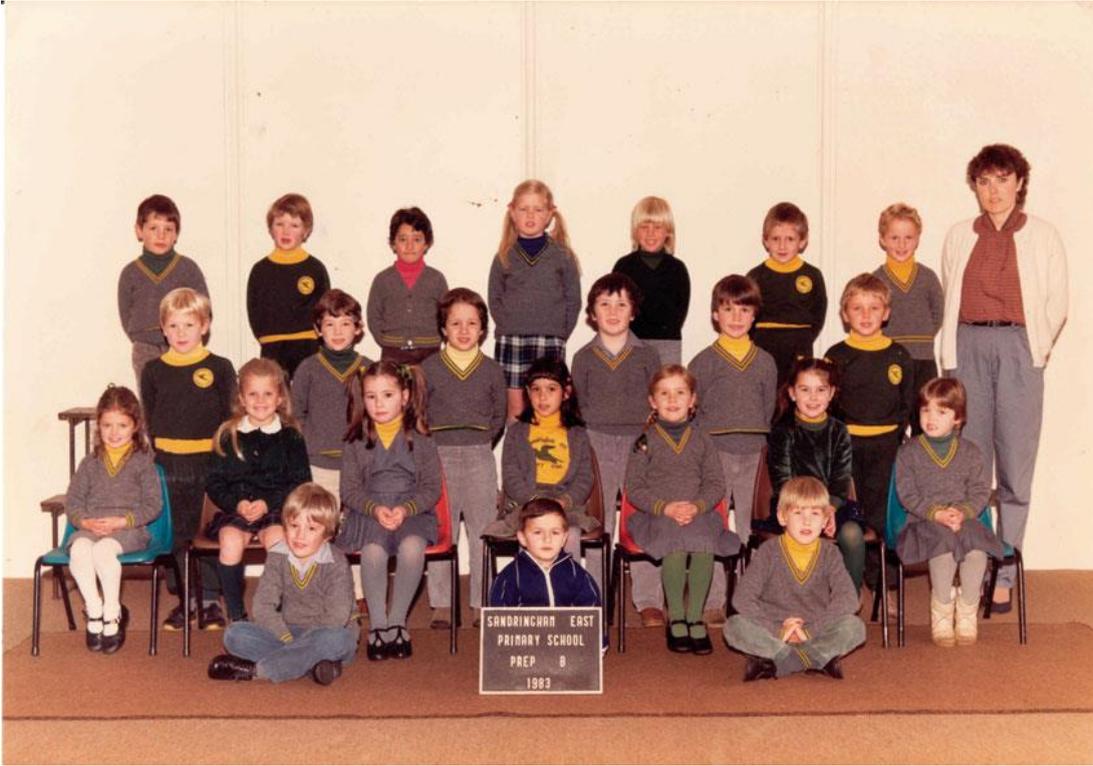
drove in an open carriage to Buckingham Palace. More than 700 million people watched the wedding live on TV.

- 1980      Baby Azaria Chamberlain disappears from a campsite at Uluru (Ayers Rock), reportedly taken by a dingo. The Coalition wins the 1980 Australian federal election.
- 1981      A referendum is held in Tasmania to vote for whether or not the Franklin Dam should be built.
- 1982      Commonwealth Games held in Brisbane. The National Gallery of Australia is opened.

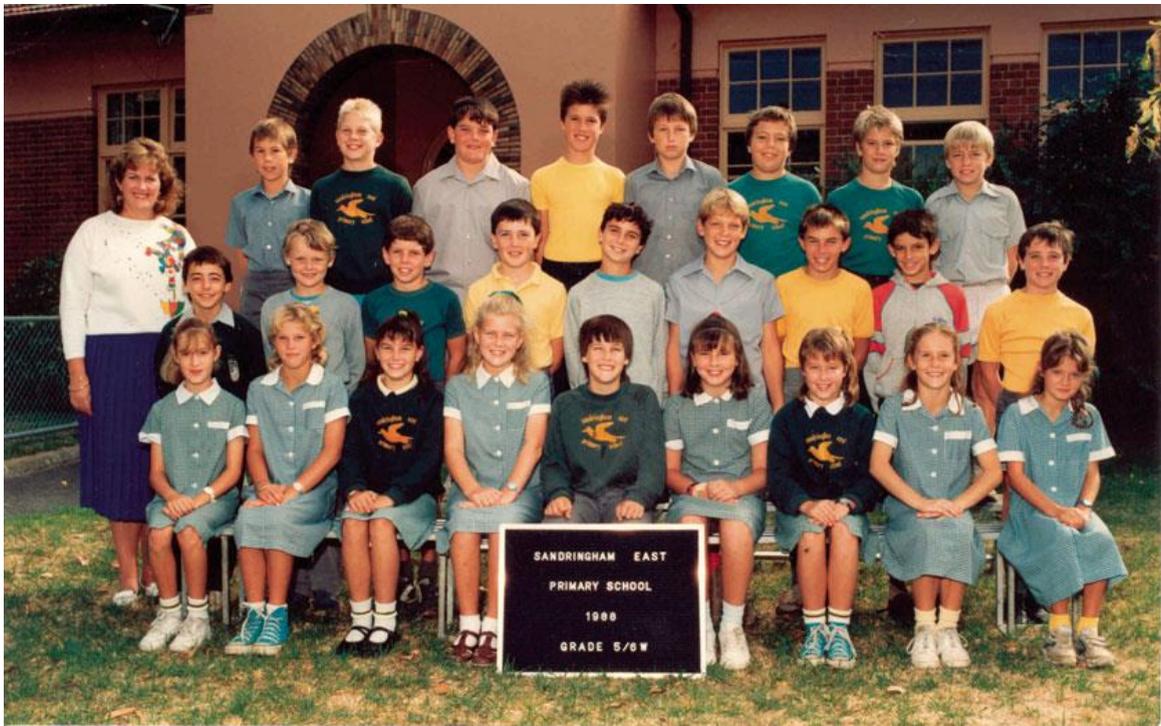
- 1983 Australia wins the America's Cup. Bob Hawke defeats Fraser and leads Labor back to government. The Australian Dollar is floated. The Ash Wednesday fires kill 71 people.
- 1984 *Advance Australia Fair* is proclaimed as Australia's national anthem. The one dollar coin is introduced. Labor wins the 1984 Australian federal election. Medicare is established.
- 1985 The government grants the freehold title of a large area of land in central Australia, including prominent landmarks Uluru and Kata Tjuta, to the Mutitjulu people, who in turn give them a 99-year lease. The last state to do so (New South Wales) abolishes capital punishment.
- 1986 The *Australia Act* removes the right of appeal from State courts to the British Privy Council, making the High Court the final court of appeal in Australia. The Act also removes all remaining rights of the UK parliament to pass law for Australia. Anita Cobby murder in Sydney. Russell Street Bombing in Melbourne. *Crocodile Dundee* is released in Australia.
- 1987 Hoddle Street Massacre kills 7 victims and injures 19. Queen Street Massacre kills 8 victims and injures 5. Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen resigns as Premier of Queensland after 19 years at the top.
- 1988 Australia celebrates its bicentenary, with large celebrations and major funding for capital works projects. The new Parliament House opens. Federal referendums on 4-year parliamentary terms, recognition of local government and other issues are defeated. Brisbane hosts World Expo '88.
- 1989 Newcastle Earthquake kills 13 people. ACT gains self-Government. The Kempsey bus crash and Grafton bus crash kill a total of 56 people.
- 1989 Queensland commences three-year trial of Daylight Saving.
- 1989 Rosemary Follett (Australian Labor Party) becomes the first Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory and the first woman to become head of government in an Australian state or territory.

## **School Life at Sandringham East in the 1980's**

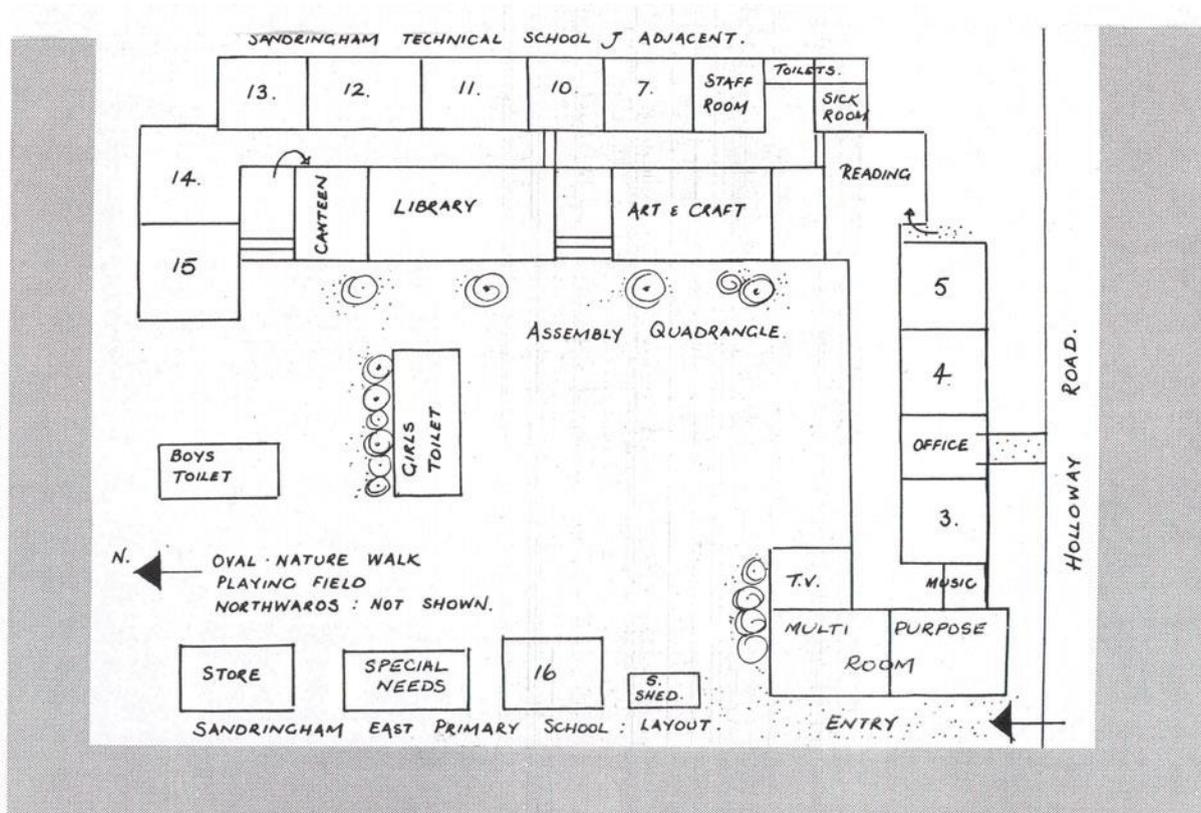
- 1981 The school's Golden Jubilee was celebrated on March 28th 1981. Mr Bob Page wanted to write the history for 50th anniversary and wrote to the Public Records Office requesting information about history. His contribution to the early history is recognised. Mr David Hearsum was the last caretaker and cleaner and he and his wife, Jenny and their family lived in the Department of Education house in the school grounds. Both David and Jenny were very diligent cleaners. Andrew and Chris, their two sons attended Sandringham East Primary School. The family moved to the Geelong area after leaving their post at Sandringham East Primary School. (Thank you to Geoff Swan for this information).
- 1987 Term 3 Frank Fielding took up the position of principal after local selection. There are now eight computers at the school.
- 1988 First Fleet Day was celebrated in June with a dress-up day.



*The photo above shows the 1983 Prep class with teacher Amy McGlashan (nee Bailey).*



*The photo above shows the 1988 5/6 class with teacher Pam Brain (nee Wright).*



The plan above shows the set up of the school taken from the Information Book to Parents developed by past Principal, Helen McAlpine.

## Recollections of the 1980's

### Frank Fielding, Principal 1987-1993

To celebrate the 200th birthday of the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788, Sandringham East had a special "Dress-up Day" when the staff & children all came in early settlers sailors/soldier attire. Parades of grades and teachers took place at assembly & the Union Jack was raised. The choir even sang "We're Bound For Botany Bay". Several parents also dressed up for the occasion. The local newspaper attended and a photo of Captain Fielding and Leading Seaman Swann together with a write up of the day appeared in the next issue. We seemed to have lots of fun "Dress-up" days!



Frank Fielding, Principal, and students celebrate First Fleet Day in 1988.

## **Rana Wilson, Mother's Club President and Parent 70's & 80's**

Sandringham East Primary School celebrated it's Golden Jubilee on March 28th 1981.

I helped to organise the 50 year Anniversary day and celebrations. We had the open day on Saturday and there was a great crowd of ex-students, all ages, all happily chatting. We had a display of all the school photos we had been lent and they were displayed by the decades, on boards and there was lots and lots of them and the people loved them. We had Devonshire Tea served in the Staff Room - lots of Mums had baked Scones for the day. We had Anniversary Port in specially labeled bottles that we sold as a fundraiser. The children had displays in their rooms.



*The school community in 1981 celebrating the 50th anniversary of the school.*



*The 50th birthday cake above with students Sarah Waters, Bernadine Bell, Anna Douglas, Justin Larkin, Jane Pickering, Catherine Henderson, Alison Gamble, Sally Gamble, Glen Phelan and Michael Coutts.*



*Parents and visitors at the 50th Anniversary.  
Geoff Swan, below with the premiership football team in 1983.*





*Certificate to recognize football premiership in 1983.*

### **Ronda Henderson, Teacher 1980's - "The New Hall"**

When the two classrooms at the end of the corridor were turned into a hall we were delighted for two reasons. Firstly that the District Inspector's office was gone, as that had been in one of the classrooms, and that we had a new hall away from the other rooms. Back in the Junior School I decided that we needed to introduce weekly infant assemblies so I organised all the classes to gather together on a Friday afternoon. Each class took it in turns to produce a dramatic or musical item each week. I ran the assembly and Elaine Coventry organised the group singing. We thought that we were a good team!

These Friday afternoons were a special time for the children to show off their talents and a bonding time for the infant classes.



*Graduation 1984 with year 6's*

The first graduation dinner for grade 6 was in 1984 where students enjoyed a "real" dinner! They had a menu with entrée, main and dessert, all home cooked by the mums. Fathers were cooking on barbeques and mothers were in the canteen. Children dressed up in their best clothes – and were very formal with speeches!

**Kitemaking** - In July 1988, Chinese Kite Maker, Mr Geng, visited Sandringham East Primary School (with interpreter Mr Wong). Grade 5/6 work shopped with Mr Geng for hours making Fantasma Kites. The children worked with the kitemakers folding paper and adding cane and cotton. The kites were painted with food dye and made using crepe paper to make them look pretty. BTN (Behind The News TV program) came to the school to film them.

Melanie, a Student writes: "The next day the whole school went down to Sandringham Technical School oval to fly their kits. A lot of the kites broke because of the strong winds but the ones that worked looked really pretty up in the sky."



### **Computers arrive at Sandringham East Primary School**

On May 27th, 1985, the first classroom computer arrived at the school. Teacher, Mrs. Ronda Henderson had offered to trial the use of computers in the primary school. In April she was given a day to write a submission for the purchase of a computer for her classroom. She was allocated one day a week to do a course at the computer centre in Ardoch House, Dandenong Rd. East St. Kilda. It was the first day of term 2 when the boxes arrived in Room 5. There was a screen, just like a small television, a keyboard, a small box to load the discs into and a printer. It was a Commodore 64. The school had decided to purchase this brand as it was simple to use and there was a range of primary school software available. After the children had gone home Mrs Henderson sat on the floor with the manual in one hand and lots of cables in the other. Each end of each cable was colour coordinated, so it was a matter of matching the coloured ends to the appropriate place on each piece of equipment. You can imagine her excitement when it actually worked.

The next day when the children arrived at school they were very keen to use the computer. I think they spent all morning looking at the screen, as Mrs Henderson showed them some programs. A roster was drawn up, allowing two children to use the computer at one time.

Programs which were used were ones which the Principal of the Fitzroy Community School had designed. There was a spelling program in which the teacher could enter the words for the children to practice and complete activities with the words. A mathematics program allowed children to practice the four processes and their tables. Other programs tested thinking skills - a favourite one being Excalibur. Word processing was popular.

Mothers who had typing skills came into the classroom daily to type the children's stories. Banners could be made, cards and flyers printed and graphics used to decorate the children's stories.

In 1986 Mrs. Henderson was selected to be a member of a regional computer education program. This proved to be of great benefit to the school, as she had the knowledge to introduce all the staff to computers in the classroom. This group of teachers produced a booklet "Up and Running". In 1987 Mrs. Henderson investigated the use of Logo in the classroom. This was an interesting spatial program, which the children enjoyed.

*Students concentrate on the new technology.*



### **Peter Boyes, Year 6 Teacher 1989 – 1991 (Present Principal Gardenvale PS)**

Camps were a definite highlight at Sandringham East Primary School. Going to Halls Gap and the Grampians for a week with Pam, Brian, Geoff Swan and Frank Fielding (and 50 or more students) was always a ball of fun.

Two incidents will always stick in my mind – en route to Halls Gap one year, the coach got a flat tyre on the Western Highway. Being good Sandy Easters, Geoff Swan and I helped the driver change wheels – in pouring rain. Not only were we drenched, but we were also covered in grease. Another time, Pam Brain took the wrong track down from the Pinnacle, fortunately there wasn't a repeat of the "Picnic at Hanging Rock".



My three years at Sandringham East Primary School were full of fun with my students and the staff I worked with. One Friday, I attended a professional development program in the morning and returned at lunchtime for inter-school sports. I dressed smartly for the PD Program and at lunchtime got changed into my tracksuit for sport, leaving my good clothes hanging in the "mens". At the end of the day after sport, I packed up ready to head off for the weekend. But upon entering the "mens", to my dismay, I discovered that my clothes had disappeared! A search revealed them to be swinging in a circular motion from the staff - room ceiling fans – trousers, white shirt, tie and shoes. I never did discover who was responsible....was it you Pam?

Frank Fielding was my Principal while I taught at Sandringham East Primary School. I learnt a lot from Frank about being an effective leader and thank him for inspiring and guiding me into the Principalship. Frank provided me with the endless opportunities (and encouragement) to broaden my knowledge and develop my leadership capacity. Both Frank and my time at Sandringham East Primary School provided me with the grounding and experiences I needed to be a school principal and gave me a rich foundation on which I have built my role as a school principal over the past 19 years.

*Principal Frank Fielding above looking dapper in his First Fleet Day costume.*

### **Geoff Swann, Teacher 1983-1992**

There was a great spirit of cooperation between parents and staff – especially between infant grade teachers and parents who heard children read daily. The high standard of reading through out the school was built on this foundation. In my early years at Sandringham East Primary School the daily morning assembly ended with the children ambling into school accompanied by three drummers. Was quite a contrast! I have no idea what happened to the drums. I know that George Watson used to visit a number of schools and 'teach' drumming to the few children that were interested but I can't remember if he visited Sandringham East Primary School.

I remember dress-up days – book week and Halloween, the Bi- centenary project where children's art re Australia was put on canvases by parents/artists and these canvases were hung in the entrance to the school. I also remember the end of the year activity program at King Club organised by Anne Payne who was the Physical Education teacher.

## **Tansi Trigg, Student 1974 - 1981**

I remember my beautiful grade 2 teacher Miss Bailey, who was so nice and so kind. Although for some reason she did not like us to collect the green and gold bugs from the oval and keep them in our desks!!

I remember Miss Large who wasn't very large at all - she was short and loved to sit on top of the heater. Miss Large held a burial for our class terrapin and always had time to talk and could tell funny stories.

I remember Miss Colvet (?). She always seemed to be smiling and we used to walk arm in arm with her on yard duty, sometimes with a wing span of 3-6 children off each arm. She often wore a short fur coat which we would try to snuggle into. Miss Colvet (?) unfortunately passed away on holidays in Europe. She was very young.

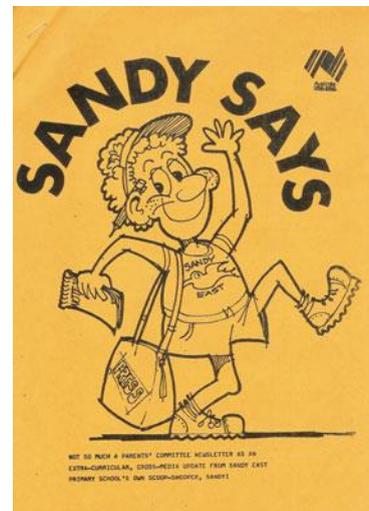
## **John Watson, Parent 1980's**

I, as editor of Sandy Says, and others on the committee in the late 1980's produced this monthly newsletter.

The earlier editions stuck to the original theme of a little cheeky boy, Sandy reporting on school activities and forthcoming events as well as providing anecdotes, snippets and jokes from anybody within the school community who felt like contributing. We had found that newsletters were not very well read and needed to be lively and original to have any hope of reaching our 'readership'. We promulgated some editions outside the school community to help in fund-raising awareness and as a 'thank you' to sponsors of the fete.

The edition I am sending you was unfortunately one of the later versions by which time the format had slipped a bit, back to the hum-drum. In the first flush of enthusiasm we had a cartoon strip of Sandy around the playground, a jokes column, kids' contributions and I think even a crossword at one stage.

Our three sons attended the school in the 1980's, and as a family we had many happy years of close association with the school and made many friends amongst the staff and other parents.



## **Josie Willey, Student 1980 – 1986**

My best memory is Mrs. Coventry taking me on all the excursions and encouraging me to take my chicken in for show and tell. My worst memory is the day I left. I remember Mr. Boyd doing a handstand, and his unique approach. Mrs. Coventry is remembered by her encouragement to appreciate the environment. And I loved it when Jim Bissett rode Silver the Clydesdale horse into the oval.

Farewell to the Hurrey's House!

Many people remember the Hurrey's house. Mr and Mrs. Hurrey were the cleaners and maintenance team from the 1960s and they lived on the school grounds where the BBQ is today.

Mr. Hurrey lit the open fires in all the old classrooms each and every morning during winter, and the potbelly stoves in the portables. Their two boys attended Sandringham East Primary School while they lived on the grounds. In the late 1980s the Hurrey's decided to retire.

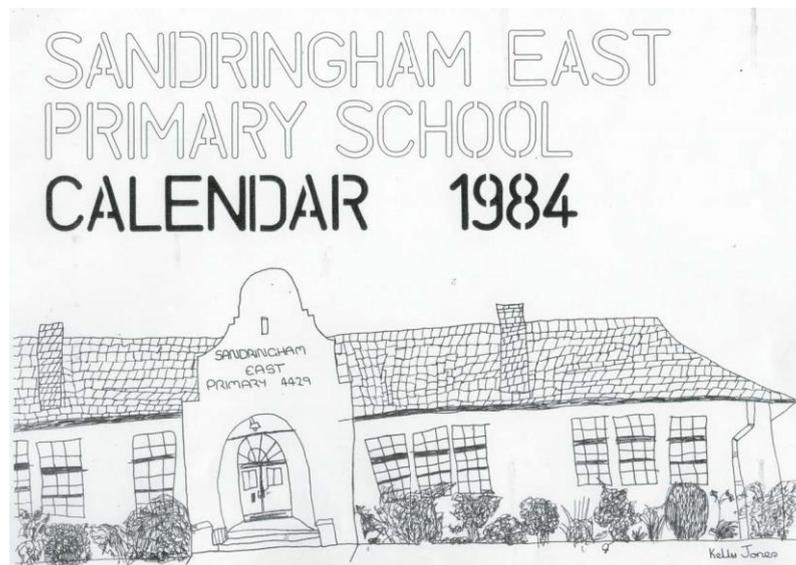
Frank Fielding, principal in the 1980s and 90s, remembers that the house was empty on the grounds for about two years before it was demolished due to the insurance costs and the expensive maintenance. Over these two years the house was loved and used by all areas of the school. The front rooms were a favorite for reading, the kitchen was well used for cooking classes and the parents and other clubs met frequently in it for their meetings and social nights.

Working bees started around the late 1980s as a direct result of having no grounds keepers and the cleaning function was contracted out.



*Old School Days 1988, with teacher Ronda Henderson and her class, celebrating Victoria's 150th birthday.*

Calendars were a fundraiser in the 80's and early 90's. All classes did a different month and children completed a picture of themselves with a photo headshot.

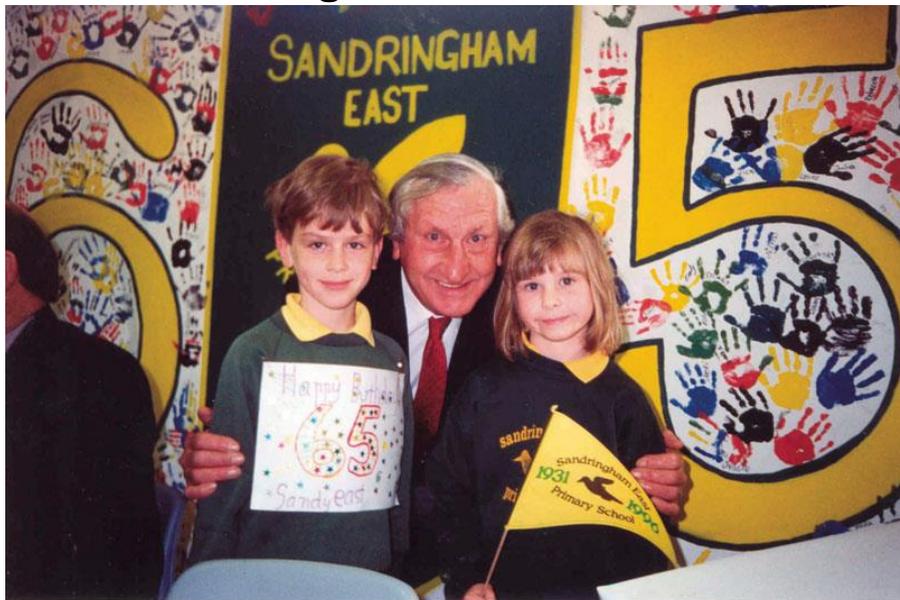


## World Events in the 1990's

- 1990** Royal Australian Navy deployed in preparation for the First Gulf War. Carmen Lawrence becomes the first female premier of an Australian state. Labour wins the 1990 federal election.
- 1991** Prime Minister Bob Hawke is replaced by Paul Keating. Seven people die in the Strathfield massacre. Prominent heart surgeon Victor Chang is gunned down. The Coode Island chemical storage facility in Melbourne explodes, leaving a toxic cloud hanging over the city for days.
- 1992** The High Court delivers the Mabo Decision, which rules that indigenous native title does exist. This effectively extinguishes the concept of *terra nullius*. New South Wales Premier Nick Greiner resigns.
- 1992** Queensland holds a Referendum on Daylight Saving, which is defeated with a 54.5% 'no' vote.
- 1993** Keating defeats John Hewson in the 1993 federal election; the Australian Greens stand candidates for the first time.

- 1995 The Northern Territory legalises voluntary euthanasia, but it is overruled by the federal government when Liberal MP Kevin Andrews proposes the Euthanasia Laws Bill 1996.
- 1996 The High Court hands down the Wik Decision, which holds that indigenous native title can survive the granting of pastoral leases.
- 1996 Liberal John Howard becomes Prime Minister, defeating Paul Keating after a record 13 years of Labor government
- 1996 All Australian states and territories agree to introduce uniform gun laws following the deaths of 35 people in the Port Arthur massacre
- 1997 Expelled Liberal MPPauline Hanson forms the One Nation Party
- 1997 On 1 May 1997 Tasmania legalises homosexuality.
- 1997 Eighteen people die when the Bimbadene and Carinya Lodges collapse at Thredbo Alpine Village at 11.30 p.m. on 30 July
- 1998 A major strike results when Patrick Stevedores attempt to introduce non-union labour to reduce the influence of the Maritime Union of Australia
- 1998 The Australian Stock Exchange is demutualized and floated as a public company, becoming the world's first stock exchange to be listed on an exchange.
- 1999 Both houses of the federal parliament pass a motion signifying both recognition of and regret at past treatment of indigenous Australians.
- 1999 A referendum on changing to a republic is unsuccessful
- 1999 Australian soldiers are deployed to East Timor as part of the INTERFET peacekeeping force

## School Life at Sandringham East in the 1990's



*Mr. Ray Sims, an original student in 1931, pictured with students celebrating the school's 65th anniversary. All students painted a handprint on this canvas which is still in the hall today.*

The 1980s and 1990s witnessed a growing trend towards the use of technology in schools including the use of vast information resources such as the internet in teaching. These systems have and will alter the way students learn, demanding new and diverse skills for a rapidly changing world. How these issues will intertwine with teaching practice and an ongoing regard for the educational success of students will be seen in the success of generations.

The year 1993 defined a new era in education and the “the slash and burn” policies of the state

government made enormous cuts to education! After a decade of power in State Parliament, the Labor Government's leadership ended when the Liberal-National Party Government was elected into office. The party's election in 1992 and its following years of reform defined a period of enormous change politically and also a considerable change in the education practices of Victoria. Radical and sweeping educational reforms were initiated by the new power including policies established to attack the state deficit. Massive cuts to the education budget transpired and the Schools of the Future Program evolved.

Educational reforms included extreme cuts to the education budget causing "a very real and broad community anger." Significant changes in trends in education emerged when existing schools became "Schools of the Future" and "Schools into the next Millennium" giving schools power and control over their operations and future. The school was left entirely to market and promote itself with the aim of attracting potential students. This made several schools unviable and many were forced to close. In the Bayside area School Support Centers closed as did many schools with smaller populations. Moorabbin West Primary School closed in 1992, while Highett Primary closed in 1993. There was fierce competition for displaced students and schools battled for the children to attend their schools. One school even went as far as setting up a bus service to transport kids out of the area to their school.

The Department of Education's Schools Of The Future Program was implemented when Sandringham East, an Intake 3 school, developed it's first Charter in 1994.

## Brighton, Sandy miss axe

by VICTORIA GURVICH

WHILE more than 150 Victorian primary schools have been told they must close, schools in the cities of Sandringham and Brighton remain intact. A spokeswoman for the Education Department, South East Metropolitan Region, said there was no need for any change to school structures in Sandringham or Brighton.

"It was deemed by the Minister (Don Hayward) that schools in those areas were functioning well and mergers or closures were not appropriate," she said.

Sandringham MIA, Murray Thompson said it was positive news for the local school communities and they could continue their teaching programs "without being under threat in any way."

He said the schools were not involved in the Quality Provision shakeup because of adequate student populations.

He cited the following student numbers: Beaumaris Primary, 543; Sandringham Primary, 479; Black Rock Primary, 370; Beaumaris North Primary, 343; and Sandringham East Primary, 263.

### Potential

Mr Thompson said the schools had the potential to provide the breadth of curricula required under the Schools of the Future program.

■ Sandringham East primary has had enrolment inquiries from parents with pupils at Highett Primary, which is set to close.

Principal Helen Richards said she did not know how many more pupils would enrol at Sandringham East next year but she said the school could "cope with quite a few."



MURRAY Thompson

*Report from Murray Thompson, Member for Sandringham.*

## Recollections of the 1990's

### Helen Richards, Principal 1993 – 2001 (and grandparent today!)



In 1995 Ian Douglas was appointed by the School Council to design and supervise the building of new children's toilets. These were to replace two large red brick blocks of toilets which used to be in the middle of the asphalt area – the girls' block became "Friendship Square". In the early planning stages of the project Highett Primary was to be demolished and any school could have any of the buildings if they could arrange and pay for transport. A decision had to be made by the end of the week and it was already Friday.

I contacted Ian Douglas and Tim Barbour, School Council President and we met at Highett Primary at 4pm. After inspecting all the available

buildings Ian assured us he could use the buildings to design toilets, a disabled toilet and change area, staff shower and toilet, a new upgraded canteen, a much needed hall for our growing school assemblies and parent activities, and two new large classrooms. This would all be from the wing that had been Highett Primary School's storeroom, classrooms, library and art room.

It took many weeks of planning to move the large building in twelve truck loads down Bay Road. We had to clear the area in readiness for the building, which required the sand pit being moved for the third time and the corner of the roof of the small shelter shed at the end of the drive way had to be removed to enable the trucks to squeeze between the brick Prep rooms. All went very well until the very last load and the truck went a little too wide on entering the drive way and the water meter was hit and water flowed down Holloway Road. The moving of this building cost the school \$30,000 which put a huge hole in our budget, but Ian was confident that we would still complete the job. Initially the toilets were completed and later as funds were scraped together the much needed classrooms, and finally the hall.



*A tight squeeze bringing the new buildings from Highett Primary to Sandy East.*

### **Allena Hamilton, Teacher, 1992 – 2004 (and Early Years Coordinator)**

Sandringham East Primary School was lucky enough to be the recipient of not only students and equipment but a whole wing of Highett school buildings! The equipment included all of the shared literature books and all of the Big books, the playground and photographic equipment. Children came from Highett and we made every effort to help them settle in. Having worked at Highett Primary School I already knew the children so I kept an eye on them. These children increased our school population and made it more diverse.

Sandringham East had already been allocated money to demolish the two old, red brick toilet blocks and build new toilets. We had to make a very quick decision – a matter of hours, when we were offered the Highett LTC (Light Timber Construction). The large pine tree was cut down and the old pine play equipment was moved. The LTC buildings were brought in halves. The builders converted the basic rooms into our current toilets, canteen, hall and classrooms. This is now called the Highett Wing. We replaced the old playground equipment with the playground equipment from Highett. The garage was moved further up the yard so that the two small portable classrooms could fit in. The shelter shed was converted into the Japanese room at considerable cost.

In 1994 Sandringham East Primary School adopted a new timetable. Now Sandringham East Primary School had two hours of study in the morning with half an hour recess. Lunch was then later at 1pm. The afternoon recess was then eliminated. This change was to provide opportunity for the Early Years Program to be implemented, the thought being that literacy learning should be in the earlier part of the day when students were fresh and eager to learn.



*Opening of the Japanese Room.*

### **Opening of the Japanese Room by Helen Richards, Principal 1993 - 2001**

In 1997 Sandringham East Primary School gained a \$276,000 major maintenance grant. Some of the many things accomplished were enlarged classrooms, the skylight dome in the corridor, painting inside and out, tiling of the entrance and a re-asphalted quadrangle.

During that period Sandringham East Primary School had begun to offer Japanese, first by our devoted class teachers who kept one step ahead of the children via a television program, and then we obtained the services of a very energetic and keen teacher of Japanese – Mignon Kemke. We had an art room for art, and a library, but our teacher of Japanese had to travel to each classroom. A solution to bring the Japanese lessons together under the one roof, was to renovate the shelter shed which until then we had spent many a working bees cleaning out. I threw the challenge to Bernadette Neville, our architect for the upgrade and she really enjoyed the job as she designed the cupboards, doors, furniture and floor coverings and we then boasted the first purpose built Japanese room.



*The plaque on the Japanese Room reads: The Language Centre was opened on the 29th October 1997 by Mr. Tsutomu Higuchi, Director of Japanese Information Services at the Japanese Consulate Melbourne.*

### **Memories from the 90s from Allena Hamilton, Teacher 1992 - 2004**

My worst time (at Sandringham East Primary School) was when the Kennett Government decided to reduce the number of teachers. We were told that three or four teachers would be asked to leave. We did not know who would be selected and we all had to go for an interview with (Principal) Frank Fielding. It was a very unsettling time.

In 1993 the 5/6 children were studying Antarctica. The children sent letters to Mawson Base in Autumn but the letters did not arrive until late October. The head of the base was Alan Grant and he was so excited when he received the letters that he phoned school and spoke to Joy Fox our secretary. Joy was thrilled to make the contact. He later sent us a very detailed fax answering all of the children's questions and providing detailed information about the Huskies and Antarctica. I still have the Fax.

One of the happiest days at Sandringham East Primary School was Helen Richard's Retirement Celebrations. We made her Queen for the day and we all dressed up and had roles to play. I was the Town Crier. We had a delicious morning tea then a concert in the afternoon.

We had a young chap working at the school. He had been sent from the Office of Corrections. While cleaning the spouting on the old, red brick toilet block he was hit full force by the water from a hose demonstration. The fireman could not see him as the other toilet block obscured their view. The Preps thought it very funny but the drenched young chap was not amused.

While on camp in the Grampians we took the children to see the wonderful view from Reid's Lookout. Rocky Muratore commented, "All you can see is trees" and he was not very impressed.

New carpet had been recently laid in the Prep rooms. A child was returning some yellow food dye to my room when he tripped and made a huge stain on the new carpet. The stain could not be removed. We told the children that Mrs. Richards would be so cross if she saw it. Next minute Mrs. Richards came into the room and stood on top of the stain but she did not see it. The expressions on the children's faces were priceless but no one said a word.

For two weeks chickens were hatching in the incubators. Every morning I had to check the chickens to remove any dead ones. There was something wrong as several chickens were deformed. The parents even took one chicken to the local vet. The exercise did not give the intended results.

## School wins fight for crossing



**Ten years in the making:** Penuka Mann helps Sandringham East Primary School pupils Simon Bevrige and Jessica De Los Rios cross the road ... the school has wanted this crossing for 10 years. 961008134

AFTER 10 years of campaigning, Sandringham East Primary School finally has a school crossing in Holloway Rd.

The manned crossing was installed during the holidays and principal Helen Richards said she was delighted with the result.

Ms Richards said traffic in the area had been a big problem for a long time. She said children felt safer with the crossing and parents felt much happier. "You couldn't wipe the grin off their faces," she said.

Ms Richards said the school had also approached council about a crossing in Bay Rd used by pupils.

She said vehicles travelling from Nepean Highway could not see the crossing's traffic lights until they were very close to it. Ms Richards said council was considering installing higher traffic lights that could be seen farther away.

— RACHAEL HODDER

*Leader Newspaper Report re the battle for a school crossing.*

In 1992 substantial changes took place which Tim Barbour (School Council President at that time) explains in his report at the Annual Meeting:

*"It would be an understatement to say that this last year has been one of change. Who would have thought so many major aspects of such a traditional institution as primary schooling would, or even could, change so drastically in such a relatively short period of time. The most radical changes occurred as a result of and directly following the October State Elections which saw the Liberal Government swept into office. Unfortunately the 'sweeping' effect did not end there. As the full extent of their policies aimed at tackling the State deficit took effect we at Sandringham East Primary School gave thanks that we were not as harshly affected as those schools which were closed. As a result of the cutbacks in staffing numbers, changes occurred as had never been previously experienced. As part of a major reduction in numbers of public sector employees, senior teachers and staff were offered voluntary separation packages. By Christmas Eve 1992 offers had been accepted by our three wise men, Principal Frank Fielding, Deputy Principal Geoff Swan and our most senior staff member with over 30 years experience, George Boyd. Losing three key people, collectively over one hundred years of experience, from any organization during the Christmas break is sure to cause upheaval and this was no exception. This was a challenging experience for all, to say the least."*

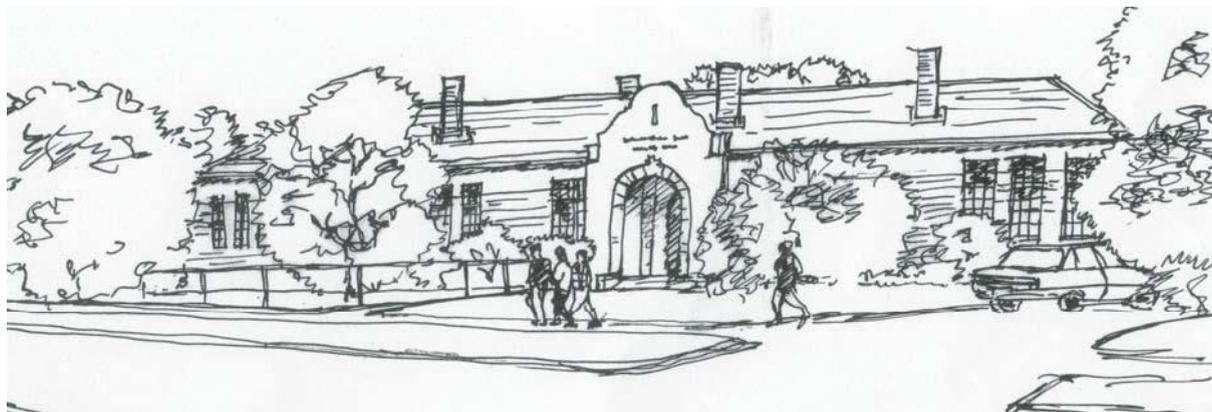
During the remainder of 1993, the teacher strikes continued. These were supported by the teacher unions, the federation of parents' clubs, some of the school councils lobby groups, the Victorian Council of State School Organisations (VICCSO) and the Principals' Federation.

Two hundred and forty-nine quality provision task forces were created to decide which schools should be closed, amalgamated or restructured during the following school year which ended with closure of more than 100 schools.

Pupil-teacher ratios were to rise at this time and approximately 8,000 teachers were to be made redundant. Many competent and efficient teachers were enticed into taking voluntary separation packages

Anne Picking remembers the sketches designed for the school letterhead.

The sketch for the official letterhead and report covers was designed by Meg Picking, grandmother of Robert and Andrew Picking (students from 1993-2000). Anne is currently an Integration Aide at Sandringham East Primary School and enjoys being a part of the school community once again.



### **Graeme Bartholomeusz, Assistant Principal / Teacher 1996 - 2006**

Arriving at Sandringham East Primary School on the first day, standing next to the flag pole and waiting for someone to introduce me, I had a sense of being at the right place at the right time. It turned out to be a friendly school with a lovely community feeling. I had a strong sense of affiliation with the children and parents.

As a grade teacher and coordinator of school camps it is always fun to be with fellow teachers and children away from a normal school setting. There are many stories we can tell. On camp with Allena Hamilton (Grade 6 Teacher) I remember looking out of a small opening in a curtain with other teachers trying to find out who was running out of their cabin and knocking on doors all night. We decided to 'plant' Allena Hamilton behind a pillar. Only the teachers could see Allena. She was there for some time like a 'frozen statue.' Finally the 'door knocker' sneaked out slowly but returned

back to the cabin. This happened several times. We were in fits of laughter watching Allena conceal herself and getting ready to pounce on the culprit. Finally the 'door knocker' walked towards Allena. Her hand stretched back and forth until the child decided to walk past the pillar. Allena grabbed his jumper. We heard a sharp short scream. The terrified child took off like a rocket not knowing where the hand came from. We did not hear a sound after that and in the morning no child spoke about the incident.

The Grade 5 and 6 children were coerced into carrying bricks from the demolished toilet in Friendship Square to the BBQ area where the bricks were used for paving. This was their fitness task each Tuesday and Thursday. They had to select only the un-chipped bricks. It took many weeks to complete the task.

Graeme Bartholomeusz, aka "Mr. B" overlooks a demonstration of gymnastics during Health and Education Week in 2000. Students enjoyed demonstration dance, whole school fitness run, extra PE lessons for all classes practicing the fundamental motor skills.



### **Ann Picking, Parent 1994 – 2001 and present staff member in 2011**

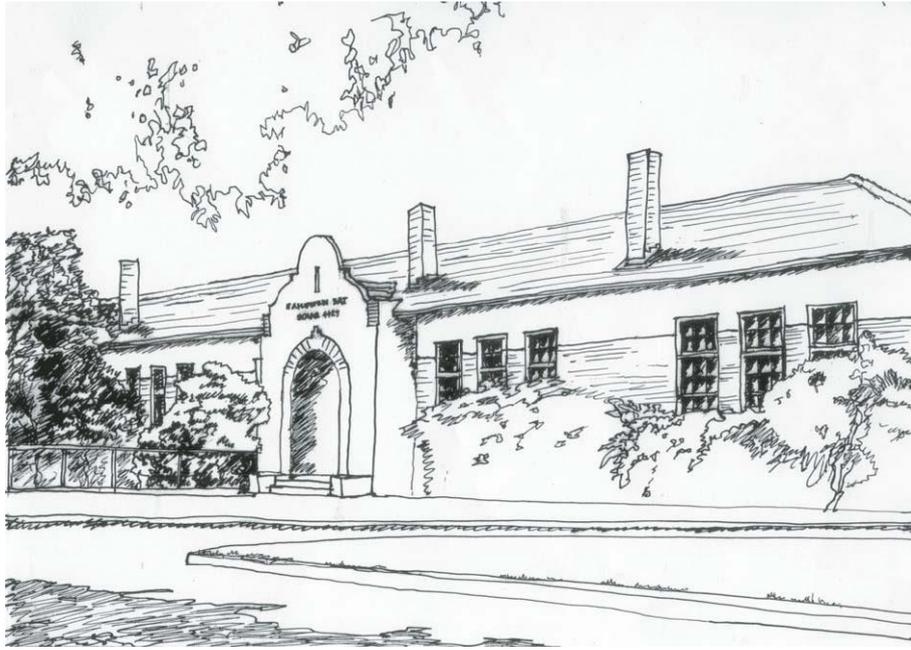
My children Robert and Andrew attended Sandringham East Primary School during the 1990's under the Principalship of Helen Richards. How lucky they were to have such caring staff and fantastic memories of their time at Sandringham East Primary School. Wonderful friendships were forged with most still a big part of their lives.

They enjoyed art, music (now called Performing Arts) concerts, bush dances. They enjoyed sport, especially on Fridays, when they would play their chosen sport against other schools. A new language room was state of the art.

Whilst the boys attended Sandringham East Primary School it was not uncommon to find many families getting together to raise funds for the school. Bush dances were very popular with BYO everything and it was a race to get to the verandas to set up your tables and chairs in case of rain. Fetes were also a great source of fun with lots of hard work by all.

Now I am back at Sandringham East Primary School I have found many new faces, however the same caring staff as always and with Principal Laureen Walton who has brought many new ideas and developments to the school. The canteen offers healthy food and exercise is a big part of the children's curriculum. A new library opened in 2006 was very exciting for all at Sandringham East Primary School.

The parents still care just as much as we did and work just as hard. Fundraising will always be a part of the school system. The children of today seem to have more confidence and an attitude of giving everything and everyone a fair go.



## World Events in the 2000's

BAYSIDE LEADER September 24, 2001

# Dark days of grief

Bayside leader

24-9-2001



Reflections: Emily and Luke were among many students who wrote about the terrorist attack. Digital image: HILTON STONE

## Pupils put it in writing

by MARTIN BOULTON

GRADE 4 students at Sandringham East Primary School have been confronting the tragedy of the terrorist attacks.

Their teacher, Rochelle Plumb, said the students had been discussing current affairs as part of their media and communications studies before the tragic events in New York and Washington.

"When they arrived at school after hearing about the attacks, the children had a lot of questions," Mrs Plumb said.

"They understood the enormity of it by their parents' reactions, so in class

we focused on the facts and tried to sort out all the information."

Mrs Plumb said most of the students decided to "put on their journalist hat" and write a story, including the facts they had discussed in class.

Other students chose to write a letter to President George W. Bush, expressing their concerns and how they thought he should respond.

"Writing about it was a useful outlet for making sense of the things they had been trying to sort out in their minds," Mrs Plumb said.

"It's important for them to be able to ask questions, at school and at home, to make sense of what they're hearing and seeing."

Principal Lauren Walton said she

was proud of the way teachers, support staff and the school community had met the needs of students.

"The over-riding message to our children is that we'll provide a safe and protected environment for them at school," Mrs Walton said.

She said as part of the school's personal development program, the children are taught "to bounce back after personal hardship, adversity or reversals in life".

"These children haven't come up against anything like this before," she said.

"And teaching them to think and behave in a resilient manner when things go wrong helps them retain emotional wellbeing."

The Terrorist Attacks responses by SEPS students in year 4 published in the Leader Newspaper.

**May 2007** Many Sandringham East Primary School students joined other Beachside schools to make the Climate Change sign see below.



- 2000** 27th Olympic Games held in Sydney.
- 2000** Howard Government introduces a Goods and Services Tax.
- 2001** Australia celebrates centenary of Federation. Tampa affair (August) and tightening of policies against illegal immigration. September 11 Terrorist Attacks on the United States by Al Qaeda (John Howard invokes ANZUS Treaty). Howard defeats Kim Beazley in Federal Election.
- 2001** Western Australia adopts a uniform Age Of Consent of 16.
- 2001** Australian forces deployed to War to topple Taliban for supporting Al Qaeda.
- 2002** 2002 Bali bombings, the deadliest act of terrorism in the history of Indonesia, killing 202 people, (including 88 Australians).
- 2003** Australian military deployed to Iraq War to oust the Saddam Hussein regime for serial non-compliance with the 1991 Gulf War Peace Treaty.
- 2003** Northern Territory introduces uniform Age Of Consent set at 16 for everyone.
- 2003** New South Wales becomes the last State to have a Uniform Age of Consent at 16 for everyone.
- 2003** Sydney host Rugby World Cup.
- 2004** A bomb explodes outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- 2004** Federal Election: Howard Government (Liberal-National Coalition) wins fourth term and defeats Mark Latham led Australian Labor Party.
- 2005** The Sydney beachside suburb of Cronulla saw a protest against the alleged bashing of a beach lifeguard develop into an alcohol fueled, racially charged riot.
- 2006** The Commonwealth Games are held in Melbourne.
- 2006-7** Australian Forces are again deployed to East Timor to help stabilize the country.
- 2007** Sydney hosts APEC summit.
- 2007-10** Australia avoids recession amidst Global Financial Crisis
- 2007** Federal Election: Kevin Rudd (Australian Labor Party) defeats John Howard (Liberal-National Coalition) and becomes Prime Minister.
- 2008** Kevin Rudd leads bi-partisan Parliamentary apology to the Stolen Generation.
- 2008** Longest heat wave for an Australian Capital City recorded in Adelaide.
- 2008** Sydney hosts Catholic World Youth Day – visit from Pope
- 2008** Quentin Bryce becomes first woman Governor General of Australia.
- 2009** Black Saturday: Massive bushfires swept across Victoria, resulting in 173 fatalities.
- 2010** Kevin Rudd challenged and replaced as leader of the Labor Party by Julia Gillard; Gillard becomes the first female Prime Minister.

- 2010 Federal Election results in hung Parliament and narrow victory by Julia Gillard (ALP) over Tony Abbott (Lib-Nat Coalition). Liberal Ken Wyatt becomes the first Aborigine elected to the Australian House of Representatives.
- 2011 State of Queensland affected by major flooding followed by Cyclone Yasi.
- 2011 Victoria affected by major flooding.

## School Life at Sandringham East in the 2000's

Principal Helen Richards retired in 2001 after eight happy years at Sandringham East. Helen's farewell was significant with a farewell assembly where she was treated as Queen for the Day and the staff performed a special Gilbert and Sullivan Performance! Helen left a continuing legacy at Sandringham East as her grandchildren Jeremy and William attended as students.

Lauren Walton was appointed as Principal and came to Sandringham East Primary School from Sandringham Primary and before that Hampton Primary. As someone who has a great affinity for the local community Lauren has led the school to ensure that teachers and parent community continue to offer the very best learning challenges and opportunities for our children. She has become the longest serving Principal of Sandringham East Primary School.



*New Principal Lauren Walton planting a tree to hopefully shade the children's playground in years to come.*

In 2001 Principal Mrs Walton, along with School Council President John Lescohier focused on consultation and active involvement by School Council Committees. These committees represent

the many facets of school life and make recommendations to School Council and included: Canteen, Uniform Shop, Facilities, Policy and Planning, Fundraising, Parent's Association, Out of School Hours Care and Finance. Committee meetings are now held monthly before School Council meetings which streamlines decisions. John Lescohier was a tireless worker for the school and had a high profile within the school community.

The first challenge for the new Principal was to establish what was working well and to look for challenges to further improve the education of Sandringham East Primary School students. Academic results were consistently above average for "like schools" and there was a focus on providing programs to challenge highly able children. There was also a focus on providing learning opportunities through such programs as Reading Recovery. The Early Years Literacy and Numeracy programs provided students with variety of challenging learning experiences.

The development of the school vision and values encapsulated the feedback and consultation of the school community. Karen Roberts, talented art teacher at this time, designed the graphics for our new vision.

***To provide students with the highest quality education empowering them to optimize the necessary talents and skills to fulfill their dreams.***

"Always Our Best"

1. Student learning takes place in a safe, friendly, stimulating and happy environment.
2. The Community are active partners and participants in the life of the school.
3. Staff encourage students to develop a love of learning and to be engaged in the process of life long learning.



*Vision illustrations developed by Karen Roberts - Art teacher 2001.*

### **Julie Anderson, Teacher 1968-70, 1993-2006**

On a particularly freezing morning in June of 2001, the whole school attended a free breakfast at school and were entertained, while a live radio broadcast took place from Sandringham East Primary School school. Grubby and Dee Dee were from Gold 104.3 FM. The entertainment began at 7am on the asphalt. On arrival at the school I was so surprised to see hoards of mums and dads, children and babies, eating bacon and eggs in a marquee, sliding down the giant slide, dancing and singing on stage, petting animals in an animal nursery and collecting lots of freebies. Some students were actually hosting the program with Grubby and Dee Dee as it went live to air, while others sat and watched the show go to air. All the children behaved well, were courteous and above all, very happy. When the school bell rang everyone realized the fun they were having with Grubby and Dee Dee was over and reluctantly left the show to line up, looking very satisfied with themselves and holding little bags of goodies in their hands.

## Out of School Hours Care

During 1988 the feasibility for a program was explored and commenced with partial funding in Term 3 1988 under supervision of Mrs Ruth Cantrell. During the 1990's, because of a higher proportion of working parents, there was a need for greater service in before and after school care. Kids Club was established in 1995 to cater for this need at Sandringham East and was managed locally by School Council. In 2002 Camp Australia was contracted to deliver this service followed by Brighter Life Pty Ltd.

Extend is the current Provider for After School Care. Children enjoy a great variety of activities and parents appreciate the availability of the program to cater for their busy lifestyles. Currently Before School Care is being reinstated due to a commitment for viable numbers by parents.



*Students enjoy the holiday program at Sandy East.*

## Widening Horizons Program

A Breakfast Speaker Program was initiated in 2002 as a component of our Widening Horizons program focus where community members were invited to breakfast. With a variety of speakers for the community and the Year 5 and 6 students, this was an opportunity which would otherwise not be available to our young people.



*Students, pictured above, are enthralled listening to speaker, Robyn Moore.*

Speakers engaged to share their knowledge with the school have a wide and varied experience of interests and career paths. We have been fortunate to enjoy the following speakers: Consentino Brothers – Illusion and Magic, Eric Phillips – Arctic adventurer, Robyn Moore – Blinky Bill voice and voice-over work, Dr Richard Boyd – Stem-Cell Researcher, John Bertrand – renowned America’s Cup sailor, Steve Kemsley – Security Officer for Commonwealth Games and Leanne Mercer – TV Producer.

Students expanded their horizons through the speaker’s focus on stimulating and encouraging students with the “You Can Do It” messages. Our young people gained from their connectedness to the speakers who were positive role models and who shared leadership skills. Community support for this program included parents, teachers, local business partners, community organisations such as Lions and Rotary, and interested neighbours and friends from our wider community.

The program was followed up in the classroom and further developed with teachers and students as part of the curriculum programs. Students sent copies of their thoughts and reports to the speaker as a thank you. John Bertrand was especially taken with the booklet of reports sent to him and communicated his appreciation. The benefit to students supported our Middle Years Program demonstrating the skills of engagement, problem solving and creative thinking skills, as well as connecting students to the Global community in which we live. Our young leaders of tomorrow need stimulating and enthusiastic role models which we provide through this Speaker program.

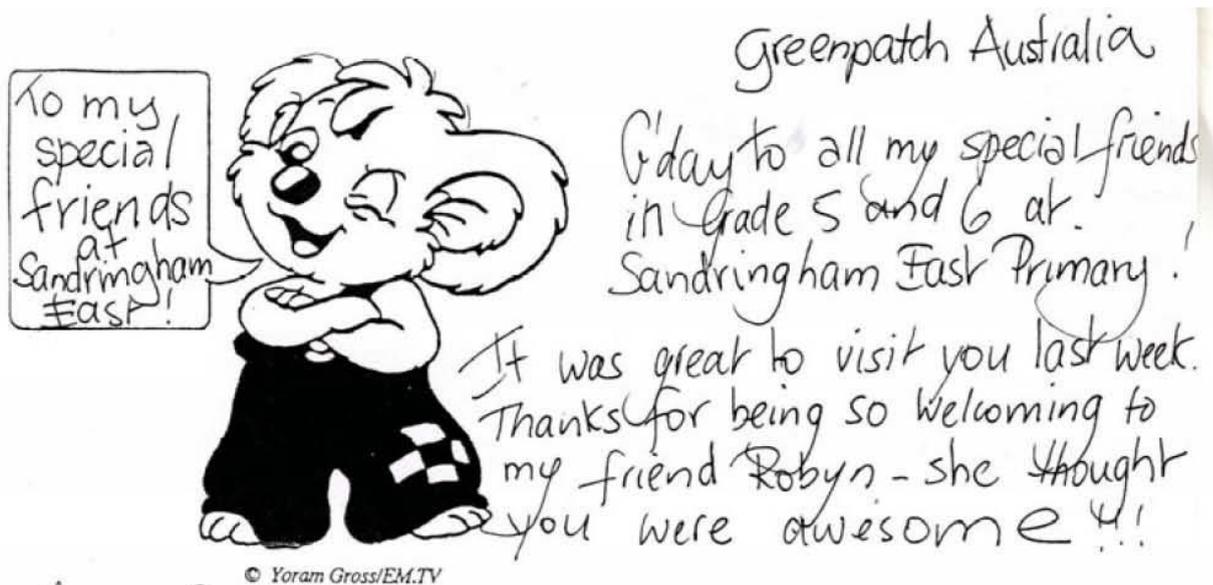
### **Chalkboard Drawings**

Margaret Thompson was a prep teacher and her son Justin (a teenager) used to come and draw pictures of Snuggle-pot and Cuddle-pie for her. They were treasured for many many years with each new prep teacher keeping them.

It was when rooms were recently refurbished that they were removed and framed as a Sandringham East Primary School treasure. If anyone from the family has more information please contact us.



After speaking to students Robyn Moore (Blinky Bill voice over artist) wrote:



Never forget:

1. You have been given amazing seconds to live in! (They are yours... and very precious!)
  2. Your teachers and parents use words like ...  
amazing, caring, funny, considerate, helpful, clever, inventive, powerful, thoughtful, EXTRAORDINARY etc to describe you ... so each day you can choose one or more of those words to BE! (Always your BEST!)
  3. Laughter is one of your best gifts. If you have lost your laughter talk to your parents, your teachers or your friends.
  3. oops  $\neq$  (concentrate at school or you won't know your numbers!!) What you love doing most is your gift. When my friend Robyn was little she gave all her toys voices & now her voice is heard around the world. What you love doing now may be what you develop at school & in your further education. Follow your dreams & never ever give up!!
  5. Always let everyone KNOW that they are EXTRAORDINARY! (Your parents, your brothers & sisters, friends, teachers!)
  6. The greatest adventure you'll ever have is ... YOUR LIFE! (So be as extraordinary as you dare to BE... you may as well!)
- Love, your friend Blinky Bill (and Robyn Moore)



*John Bertrand visited SEPS as part of our Breakfast Speaker Program.*

*John is pictured above with some of our Year 5 Sailors, from left are: Shelley Nowlan, Alicia Hunter, Jessica Hooley, Jeanti Eger and Alex Jackson.*

During the early 2000's the school community was fortunate that parent Anne Pettus drove the school's Sanctuary project ahead and was an enthusiastic dynamo. Her passion for the environment and big picture thinking was an inspiration for the community. Anne was responsible for the Landscape Plan, plantings around the new Year 3 classroom and also instigated a Features Survey which was completed as a prelude to the Master Plan. During this time the "Friends of Sandy East" was formed. The school's sustainability policy was introduced with a focus on energy management, water savings and environmental bio diversity.

We were fortunate in 2003 that Wayne Judson (parent and facilities coordinator) coordinated the development of the facilities Master Plan which was presented to the Department of Education and Training. Permission was gained to implement part of the Master Plan and the redeveloped school office was a welcome addition, giving the office staff space to manage the ever increasing workload more efficiently. It is amazing to look back and wonder how the office girls managed in such a small space – it speaks wonders for their ability to get along together and work in a team!

A Walking School Bus Program was developed with Bayside Council and initially coordinated by parent Karen Garton. Many students enjoyed walking to school on the route in the Hightett area. Apart from being environmentally friendly, the students benefited from this opportunity to get fit. Karen's great work was continued by many parents and recently Bayside Council announced that they will no longer fund this great program after 2011. School Council are yet to make the decision whether or not to continue with their own funding.



*Children pictured above are celebrating a special Walking School Bus day in 2005.*

The Coastal Bird Artist In School project with Jill Cahill and Karen Roberts was a major focus and students enjoyed constructing the sculptures of coastal birds with a variety of kitchen and garage bits and pieces. The resulting birds have been a great innovation and were displayed at the Innovations Commission and also enhance the school gardens and surrounds. In 2011 they were relocated to the Friendship Garden and Frank Fielding garden.



*Students chat with the coastal birds looking on!*

The Triennial Review was completed in 2004 and a new charter priority was developed to focus on the teaching and learning for students and staff. “Think, Imagine, Become”, encapsulated the direction for students and the development of their thinking skills. The Innovation and Excellence Project within the Cerberus cluster of schools provided Middle Years students and teachers the opportunities to ensure engagement and connectedness. This project made an impact on student learning as well as teacher’s professional learning.

Sandringham East Primary School became a Lighthouse School, a federal government initiative, which enabled a focus on the education and learning of boys in particular. Children in years 5 and 6 enjoyed the “Rocketing Into Space” Expo with Lighthouse cluster schools. The Success For Boys enhanced student’s learning and provided opportunities to expand ICT (Information, Communication & Technology) skills.

School Council continued to identify additional areas where improvements to the school’s operation could be achieved. A series of Parent Forums were held and many initiatives from the program have been implemented. Trading operations provide a service for the school community. The school canteen focused on the implementation of economical and healthy food choices and is currently using the Go For Your Life Guidelines for healthy eating in schools with green and amber foods. School Council currently contracts the canteen service to Joanne Whitby who provides students with healthy choices which are cooked by her on site.

Many hours of canteen discussions were wasting each school council meeting so this change has solved what was a major problem over the life of the school (as seen in first minutes in 1950’s).

Uniform Shop is managed by wonderful parent volunteers who provide parents with an onsite uniform shop. A wide brim hat and a renewed girl’s uniform fabric ensures that the uniform remains vibrant and easy to wear. The mix and match combinations of green or gold polo shirts provide flexibility for parents and items such as the polar fleece vest and the year 6 windcheater are welcome additions. The design of a school bag with ergonomic features is another popular item.

School Council in 2005 focused on applying for funding for the development of a new library. The “Library” in the 1950’s was a small weatherboard cottage that stood on the west side of the schoolyard, then it moved into a larger classroom which was a wonderful library space. Unfortunately due to a large class size in 2005 this library room was required for a year 6 class and the library was again relocated to the old wooden building.



*Students working in the old wooden building library in 2005*

Planning and architectural drawings were developed by SAAJ Architects and building commenced later in 2006 on a new library/resource centre. Fundraising activities focused on gaining additional funds for the new library as the Investing In Schools Grant from the Federal Government was only \$150,000. The Fundraising Committee raised \$24,483 through a wide range of activities over the 2005 school year.

The project provided an extension to the main brick building of the school and became a focal point for the front entrance to the school. It tied in with the existing old building using the same bricks and a special raised "read" brickwork provided a unique focus signifying that this is indeed a special place to read and research. Effective use of energy is incorporated through appropriate lighting and heating. The building houses the school library resources and provides opportunities for ICT research as well as space for community meetings before and after school. An interactive whiteboard ensures that this space is well used for community meetings as well as for student learning.

School Council established a Grants Committee to better address and coordinate grant applications. Successful applications included the Library Resource Centre, Healthy Eating Grant and Active After School Communities funding. Students enjoy the benefits of this extra funding and the AASC program gives opportunities for a variety of activities such as basketball, dance skills, circus skills, cricket etc after school.

**Schools to share \$1m**

BAYSIDE schools have received a federal funding boost of almost \$1 million. Brighton Primary, Brighton Secondary College, Cheltenham Primary, Gardenvale Primary, Sandringham College and Sandringham East Primary will share \$970,000 to improve facilities. Sandringham East Primary School principal Laureen Walton said the school had successfully applied for \$150,000 to develop a new library.

"We have a fantastic amount of resources, but the educational environment certainly has to be improved," she said.

"We have a fabulous plan, so as soon as we have the funding confirmed we will go ahead with the tender."

Goldstein Federal MP Andrew Robb said Investing in Our Schools funding for 2006 was now open.

» For more information: [www.dest.gov.au](http://www.dest.gov.au)

*Leader Newspaper announcement June 2006.*

In the 2000's generally there has been a substantial increase in the school's accountability to the Department of Education (DE&T) and the parent community. The increased measurement of achievement through data collection and opinion surveys allows schools to plan for continuous improvement.

## **Recollections of the 2000's**

### **John Lescohier, Parent 1990's - 2000's and School Council President 2001 – 2003**

During the times when my boys were scholars at Sandringham East Primary School, what I remember best are the following things... Tuck Shop and James wanting to know if he had got correct change from 10 cents spent on a 10 cent item as a 1st grade student (the start of a promising future in maths); Michael running his (snotty, runny, cold affected) nose across the computer monitor in Mrs. English's grade 4 classroom to show me his work; Amy McGlashan and the wonders of transforming innocent little children into worldly "preppies" ready to take on the rest of the school; The "Buddies" program - looking after those tender "preppies" by grade 5 and 6 students; The Art Shows in the cold and sometimes damp corridors; Working Bees and cleaning all those leaves and sticks from the gutters; Re-locating the "transportable" (which has moved to a few spots now) and the portable classroom units (how did that crane driver ever get it into that space I never did find out); Bruce Bowles & Wayne Judson - tireless workers on school council who got things done; Graeme Bartholemeusz and his support for all the students and staff ; Morning or Afternoon Assemblies that seemed to go on for a long, long time, especially when the cold southerly winds whipped around the corner; Sandringham East Primary School joining the 21st century with a computer network and modern PCs; Margaret English - a favourite teacher for the entire school and an all-around top person; The Japanese Room - a different environment for teaching and

learning; Call-outs in the middle of the night when the security system detected “intruders” that were more likely big mice or small rats; Quick School Council Meetings that actually got things done (mostly within DEET rules) - and those meetings that weren’t so quick; The uphill battle to get the school “extra services” to be conducted on a cost neutral basis - or at least knowing the loss was minimal; CASES (financial accounting from DEET) never remaining the same for more than a few months; James Whittle - the best male mentor for impressionable young primary school-aged boys; Julie Anderson and the Reading Recovery Program she tirelessly conducted; Graduation outside the hall - twice - once for each son - and the never to be forgotten speech James made, taking a picture of the audience, so he “wouldn’t forget them”; Bush Dances and barbeques with the School Community on the bitumen between the hall and mod 5 classrooms; Gold 104 FM (Dee Dee & Grubby) broadcasting live from Sandringham East Primary School for one of the school “events”; The School Charter process - a lot of work to tell others about Sandringham East Primary School and the value of education; “The Process” of hiring a new School Principal (Laureen Walton) - whew, does DEET ever have a “process”; The never-ending saga of Before and After School Care; The Lollipop people - always there to make sure our precious children were safely to and from school; Breakfasts in the hall with guest speakers - John Bertrand was the most memorable; School Council - what a great bunch of parents and friends who came together to make Sandringham East Primary School a better place!

### **Alice McPhail, Student 1998 – 2002 (with help from Erika Sudarevic and Laura Aridas)**

Alice and her friends remember grade 2 and 3 with teacher Mrs Baker saluting the sun each morning!

Grade 4 was memorable when they made parachutes so we could drop eggs from a cherry picker. Buddies was good fun doing all the activities with them when we were so big and they were so small. Grade 6 Market Day was fun when we did hair plaiting and friendship bands. The Year 10 students came from Sandringham College and taught twelve of us to dance. Getting our grade 6 jumper on a very hot day was a highlight and the hot weather didn’t stop us from wearing our new jumpers. Marble season was exciting – with the thrill of winning and watching our marble collection grow. Our Mini Olympics is a memory with Alice’s friend Addy Bucek bringing her Olympic torch – we had to cut out fifty stars to make the American flag. The grade 5 concert “Putting on the Hits” was fun but we felt cheated when we didn’t have a grade 6 concert that year. We enjoy looking back at the class photos over the years at Sandringham East Primary School.

### **Staff Reflections of Changes to SEPS**

Michelle Keane, Leanne Murray, Jack Rosenblatt, David Martin and Kathryn Zachest – Specialists Teachers 2011.

We have noticed:

- Large body of staff turned in to a younger staff profile.
- Children changed in terms of drawing them from a wider area – schools nearby closing down which have changed the demographic.
- School larger than it’s ever been.
- Music and Drama/Dance program.
- Media room.
- Garden program – sustainability program...initially classroom teacher responsible with parent assistance, now specialist teacher.
- Numeracy/Literacy Enrichment program.
- School camp destinations have widened to include Canberra and Ski etc.
- Sister school relationship.
- Japanese and Indigenous garden.
- Enclosed area in the school (Front garden changed dramatically).
- Japanese Saturday school.
- New technology – IWB introduced, use of iPads and iPod touches.
- No longer relationship with Sandringham College eg. Woodwork, Science and Electricity program no longer available, replaced with ‘Friends for Life’, ‘You Can Do It’ Programs.
- New range of Student Leadership programs – active leadership program getting involved in whole day events & encouraged to speak publically.

- Buddies program (Prep and Grade 6 relationship) always highly regarded by the students and parents.
- More global awareness and being prepared to give in terms of money, pencil, books to countries that have gone through bad times.



*You Can Do It Program launch led by teacher Lorraine Lee.*

### **You Can Do It Launch reflections from students...**

Mitchell House did Organization. I liked the way the teachers organised everything including the rap with the grade sixes. In class they had a big book about You Can Do It that they taught from. We did all the raps with all the parents watching. I felt nervous. *Shanae - grade 2*

Batman, Sturt, Hovell and Mitchell Houses all performed songs. I liked the performance and the launch also the keys. The raps were great. The teachers were great and I liked how the teachers organised the songs and the Keys Of Success. I liked how the teachers decorated the outside of the office. I think all the songs were great. *Edi - grade 2*

On Thursday we went in our house colors and the teacher was wearing a strip on her and it said You Can Do It. I was moving my hand side to side and I was clicking. I enjoyed it. We were having fun. *Alexander - grade 2*

## Sandringham East Primary School 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Lyla Davies (Prep student in 1931) shows Tessa 1K a slate that was used for daily written work in 1931. The slate is 100 years old.

A letter of appreciation to share ...

*Thank you for the terrific Colonial experience offered to the kids at Sandringham East Primary School. Thomas happily (thankfully) went off in his dress-ups for the 3 days and enjoyed the school spirit created by you all at school. I am sure it was an experience that will remain in his memory forever. He was rather relieved to put his "normal" school uniform on today however and not have to be in the olden days anymore! Thomas was just so full of the colonial school experience – he could not stop raving about it. He was particularly taken by the strap and wanted to know whether both Andrew and I suffered its blows... (answer was yes – but the ruler on the knuckles was more memorable from a pain factor!) He kept saying "I'm glad we don't live in the olden days now" and repeatedly asked me... "but how did it change from the olden days to now?" a question very difficult to explain in 5 year old language! Please pass on our thanks to the whole school staff for authenticating the olden days experience (well not so olden days for some of us!) – what a wonderful success and a great whole school start into the 75<sup>th</sup> celebrations. Well done all of you!*  
**Sue Newton** (Mum of Thomas in Prep)

**Jul 2006** We were very pleased with the results our students achieved in the University of NSW Maths Tests -Congratulations to these students...



**Oct 2006** The Challenge was introduced by the Victorian Premier in 2005 to encourage children to read for enjoyment and promote the development of literacy skills.

**Oct 2006** We were proud that Sandringham East gained accreditation as a Performance and Development Culture School. The accreditation identified the organizational culture of the school in improving the outcomes of students, largely determined by the quality of teaching that students experience. Successful schools create and sustain a culture that has a consistent set of values, beliefs and actions that support improvement in the quality of teaching. The Blueprint identifies this as Performance and Development Culture. The Government's objective is for all schools to be accredited by 2008.

**Nov 2006** Cerberus Spelling Competitors – (James C and the team with the 2nd place trophy).

Students were tested on a range of tough words (eg dungeon, receipt, remodel, and dictionary) that increased in difficulty as the event continued. Our team of Sam, Angus, James, Kieren, Tom and Thomas D, along with support from Will, Sam and Logan, acquitted themselves well. All Sandringham East Primary School students made it through to the third round that included words such as (accommodation, naïve, exhibition, rapport) before they were slowly eliminated. The words increased in difficulty again, and heading into round 5 (words such as embarrass, undernourished, counterfeit, respiratory, seismologist), we were left with Kieren and James to fly our school flag against 8 other students.



The competition came down to 4 students (trying to spell fascinating, iridescent, manoeuvre, chandelier, instantaneously, discriminatory, meticulous, semiprecious, kaleidoscope, eccentric and a whole heap of other words that I do not know how to spell!) and in a tense and highly challenging final James thrived on the pressure to finish in second place overall. An outstanding achievement given that he was the only Grade 5 student competing. James collected his \$50 Westfield voucher, trophy and medal to rapturous applause from his team and the remaining competitors.

**Dec 2006** Sandringham East entered a team in the Maths Olympiad- a competition run throughout Australia for the very best maths students. The focus was on problem solving skills and strategies and the tests challenged the students to apply their skills in a variety of ways. 30 students competed and our scores were most pleasing. Kieren W was ranked in the top 10% of students, and was our highest ranked student. James C and Nic C also achieved a top 25% award for their efforts.



**Aug 2007** 106 Sandringham East Primary School students participated in the University of NSW 2007 and were awarded 9 Distinctions, 24 Credit and 73 Participation awards. Year 4 and 6 students from Sandringham East Primary School achieved pleasing results in the University of New South Wales International English Competition.

Year 4



Year 6



**Feb 2008** The new strategy plan was developed to:

- Improve learning outcomes for all students in the English and Mathematics domains of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.
- Develop in students the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for optimum transition through the various stages of schooling.
- Engage all students in their learning and develop in each individual a sense of wellbeing and connectedness to school.

## Our Vision

To provide students with the highest quality education, empowering them to optimize the necessary talents and skills to fulfil their dreams... "Always Our Best"

**May 2008** Congratulations to Julia Haigh who won first prize in the Bayside Council's Writers' competition. She competed against 100 other writers with her 500 word story "Seashell" to win the award. 1st prize was \$250 worth of books. Julia said, "I Love writing stories because it gives me a chance to express myself. I love trying to put the world down in words."



**Jun 2008** Teachers offered an early morning maths club to support, extend and enrich the learning of students in Mathematics. Sessions focus on number with emphasis on times tables and problem solving. The teachers have been supported by Bryony Lowe, Peer Coach and Maths expert we were lucky enough to have attached to our school for a day each week. The children have been attending in good numbers and are able to work in small groups with access to resources such as laptops. Teachers, Kendra Parker, Mark Lockwood, Pam Brain and Georgi Evans gave this extra time every Tuesday morning.



**Aug 2008** Prep children were introduced to the Australian Developmental Curriculum - Walker Learning Approach. This is based on discoveries the children make during play and project-based Inquiry time. While Literacy and Numeracy blocks still form the basis of the Prep curriculum, Investigations take the place of the traditional Integrated Studies component. What the students investigate, trial and learn during this program is consolidated during Literacy and Numeracy throughout the school day.

**Oct 2008** As part of our National Tree Planting Day activities Sandringham East Primary School submitted an entry in the AMP Foundation Australia wide poster competition and we were one out of 25 successful winners of a \$1000 prize. Miss Majewski coordinated this competition with the help of Keane Sensai, the students and one of our parents Angela Baxter.



**Oct 2008** Grade 4 and 6 students showed a great effort in the University of New South Wales, Australasian Maths and English competitions. The results in the Maths competition were 21 students with credit awards and 7 with distinctions. In the English competition there were 11 credits, 5 distinctions, and 2 high distinctions which were awarded to Julia and Trent – congratulations! The students proudly displayed their award certificates presented at Monday morning assembly.



**Mar 2009** International Education Week is held every year to help celebrate the diversity international education brings to Victoria. The special week increases awareness of the benefits and contributions international students make to Victoria's cultural life. Sandringham East Primary School is not only lucky enough to have hosted exchange students for a short time from Japan and Korea, but we also have had many students who have come to Australia from a different country who are our classmates and friends. Some of these students speak a different language at home with their family. They enrich our understandings of the customs and beliefs from their countries. It is fantastic to see how many countries were represented by our international students at Sandringham East Primary School.



**May 2009** Grade 4 participated in a writing competition, sponsored by “Sharpie” which encouraged students to write about “Why our classroom needs a makeover!” Students from Grade 4 participated and Miss Roberts received a phone call complimenting the students of Sandringham East Primary School on the calibre of their entries. Unfortunately, there can only be one winner – we were not first. However, we managed to secure third place with the honourable mention going to Zoe W (year 4) with the entry below;

“Why Miss Roberts Deserves a Classroom Make Over” - Miss Roberts is kind and tries to make everything fun for everyone. She is organised and encourages everyone else to be so too! I am very lucky to have her as a teacher. Miss Roberts tries to keep her desk tidy, but, sometimes, I’m afraid to say, fails! I bet she’d love it if the makeover includes a tidy desk with custom made shelving to organise her belongings. It would make things far easier. Plus we try to make the classroom bright, but sometimes the plain, white walls look a bit dull. It would look a lot nicer if it were a bright yellow or emerald green! The blinds are dangerous and who knows what’s lurking in the carpet! It all comes back to this. Miss Roberts, in my point of view, is the best Grade 4 teacher I could have wished for. She well and truly deserves a classroom make over.”

**May 2010** 60 parents and grandparents attended a presentation by literacy teacher, Sheila Pfeffer, to familiarise themselves with the THRASS program. It was wonderful to see so many of our school community coming together to acquire knowledge and understanding of the program. The teachers were heartened by parent attendance and look forward the home – school partnership as we move forward with the program.



**Aug 2010** The Walker Learning Approach is a child-centred approach to learning that nurtures talents, develops skill acquisition, encourages creativity, builds resilience and enhances problem solving and lateral thinking. Our students love their Investigations and it provides an opportunity to link Literacy and Numeracy learning with meaningful experiences. Part of the process of implementing this approach is the accreditation of our teachers by Kathy Walker. We are proud to say that ten of our teachers are now accredited: Wendy Arkey, Claire Castrillon, Marnie Majewski, Claire Parsons, Sean Daley, Lisa Bowers, Trudy Gau, Genevieve Casonato-Pal, Tarryn Anderson and Jana Hain.

**Aug 2010 Massive Meteorology - 5,4,3,2,1!** What's the temperature? The 18<sup>th</sup> of August was the day when schools all around Australia participated in the world's biggest interactive weather report to break the current world record. The old record was held by BBC, UK and had 261 schools involved. It was smashed! 502 schools joined in for the National Science Week activity. It was an awesome experience! The temperature was 21C inside and 11C outside. We had to record our temperature to the Weather Channel by 2pm or it wouldn't count. I brought my rain gauge in on the day as well. I love the weather and to break a world record, WOW! **By Jeremy M - year 3.**



**Oct 2010** At Sandringham East Primary School we promote social and emotional development to support student achievement and wellbeing. Social and emotional learning involves developing the ability to recognize and manage emotions, promoting caring and concern for others, making responsible decisions, establishing positive relationships and handling challenging situations effectively. Research has shown that this is fundamental to childrens' mental health, academic learning, moral development and motivation to cooperate and achieve. Our key vehicle for this is the You Do It! Education Program. This program recognizes 5 Keys of Success to assist students to become good citizens: **Confidence** (academic, social); **Persistence**; **Organization**; **Getting Along**, and **Resilience**.



*Each year, students are presented with a set of 5 keys as part of the You Can Do It! Program.*

**Nov 2010** We were thrilled to be chosen by the Department of Education as a Leading Practice School - one of eleven in the State. We are to work with a partner school for 18 months sharing knowledge and good practice between us. We were chosen because of our capacity to communicate, share and transfer knowledge effectively, as well as our skills and practices to work with other schools to improve student learning. We have established a successful relationship between our two schools which will lead to improved capability in both partner schools.

**Apr 2011** On 31st March, we were privileged to have Kathy Walker, founder of Walker Learning Approach (Australian Developmental Curriculum) attend school to present many of our teachers with their accreditation certificates. This was a big celebration for Sandringham East Primary School, as we are one of the first schools in Victoria to have nearly all of their Early Years teachers accredited in this approach. Mr Daley is only the second male teacher to obtain accreditation! Well done and congratulations to all of our ten teachers who have worked so hard to achieve this terrific outcome for our students. We were very proud of the following teachers who are now accredited: Mrs Arkey, Ms Anderson, Miss Bowers, Mrs Castrillon, Mrs Casonato-Pal, Mr Daley, Mrs Gau, Mrs Hain, Miss Miller, Ms Parsons.



*Accredited teachers with Kathy Walker, Laureen Walton (Principal), and Kendra Parker (Assistant Principal).*

### **July 2011 – Reflections from Olivia M, Current Student**

When I walked to school on the first day of term I was not very patient, because it was the day that... Level 2 were going to move into the BER! When Assembly had finished I was so excited. Then I took a good look at the new building, it was fantastic! I think that everyone else loved it too. After we had a look at the building we had to find out what we liked and what we did not like. I did not like the library because there were not a lot of books.....yet, but I did like all the spaces that are in the new building.

### **Sandringham East Primary School 80th Birthday**



## 80 years on, Sandy East has lots to celebrate

SANDRINGHAM East Primary School is gearing up for one marathon party. The school turns 80 on July 30, and the community is planning a day and night full of celebrations.

The event kicks off at 10am, when past and present students, teachers and principals will view memorabilia from the past 80 years.

The school's new building, which contains six classrooms and a learning centre, funded by the Federal Government, will also be officially opened.

That night there will be a cocktail party at the Sandringham Football Club.

Teacher Genevieve Casonato-Pal said the celebration was a way of revisiting the past.

"I imagine there will be past students talking about what they did at Sandy East, the funny times and the sad times, and it will also give older people a chance to see how schools work now," she said.

If you are a past member of the school community phone 9598 1704 for more information.



Students at Sandringham East Primary School get ready to party.

*Leader Newspaper article June 2011.*

To help us celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, the school has commissioned artist and photographer, Julian Cowley (parent of 4 children at the school), to produce a **stylish book of images** for you to own as a keepsake of 2011 and our 'first 80 years'.

This is a professionally created, high-quality publication that comprises **80 pages** of wonderful images of the school and our community today, as well as professionally restored photographs and memorabilia from our past and also includes a forward by school principal Lauren Walton.



## Three Generations families at Sandy East

We know of the following families but would be interested to know if there are any more.

1. Bob Osborne attended as did his sons Bruce and Neil followed by grandson David. Lorna has written some memories in the 1930's section of this document. Lorna's husband Bob, children Bruce and Neal, and grandson David all attended Sandringham East Primary School.
2. Ray Simms original student, daughter Sue Angus and sons Anthony and Lachie.
3. Ken Wilson, who attended from 1943-1949, with daughter Tansi Trigg (nee Wilson), who attended from 1975-1981 and his granddaughter Sienna who attended Sandringham East Primary School.
4. Watts Family – see below for 'Is this a record' information by Rachel and Zach (current 2011 students).
5. Ailsa Archer (nee Murray) and her four brothers, her son Tony Archer and her granddaughter Imogen Brierley (current student). See below for information about their recollections.
6. Joy Harrison (nee Thurgood) attended Sandringham East Primary School from 1954 to 1959, then her sons Brian Harrison (1979 to 1985) and Darren Harrison (1982 - 1988) attended, and this year Darren's son Kai started in Prep.



### Rachel and Zach, Is this a Record? - (current 2011 students)

We are not sure if this is a record or not but 10 members of our family have attended Sandringham East Primary School. Our Dad, Jay was the first one in the **Watts** family to go to Sandringham East Primary School in 1975. When he was in Grade 2 he had Mrs McGlashan, or Miss Bailey as she was known then. It was her first year out of teaching college. She has taught many other family members over the years and in her last year of teaching in 2010, she taught Rach.

As at 2011 the following people in our family have all been to Sandringham East Primary School - Jay (our Dad), Brad and Mike (our Uncles), Tania and Kim (our Aunties), Emily and Sophie (our Cousins), Cam (our Brother) and us - Rach and Zac.

When Zac finishes Grade 6 at Sandringham East Primary School in 2013, it will mean that 10 members of our family have attended this school over a period of 38 years. It may not end there... we still have more cousins who may one day call Sandringham East Primary School their primary school too! *Rach and Zac (Current 2011 students)*

### **Alisa Archer (nee Murray) Three Generations at SEPS - (from late 30's early 40's)**

Year 3 pupil, Imogen Brierley, is the third generation of her extended family to be educated at Sandringham East Primary School. Her grandmother, Ailsa Archer (nee Murray) and her four brothers were among the first pupils in the school's early history, attending as 'bubs' (Preps) in the late 1930s and early '40s.

Imogen's uncle (Ailsa's eldest son), Tony Archer, also spent his first few school years at Sandringham East Primary School, starting in 1965. In fact, Tony was taught in the same classroom where Imogen spent her Prep year in 2008.

Although the original brick school building remains, times have changed.

Ailsa clearly remembers her primary school days because "it was during the Second World War". Australia was still recovering from the Great Depression, so times were tough.

"I remember regular drills in which a siren would sound and we were all marched off to the air-raid shelters at the Bay Road end of the school grounds," says Ailsa.

"At the start of each assembly, we would salute the flag and promise to serve our King and country and obey our parents, teachers and the law."

"There were at least 40 pupils in our class and I remember we learned a lot of things, such as our times tables, by chanting them over and over until we knew them off by heart."

Diseases like polio, scarlet fever, diphtheria and pneumonia were still a scourge and Ailsa remembers seeing leg irons on several children "which were an everyday reminder of the polio epidemic of 1938".

Life was pretty simple, there weren't many cars around and most people walked to and from school.

"In our young minds, the main hazards going to and from school were snakes or 'Joe Blakes' as Mum and Dad called them, in the overgrown paddocks we had to cross".

### **Two Generations:**

1. Emma Reiterer attended Sandringham East Primary School from 1977-83 and now her children, Sienna and Nicholas, are current students.
2. Steve Cumming attended Sandringham East Primary School from 1969-72, his sons Oscar and Angus are current students.

## **Curriculum Trends Over The Years**



*Prep student Tianna at a listening post in 2002.*

The beginning of the 20th century was an era of immense change both on a national and global scale. This time marked a turning point on so many levels, economically, socially, and spiritually. Events occurring at this time had significant effects on the nation's education system, and a school's ability to create an education curriculum relevant to the time.

At the turn of the century, considerable changes were taking place in the Victorian education system whereby Frank Tate, as the first Director General of Education, altered the system of Teacher Training, and the powers given to strict inspectors. He abolished the system of payment where schools not achieving, did not receive funds. There was a petition to the government from every school calling for the right to free textbooks and materials. He also promoted and improved the status of women teachers, and their salaries and conditions.

Tate also established a new curriculum moving away from the traditional style of rote learning, whereby learning was instilled by repetition and memory, and shifted toward a new syllabus directed at improving and enveloping young minds, and therefore exposing students to a wider range of subjects in varied contexts of learning.

In order to look at the patterns and trends that reflect changes in curriculum over the years in Victorian schools, and in particular Sandringham East, we need to acknowledge the context of the times in which education was taking place. In the late 1920's just a few years before the opening of Sandringham East, Australia's first Parliament House was opened changing the education system directly. Post World War One Depression ravaged the 1930's and had major effects on the lives of everyone in Australia, and specifically the economy and health of Australia as Nation, and also affected the ability of families to even afford to send their children to school. Epidemics such as polio and influenza and measles saw numbers drop in schools and curriculum altered.

Born on the cusp of a new decade, Sandringham East Primary School originated in the Depression, which was a direct result of World War One. It wasn't long before the school faced the debilitating effects of the Second World War. As the nation came out of World War One and the Depression set in, the ratio of female to male teachers was far greater since so many men had gone to war. Food, clothing and petrol were rationed and as Ray Sims, one of the first students at Sandringham East Primary School states, "...almost no one had a car in those days and most children would come to school without shoes".

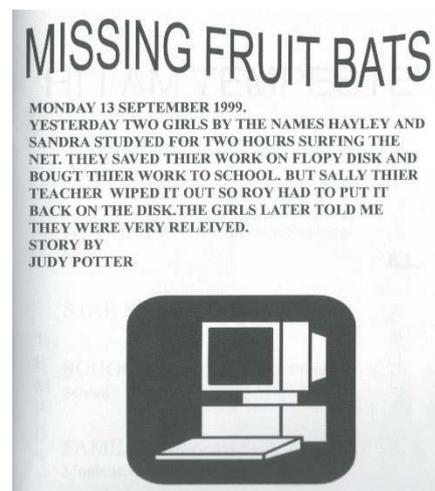
In Sandringham East Primary School's early years the curriculum was directed by the Department of Education and school inspectors. These inspectors were employed to monitor schools and they would often 'drop-in' to pay unexpected visits to make sure schools were doing what they were instructed to. One code for letting the teachers know an inspector had turned up on the grounds was a request around the school for 'purple' chalk!

The Department of Education had weekly directives which they used to focus on. Schools in the same districts taught the same subjects. For example, spelling was universally taught at 9.30am across the same grade at every school. This was most probably to make it easy for the inspectors so they knew their schedules ahead of time.

For example, one week the Department of Education's directive would focus on fine motor skills and would direct all teachers to make the children use scissors. Sure enough across all schools in the area the next week there would be a focus on scissor cutting at the same time. Another week it might be gross motor skills and at the same time you would find the grades doing jumping jacks.



*Prep Students showing their work in the 70's.*



*Story by Judy Potter in 1999.*

FEATURE



# Much more than child's play

Play-based learning fosters imagination and offers children limitless adventures and endless opportunities that will help to improve their literacy, numeracy and communication skills.

INDUSTRIOUS PREPS at Aspendale Gardens Primary are busy writing shopping lists for a trip to the grocery store. Others are creating price tags or counting fish netted in the water trough. Tomorrow, they might be logging calls at the fire station, making appointments at the hairdressing salon or practising their lines for the afternoon's performance – it really depends on what tickles their fancy, and the teachers and students prefer it that way.

The school's new outdoor activities area has been designed to put the child at the centre of the learning. It contains a visual arts area with fixed easels and whiteboards, a water play space, and open-faced beach boxes, which can be transformed into anything from a grocery store to a veterinary surgery to a mechanics workshop depending on the investigation and simply by writing a new sign. There is also a stage area with fixed seating where the children can put on plays, recitals and mini-concerts. They write the program up on whiteboard to let other students know the name of the performance and session times.

"We are influenced by a play-based approach," says teacher Susan Hunt. "It's learning that gives children opportunities to explore authentic and personalised learning through activities that foster their interests and imagination and encourage literacy and numeracy.

"We use the new outdoor space for our Projects and Investigations unit and the kids love it. They learn without realising, by writing shopping lists or counting the plastic fish as they pull them out of the water trough – it's one-to-one correspondence, one object to one number.

"We make explicit links to literacy and numeracy through their interests and we use those interests to improve their learning and also their social and emotional skills," she says.

"If the children have been drawing pictures on the easels in the morning, then we will use those drawings to link their literacy and numeracy back in the afternoon. They might write a story about the picture or write a letter inviting someone to come and see it. We've been learning a lot about numbers and how to write them and we

link that to writing the price tags in the shop or adding up a shopping bill," Ms Hunt says.

Play-based learning provides an authentic, personalised model of teaching and learning that is effective across all cultural, economical, geographical, religious and social spectrums. It uses developmentally appropriate ways of helping to engage children in truly meaningful and relevant strategies that enhance literacy and numeracy as well as motivation and self esteem.

Sandringham East Primary School has been running a play-based program since 2008. During investigations into play-based curriculum, staff attended Bayside Early Years Network symposiums where Kathy Walker was a frequent presenter. Convinced that play-based curriculum was the right the path to follow, staff attended professional development and the school is one of the first in Victoria to have full early years' team accredited in the Walker Learning Approach (WLA). Ms Walker personally presented each of the 10 P-2 staff with their accreditation certificates in March this year.



"It's a huge honour for our teachers and we are very proud they have achieved this level of accreditation," says principal Lauren Walton. "We already had an inquiry-based curriculum, so the WLA was a natural progression for early years. We knew that it was a big shift and needed to encourage the whole team to understand the pedagogy and come on board. To do this, we had a lot of support and a generous professional learning resource budget to allow adequate training and mentoring from Kathy."

Ms Walton says that the WLA and the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) "fit together beautifully", with student observations based on the VEYLDF framework, while specific goals taken from each framework area guide the monitoring of student learning.

"The WLA investigations give teachers opportunities to observe and assess students and provide further evidence of their learning. Interpersonal skills also overlap in WLA and VEYLDF to explore, develop and enhance how students interrelate with each other," she says.

"Our 2011 Year 2s are the first to go through the school with the WLA full-time and the response has been so positive that we are now looking at implementing the approach into Years 3–6," Ms Walton adds.

"The play-based curriculum provides a seamless transition from pre-school and enables students to investigate and follow their own passions rather than a 'topic' chosen by teachers, which may or may not cater for their particular interests.

"For example, students might set up a veterinary clinic and they make appointment times, manage what is wrong with their pets (fixing broken limbs, sore tummies, coughs), they use the phone, make lists, and sort the animals. Literacy and numeracy are intertwined in the learning they undertake," she says.

"Tinkering, science, writing, reading, dramatic play, construction, art, cubbies and outdoor activities, using resources such as sand play, stage, boat, and veggie boxes, are just some of the activities that students engage in, as well as opportunities to develop their own environment such as a doctors surgery, shop or restaurant. The results of this approach are evident in the students' acquisition of decision-making skills, independence and confidence in their abilities, particularly in speaking and listening – they have a more powerful voice." ■

## Benefits of learning through play

### For children:

- Develops language, memory, behaviour regulation
- Develops social skills and relationships
- Builds confidence to test out ideas and challenge each other's thinking
- Provides a supportive environment where they can ask questions, solve problems and engage in critical thinking
- Promotes positive dispositions towards learning
- Develops fine and gross motor skills
- Provides for continuity in experiences and enables them to have successful transitions.

### For teachers:

- Extends learning by building on children's interests
- Uses a range of strategies to support learning
- Creates physical and social learning environments that have a positive impact on children's learning
- Values the cultural and social contexts of children and their families
- Provides opportunities for authentic assessment to inform planning.



Sandringham East PS has been running the WLA program since 2008. Earlier this year Kathy Walker personally presented P-2 staff with their accreditation certificates.



For more information on the Walker Learning Approach, visit [walkerlearning.com.au](http://walkerlearning.com.au)

## Reporting of Students Achievement

SANDRINGHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL			
JUNE REPORT: 1979		DECEMBER REPORT: 1979	
NAME: Tansi Wilson		NAME: Tansi Wilson	
A = Well above average		C = Average	
B = Above average		E = Well below average	
		D = Below average	
	Actual	Target	
SPELLING-WORD STUDY	A	A	
ENGLISH	B-	B	
MATHS	B	B	
ORAL EXPRESSION	A	A	
WRITTEN EXPRESSION	B	B	
READING	A	A+	
WRITING	C	C+	
GENERAL STUDIES	B-	B	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	B-	B	
ART/CRAFT	C	C	
LIBRARY			
BEHAVIOUR	Satisfactory		
COMMENTS:	Tansi is working well at the present time. She completes all tasks set, which is pleasing but, she must learn to blow		
	Actual	Target	
SPELLING-WORD STUDY	B+	B+	
ENGLISH	B-	B	
MATHS	B-	B	
ORAL EXPRESSION	A	A	
WRITTEN EXPRESSION	B	B	
READING	A	A	
WRITING	B	B	
GENERAL STUDIES	B+	B+	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C+	B	
ART/CRAFT			
LIBRARY	C	C	
BEHAVIOUR	Satisfactory		
COMMENTS:	Tansi has completed a very satisfactory year's work. She is hard working and respectful and her sense of humour		

### Tansi Trigg (nee Wilson) shared her report 9 above (from Grade 4 in 1979)

Reports then were simple and parents had little input and understanding of exactly what students were achieving. Today there is a greater communication with parents and students enjoy a responsibility for their own learning and peer and self assessment, along with the teacher of course.

Sandringham East introduced the Kidmap Program in 2000 and this gave opportunity for a professional and coloured report format which gave much more information for parents. Gradings were in CSF levels and students were assessed as beginning, establishing or consolidating a particular level. Parent Opinion surveys have consistently shown some parents unhappy with the report format.

Sandringham East opted in to the new Department of Education Reports with new gradings again from A – E. These have been developed as a response to parent viewpoints – all schools now have the same reporting format managed by the Department of Education and guess what – parent opinion surveys still show that they do not like the reports.

### Peter Carins, Teacher 1999 – 2011 Student Reports

The school in the past years has spent considerable time, money and effort striving to address parents' concerns about reports. A key decision to engage KIDMAP was the belief it would provide parents with detailed information for parents. Another of the major reasons KIDMAP was introduced was to ease the unnecessary duplication of material (reports, CSF data) and as a systemised form of data collection, which could be harnessed easily and rapidly.

When I arrived at Sandringham East Primary School teachers were using carbon sheets to record and store their information about students. Teachers would write on the top sheet and a carbon paper copy would be below. The carbon copy sheets seemed to me to be very outdated and not in keeping with the school's initiatives in other areas.

Initially we tried Word documents but teachers encountered difficulties with shifting text boxes...So some other more structured and teacher friendly procedure was required. The principal at the time, Helen Richards, asked me to investigate different commercial programs. She was keen to try KIDMAP.

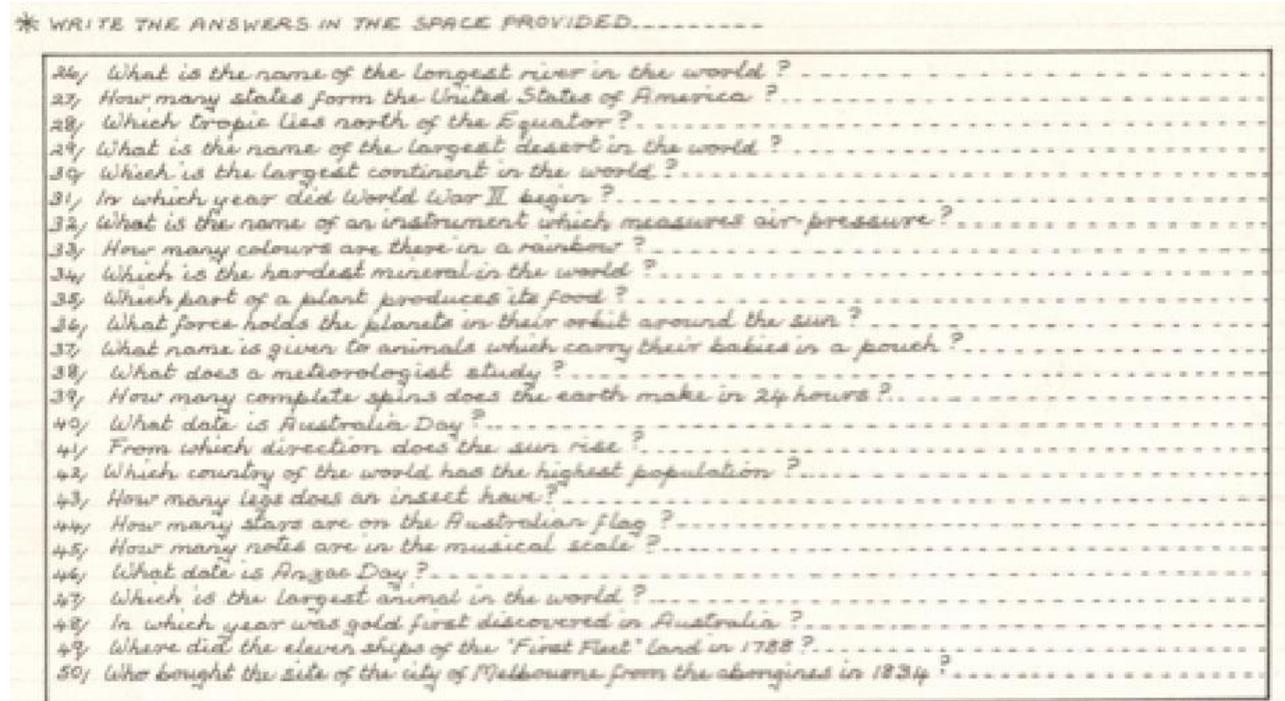
I spent a considerable period of time teaching myself the program. In the first couple of years teachers experienced some problems but as they became more skilled with the program and increased their overall computing skills these soon diminished.

Reporting time seemed to always be "headache time"! There was the fear of the computer for some

teachers and not understanding the logic of the software caused confusion. Achievements and goals became more central to the reporting process in 2004 and 2005. KIDMAP still provided the means to convey this information to parents and teachers were generally happy with the descriptive and quantitative information they were providing. Teachers believed they generated informative and highly presentable reports using the software. KIDMAP produced coloured reports for ease of interpretation for parents. Parent opinion surveys did not always view the reporting practices in a favourable light. This aspect is difficult to fathom given the extensive parent information/involvement the school provided and encouraged. Perhaps, it's part and parcel of the reporting procedure – no report will satisfy the entire target population.

In 2005 schools were informed by the Department of Education and Training that a new computer software program Quick Vic was to be introduced, beginning in 2006. Sandringham East Primary School chose to take the initiative and be a school involved with the initial implementation.

Most of the school work during the very early years was set out on the blackboard each day and subjects included Arithmetic, Spelling, Grammar, Diction, Recitation, Geography, History, Singing and Poetry. Nature Study, Health, Drawing and Music were also taught. Girls worked on Needlework while boys studied Gardening and Woodwork. Children were expected to work quietly with little interaction and discussion. An example is the general knowledge questions which were meticulously prepared by teachers, the example below produced by George Boyd.



Sample of George Boyd's General Knowledge Quiz

Monday morning saw the traditional raising of the flag. Proud students looked forward with anticipation to Anzac Day when students would parade with their father's medals. Resources were limited, especially throughout the Depression years, so students would let their imaginations run wild when playing. Girls would build little houses and cubbies out of pine needles and apricot kernels would be used for marble type games. Games born out of imagination like charades and hide and seek were very popular.

William Horn, a student of the 1930's remembers fondly the games that boys played in those early years such as cricket, football, marbles, flick cards, and kit kat. Girls played basketball, rounders and skippy. Swimming down at the sea was a mixed sport and was usually held at Brighton Baths. Bill Horne remembers playing football on the open fields between Holloway Road and Bluff Road that was just a vast open space. During particular seasons orchids filled the fields and dazzled with sheer color. During that era, trips away from the school were few and far between. Bill remembers vividly the one of the few excursions he took as special to the Yallourn Power Station by train.

Bill also visited large fuel tanks in Port Melbourne where one student's dad worked. "We climbed to the top of a ladder and saw a beautiful view of the port and the bay." A few years later, Bill remembers the excitement of the 1934 Victorian Centenary celebration attended by the Duke of Gloucester, and gladly describes attending part of Melbourne's celebration. They had an afternoon off to see a movie in Hampton, and remember it was about the Queen. There were no school buses, and very few people had cars, so most had to walk everywhere.

A Course of Study for all primary schools was issued in 1954. However late in 1966 it was decided that the re-examination of the aims and philosophies of Victorian education was needed. This recognized the rapidity of social change. These new educational practices encouraged experimentation and flexibility in the curriculum. It endeavored to stimulate individual children and to develop intellectual curiosity. The teacher was now considered less an instructor and more a creator and an organiser of learning experiences. The 1970's at Sandringham East Primary School saw the emergence of team teaching, grouping within a class and specialist teachers in art, music and physical education.

During the decade of the 80's, increasing responsibility was given to schools to adapt curriculum to better meet the needs of students. During this decade schools had to make provision for a school based curriculum. The Victorian Government broadened the powers of school councils and made them responsible for school policy and development. At Sandringham East Primary School parents were encouraged to participate in various ways. Teacher Amy Bailey remembers collating a resource folder of the skills and interests of parents and community members that could be utilised by the school (fundraising, crafts, gardening, advertising).

In 1994 the Directorate of Education introduced the Curriculum and Standards Framework, which covered eight key learning areas. These included English, Maths, Science, Technology and LOTE (Japanese), The Arts, Studies of Society and the Environment and Health and Physical Education. A survey was conducted with the parent community and Japanese was selected as the LOTE subject. Original lessons were taken by classroom teachers utilizing a television link up with the PALS program on satellite. Graeme Bartholomeusz was a grade 6 teacher at the time and remembers watching a preparation session for teachers in basic Japanese once a week at 8am on satellite before the students participated in their own session later in the day. Fortunately since 1996 employment of trained Japanese LOTE teachers has ensured that Sandringham East Primary School enjoys a strong program. Many school families have hosted Japanese visitors and students over the years.

During 1995 the Learning Assessment Project was introduced for years 3 and 5 across Victoria (LAP) now called the Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM). This project assessed the students in Maths, English and Science and compared school performances. NAPLAN is the current form of testing and is now a National testing program with results available to the public on the "My School" website.

Computers became a part of the school environment initially with each classroom provided a single Apple computer. The school became involved in the Apples for Schools program. Supermarket dockets were collected and tallied by a band of willing parents and the school was fortunate enough to receive many computers. This was in no small part due to the enthusiasm and dedication of our school community. Currently in 2011 students enjoy stand alone PS's, laptops, netbooks, ipods, FLIP cameras and Interactive whiteboards in every classroom.

Sandringham East Primary School entered the School's Of The Future program where schools were responsible for their own management and the development of a school charter. This involved the change in composition of school councils and a process of local selection of senior staff which saw the appointment of Julie Anderson and Pamela Brain as Leading Teachers, and Helen Richards as Principal.

Shade House - A main focus of the curriculum in the early 1990's was the environment and Sandringham East Primary School had a huge focus on preserving our environment for future generations. Pamela Wright (Brain) was the environment coordinator and she recalls that the Sandringham Rotary Club generously donated funds and helped to build the school a Shade House. The children planted pots of native trees and nurtured them until they were ready for planting in the school grounds. The grade 6 children were in charge of the Shade House which was housed next to the old school house. The local council also provided lessons on a regular basis for all classes in the school. The grade 6 classes enjoyed the responsibility of being in charge of the

plants and it was their role to water and keep the shade house clean and well equipped with fertiliser, potting mix and equipment.

Early in 2003 a blueprint for Government schools was released to develop a new framework of essential learning for all schools. This would reinforce standards and promote flexibility at the school level. The standards were based on widespread consultation and international research.



This curriculum approach addresses the economic and social changes associated with our knowledge based world and increasing understandings of how children learn. Schools are now seen as having a key role in developing skilled, flexible, responsible and creative young people.

*Creativity and drama demonstrated by year 1 students, Jack and Amy, in 2005*

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) recognizes that students need to learn and develop at their own rate. It also recognizes that all students need a set of knowledge, skills and behaviours that prepare them for a rapidly changing, complex world. Students at Sandringham East Primary School are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning through inquiry learning which provides students with an opportunity to become analytical thinkers and to develop life long learning skills.

The You Can Do It! program was introduced in 2004 and supports development of the whole child through Keys to Success and strategies for Persistence, Getting Along, Confidence, Organization and Resilience. The program underpins the Sandringham East Primary School curriculum and is the common language and understanding for all students.

At Sandringham East Primary School our continually evolving curriculum aims to instill positive lifelong values within students and to prepare them for an ever changing global world.



*School is about friendship and fun for these students in 2005!*

## Visual Arts

The art room was developed from a classroom and has provided students with an avenue to express their creative talents. As can be seen from the many newspaper articles there was always something exciting happening in the art room. Today this tradition continues with an outstanding legacy of children's art around the school in the friendship garden mosaics, the exterior art room wall murals, the tile project along the veranda, our coastal birds in the garden surrounds and the magnificent dragon along the school driveway wall.

### Visual Arts recollections by Karen Roberts, Visual arts teacher

The Visual Arts program for as long as I can remember has always been a part of Sandringham East Primary School. I enjoyed around seven years as the Specialist Art Teacher. My position at Sandringham East Primary School has allowed me to explore and develop my passion, interest and ideas. My "artistic" ventures at the school have included: the Mosaic Friendship Garden, the Coastal Bird Sanctuary, Tiled Wall Project and the Mosaic Dragon Wall. These whole school projects allowed for the beautification and enhancement of the school grounds and also allowed students to develop a sense that art has a purpose.

Every second year at Sandringham East Primary School we have an art show which allows students an opportunity to present and showcase their talents and present their art work for a community audience, whilst also raising important funds to further facilitate and enhance the Arts Program. Where possible we encourage parental support and participation. This support has led to individual helpers initiating special arts projects. Our three dimensional "Land, Sea and Sky" Prep Wall was developed by parent Melina Anagnostaras – Thornton. More recently Melina worked with the year 1 and 2 students to make an underwater mural on the portable classroom.



*Students display their art work.*



When 'Puff',  
the dragon,  
came to  
school . . .

What's this? 'Puff', the magic  
dragon, in Sandringham!



*Students enjoying their multi-age activities in the art room.*

*The magnificent dragon created by all students at Sandy East in 2005 with Karen Roberts when she was art teacher.*



**May 2007**

Our fantastic mural was unveiled with thanks to artist Tony Sowersby and Year 5 and 6 girls for their artistic work. Family Life funded the project and representative Paula Westhead attended the official opening. Mrs Brain, teacher, for coordinated the project.



## Languages Other Than English (LOTE) - Japanese

In 1988 a survey was conducted with parents for a privately funded program with positive responses but School Council felt that there was not enough support to warrant committing school funds. Also in 1988 Japanese visitor and cultural awareness program commenced with families in the school hosting Tomoko Kurianagi.

The report from the Ministerial Advisory Council on Languages other than English to the Minister for Education recommended that all Victorian student P-10 study L.O.T.E by the year 2000. Parents at Sandringham East Primary School were surveyed on a preferred Language other than English and Japanese was selected.

Grade 5 and 6 initially participated in the D.S.E funded Interactive Satellite Program – Primary Access to Languages via the Satellite (P.A.L.S) “Let’s Go Nihongo” in 1994. Our school was featured as a “guest school” on the satellite channel. The program was broadcast throughout Victoria gaining publicity for the school. The school was also selected to participate in an evaluation of the program content and methodology, gaining positive recognition and appreciation for the input. The intended outcome is to enhance students’ experiences in L.O.T.E by integrating Japanese language and culture into the curriculum. Grades 3 to 6 participated in the L.O.T.E Interactive Satellite Program – Japanese in 1995.

In 1996, Mignon Kemke was the first Japanese teacher employed at Sandringham East Primary School and the old shelter shed was made into a purpose built Japanese room - a “mini” Japan from the outside and inside! This room was officially opened on 29th October 1997 by Mr Tsutomu Higuchi, Director of Japanese Information Services of the Japanese Consulate, Melbourne.

Our school community continues to host Japanese students whenever possible and is highly sought after because of our strong program which is presently taught by Michelle Keane. Japanese Boys Day and Girls Day are celebrated each year and students enjoy the cultural activities associated with these events. A special Japanese Day also ensures that the students and school community experience a vast selection of activities.



Japanese Exchange Student - In 2005 we had Erika Dohori, a 13 year old student from Osaka, Japan come and stay in a host family home for 13 days as part of the student exchange programme. Erika had lots of fun here and loved visiting the Healesville Sanctuary. Here is a letter she wrote prior to her visit.

*Thank you very much for accepting me at your home. I would like to introduce myself. I am thirteen years old and a student of Mikanodai Junior High School. My hobby is listening to music and playing tennis. I belong to the tennis club. English is my favorite subject. But I can not speak*

English very much. So I really want to visit your country and share some experience with you in English. I am looking forward to seeing you and your family soon. Yours sincerely, Erika.



Previous Japanese teacher,  
Angie Gall working with a student.



Current Japanese teacher, Michelle Keane with students.

**Mar 2008** Kei Oyama a Japanese university student from Tokyo came to Sandringham East Primary School as a volunteer to assist Keane Sensei with Japanese classes. The students love having him in the classroom for extra help and to chat about life in Japan



**Aug 2008** Year 1 students learnt about the Japanese art of *shuuji* (calligraphy). Our newest Japanese assistant *Rimi Sensei*, from Tokyo, demonstrated this traditional art of drawing characters with a brush and black ink. Then it was time for our lucky students to give it a go! They could choose to write 日本 (Japan), 平和 (peace) or 愛 (love). The students were really proud of their finished products...as was Keane Sensei.

**Feb 2009** In early February, in an effort to ward off illness and misfortune, Japanese families scatter roasted soy beans inside their homes. Someone in the family wears a mask representing a demon, while the rest of the family throws beans at them, shouting "Oni wa soto!" (Out with the demon). "Fukuwa uchi!" (In with good luck!). Prep students learnt about this fun festival in Japanese class and made their very own "Oni" masks to wear.



**Aug 2009**

As part of Japanese class, Grade 4 and 5 students talked about the story of Sadako and her 1,000 paper cranes. They were then asked to create a poster that depicted images of peace and the words "Peace Day" in Japanese writing. The creative and colorful posters were sent away for the inaugural *Heiwa no Hi Poster Competition*, which attracted over 400 entries across Victoria.

Congratulations to Danielle in 4R who was awarded 1st place for her beautiful poster, pictured here with Japanese teacher Michelle Keane.



**Mar 2010**

The Japanese Garden is a peaceful and beautiful place, perfect for lessons such as reading Japanese folktales and discussing Japanese culture. In March, students celebrated "*Hina Matsuri*", (Girls Day) in the Japanese Garden.



**May 2010**

Grade 1 students had some surprise visitors in their Japanese class! Ten Nihon Fukushi High School students from Aichi, Japan came to Sandringham College as an exchange programme and joined the Sandringham East Primary School students for an afternoon of origami. The room was buzzing with English and Japanese as the students practised their second language.

**Feb 2011**

Sandringham East Primary School have started a sister school relationship with a Japanese primary school in Yokohama, Japan. Students have enjoyed practicing their Japanese writing skills in composing a letter to students at Kishiya Primary School and are very excited to receive a reply. In the future, students hope to introduce themselves face to face via Skype technology.



**Mar 2011**

The Japanese Saturday School of Melbourne start a relationship with Sandringham East Primary School, using our classrooms for their Saturday school. The official opening was attended by the 97 students and their parents on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are looking forward to the success of this new venture and establishing a partnership which can be mutually beneficial.

**May 2011**

On May 26th we celebrated Japanese Day. All students and teachers dressed up Japanese style and started the day with listening to the Japanese National Anthem and watching a Japanese musical group play Taiko drums and Japanese flute. Students enjoyed the various activities throughout the day such as sushi making, Japanese calligraphy, origami, kimono fitting, Japanese Art, kendo demonstrations and taiko drum workshop.

**Jul 2011**

Our Japanese room has been restored with many of the original fittings. Thanks to Keiko from Japanese Saturday School (keikodesign@ozemail.com.au) for helping with the design and to Builder Andrew McRae for his attention to detail installing the doors.

*Keane Sensei is very happy to have her room back.*



## Health and Physical Education / Sport



*Footy at the Spring Street Oval in the 90's.*

Physical Education and sport has always been prominent at Sandringham East Primary School. In the earlier days Physical Education lessons were normally taken by the grade teacher. In 1995 the State Government recommended that Physical Education be taught by a qualified Physical Education teacher. A specialist teacher was employed and since then the school has provided Physical Education lessons for every grade each week. The grade teachers support the program with incidental and planned health lessons as well as outdoor games whenever they can. A Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) is implemented in Prep and Year 1 and relies on involvement of parents to supervise the activity stations so that students gain skills in eye-hand coordination, balance, ball skills to name a few. The PMP program helps children with their understanding of concepts too. Grades 5 and 6 participate in a formal sports competition with Beachside cluster schools. Grades 3 and 4 participate in a school based sports program as a preparation for their competition in Grades 5 and 6.

*Bayside Leader Nov 8th 2002*

Clare Thompson (second from right) with physical education teacher Jamie Smyth, Ben Syme-Ross and Alex Ward.  
N1958202

### Track champion drops in

HEPTATHLON champion Clare Thompson recently visited Sandringham East Primary School as part of the Sportsperson in Schools program. Thompson came fourth at the Manchester Commonwealth Games in the heptathlon and was first at the 2002 Australian Championships. The Sportsperson in Schools program links elite sportspeople with schools and is funded by the Department of Education and Training. Thompson spent time with the students, teaching them skills including sprinting and high jump.

We were most fortunate that Sandringham East Primary School ex student Jamie Smyth (pictured above) returned to teach Physical Education in 2002. Unfortunately for us he returned to his top level Water Polo Competition in Queensland the following year.

Sandringham East is a member of the Beachside District Primary School Sports Association (BDPSSA) which includes Brighton, Brighton Beach, Beaumaris, Beaumaris North, Black Rock, Hampton, and Sandringham Primary Schools. The District Competition includes - winter sports (football, soccer, netball, hockey) and summer sports (cricket, softball, volleyball, bat tennis, rounders); and swimming, cross-country; athletics, basketball and tennis. Successful individuals and teams are given the opportunity to compete at Zone, Regional, State and National Competitions. The school has been represented at various levels over the years.

A large percentage of Sandringham East students participate in local club competitions in a variety of sports and leisure activities. The school encourages and promotes their achievements to the school community.

Sandringham East has been an Active Australia Schools' Network (AASN) member since the program's inception in 2000. It is an Australian Government Initiative. The schools commitment to AASN is to provide:

- A supportive environment for all members of the school and the local community to be physically active.
- To develop and implement policies and curriculum practices which reflect the importance of physical activity.
- To promote and provide for physical activity in collaboration with the local community.

Physical Education and Sport has always been strongly supported by the school community. Parents assist with coaching, participate in fitness runs and walkathons and support teams at competitions. The annual walkathon has raised a substantial amount for school resources in over many years and also ensures a focus on the fitness of students. Students are encouraged to complete an activity run each week and an Active Australia Fitness Club gave opportunities for students to increase their skills before school.



We are fortunate to enjoy such a great oval space and playground which allows all students to use their physical skills during recess and lunchtimes. Some of the playground equipment has been replaced due to the BER building in 2011.

## Sandy East Medal Winners (The Brownlow of Sandy East!)

2000	Lucy West	Fergus Simms
2001	Sara Mekus	Michael Raydan
2002	Sandra Potter	Lachlan Macindoe
2003	Elizabeth Gallagher	Lloyd Everett
2004	Jessica Partosh	Matthew Wirdnam
2005	Alicia Hunter	Harry Birt-Sumpter
2006	Fiona Douglas	Mitchel Brown
2007	Elisha Jordan	Rani Gassali
2008	Kiara Wedderburn	Tom Nolan
2009	Sarah Gordon	Cameron Watts
2010	Laura Dunstan	Jack Runciman

The physical education curriculum program was planned around the Department of Education's Curriculum Standards Framework (CSF) most recently (2005) incorporated the new Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). The VELS Framework included the Health and Physical Education Domain in the Physical, Personal and Social Learning Strand. An emphasis was also placed on the fundamental motor skills.

## Reflections about PE by Mark Lockwood, PE Teacher 2003 – 2005

The children at Sandringham East Primary School enjoyed a full and varied program and our profile in the community has been raised significantly. One of the primary reasons has been our membership of the Active Australian Schools Network which enables us to run and receive after-school sports clubs. Children have been able to play basketball, football, soccer and dance under the supervision of trained coaches. Our links to the community have been forged with visits to school by St Kilda, Richmond, Collingwood and Melbourne Football Clubs as well as Soccer Victoria and Milo Cricket.

On the inter-school network we have gradually increased our profile as a school with a State flag in Girl's Soccer and District flags in Girl's and Boy's Volleyball in recent years. Our Athletes, Cross-Country runners and Swimmers have enjoyed individual and group success at District, Zone, Regional and State competition, most notably our 4 x 100 under-10 boys sprinters who swept all before them in 2005 reaching the State finals.

The emphasis is on enjoyment and participation as well as living up to our school motto - "Always Our Best".

Sporting teams over the years...



*District Football Premiers in 1983 with Teacher Geoff Swan and School Council Member Ian Douglas.*

*Early Cricket team.*



*Netball Premiers 1967.*



1974 Football Team.

1974 Netball Team.





*SEPS Soccer Girls' - State Champions 2003 with Mark Lockwood (back left) and Graeme Bartholomeusz (back right).*

**The Girls' Soccer Team - Victorian Primary Schools' Sports Association State Champions.**

Competing in the Semi-Final against Rosewood Downs PS our team won one goal to nil. Rhianna scored the only goal. In the Grand Final we competed against Heidelberg PS. The score was "nil all" at full-time and at the end of extra time. After the "Penalty Shoot Out" the score was Sandringham East Primary School 2 v's Heidelberg 2. Rhianna and Francesca scored the goals from their penalty kicks. The VPSSA then decided to declare Sandringham East Primary School and Heidelberg joint State Champions for 2003.

**Jul 2006** Life Education is a program which students participate in each year using innovative teaching and learning strategies to help develop the knowledge and skills necessary to reduce harmful drug use. Resources are based on the most current research and the principles of harm minimisation recommended by the Government's "Turning the Tide" Drug initiative.

**Jul 2006** Year 4 children participated in the Bike-Ed Program which introduces the riders to, bike handling skills, simulation and road rules, traffic skills, safety on the road, road rules, and safe routes to use when riding to a friend's house and to the shops or school.

**Aug 2006** Years 5 and 6 participate in a Swimming Program - which is a major component of the Health and Physical Education Curriculum. The program concentrates on teaching correct stroking and breathing techniques. Activities relate to water-safety, life saving and survival skills.

**Sep 2006** Congratulations to all the children who competed in the Beachside District Athletics Carnival.



**Oct 2006** Presentation of Commonwealth Games Relay Baton to Sandringham East Primary School was by Murray Thompson MP for Sandringham in celebration of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. The Baton was accepted by Nic Burton and Cecille Hansen.



**Oct 2006** Yachting Victoria received funding from Marine Safety Victoria to provide free 'Boating Safety for Kids' programs to primary schools students in years 5 and 6. The program was interactive with theory and practical experience designed to facilitate student learning and awareness about the dangers of recreational boating and to encourage participants to reinforce safety messages with family and friends.

**Oct 2006** Sandringham East Primary School is a Schools Network Member formerly known as Active Australia Schools Network and has been a member for eight years - our commitment to increase our school community's participation in sport and physical activity.

**Oct 2006** Congratulations to our champions for competing in the Zone athletics on 5th October.



**Nov 2006** Madeleine Reid (grade 5) qualified for the National Finals in Gymnastics - one of 32 girls in the State, and was placed 20th after tough competition.

**Dec 2006** Sandringham Yacht Club invited our children to participate in Water Safety Week in activities are part of the Core Curriculum areas of Health and Physical Education and Safety in Outdoor Adventure Activities. The activities included:

- Water safety on the beach, life jacket requirements.
- Sun safe including the wearing of hats and sunscreen.
- Foot protection against unknown objects in the water.
- Responsible behaviour around water and objects.
- Understanding changing weather conditions and what affect it has on water.
- Rules of the water, Coping with emergencies, Ship to shore contact.

Our children experienced going out in small Optimist Dinghies off shore at the Sandringham Yacht Club. The activities were conducted by Yachting Australia qualified coaches.

**Feb 2007** On Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25 students competed at the District Swimming Carnival at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC), in the same pool where the Commonwealth Games were held. The 50m pool had touch pads for the electronic timing and a huge screen which displayed all the times of the swimmers and their place. All Sandringham East Primary School kids did their very best and we finished third overall out of 9 schools which was a fantastic effort.



**May 2007** On May 15<sup>th</sup> students from Sandringham East Primary School competed in the District Cross Country at Dendy Park and finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall and came 2<sup>nd</sup> for the aggregated shield.



**Oct 2007** Congratulations to Stephanie Whedlock (high jump) and Angus Brayshaw (triple jump and hurdles) qualified to compete at State level.

**Apr 2008** 22 new football jumpers were gratefully received thanks to a kind donation by Mrs. Magda Smith, mother of Danielle and Keanu. Mrs. Smith passed on a winning entry in the Kellogg's Game Gear competition. This enabled us to design our own set of jumpers for our Sandy East Saints football team. The jumpers are worn with pride as we play against other Bayside schools.



**Jul 2008** On 16th July the Grade 5s and 6s went to an Olympic presentation. Our champion parents from Sandringham East Primary School Nicole Livingston (Olympic Backstroke Champion), Ian Hirst (Broadcaster for the Olympics), and David Wilson (Manager of the Australian Swimming Team) spoke to students about the Olympic Games. Ian Hirst about how the broadcasting is organised around the world, David Wilson about a day in the life of an Olympic swimmer and talked to us about Leisel Jones' swim timetable at Beijing. Finally Nicole Livingstone told us about her career which has been inspirational, and showed us some of her medals she'd won. Her message was to never give up! What a great role model for students to aspire to!





**Aug 2008**

On 7<sup>th</sup> of August Sandringham East Primary School held their mini Olympics day. Everyone in the school participated in a variety of events which included Javelin, Gymnastics, Soccer, Basketball and Vortex throwing. Each group represented a country and each country worked as a team. It was great to hear encouragement between older and younger students in the multi age groups. The day concluded with a medal presentation and a delicious sausage sizzle. Miss Hayward organised the day, assisted by teachers and parents.



**Oct 2008**

Students competed at the Beachside District Basketball Competition on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> at the King Club. Coaches - Mr Lockwood, Mrs Dalzotto and Mr Davie reported our students as exceptional; demonstrating all the Sandringham East Primary School qualities of good sportsmanship, teamwork, encouragement and trying their best. Fantastic effort team!

**Feb 2009**

On 19<sup>th</sup> February, 26 students travelled to MSAC to participate in the Bayside District Swimming Carnival. There was some tough competition on the day and all the Sandringham East Primary School swimmers participated with enthusiasm and good sportsmanship.

**Apr 2009**

The Volleyball team at Sandringham East Primary School finished with a first and second in the District Summer Sport. The Boys enjoyed a great run of 7 games without a loss, and did not drop a single set on their way to back-to-back flags. The girls also finished on a high with a run of six straight wins after a narrow defeat in their first game. Our grade 5 girls have been expertly coached by their grade six buddies at Volleyball Club.



**May 2009**

The boys volleyball team hit their stride at the right moment winning all of their games. Such performance saw the boys take out the pennant in their section. This success was due to the dedication of the boys, who on a weekly basis practice their volley skills under coach, Mr Lockwood.



**Nov 2009** The Boys Volleyball team hosted Tucker Road Primary School in the final of the South Central Zone Championships. Mr Lockwood would also like to congratulate the students who have achieved this difficult feat in consecutive years. The students at Sandringham East Primary School have now won 4 District flags, 3 Zone Championships and reached 3 Regional finals in the last 5 years. The team put in over 15 hours of extra practice after school, perhaps practice does make perfect!



**Mar 2010** Courtney went through to the Zone Swimming Students went to MSAC for District Swimming. There was a big crowd and it was both nerve-racking and exciting!



**Jul 2010** Sandringham East girls soccer team played in the District soccer round robin on June 18<sup>th</sup> and had a superb day bringing home the silverware! Our first game saw us play Black Rock and we won by a massive 8-0. We then played Sandringham and again we won, this time 4-0. Our next match saw us meet Brighton, this was a tough game but we won again 2-0. This meant that we were the clear winners in our group and we were to go through to the grand final.

Brighton Beach had won their round and we met them in the grand final. They were a superb team and it was a nail biting match, but Sandringham East girls rose to the challenge and won 1-0. We were the District Winners and took home the flag and the shield! Special mention to Jodie R, Laura D and Tala I for some fantastic goals, Taylor H for great goalkeeping and to Ella D for her wonderful captaincy.



**Jul 2010** State Cross Country by Andrew B - On 13<sup>th</sup> of July I went to Bundoora to run at State Cross Country. I went with my friend Sebastian. He had beaten me in the previous races of Districts and Zones but I was determined to beat him at States. The drive was pretty long but it was fun because Seb had brought his iPad.

When we arrived at the track we were so excited, we did some stretches, went to the toilet and got on to the starting line. As our mums wished us good luck they left us and went to the finish. Seb and I were pushed to the back of the start line and were not very happy about it. After all the girls had finished their race it was time for the boys to run. The marshal was telling what track we were following and where we had to go.

Everybody was silent then BANG!!! The gun blew and everybody was pushing to get at the front. I was elbowed a few times and got kicked in the leg once. At the first one kilometre I was at the back of the pack until someone tripped over and he tripped someone else over and that is when I made my big sprint.

At that point I was over taking Seb and as I got closer to the top ten the race was getting harder. At the 2K mark I was coming 8<sup>th</sup> but that is the highest I got to. Then Seb came and over took me and got into the position of 6<sup>th</sup> while I was getting moved back to 10<sup>th</sup> and as the race went on I got over taken. The hundred metre sprint was coming closer now and I was coming 13<sup>th</sup>. When I reached the sprint I was so puffed and so was Seb. Seb over took one person in the last sprint and came 5<sup>th</sup> but I didn't over take anyone and I came 13<sup>th</sup>.

Finally the race was over and I was very happy with my position and so was Seb because he got into Nationals and is going to Queensland. Mum and I went to get some sushi and I said to mum that I'm looking forward to cross country next year no matter what the results are.

**Oct 2010** Melbourne Marathon – by Alyssa A. I competed in a 5.7km run and at the start I felt very good, filled with energy and at the end I felt really excited. I ran around the MCG with my mum and people took photos of us.



**Oct 2010** On October 6<sup>th</sup> Will S, Riley F, Danielle S and Luke P competed at the Zone Athletics. Riley F ran in the 1500 metres and came 4<sup>th</sup> and also ran in the 800m and came 5<sup>th</sup>. Danielle S competed in the long jump and the 100m she came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the long jump and 5<sup>th</sup> in the 100m. Luke P competed in the High jump and came 5<sup>th</sup>. Will S competed in the long jump and came 2<sup>nd</sup> and qualified to compete at the Regionals where we came 1<sup>st</sup> and will now compete at the States in Bendigo.



*Danielle, Will, Riley and Luke represented SEPS at the Zone Athletics.*

**Nov 2010** On Nov 10<sup>th</sup> the Sandringham East Primary School girls volleyball team at Westall Primary School. We have 10 members of our team, Tara R, Tala I, Tara E, Sophie J, Brianna B, Catherine R, Lola H, Caitlin P, Rhiannon G and Kelly H. We lost the first set, 24-20, and final the second we also lost, 24-18. They enjoyed the day - better luck next time girls!



**Nov 2010** The boys' bat tennis team went to Rosebud Primary School to compete in the State Finals. We were very successful, coming in at 2<sup>nd</sup> place. We all had great games with Courtney W and Noah T our other singles representative. The doubles teams also had a fantastic day with Will S and Jack R winning both of their games. Daniel G and Riley F won 1 out of 2 games and Albin and Sebastian won both of their games just like Hugo B and Luke R.



**Feb 2011** House Swimming Carnival *by Zoe W & Alicia R*  
 We arrived at Carnegie Swimming Pool, clad in all our swimming gear. Many were excited, nervous and a few were filled with fear. First was the Freestyle, and everybody excelled. There was not one freestyler that could say they hadn't done well. Next up-the Backstroke and the spectators could tell. That many a mother was greeted with a triumphant call on her cell. Finally, the Breaststroke, which was a huge success! Everybody emerged from the pool with a performance that was perfect, no less. Butterfly! The sport, so many detest! But of all the brave souls who competed, most had another ribbon for their chest. The day was done and things were looking blue for Sturt. But the cheers of Batman were so loud it made everybody's head hurt. The real reason behind all of this was not just to compete. Everyone wanted to go to districts, so we did house swimming to make it neat! A hearty thanks to everyone that helped because you did so much more - And a loud cheer for Chelsy H - she's going to districts for sure!



*House Captains of Batman, Jodie and Matthew display the trophy. A "proud" moment!*

## Camps

Traditionally children at Sandringham East Primary School have enjoyed adventure camps where they learn to live together and participate in challenging and team building activities. Jumbuk Park Camp 1997 had an enormous appeal to the adventurer with abseiling, flying fox, high ropes, night walks, nature walks, canoeing, skywalk, the Berlin Wall and balancing pole.

### Recollections from Maria Hach, Student

“Canoeing was fun because Jenny and I almost fell in. Our instructor was Mr. Whitla and Mrs. Lee. Meredith and Jenny did fall in. Kirsty was screaming her head off because there were leeches on the side of the boat. “

Year 3 and 4 students earlier rotated between Camp Wilkin and Arrabri Lodge whilst Year 5 and 6 enjoyed Camp Rumbug every alternate year. Year 3 and 4 now attend Camp Rumbug at Waratah Bay alternating with Arrabri. Over recent years the year 5 / 6 camp has extended to a Canberra Experience where children learn about our Nation's Capital and Federal Government processes.



*Canberra Experience 2006 pictured above.*



*Camp Rumbug with year 5 and 6 students Circa 2001*

## Recollections of Grade Six School Camps, Frank Fielding, Principal 1987-1993

For several years in the late 80's & early 90's successful camps were conducted at Halls Gap in the Grampians. Much walking took place to places like McKenzies Falls, Silverband Falls, Boroka Lookout, Reids Lookout, The Pinnacle (where teacher Pam Wright became "lost"), The Jaws of Death, and Zumsteins.

The great set up where we stayed allowed lots of organised activities in bushland behind the camp as well as much indoor fun and games sessions which culminated with the annual concert night. On the way back we would stop off at Lake Wendouree in Ballarat to view the beautiful gardens, Prime Minister's walk and historic statues.

I'm sure many who read this who attended these camps would have nothing but fond memories of the Grampians and the happy times spent with classmates and teachers.



*More camp fun!*

**2010**

### **Canberra Camp**

The 2010 camp to the country's Capital commenced with an early start for the two bus convoy to drive to Canberra. This camp was designed to enhance the children's learning experience of the Civics and Citizenship curriculum topic. Each day was extremely busy with the pupils visiting many of the countries iconic buildings and institutions to learn about a multitude of aspects that make Australia what it is today. These included the War Memorial, the High Courts, Electoral Education Centre, Australian Institute of Sport, Royal Mint, Art Galleries and of course Parliament House where we were privileged to be hosted by the Hon Andrew Robb AO MP, our member of Parliament. The trip was a fantastic success and the children (and teachers) gained a vast amount of knowledge into how the Nation works so successfully.



2011

### Rumbug Adventure Camp

The biannual adventure camp is always eagerly anticipated by the level four students and this year proved to be a special one! 2011 saw some of the highest rainfall recorded in the State and this made the camps numerous water activities very interesting! This camp helps build self confidence and promotes team working skills in a unique environment. The children were often faced with challenges and situations that took them out of their comfort zones and they took these challenges on with huge amounts of enthusiasm. Very few clean clothes returned from camp but a huge amount of proud children did!



Mar 2008

### Grade 3's and 4's Yarra River Cruise Reflections by Catherine R year 4

“The boat was called the MV Melbourne Star. The first thing we went under was the Princes Bridge which was very old and big. We went under Queen’s Bridge, which was very small because it originally carried lots of carts and horses. One of the best things we saw was Clipper, Polly Woodside. We went past Flinders Street station; it is the oldest station in Australia and one the oldest in the world. While we were in Docklands we saw the Southern Star which is a ferris wheel, being built. It is going to be finished around Christmas. “



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of

### We Discovered Some Interesting Facts by Siena B and Sienna T

- The West Gate Bridge is 5.9 kilometers long in 1970 it fell down and 5 workers died
- The Bolte Bridge is turning ten years old. It was named after Sir Henry Bolte a former Premier of Victoria
- There are Fish in the Yarra River and sometimes you can see dolphins and seals in the river
- The Eureka Tower is Melbourne's tallest building and has 92 floors



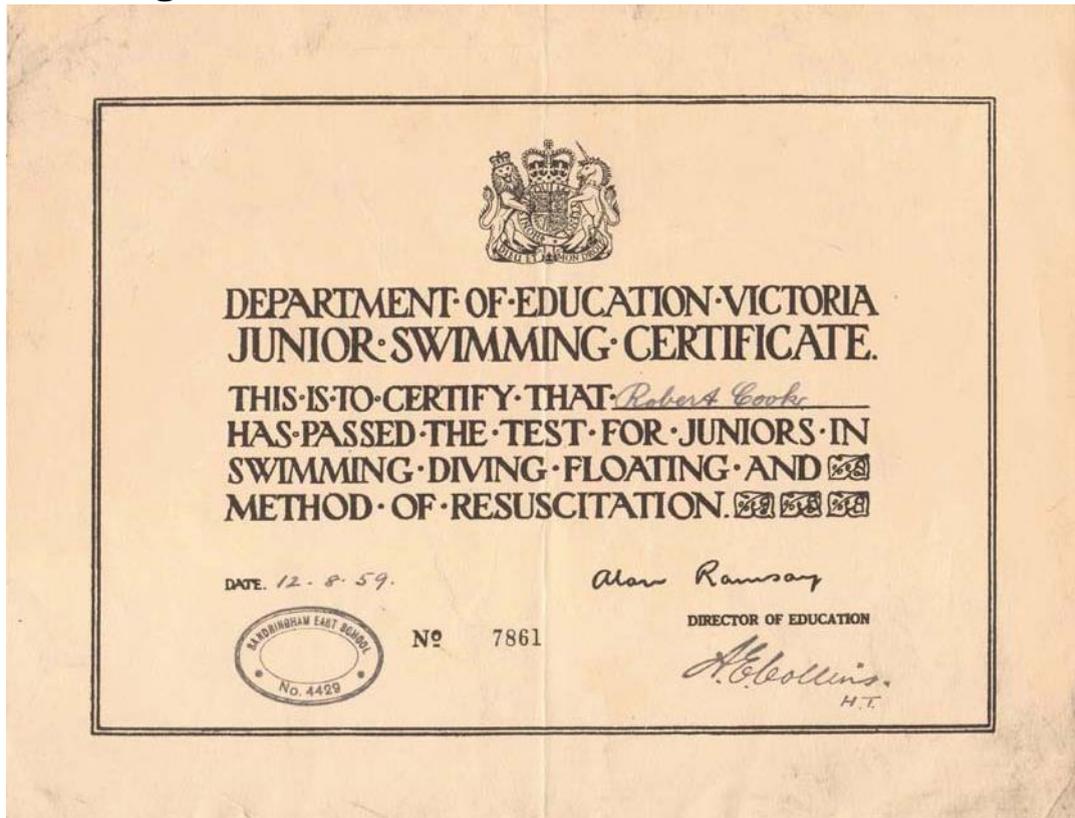
The Eureka Tower



A crane fell in the water!



## Swimming – Water Awareness



### Swimming program recollections of Rob Cook, Student, 1955 - 1960

Swimming Certificates...I obtained two swimming milestones while I was at Sandringham East Primary School. The Herald certificate was a swimming program sponsored by "The Herald" newspaper (later combined with The Sun") to make sure that as many kids as possible were taught to swim. I think this program was run at Brighton Beach Baths (long since demolished) which consisted of a rectangle of sea fenced off with a sort of palisade of wooden slats and a boardwalk all round. The only sea creature that the slats would have stopped was possibly a shark. Everything else including giant waves got through quite easily. The Herald certificate was to swim 25 yards but as the baths were 50 yards wide, we were lined up in the middle in the water and told to swim to the edge, which of course we did. I don't think the sea was especially rough that day but it was far from calm so, as we were all quite small, the starting line was pretty ragged. I suspect that some of us swam 20 yards while others may have done 30.

The Junior Certificate required diving, a swim of 50 yards, rescue and what we now know as CPR. This program was run at Middle Brighton Baths where the sea floor was uncomfortably rocky. These were of similar build (and condition) to those at Brighton Beach except that having been neglected for many years, they have now been restored and are in regular use.

The arrangement was much the same except that we dived in from the boardwalk, swam the width of the baths regardless of the prevailing conditions, and demonstrated our CPR skills on a fellow student. Miraculously, all survived.

Prior to attempting these certificate we had a series of weekly lessons at the baths. We were taken there in buses I think only for an hour or two so by the time we'd changed, swam and changed back again, we'd received maybe a half to three quarters of an hour of actual swimming. Living in Sandringham we spent much of our summer time at the beach anyway but it was a good thing to be taught properly.



*Swimming Program*

### **Swimming at Sandringham East by Lorraine Lee, current teacher**

The school has conducted swimming for the children of Sandringham East Primary School at the Brighton Baths since the 1930's.

For many recent years students at Sandringham East have participated in two week intensive swimming programs at several local pools. We have always been accompanied by a dedicated group of parents who travel each day on the bus with us and assist in the change rooms. Our swimming program is aimed at making children safe and confident in the water, rather than turning them into Olympic champions. The RLSS Aquasafe program covers the areas of Personal Development, Stroke Development and Water Safety at each of the seven levels, and includes such things as entering the water confidently and safely, swimming skills, survival skills, underwater skills, rescue skills and correct technique for exiting the water.

A major focus of the program is water safety - the child's ability to deal with emergencies involving themselves or others in the water. Perfection of swimming strokes and the ability to swim a number of laps are only one part of the overall water safety program. Students in Grade 4 – 6 also represent their school in the Beachside District Primary School Sports Association and, if successful, compete further at Zone and State level trials.

### **Water Safety Awareness Program at Sandringham Yacht Club**

We have been fortunate to establish a wonderful relationship with Sandringham Yacht Club over many years where our students have learned from the Water Awareness Program. This is a great adjunct to our swimming program ensuring that students have the skills to be safe in the water.

Our close proximity to the water is a benefit which we enjoy and we also appreciate the partnership with Sandringham Yacht Club in transporting the students to the Yacht Club for this program.

The coaches for the program have been outstanding, giving students clear instructions and guidance about safety and SunSmart requirements and then skills for sailing the dinghies. It is great to see the progress that students make in such a short time and the excitement when they master the skills to move their boat in the right direction – a difficult concept to grasp!





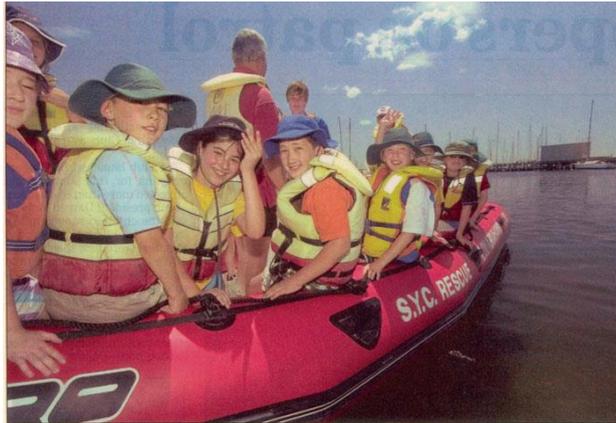
Sailing is a wonderful sport which totally involves and engages children with life long benefits.

Teacher Mrs. McGlashan said that this was the best excursion she has ever attended with students!

“You can see what fun the children are having as they experiences a taste of sailing. Unfortunately one day was too windy for the children but they enjoyed a tour of the Yacht Club (see below) and also an experience on the Safety Rescue Boat. The coaches from SYC were wonderful with the children and adapted the program according to the conditions. They still gained a taste of safety, weather conditions, the theory of sailing and an experience looking at famous Lionheart - Jesse Martins’ famous yacht. Jesse Martin (born 26 August 1981) is an Australian sailor who in 1999 became the youngest person to circumnavigate the globe solo, non-stop, and unassisted. Martin's journey in the 34-foot (10 m) sloop *Lionheart-Mistral* took approximately 11 months. Jesse Martin left from Sandringham Yacht Club, returning to great celebrations after his amazing achievement.”



We at Sandringham East are an Active Australia School and thus focus on the benefits of sport and leisure activities for our students so that they can enjoy a healthy lifestyle. Many students have followed the water awareness program and have further developed their skills through joining courses to learn sailing in optimist dinghies.



Sandringham East Primary students learn about boating and water safety. Picture: HILTON STONE. N248B301

### Academy sails through safety lessons

THESE Sandringham East Primary School students were among 300 who recently had their first taste of sailing at Sandringham Yacht Club. The club hosted students from across the city over five days at its Boating Academy as part of Water Safety Awareness Week. Sandringham East principal Lauren Walton said Year 3 and 4 students attended the course. "This was a great experience for them and one which many will remember for years to come," she said. Sandringham Yacht Club spokesman Richard Hewitt said the event was a great success and the club looked forward to seeing some of the children continue sailing.

*Students in year 4 in 2005 enjoying their experience!*

## Performing Arts Programs – Including Music, Dance and Drama

Until 2002, School Council had funded a music teacher to ensure that music was a priority within the school, but this position is now incorporated into the general staffing for the school. In 2002 the School Band re-formed under the guidance of Bruce Worland and music teacher Susan Fabian. Music Corp is the provider with present teacher John Bryant who was also a student at Sandringham East Primary School. John has a passion for music and trained a group of drummers to relive the "good old days," (from 1962 when John was the band captain) drumming again at our 75th celebrations.

Piano lessons have been a tradition at Sandringham East Primary School and Adina Hall and Irena Koulikova provide tuition to many students who wish to learn piano during school hours. Mini Maestros has also been introduced for preschool children at Sandringham East Primary School.

Performances for audiences have always been a traditional way that our students can show their talents and visits to community elderly citizens homes are much appreciated by the residents.

Currently in 2011 the year 5 students with teacher Mr Karl Meban have been visiting the residents at St Leigh Private Nursing Home.



*Community involvement with the elderly allows students to showcase their performing arts talents.*



*Students just love performing for an audience!*



### **Concert at Moorabbin Town Hall in 2000**

From the inception of the school, concerts have been a way for children to express themselves and to enjoy performing for their friends and family. This is a fun experience for students which inspires and develops their confidence and self esteem. For many years concerts were held in the Highett Campus Hall and then in the Kingston Centre (old Moorabbin Town Hall).

Currently in 2011 an extraganza is being prepared by performing arts teachers David Martin and Kathryn Zachest for students to perform at Robert Blackwood hall at Monash University.



*Estelle Biddle and Lyla Lugg, in the 1930's, both 13 years old, about to perform at the school concert.*

### **Performing Arts at SEPS in 2006 by Shannon O'Neill, Performing Arts Teacher**

Sandringham East Primary School has immersed itself in all current curriculum trends, with the inclusion of a full Performing Arts program that ran in our school. Sandringham East Primary School traditionally ran a music program, with extra curricular music activities for the children to further develop their skills. Built from this foundation the program includes all aspects of Performing Arts including Dramatic Art and Dance as well as the music component.

At this time students were taught skills in script writing and directing, recite choral poems, choreograph and perform dances from different eras and cultures, sing and play songs from around the world and from many different musical styles including jazz, world, sacred and popular music.

Performing Arts develops the children's confidence, creativity and co-ordination. It helps them also to discover who they are, what they are passionate about and how they react socially and emotionally.

Performing Arts teacher Miss Shannon O'Neill wrote the school song which was launched at the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

Performing Arts Events in 2005/2006 included:

Funki Gold - The year 6 classes prepared a Choir and Dance performance to raise money for Sandringham East Primary School stars costumes and charity this year. 6A sang 'Mustang Sally' and danced to 'Underground DJs'. 6S sang 'Play that Funky Music' and danced to 'Shake'. Each student was asked to bring a gold coin and put it in the bucket of their favorite performance item. The Preps were the 'twist' of the competition, also performing and they ended up placing 2nd! 6S's dance item 'Shake' was the winner!

Funki Familiez Miss O'Neill and the year 6 students wrote their own musical extravaganza about different family stereotypes and each class performed a very special song and dance item. From Rock Star wannabe Dads to Mums who can't cook, Funki Grandmas to Big Brother bullies, each class had fun exploring this theme and the result was fun and laughter!

Sandringham East Primary School Stars was founded in 2005 by Miss O'Neill who created a feature a group of dancers who performed and represented the school. Students rehearsed weekly and performed at various school events, including the concert.

Sandringham East Primary School Choir - We had a very talented base of singers at Sandringham East Primary School, and we formed a 60+ member strong choir with students from years 3-6. The

choir in 2006, were chosen by the region to perform in a primary school's choir with 3 other schools.

Reaching Out - Students were encouraged to pursue Performing Arts in the wider community and many Sandringham East Primary School students participate in weekly dance classes, acting classes, piano lessons, youth choirs etc. We also take students into the wider community, and students visited local retirement villages and performed at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Sandringham. Our students became well known in the community for their creative talents!

BUGS - Students in Grades 3 & 4 excitedly presented the musical 'BUGS' to their families and were all proud of their sensational performance! The show is set under the floor of a house (possibly one near yours!) and the cast members were groups of insects – blowflies, cockroaches, mosquitoes, fleas and ants along with other creepy crawlies such as spiders, some insect ghosts and an arrogant scorpion called Serena, who happily is taught the most important 'You Can Do It!' lesson of all – 'Getting Along'.

### Reflection by Shannon O'Neill Performing Arts Teacher, 2005 – 2006

Highlights for me at the 2006 Dancing For Schools competition was seeing the kids adjust to such a small stage space so professionally, proving that stage discipline is sinking in for them, their total commitment to the routine from start to finish, their energy and love of dance onstage, with wonderful comments by Mark Wilson (Dance Judge). Liam taught Grant Denya the worm and we were photographed by the Herald Sun, Grant getting the kids to sing 'Pump it Louder' again for the crowd.



*SEPS dancers performed at Westfield for the "Dancing for schools" competition and won as you can see from the proud faces above. Grant Denya and Mark Wilson encouraged and supported the students.*

### Dec 2009

Sandringham East Primary School entered three teams in the Bayside Dance Competition, which was held at the Hampton Community Hall. Congratulations to Molly (2W) and Georga (2C) who competed in the Level 1&2 category; to Stacia, Laura, Brooke, Catherine and Dominique (5M) who entered the Level 4 category and to Emily (4A) and Poppy (4R) who came first in the Level 3 category. All the girls performed really well and did the school proud.



*Girls pictured with Performing Arts teacher Mr Geoffrey Ryan.*

**Performing Arts at SEPS in 2010-11 by David Martin, Performing Arts Teacher**  
**2010**

The students from Sandringham East Primary School were exposed to a Drama Focus throughout 2010. Children learnt skills in improvisation, character development, voice and diction, performance skills, mime and creative movement. The students were very eager to learn these skills and displayed loads of talent when presenting work to the school community. This year 2011 we will be making and sharing stories, exploring improvisation, character development, performance skills and dance making. They used music and movement to interpret text into performance and looked at stories from around the world as stimulus for dramatic play.



**2010** Throughout Term 2 the students explored puppetry in Performing Arts. All students learnt about different kinds of puppets from around the world and explored puppetry techniques and skills. Some of the puppets the children learnt about included marionette, sock, shadow, finger, glove and even water puppets from Vietnam. They designed and created their own puppets from recycled materials and developed characters and scripts to perform to each other.



**2010** The students from Sandringham East Primary School entertained each other with some clowning skills, balancing tricks and some of them even learnt how to juggle! We completed our Circus unit with an incursion and performance from a street performer, B-rad from the Little Devils Circus troupe. A very lively and hilarious time was had by all.



**2010** Namaste! The students from Sandringham East Primary School enjoyed a Bollywood dance unit throughout Term 3 which culminated in a incursion and dance workshop. Thank you to all the students at Sandringham East Primary School for welcoming Soni and for your enthusiasm to learn Bollywood dancing! The children enjoyed a dance performance followed by a dance class form a professional Bollywood artist. Soni Spreadborough has been dancing for over ten years and performing at various festivals

and events throughout Melbourne. We were lucky to have her come to our school as she brought so much colour and energy to our school. Many children wore something 'bollywoodish' on the day and there were lots of bindis, bracelets and colourful scarves.



## 2010

Throughout Term 4, all Grade 6 students were involved in shaping, creating and rehearsing their performance piece for the Graduation Ceremony. The performance showcased the students' memories and stories from their primary school years and also gave a glimpse of their hopes and dreams for their future.

The Grade 5's looked at how popular TV shows impact on modern culture. They explored character, mime and melodrama whilst re-creating popular shows. The students also explored stagecraft elements such as costume, props, set and performance skills and given opportunities to perform for the school community.

### **The Great Carols Disaster of 2010.**

In late December of 2010 the whole school community gathered to celebrate the joy of Christmas by sharing some carols. On a balmy Summer's evening the night began well with a picnic on the oval; children playing happily in the yard and parents relaxing on the grass with their picnic hampers. The students were dressed up as elves and reindeer and little Santa and primed and ready to perform the songs they had been practising for weeks. The quadrangle was trimmed with decorations students had made themselves in the art room, Santa Claus was standing by in his Bobcat and glowsticks and songsheets had been issued. As eager participants moved into position to begin the festivities a misting rain began to drift in from the South adding charm to the gathering twilight.

Tragically just as the first act launched into a lively rendition of Rockin' around the Christmas Tree the heavens opened drenching both the audience and the performers. Within seconds the asphalt was awash with bedraggled children, bits of tinsel, the ragged remains of the songsheets and the tears of the organising committee who had worked so hard to put the night together. In less than 10 minutes the downpour stopped, the sun broke through the clouds and a beautiful rainbow rose in the sky to the West but the show was over.

We held a special assembly later in the week to give the children a chance to perform and Santa turned up and gave every child an icy pole. Maybe we'll try again in 2011...

2011

Selamat Datang! (Hello and welcome!)

Throughout Term 2 the children in Grades P-2 learnt about Indonesian culture and arts. The children explored traditional folk tales, shadow puppetry techniques, Balinese dancing and customs from the diverse islands of Indonesia. The term culminated with an incursion - a special event that entertained and inspired the children. The students learnt a few words and phrases of Bahasa Indonesian. Many artifacts, images and souvenirs were brought in for "show and tell". Terimah kasih banyak anak-anak! (Thank you very much children!)



### What's next?

The senior levels will be exploring Commedia del Arte – (the Art of Comedy) which is a form of theatre that began in Italy in the mid-16th century. We will be learning about the use of masks in theatre and dance and making our own masks using a variety of materials. We will also learning about styles of Theatre and focusing on Shakespeare.



This year 2011 our school production is due to take place in the last week of Term 3 at the Robert Blackwood Hall, a magnificent 1,300 seat auditorium at Monash University. The production, entitled *The Secret of Sandy East*, is set in Sandringham East way back in 1931 shortly after the founding of the school. Every child in the school and many of the teaching staff will be performing in this all singing, all dancing festival of colour and movement. In essence the story revolves around the discovery of a strange object buried on the school oval and the struggle for possession of this rare and valuable object between competing groups of aliens, gangsters and dodgy business men. Throw in a stellar cast of doctors and nurses, shopkeepers, aliens and nautical characters and it should be a night to remember.



Ms. Katherine Zachest, the tall, slim figure pictured above left, teaches drama to our students each week. She mostly works on improvisation, mime and movement, developing characters and presenting performances.

Mr. David Martin, the elderly gentleman in the nice suit on the right pictured above, teaches music to a captive audience each week. Our budding musicians try their hand at creating their own musical masterpieces, learn how to play in a band, do a bit of music theory and experience music of different times, styles and cultures.

## **The Sandy East Sanctuary**

The sanctuary was originally the brainchild of Sam Richards, a school neighbor in Miller Street. Sam planted the original sanctuary trees in the school grounds as an environmental gesture for which we are very thankful today.



*Jaimee and Renee working in the sanctuary in 2006.*

## **Sanctuary by Katrine Lee, parent**

Many parents and teachers continued this environmental focus and none more that Anne Pettus who was a school parent and landscape architect. Anne had a strong interest in outdoor learning environments and indigenous heritage and the original landscape concept plan encompassed the oval borders, basically the area north of the asphalt. Anne's vision included regenerated heath land, a nature trail, sound garden, climbing structures, a cubby and a corroboree fire circle! Our sanctuary development aims to: develop a resource to enhance learning about and appreciation of the natural environment, screen the view of the factories and provide a sound barrier, increase biodiversity and to preserve our natural indigenous heritage.

A big planting day was in August 2003, when we had a fantastic turn up with Sandringham East Primary School parents and kids, staff from Citywide Parkcare, and Sandringham East Primary School teachers. Bayside City Council paid for the plants which were sourced from the Bayside Native Nursery. We also offered the opportunity to adopt a tree - where a family or individual could buy an indigenous tree to plant in the sanctuary - we had more than 40 trees planted this way. There followed monthly working bees, much weeding, mulch spreading and watering to give our sanctuary plants the best chance of survival.

Unfortunately Anne moved home to the United States at the end of 2003 so I became the sanctuary coordinator for 2004 with the help of other parents Grant Bell, Melanie Birch and Carolyn Russell. We were successful with a grant from Greening Australia and had a fantastic planting day with grades 1 and 4.

Grade 4 gardening club was established every Wednesday afternoon to maintain the sanctuary and to keep the children involved and interested. Katrine recalls, "I thought it was gorgeous the way some of the grade 4 boys and girls in 2004 became very clucky about their plants. Many kids named them and came out during recess to decorate the tree guards around the seedling they planted with feathers, drawings and ribbon."

Children's comments:

Mitchel "...I found out that indigenous means only grows in one specific place. Thanks for teaching me lots of stuff. I called my plant Larry..."

Sam "...Last Wednesday Grade 4's began a gardening club. It was probably one of the best afternoons I have ever had..."

Spring 2004 saw another well attended community planting day Grade 4's followed up in their gardening club. Since 2003 Katrine wrote in many editions of the "Banksia Bulletin" - the Bayside City Council friends' group magazine highlighting our activities.

In 2005, Grant Bell took over as sanctuary coordinator. We celebrated National Tree Day in July with another planting day of 100 more indigenous plants. Grant worked hard around the grounds and re-established gardening club where the focus as shared between the sanctuary and the veggie patch. Help from Melanie Birch and a new Prep dad, Andrew Newton. Katrine says: "For me it has been rewarding to see the sanctuary flourish even in a time of drought, and to see the enthusiasm the kids have when we get our hands dirty! "

*Bayside Leader 16-6-2003*



*Darcey and children from Sandringham East Primary School ready for their tree planting.* N515B560

## Sanctuary is under way at Sandringham

GRADE 3 students at Sandringham East Primary School will take the first step in establishing a heathland sanctuary this weekend. They will establish the sanctuary with 600 indigenous

heathland and woodland grasses, shrubs and trees. Students and parents aim to make the sanctuary a place of fun and learning by planting more than 5000 plants and trees during the next three years.

*Work by Darcy in the Sanctuary in 2003.*



*Parent Grant Bell working with year 4 students in 2006.*

We may be a good way from the original concept plan - but we have created something real, something worthwhile and ongoing. We can keep dreaming and maybe one day we will have a corroboree circle and a nature trail...

### **Recollection – A Dangerous Tree by Geoff Swann, Teacher 1985**

“Writing of trees, I am reminded of an incident that could have been tragic. Before my time at Sandringham East Primary School, as a campaign to beautify the schoolyard, sleeper-contained garden beds were planted with shrubs and trees. Seats that were built in front of these beds were very popular with the children, especially the seats in the Infant area near the now non-existent toilet block.

Over time the trees in these beds, mainly acacias, grew to be quite substantial and provided much-welcomed shade in the summer. One warm spring day one of the Prep grades was lined up after lunch - the front of the line near the veranda and the end of the line in the shade of an acacia. I noticed them as I walked from the library, as it was then, to Pam Brain’s room. A few minutes later on my return I noticed the tree that had provided shade had crashed down, right where the Prep children had been standing a matter of minutes before. A lucky escape indeed!”

**Oct 2006 Schools’ Garden Awards Victoria** - Harry, Trent, Chelsea and Cassie showed a judge from the school garden competition around the school. They told her about the Friendship Garden, Nature Walk and the barbeque area and showed her the ‘veggie patch’ and worm farm and about the school applying for a water tank. The tour also took her to the front garden to the two trees planted in memory of the two mums that died. Trent and Harry said: “At the end she seemed pleased with the school and how we were taking the environment seriously.”



*Pictured are Chelsea, Trent, Harry and Cassie with Andrew Newton (parent) Katrine Lee (parent) Carol Morrison from Schools’ Garden Awards Victoria.*

**Jul 2007** A mother rabbit and six newborn babies arrived - only one day old and the children thought they looked like little pink pigs. After only a week, they were covered with a thin layer of fur and their eyes should open soon then the children will be able to hold them. For Maths, children are measuring their length and mass each week and are using the data to make graphs and for English they are reading and writing rabbit stories as part of our Life Cycle topic.

*Mrs Casonato-Pal with mother rabbit and students.*



**Aug 2007** The Year 1 and Korean students planted 80 trees to celebrate 'Schools Tree Day.' The Korean students donated 12 advanced trees to commemorate their stay at Sandringham East Primary School. Parents Grant Bell and Katrine Lee coordinated School's Tree Day.



**May 2008** The Barry family, along with Grandma Judith holidaying from the UK, kindly donated their time and energy plus the beautiful selection of native shrubs to enhance our front garden.

**Jun 2008** To support our curriculum goals and sustainability focus which is so important at Sandringham East Primary School. It is relevant to learning about our environment and responsive to the life skills required to sustain ourselves in this every changing world. We need to empower our students with the skills to follow through at home and become aware of protecting the environment. Many students these days don't have the opportunity to see how vegetables grow and where eggs come from so it is a great opportunity for these experiences. Parent Andrew Newton has done a great job setting up our veggie area for the students.



**Jul 2008** Our first ten chickens have arrived and were happy in their palatial abode!

**Sep 2008** We were very proud of the wonderful developments in our school grounds this year including the veggie garden, the new trees planted in the Sanctuary area, the chicken coop, the new water tanks, the front garden beds and more! With so many exciting things to “show off” in our grounds, it was decided to put Sandringham East Primary School forward for the School’s Garden Awards for 2008.



The judges, Mrs. Janet Kennedy and Mrs Carol Morrison, visited our school and were taken on a guided tour of our grounds by the grade 4 children. The grade 1 children popped out of their classroom to tell our judges all about the chooks. They explained what is involved in caring for them and how they are now laying lots of eggs.

**Sep 2008** The wide open spaces and playing areas, the sanctuary, the veggie garden and chook pen, all contribute to making our outdoor environment so special at Sandringham East Primary School.



**Oct 2008** Students worked with Mrs Anderson and Andrew Newton in transforming the garden into a Koori Garden and made artwork enhance the area.



**Nov 2008** The scarecrows were a new addition to the veggie patch with Grade 2 students making scarecrows in Art. Students went outside to stuff scarecrow body parts with hay. Boots and a straw hat were just the perfect finishing touch!



**Feb 2009** An amazing transformation has occurred next to the chicken run. The area is now a tranquil feature garden with an oriental theme. The design includes meandering, stone-paved pathways, feature rocks and pebbles, fish ponds, an arched bridge, bamboo feature walls and more! Sandringham East Primary School parents, Andrew Newton and Russell Bennett donated hours of hard work, skill and dedication to bring this formally uninspiring unused space alive!



**Feb 2009** The hot weather took its toll on the oval with large patches left completely bare which are currently being rejuvenated with the planting of grass seedlings. We will have to be patient and keep off these areas to allow the new grass to take off.



**May 2009** A buzz hit the Year 1/2 area this week with the chicks arriving. There were many anxious adopted parents waiting for the arrival of their baby chick. For some it was hard to get to sleep, as they couldn't wait to get to school the next morning to see their chick. The children have enjoyed not only the experience of waiting but also bonding with the new arrivals. Over the coming weeks, children will complete tasks relating to chickens, and other life forms as well, in our topic for term 2, "Lifecycles".

**Sept 2009** Last week we hosted the Garden Awards judge to showcase our gardens. Thanks to Ms Casonato and students who impressed the judge with their presentation and tour of our school as well as enjoying muffins made with our own produce - eggs and silverbeet. We sometimes don't realize what a great environment we have here at Sandringham East Primary School with the wonderful garden developments. Our next venture is in the front garden where we will develop a learning environment for our Developmental and Inquiry Curriculum to be used by all students. Thanks to Arnie Solterbeck for donating a pond for this area.



**Dec 2009** At Sandringham East Primary School we take for granted our beautiful gardens and surrounds, but this week we were reminded of just how lucky we are. Our Grade 3 students attended the Victorian Schools' Garden Awards on Wednesday. These awards encourage school communities to utilise their gardens and grounds effectively and to help students explore ideas of sustainability in the face of water scarcity and climate change.

Assessment is not based on the most aesthetic school grounds or garden but on improvements made to the school environment through an active involvement of pupils, teachers and the school community. The assessment team came out to look at our gardens in Term 3 and on Wednesday we were announced as one of 2 Southern Region Achievement Award winners! What a great testament to the hard work of our school community. Our prize is a \$200 nursery voucher. We were lucky enough to win this award last year as well, and the prize was used to purchase new plants for the Indigenous Garden.



**Jun 2010** Teachers from Gardenvale Primary School visited us to see the amazing Environmental Programs we run at Sandringham East Primary School. Miss Parsons took them on a tour of the school and showed them all our gardens and chickens. We talked about how students collect food scraps for the chickens and compost, how we collect water from drink taps, how we are growing herbs and vegetables and how we are planning an outdoor kitchen so we can cook our wonderful produce. They were very impressed with our programs and excited to go back to their school to start implementing some activities of their own. A Big Thank You to Mr Newton and Mr Marco for helping Miss Parsons with the tour.

**Aug 2010** Citywide came to our school to help us plant more trees in the gardens at the back of the oval. We planted coastal plants like Pigface Cactus, Coastal Wattle, Olearias and special native grasses. We planted 250 trees to make our school beautiful and to provide a habitat for local birds and animals. It will take a few years to grow. *Kai & Hana 3/4M*



**Aug 2010** Chops at Sandringham East Primary School! - Students had the opportunity to take care of Chops the lamb, an orphan from a farmer friend of Mrs Casonato-Pal. Chops spent time in every classroom and students were responsible for taking her on a daily walk and learning how to feed her. At night time, Chops had a rest from school, like all children, by going home with Ms Casonato-Pal who bottle fed her during the night and brought her back to school for her next big day! Mrs Casonato-Pal was a traffic stopper as she walked across Bay Road each morning and night with Chops on a leash.



**Oct 2010** Lamb Chops at our House – *By Tilly & Eliza Davis*  
We took Chops home for the night. It is usually only a 5 minute walk home from school but with a sheep on a leash it took about half an hour! Chops was so excited to see so much grass and our dog, Daisy, seemed very confused! A few minutes together at the park and Chops and Daisy became best friends. Daisy even started eating grass, just to make Chops feel right at home! Chops was much better walking back to school in the morning, it only took 10 minutes and we collected a few friends on the way. Having Chops was a great experience for everyone.



**May 2011** Sandringham East Primary School has some new enrolments...with feathers! Students are delighted to see chicks in the chook house again. They will be ready to give us plenty of eggs in Spring.



## Student Leadership

Over the years teachers have taken opportunities to provide students with leadership roles. In the early days this involved such tasks as being the inkwell monitor, milk monitor, office messenger, rubbish bin collector and so on. In the structured classrooms with rows of desks a monitors job was to hand out the text books or take up books for correction for the teacher.

Today students are given opportunities to develop their leadership skills, and gain positions through elections by peers for House Captains/Vice Captains and Junior School Council. For several years we have provided these young leaders with the opportunity to attend the Young Leaders Day where they enjoy hearing from notable speakers and gain invaluable insights into leadership qualities.

We look upon all year 6 students as young leaders and they demonstrate this through their wonderful attention to the Buddy program. Year 6 House Captains and Deputy House Captains play a major leadership role within the school taking on various responsibilities including leading their House in their aim for victory and even running a few Monday assemblies. In 2011, leadership roles for all year 6 students were introduced in order to assist their own personal development and that of younger students in the school. These roles include: Library, Japanese, Art, Drama/Dance, Music, Gardening, Safety, ICT, Newsletter, Environment, National Pride and Lunch Club Captains.

Junior School Council's task is to ensure that communication with students in their grade level and gives them ideas for improving the school. School Council invites JSC to a meeting each year so that the members can gain an insight into how the school is managed. JSC also has a responsibility to organise fun activities such as footy days, pyjama days, casual dress days, bad hair days etc whereby students bring a gold coin donation to raise awareness and funds for charitable organisations. The JSC at Sandringham East has always had extremely compassionate and caring members and they have worked towards becoming active global citizens as well as influential leaders in our school community. In recent times the JSC have also been involved in projects such the In Your Shoes program; where the students collected over 300 pairs of shoes that went to disadvantaged communities rather than landfill. They have collected over \$700 to support the Victorian flood and Christchurch earthquake victims early in 2011. In conjunction with Japanese Day the JSC also helped raise funds to support the Japanese earthquake victims. *Sally Holbrook JSC leader 2011*

**Oct 2009** The Sandringham East Leadership Award was presented to Sam and Sandra from year 6. The award was in partnership with Bicycle Victoria who promote and celebrate leadership qualities displayed by young people in grade 6 in the State. Bicycle Victoria supplied two fantastic mountain bikes as prizes.

Many of the pupils at Sandringham East Primary School have shown their leadership qualities and are role models.

*"Sam and Sandra have displayed tremendous leadership qualities and have been role models to their peers throughout 2009. They have been recognized for their outstanding contributions in upholding the schools ethical values and in the consistent high standards that they have achieved".*



**Nov 2010** Four Grade 5 students participated in a BGK Leadership Cluster Workshop at Highett Neighborhood Community House. Massey, Calum, Jodie and Emily investigated the dynamics of working in a team, produced a short film to promote awareness and understanding of bullying in schools, explored the possibility of changing the world in five minutes and practiced creatively expressing ideas and issues of concern, in particular, littering and the environment. The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to bond with other students from nearby schools and found the experience very rewarding.

## Junior School Councillors

**Feb 2007** Our Junior School Councillors are pictured below with teachers Georgi Evans and Pam Brain:

Grade 3	Riley Flegeltaub	Ella Douglas
Grade 4	Josh Bell	Shannon Eagle
Grade 5	Chelsea Phillips	Tom Nolan
Grade 6	Brianna Hunter	Stephanie Whedlock
	Tom Wegner	Arran Bell



**Feb 2008** Our Junior School Councillors were:

Grade 3	Kate Hurst	Daniel Herget
Grade 4	Tala Ischenko	Noah Turner
Grade 5	Sophie Clarke	Cameron Watts
Grade 6	Kirra Solterbeck	Jack Knowles
	Hannah Pastore	Johnny Vasilakis



**Feb 2009** Our Junior School Councillors were:

Congratulations to our new Junior School Councillors for 2009. They have got off to a great start by organising the free dress day and donations of toiletries and pet food for the bushfire relief appeal. Our JSC representatives are pictured with school Council President Mr. Steve Pleasants, Mrs Walton and Mrs Anderson.

Grade 3	Maya Magen	David, Kai Pratt
Grade 4	Jodie Rich	Andrew Brayshaw,
Grade 5	Dominique Cowden	Will Smith
Grade 6	Samantha Learmont	Yunna Kim



**Feb 2010** Our Junior School Councillors were:

Grade 3	Tobi Linagen	Siena Bolton
Grade 4	Ben Norton	Tara Strubing
Grade 5	Emily Pastore	Massey Parker
Grade 6	Siena Barton	Brianna Bryant
	Jamie Di Donato	Courtney Wedderburn

**Feb 2011** Our Junior School Councillors are:

Grade 3	Isabelle Bennett	Luke Dunk
Grade 4	Molly Branch	Austin Parker
Grade 5	Ella McDonald	B.J Prack
Grade 6	Erin Dempsey	Danielle Smith
	Seb Klohk	Hadley Simpson

## Recent SEPS Fundraising

### SEPS Fundraising & Traditions – Pamela Brain, Teacher

Sandringham East has always demonstrated a community spirit when it comes to fundraising for a variety of charities. This tradition has continued to flourish during the 21st century. Our Junior School Council has been very active in the organisation of exciting fund raising events to develop all children's awareness of important causes and to support children less fortunate.

Each year the Junior School Council chooses one cause each term to support children with Leukaemia, Hearing Impaired, The Blind, Kids with Cancer, State Schools Relief, Tsunami Fundraiser and The Royal Children's Hospital.

Some of the children's favourite days have been Pyjama Day where teachers and staff all lounged around in their favourite PJ's, slippers and cuddled their favourite soft toys. Many classes read bedtime picture story books and "dozed" on their pillows, but not for long!. Teachers arrived early and celebrated the morning by having breakfast in their PJ's at school in the staffroom. Another favourite is our Annual Footy Day where the competition is fierce to see which AFL team will have the most supporters chosen by the most gold coin donations and the longest coin line. Team flags and banners abound, team songs are sung enthusiastically and AFL stars usually like to visit. The best part of the day is the traditional footy lunch of a hot pie and sauce provided by the school canteen.



*Students enjoying a bedtime story on Pyjama Day with teacher Sheila Pfeffer in 2004.*

**2006**

Sandringham East Primary School presented their third Visual Arts Show on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2006. 'ARTWORKS 3' was an exhibition of student artwork which:

- Promoted the importance of the Visual Arts in the school and local community.
- Encouraged students to present their art work to an audience.
- Valued and appreciated student art works.
- Raised money for Sandringham East art program.

**Aug 2006** Wow! What wonderful celebrations we enjoyed for our 75th birthday. To have so many visitors and current parents and friends involved to ensure the celebrations were so successful augers well for our future. The atmosphere around the school was abuzz with the amazing community spirit that is so special to Sandringham East Primary School. We were overwhelmed with feedback from those who appreciated the events and humbled and so very proud of the efforts that each member of our school contributed.

**Aug 2006** Dancing with Diamonds - The scene was set for a wonderful evening as we entered Brighton Town Hall to a beautifully decorated room with refreshments flowing and served by ex-students who were willing to come back to help on the night. The band kept us musically entertained. Our 8 dancing couples spent many hours dancing and were so brave and strutted their stuff with style and flair. Congratulations to Leanne and Tim Sprague who were the stars of the night and were so well supported by their campaign team of Prep parents - what an enthusiastic bunch! Around \$9,000 was raised from the auctions which is a great effort.

**Oct 2006** Footy Day for State Schools Relief Fund - We were very lucky to have AFL players visit - Matthew Lappin (Carlton) and Joel Smith (Hawthorn) visit Sandringham East Primary School.

**Nov 2006** A thoughtful Karly M in 2B walked many laps throughout the night at the Duncan Mackinnon Reserve to raise money for the Cancer Council's Relay for Life Appeal. Karly collected \$115 herself and her team raised a total of \$2,000 for the appeal.



**Nov 2006** The Sandringham East Primary School Camp Out was a fantastic success. Over 60 families camped on the oval. The weather was perfect and the campers were the best. Cathy Bott, Alison Clarke and Fiona Ireland coordinated the program and Steve Cumming (parent and ex Sandringham East Primary School student) was responsible at the event. Our great dads created a safe and enjoyable activity for the school community and our mums were support behind the scene.



**May 2007** The Walkathon has raised \$21,759.50 minus an estimated cost of incentive prizes (approximately \$4,400).

**Aug 2007** The Sandringham East Primary School Community helped us win 8th place in the 'Shop for Your School' Promotion. The prize included a Panasonic digital camera and stationery packs.

**Aug 2007** Interactive Whiteboards – After these purchases there was a Smart board for every two classes throughout the school. The Walkathon money, money from our Korean exchange students and a very generous donation of \$10,000 was used to purchase these.

**Nov 2007** Rachel Nott and Deanna Herbison, and their amazing organization ensured the wonderful success of this carnival. They had an extraordinary team of committee members and helpers behind them and all went like clockwork. Everything was perfect – the weather, entertainment, stall holders, financial management in the office and the wonderful community spirit that the day engendered.

The Carnival Committee - Lisa Cumming, Suzanne Eagle, Bambi Subotsch, Deborah Couturier, Louise Rae, Di Round, Alison Clarke, Elaine Overs, Sandi Margate, Sue Newton, Tracey Everingham.

The dads on the Fathers' Committee worked tirelessly to help set-up and dismantle for the Carnival - Peter Boekman, Huey Hergert, Paul Herbison, Martin Eagle, Steve Cumming, Peter Baumgartner, John Allan, PeterHann, Brian Round, Alan Murnane, John Rae and... The "Night Watchmen" Malcolm Pulling and Tony Leard.

**Apr 2008** Two of our parents, Alison George and Sarah Morris participated in the 100 kilometre Oxfam Walk on the 12th April to raise money for aid to African countries. Alison and Sarah were well supported by a crew from the Sandringham East Primary School community - Anita Fraser, Katrina Mills, Alistair Morris, Dana Meadows, and Meg Leonard. Congratulations to the walkers and team on an amazing effort. The 100 kilometres course took them 27 hours to complete and they raised over \$5,000 for the cause. They said every blister was worth it! It was wonderful to see members of our community participating in such worthwhile events.



**Jun 2008** On Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup> JSC had Casual Dress day as their first fundraiser for 2008. Money raised was donated to helping survivors of the two recent natural disasters in Burma and China. We collected \$561 was collected - a terrific effort! JSC decided to donate the money to the Rotary Club of Hampton who are organising Shelter Boxes for the people in these stricken countries. Mr Geoff Tickner from the Rotary organization visited our assembly for the presentation of the cheque from our school, pictured right with students and Assistant Principal Pam Anderson.



Mr. Tickner brought one of the shelter boxes for us to see first hand. The boxes contained items to provide shelter, warmth, cooking facilities, tools and kids packs for a family of up to 10. The boxes could be used as a water container or bath.



**Sep 2008** The Sandringham East Primary School Art Show held on Tuesday 9th September, 2008, was an outstanding success. The children worked hard over number of weeks to complete their beautiful art pieces that were exhibited in interesting displays in every classroom. The themes for the Art Trail were the Olympic Games and China. The art work from each class reflected one



aspect of these topics. We congratulate all of our students and Mrs. Baker on the wonderful art works which were available for purchase. During the trail we were entertained by musical ensemble items played by our students. The hall was a hive of activity with the silent auction of donated art works and local artists. Thanks to Fiona Rich and Nola Baker for their organisation.



**Dec 2008** The “Dress Up as a Letter Day “and Finger Bun orders held last week raised a total of \$542.45 for the Andrew Fildes Foundation. The foundation supports children in language learning, and at Sandringham East Primary School has sponsored a very worthwhile intensive speech therapy program. Speech pathologist Georgie Labb and parent Jo Vasilakis helped to make the fundraiser so successful.

**Feb 2009** Many of our Sandringham East Primary School families donated items for the Bushfire Relief Appeal and contributed to the collection at the Welcome picnic. The children enjoyed sorting the pet food and toiletries brought along for the appeal.



Our casual dress day raised \$1056.85 and our welcome picnic \$2007.10 – a wonderful effort from our school community.

**Aug 2009** Winter Rockland - What a wonderful night was had by all! The fundraiser was a huge success with live auctions, silent auctions, Rock and Roll trivia, dancing and a sense of community. Parents Sarah Morris and Anita Fraser spent tireless hours putting together this fantastic fundraiser.



**Aug 2009** We were successful in obtaining funding of \$5,500 to develop a fitness track for our school community around the sanctuary area.

**Sep 2009** We were runners up in the Planet Ark Awards for our tree planting efforts and a poster which Miss Majewski and parent Tuesday Veldhoven designed. We gain \$500 for our efforts.



**Nov 2009** We launched a new fundraising venture for Sandringham East Primary School. This is an online business directory which aims to raise funds for Sandringham East Primary School, provide business promotional opportunities within our school community and provide deals for various products and services.  
[www.beachsidebusinessdirectory.com.au](http://www.beachsidebusinessdirectory.com.au)

**Mar 2010** On Crazy Hair Day March 11<sup>th</sup> 2010, students and teachers enjoyed wearing funny wigs, spraying their hair outrageous colors, using gels and as many ribbons and colors as possible. The Junior School Council raised over \$450 to support the leukemia foundation. Siena Barton who was brave enough to “Shave for a Cure” raised over \$1,000.



**May 2010** Teacher's Can Cook Too! – At the Winter Wonderland fundraising evening, a fully catered dinner package to be enjoyed at home was auctioned and bought by four Sandringham East Primary School families. The food was expertly prepared by our budding Master Chef contestants, with an Indian theme, even Matt Preston would have been impressed.

What a treat we all had with a five-course banquet generously supplied by some of the teachers - Genevieve Casonato-Pal and her husband Andy, Wendy Arkey, Lorraine Lee, Claire Parsons and Laureen Walton.



**Aug 2010** Top Dog Day - It was great to see all the students and teachers in their animal costumes. We raised \$347 and sold over \$275 of Top Dog Merchandise. A volunteer from Guide Dogs Victoria, talked about how her guide dog helps her and she also gave an insight into what life is like being vision impaired. The money raised went towards the training, breeding and feeding of guide dogs. Junior School Council organised this event.



**Aug 2010** Arts Fest was a huge success with students proud of their fantastic work. Through art teacher Leanne Murray's passionate leadership, the Artsfest came together as a whole school community celebration. Our parent community, PFA and Fundraising Committees, and parents Andrew Newton and Russell Bennett worked so hard. Mark Earle from BUXTON Sandringham conducted our successful auction.



A Cake Competition was organised by parent Brigette Tulloch and the Fundraising Committee.

The art display was amazing with spaces highlighting a huge variety of visual arts, from mosaics, felting, water colour, collage and still life.

The Sandy Stars performances were a highlight with a drama and a dance piece.

Our Art Auction was a fun climax to the evening with serious artworks on offer from students and teaching staff. A lot of fun was had and after some serious competition and year 5 / 6 teachers went home with the honor of highest sale price for their canvas!



Joy Reymond and Kerry Thomson from the CWA came to Sandringham East Primary School to judge our delicious looking cakes. Overall winners: Zara M (Under 5), Amelia K (Prep), Lisa J (Y4) and Brianna B (Y6). The judges were very impressed with the high standard of baking.



Money raised (\$8,700) supported our Arts program and purchased furniture and resources for our BER Project.

**Oct 2010** Jake K in year 1 participated in the 2010 Walk for a Cure around Albert Park Lake in a desperate drive for funding into research for finding a cure for Type 1 Diabetes.

Jake was supported on the day by his friends Thomas and Toby, and also by many other families who sponsored his walk or made donations.



**Nov 2010** Junior School Council organised donations of shoes for the "In Your Shoes" charity. The grand total collected was 305 pairs of shoes which was a great effort and a huge success for our first time.



**Dec 2010** Congratulations to all students who participated in the Greenhouse Games Challenge, particularly to Prep student Charlie Warner for achieving the most points from Sandringham East Primary School and being awarded a \$100 voucher from Bunnings!

**Feb 2011** We were pleased that we collected...65,640 Coles Sports for Schools Vouchers – this was an amazing effort and we managed to purchase the following equipment with these vouchers:

Field marker set, pop up goal, hand held megaphone, table top scoreboard, extra large team bags x2, sports timer sets x2, hurdles x10, high bounce balls 24x2 sets, heavy duty playball set x3, nerf 20cm playball, house colour band kit, red training vests 12 x3 sets, baseball glove x7 right hand, x4 left hand, tee ball kit, catch cones 4 x7 sets, vortex howlers x10, gator skin volleyball x4, soccer training arches, primary school touch kit, jumbo mesh sack.

We managed to make a huge addition to our sports equipment (worth approximately \$2,500).

**May 2011** Junior School Council collected generous donations that contributed to the Cash For Christchurch and Funds For Floods Sandringham East Primary School fundraiser. The total funds raised, by Junior School Council, was an outstanding \$770.00. From this \$385.00 went towards the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal via the Salvation Army and \$385.00 went towards Victorian Flood Back To School Appeal via State School's Relief.

### **Fundraising for Term 1 and 2 – 2011 – Mandy Morgan (Current Parent).**

The fundraising team, PFA and parents have been busily raising money to benefit the children of Sandringham East Primary School. So far this year we have held the following successful fundraisers:

**Walkathon** - Melina A has been the organiser extraordinaire for many years. The students enjoy their walk which ties in with our fitness program. \$13,259 raised.

**Mother's Day Stall** - Belinda Wilson and Megan Bolton made sure that students had a great range of gifts to choose for their mother at a reasonable cost. \$751.21 raised.

**Entertainment Books** - Carmen Ridley organised the sale for this year and almost 100 books were sold which was a great effort.

**Lucky Ticket Easter Egg Draw** - This is a tradition at Sandringham East Primary School now and every student receives an egg. Families donate the Easter Eggs and parents spend an inordinate amount of time wrapping them into packs for prizes. \$1,500.32 raised

**Chocolate Drive** - This is an all time favourite with the school community and many families sell these at their work places and to other friends and family. \$3,748.35 raised.

**Movie Tickets for purchasing** - Thanks to Julie West this has become an end of term tradition so that families can use their movie tickets over the school vacations. \$999.30 raised.

The school appreciates all the support from parents who volunteer to organise these events and to the school community who support each activity. All fundraising is used for the benefit of all students at the school. The focus up to this point has been on the Preps with their classroom refurbishment and development of the front area but there is much that has been purchased across the school for all students. The Preps are the ones who lost their playground equipment with the BER building so naturally that has to be replaced. Examples of Items funded and used by students include: the library, fitness track, \$7,000 on literacy resources for years 1-6, new classroom furniture for year 5 and 6 students, ICT resources (25 new laptops for the 5/6 area, ipod touch's, digital cameras, Interactive whiteboards in all classrooms, and we have just purchased 50 stand alone computers), bike shed redevelopment, sports uniform for the 5/6 students, materials for the Level 1 and 2 Investigations in classrooms and the vegetable patch and redevelopment of barbeque area. The recent addition of softfall for the playground cost \$3,358.

Future developments will include: a pizza oven for barbeque area and further development of vegetable patch and paved area with cover, bike racks and scooter racks built by Warren Cay (parent) for new bike shed area, fitness track stations are being investigated, landscaping of school grounds and BER, redevelopment of the year 4 quiet area, and development of another Japanese

room. Along with this the curriculum resources required for literacy and numeracy and all other programs will continue to be purchased for the benefit of all children at Sandringham East Primary School.

## Year 6 Buddy Program

The Buddy program with Prep and Grade 6 students is eagerly looked forward to at the beginning of each new school year. It is a wonderfully supportive program for Prep children, new to school. At the beginning of each school year, the Prep children are each matched with a Grade 6 student. After meeting their buddies, classes regularly spend time getting to know each other and work on various skills. They are also encouraged to go to their buddy for help in the playground and we have found that older buddies are great at sorting out problems. The Preps love having a special friend at school and the Grade 6 students also enjoy developing the relationship with their buddy. 'Buddies' activities have included outdoor games, art and craft activities, reading support and construction activities. Buddies aims to prevent bullying at school and help the Preps settle into their new school, which can seem like a very big place for new Prep children!

**Nov 2006** This year we introduced the Prep Parent Buddies. New Sandringham East Primary School families were matched up with "old" Sandringham East Primary School families so that they had a familiar face in the playground on the first day and someone who could give them tips on settling into our school community.



*Prep student, Maya and Grade 6 Buddy Cecillie enjoying a story in 2006.*

**Aug 2007** Sandringham College Community Service Program - It was great to see past students return and give something back to their Primary School.

*Merim is pictured enjoying working with our year 1 students. The 'Quest Project' is a challenge the student undertakes to complete. It is an activity undertaken in the spirit of adventure and demonstrates the qualities of nobility and charity.*



**Jun 2009** Sandringham East Primary School is well known for its excellent Prep/Grade 6 Buddy Program. Students impressed 2010 prospective parents with their speeches:

- “When I was a Prep, school was a bit overwhelming. With a buddy to help me out when I needed it, play with me at lunchtimes, help me learn new things and help guide me through the first year of school, it made school much easier to settle into.” *by Jaimee year 6*
- “For us Year 6s, having buddies is more than just helping the Preps around the school and letting them get used to school every weekday. It’s more about helping them learn about numeracy and literacy and helping them learn new skills along the way throughout school. We help them if they are having trouble and if they hurt themselves we will always try to help as much as we can.” *by Oriah year 6*

**Jul 2011** Every second Tuesday, the Grade 6’s work with their Prep buddies. At the start of year we wrote applications to be considered for being a Grade 6 buddy. We had to write about our hobbies, our strengths and several our favourite things, like foods and football teams.

The applications were given to the Prep teachers and they had a meeting to see who would make a good buddy. When they had decided, we were partnered with either 1 or 2 Preps. Now when we meet up with them, we read some books that they have borrowed from the library, help them with work they have already being doing in class and playing different games.

One of our favourite activities was when the Preps had to design a special bike. The Preps had been learning about transport and they were able to design a “bike of the future”.

One of the most important things we have learnt is that when we are giving instructions, we have to speak clearly and precisely and can’t mumble. *By Josh, Sebastian and Dillon*

## Technology – development of ICT

Over the years technology has moved from children using the slate to portable wireless laptop computers and interactive whiteboards today. Children at school have always required tools to record and communicate, and the rapid changes today are difficult to keep abreast of because of the huge costs involved to purchase the latest developments. The school office procedures have also seen dramatic change from the beautifully hand written registers of the early days to the electronic data collection of today. In 2011 teachers mark their student attendance rolls electronically. School Reports have also evolved from short handwritten documents to electronic reporting with a wealth of information which parents receive today.

Kay Douglas – ex parent, recalls the days when her children were required to write with pen and ink:

“The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog” in beautiful copperplate writing with light pressure on the up strokes and stronger thicker strokes downward. Pen and ink was used and monitors, for filling the inkwells, was a highly sought after job.

### Timeline of technology development at Sandringham East:

- 1985** Purchase of four new Commodore computers.
- 1988** Grant from ministry of education to purchase two Apple computers which will take total computers in the school to 8 which are shared between grades.
- 1992** Coles Apple Program.
- 1997** Development of learning technology Plan.
- 1998** Computers connected to Local Area Network and Department of Education installed VicOne.
- 1999** All classes networked and linked to the network.
- 2000** Employment of DEET technician and Local technical support.
- 2000** Notebooks for Teachers Program enables staff to create learning challenging opportunities as well as to streamline administrative requirements. Professional learning has been enhanced through access to the most up to date resources and research publications via the Internet.
- 2004** \$25000 raised by School Council for new classroom computers – now a ratio of 1:5.
- 2006** School Council approved acquisition of an Interactive Whiteboard and a set of 15 portable wireless notebooks for student use.

**Aug 2006** Great excitement as students enjoyed using the notebooks which meant that a whole class can all work on a computer at the one time. School Council spent a considerable amount on these purchase - parents/grandparents and businesses - Buxtons and Pollak Learning donated to the notebooks which was a great help and enabled students to become abreast of ICT developments.



**Oct 2006** We were fortunate that parent Alison Learmont volunteered her skills to help with ICT in the classrooms and support the projects which all classes are completing. Alison also investigated the most suitable Interactive Whiteboards to purchase. Our students use the portable laptops which allow a great deal more access as a whole class group. Sandringham East Primary School parents and community were instrumental in donating to help us purchase some of these laptops.



**Feb 2007** Significant funds were directed towards the installation of Interactive Whiteboards in several classrooms and the new library. What is a SMARTboard? It is an interactive whiteboard that is connected to a computer or laptop and a projector. The computer image is then projected onto the screen and by just touching the board with your finger you can control the computer. These boards allow the teacher to focus the attention of the whole class, making use of wide range of computer resources and multi-media information. They are a great teaching tool and engage all students irrespective of their learning styles – visual, aural or tactile. Students are able to physically interact with the lessons by moving letters, numbers, words and pictures with their fingers. These Interactive Whiteboards are virtual worlds and places that can be explored through connection with the internet.

*Interactive Whiteboard in our Library, being used by Ms Trudy Gau and students.*



**Apr 2008** This week we saw a glimpse of the future of education with a visit from the Southern Region Ultranet Team to inform us about this technological initiative coming to all Victorian Government schools. The Ultranet is an intuitive student-centered electronic learning environment that supports high quality learning and teaching. It provide an online space to manage the running of the school, and an environment where teachers, students and parents can collaborate, share ideas and curriculum content as well as provide space to record progress and report to parents.

**Oct 2008** Another five Interactive Whiteboards were installed taking the total in the school to 16 - a terrific learning environment for our students!

**Mar 2009** Grade 3s were proud of the work they have completed in media studies over the past few weeks with a special presentation using the interactive whiteboard to share their group media projects.  
 "It was good to learn new things about making a power-point presentation. I learnt how to make cool backgrounds for my slides and how to copy photo's from the internet." *Kai P in year 3*

**May 2010** A HUGE thank you also to Andrea Bell (Jack's mum in year 4), and SCA Hygiene Australasia, who donated 29 laptops to Sandringham East Primary School. Our technicians installed relevant software and our ICT program was greatly enhanced.

**Jul 2010** Ultranet - the aim is for students and teachers to collaborate using online tools such as wikis, blogs and discussion forums. Students create their own online learning portfolio and take part in online learning activities. Teachers will access and share valuable online learning content across Victoria. Parents can log on and view information about children and our school. Information will build up over time, creating an ongoing record for each student travelling with students from year to year and school to school.

**Sep 2010** Students regularly log onto Mathletics - a program designed to increase students' performance in Mathematics. These students received Certificates of Excellence at this week's assembly.

*Thomas W, Andrew B, Phoenix V, Ben H & Baxter T*



- Feb 2011** Ipods - students have had access to 10 ipods since the beginning of the year. These dynamic hand-held devices are quickly revolutionising the educational experience around the world and Sandringham East Primary School students are playing an important role.  
Intrepica – Students now have a literacy program as fun as Mathletics. Like Mathletics is fully customisable allowing teachers to tailor learning journeys to the abilities of each student.
- May 2011** 15 brand new desktops are purchased in addition to another 50 like-new desktops are being rolled out across the school, particularly into the new BER building.

## **Religious Education**

### **Christian Religious Education (C.R.E.) – Bill Bingham**

According to two former students, one of whom was in the very first Prep class at Sandringham East Primary School in 1931, C.R.E. began virtually from the beginning of the school itself.

C.R.E. gives students the opportunity to explore Christian beliefs and values which will provide strong foundations for life.

Christian Religious Education has been taught at Sandringham East P.S. for the last 19 years by volunteer C.R.E. teachers representing the Christian Churches.

The Victorian Education Act and Regulations make provision for students to receive religious education as a normal part of their schooling. Christian religious education is a 30 minute weekly program for Prep to Year 6 taught in the class room. C.R.E. teachers are approved by the Minister of Education, police-checked, screened and accredited through The Council for Christian Education in Schools. C.R.E. complements the state school curriculum and uses an agreed syllabus published by the above council.

The training program for C.R.E. teachers is constantly updated to reflect best practice in contemporary education. The children enjoy stories from the bible, activities that pertain to biblical teaching all of which culminates in end of year Christmas Concert.

### **Baháí Education – Murray Davies**

Baháí Education Classes commenced at Sandringham East in March 2002, following requests from parents of Sandringham East Primary School students for a broader, more inclusive Religious Education program. This prompted the school to invite the Bayside Baháí Community in 2001 to provide such a program. Bahá'ís desire is to see the good of the World and the happiness of the nations - that all nations become one, that the bonds of friendship and unity amongst mankind be strengthened, diversity of religion should cease and differences of race be annulled. Baháí believers come from every nation and ethnic backgrounds, teach the Unity of God, the Oneness of Mankind and that all virtues, religions and faiths derive from this One God.

Students have been learning about these concepts, in a stimulating, motivating yet fun environment.

Classes in this time have grown from 13 the first year, then 18, 31, 39 and this year 46 – with students having moved onto secondary schooling among these. Classes have explored the concept of unity of the message which the Messengers of God have brought down through the Ages, learning about the various Faiths (their history, prayers, celebrating some of their festivals and Holy Days), delving into concepts as to World Peace and Unity and the acquiring of Virtues conducive to godliness and future life, through drama, music (singing songs and prayers), class participation activities and dialogue. A highlight of each year is the end of year concert and graduation, enjoyed by all.

The Bayside Baháí Community is indeed honored and proud of the privilege of conducting these classes on a weekly basis throughout the school calendar at Sandringham East Primary School.

## **Mother's Club aka Parents Club aka Parent and Friend's Association**

The Sandringham State School Mothers Guild known as the Mother's Club was formed in 1922 and a Mother's Club was set up at Sandringham East Primary School as soon as the school was established in 1931.

The Mother's Club was primarily a social and fundraising club with fortnightly social events such as coffee and cake mornings, Euchre nights, bazaars, fetes and dances. These events contributed a significant input of cash to purchase school resources.



*The SEPS Mother's Club celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 1956.*

In the 1980's the Mother's Club became Parents Club and then in early 2000's it changed its name to Parent and Friend's Association.

Throughout the years there have been fads and fashions for raising money for schools.

Hunger Buster was initiated in 1996 to raise money for the school. The items started off at 20 cents each and in 2011 is currently 50 cents each. It wasn't a huge success until the money officially was transferred to being spent in the classrooms at the discretion of the class representatives and teachers. This tradition continues today to purchase resources which would otherwise not be available such as indoor games, resources, Christmas craft materials. The tradition has been challenged in 2011 with our focus on Healthy Eating School Council are trying to implement no red category treats – rather green and amber foods but the management of this is quite difficult.

Mother's Day Stall – used to be a huge event with the Mother's club starting months prior to an event producing handmade items to be sold. Rana Wilson, a Mother's Club President remembers one year spending hours making silk roses that were sold for 10 cents each!

Tracey Everingham managed this stall for some time where items are purchased and sold on to students. Parents today give of their time generously but do not have the hours to spend on handcrafts as used to be the case.

Today Megan Bolton and Belinda Wilson continue this great job for both mothers and fathers day stalls, sourcing many great gifts for students to purchase for their parents / special friends.

The focus for the Parent and Friend's Association changed in 2001 from one of fundraising to that of a sense of caring and sharing within the school community.

In 1999 Parent Club extended the Cook and Care program to assist parents in need because of illness or other needy circumstances. This program is a wonderful strength and support in our present day school community.

Headlice parents or 'Nit Nurses' were established in a program in 2000 in order to monitor and hopefully prevent the wider spread of headlice. Regular checking of children's hair, with parent consent, is an important task today but becoming more difficult trying to find parent volunteers who are either nurses or hairdressers.

## **Belinda Wilson, Parent's and Friends Association (PFA) President 2010 - current**

I feel very fortunate to be the President of the Sandringham East Primary School (SEPS) PFA.

The PFA is the connection between the parents and the school community including teachers, parents and school council. We encourage anyone to become involved in the PFA. It can be on an occasional one-off basis for a specific event, or those who work behind the scenes covering various tasks.

Our monthly meetings involve catching up with what is going on within the school and working out where extra assistance is needed. Laureen Walton, Principal, and our Assistant Principal, attend every meeting and take the time to inform the PFA about what is going on within the school. Minutes of each meeting are emailed to all parents through their class reps and are included in the school newsletter so that all school parents stay informed.

Our class reps are an integral part of our PFA. They are the communicators to our school community as well as organising and coordinating such events as dinners, morning teas, teachers birthdays, class room help, BBQ volunteers, assistance on excursions, mothers/father's day stall helpers, fundraising assistance just to name a few!

Our cook and care program is still going strong. This confidential service offered a helping hand with meals, rides to school etc. for school families in need. Many families have benefited from this wonderful service.

Our Mother's day and Father's day stalls are still running, however time and convenience have taken over from the homemade gifts of years gone past. Some of the gifts we have had in recent years include jewelry, scarf's/wraps, soaps, key rings, calculators and drink bottles, and notebooks.

While the teachers Christmas lunch no longer exists, what we now do is a World Teacher's day lunch. This is held for teachers once a year in October where our great school community cook and serve lunch to the teaching staff to say thank you.

A few other programs that the PFA are involved in include school banking, book club, newsletter collation, head lice program, Bunnings BBQ, Easter lucky ticket, special friends day, school disco, Christmas giving tree just to name a few.

The opening of our new BER building has been a huge development at our school in 2011. The days of straight standard class rooms, with desks in rows has gone and this state of the art building provides our kids with a magnificent modern facility.

The community spirit has been alive and strong over the past 2 years that I have been the PFA President and I look forward to the continued support and development of our wonderful school community. HAPPY 80<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY SEPS.

## **Geoff Swann, Teacher 1983-1992 (Re Dolores Byron)**

During Helen McAlpine's time as Principal, parent Dolores Byron organised a bike-ride for mothers. One morning in March a group of ten [a guess] left Sandringham East Primary School and rode to the city [I think], had lunch beside the Yarra and returned before 3.30. I can remember the ladies leaving the school and being there after school. As you can see the rest is a bit hazy. In Frank Fielding's first year as Principal Dolores suggested and organised a supper dance at the Black Rock Yacht Club. The supper was individually wrapped 'parcels' of fish and chips from a local fish and chippery. Also Dolores had organised, and participated in, a mimed rock and roll item "starring" three ladies from the Mother's Club and two staff members. OK if you really want to know the ladies were Dolores, Sue Murphy and [I can't remember] and the staff were Frank and myself. I cannot comment on the quality of the performance but we had a great time.

Re Kay Douglas

The magnificent ghost gum that overhung Frank Park/ Pam Brain/ Library-room and gave some shade to an infant playground was core-tested and declared diseased by the Public Works Department inspector. It was a beautiful tree but several large limbs were above the classroom roof. A tree removal chap came one morning and 'did the deed'. Before the limbs were removed Kay Douglas and assistants gathered the leaves and within a week or so the Mothers' Club ladies were selling small, decorated bags containing eucalyptus leaves. [This area later housed the rubbish skip and bins].



*Peter Lucas and Bradly Desmond, first day at school in 1970.*

### **Ann Lucas, grandparent & ex parent of SEPS**

"I remember that voting in a president to the Mother's Club was not a democratic election but more a question of "oh well, you're willing to take it on then you're president." In the early seventies, either 1974 or 1975, I was president of the school's Mother's Club. The biggest jobs of that year that stuck out in my mind forever, was the Mother's Day stall where we had to make about 400 gifts for the children to buy. Just about anyone who could sew, hold a paintbrush or knock in a nail was badgered to produce articles for the sale. We had grandmothers, aunts, great aunts, cousins – all of them helping us and we did it. Due to the huge cooperation from the whole school community we also raised a large sum of money into the bargain and bought games for every classroom.

The second biggest job for the year was the event of the Teacher's Christmas lunch. I remember making rhubarb cordial especially for George Boyd. I was completely bowled over when he asked me for the recipe. One other duty I had to perform was the farewell for Mrs. McCartney who had been the infant teacher (Preps) since time began. I must add that she was extremely popular with the children and their parents. It was happy, but also a sad occasion, as she had been there so long. She was going to be sadly missed by the school. We had the ceremony outside and the district inspector spoke first, followed by the presentation.

We also held our meetings in private homes and had some wonderful speakers, not always connected with children or the school. I can remember one lady who spoke about star signs and which star sign would be appropriate in a life partner. The night ensued as a one of hilarity as most of us appeared as if we were mismatched! Happy, Happy Days!

### **Rana Wilson, Mother's Club President**

Rana remembers what was made for Mothers Day/Fathers Day stalls. For fathers there were barbecue aprons from Denim off cuts from the Yakka Factory, cellophane bags of rum balls, short bread and assorted mini biscuits, cardboard houses wound with fuse wire, velvet shoe polishers (stuffed with saw dust ) fabric covered photo frames and bunches of grapes made from cool mints. Mothers enjoyed presents of covered coat hangers, pin cushions, decorated handkerchief hats (covering a cardboard base), cellophane bags of biscuits, rum balls and shortbread, seedlings (pansies etc.) in pots, plaited bread dough framing small mirrors, lavender bags, small soaps cellophane covered and made into posies, Victorian style posies made from paper rosebuds, paper doilies and ribbon, handbag size Kleenex sachets, and draught stoppers with a Daschund head filled with sawdust. Tennis Day was an annual Round Robin event where a basket lunch was served. There were also movie lunches at the Dendy - both good fund-raisers but number dwindled as more mothers returned to the workforce.

In 1979 to raise money the Mother's Club had a fete with a whole body of beef spit roast on the oval. And in the late 1980's there were several dinner dance fundraisers at the Stokehouse.

Bush dances were also popular ways to raise money. Jim Bissett's horse, 'Silver', the local draft horse icon was brought to school. Jim used to own the local grocery shop and is now selling Christmas trees and wood in Bay Road.

The cook book, chocolate drives, wine bottling and progressive dinners were also great fundraisers during the 1980's.



*One of the fetes at Sandy East with Jim Bisset and horse Silver and face painting fun!*

Sausage Sizzle and Bush Dance November 22nd 1981 with Dave's Bush Music. Children pictured are Sally Coutts on tambourine, Stuart Rose on tea chest base, Matthew Harrison on spoons and Duncan Stiffold on bottle tops.



### **Kaye Moore, Mother's Club President 1996 – 1999**

Cook and care started when I was President because we saw a need in the community. There were single mothers, illness, sick children and also teachers who required support. We asked parents who were willing to cook meals and from there the program flourished. It was very rewarding for us to have such a tight knit group who cared about each other. I remember Bruce Bowles had a contact with a soup company who donated dented tins of soup to support the program. Soon the program extended to Housing Commission residents who also needed support. Bread donations were also sought and Lisa McInnes-Smith and Cathy Vass led the "Bread Run" for some years. Unfortunately with the Health Regulations changing the bakeries are now no longer allowed to donate bread and so this great service can no longer be provided.

I was proud to have the Kay Moore garden dedicated to me which is between the Bristol building and the Highett wing. I have fond memories of Sandringham East Primary School a tight knit community of staff and parents. I thank the teachers especially, for their care of Ashleigh who came

to the school with a disability and were cared for with compassion so that Ashleigh's potential could be realized and extended into secondary school.

### **Presidents Mother's Club/ Parent's Club/ Parent and Friend's Association**

1954	Mrs Hamilton	1996 - 99	Kaye Moore
1956 – 62	Joy Kavanagh	1999	Leigh Melvin
1974 -75	Ann Lucas	2000	Kim Hollands
1976 – 77	Margaret Hendrie	2001	Donna Thorneycroft
	Judy Murray	2002	Kathy Vass
	Jean Stephens	2003-04	Anita Reynolds
1984	Janine Watts	2005	Sandi Margate
1987	Judy Sinclair	2006	Rebecca Wilde
1988	Robyn Ramsay	2007	Michelle Hansen
1991	Carol Anderson	2008 - 09	Rebecca Wilde
1992	Sue Slater	2010-2011	Belinda Wilson
1995	Karina Egberg-Weiss		
1996	Julie Carmondy		

### **Fundraising Activities**

Nothing much has changed throughout the years – there is always a need to supplement school funds in order to present students with the very best programs and resources.

In the early days Mother's Club was responsible and since 2001 a special Fundraising committee has taken on the role for organization of such activities as: Christmas in July Dinner Dance, Walkathon, Trivia Night, Cocktails By the Bay, Chocolate Drives etc

In the early days school fetes were great fundraisers and required talented organisers and a great amount of cooperation. Today parents do not have the huge amount of time required for such a big event and storage of items for sale is always a challenge.

### **From Geoff Swann...**

Geoff remembers in Sep 1985 a School Council fundraiser when invitations were extended to the wider community members for a guest speaker - Tim McCartney - Snape who made the first ascent of Mt Everest by Australian climbers in 1984. This event was held in the Sandringham Tech hall and organised by Tony Johnston.

At the first couple of fetes and Christmas barbecues, local identity, Jim Bisset would bring his horse and four-wheel 'lorry' and give the children rides around the school oval. As I remember the kids just sat around the edge of the lorry with their legs hanging down. Can't imagine that happening today!

Quote from Kay Douglas regarding fundraising - ***"Don't spend money to make money."*** Kay's philosophy was put into practice with activities such as:

1987 Father's Day stall – shoe polishers were made with velvet material samples stuffed with saw-dust courtesy of the local butcher, Pin cushions were made with material samples too, Bunches of grapes were made from cool mints wrapped in cellophane, Abalone shells were filled with soaps, Coat hangers were covered, Cans were covered to make pencil tins, Cotton reel holders were made, Handkerchiefs were made into roses.

NEWS *Bayside Leader* 2005



Student Mikaela wheels out vice principal Graeme Bartholomeusz, whose babysitting services are being sold to the highest bidder. Picture: JASON SAMMON. N04SB311

### School's bid for library refit goes online

SANDRINGHAM East Primary School is hoping to raise money for its library with the click of a mouse. Signed sporting memorabilia, a motorbike and babysitting from the principal and vice-principal will all be available at the school's online auction. Sandringham East Primary School principal Laureen Walton said the school hoped the auction would raise \$20,000 to help refurbish the library.

"We have a library, but it's in an old building and it's quite dusty," Mrs Walton said. The online auction is being conducted at [www.sandringhameastps.vic.edu.au](http://www.sandringhameastps.vic.edu.au) and bidding closes July 29.

*Assistant Principal, Graeme Bartholomeusz does his bit to publicise our fundraising attempts for the new library in 2005.*

## School Council Presidents

1983	John Forster
1984-1985	Brian Mitchell
1986	Warwick Barton
1988-1990	Tony Johnson
1991-1995	Tim Barbour
1996-1998	Tom Fisher
1998-1999	Lloyd McDowell
2000-2002	John Lescohier
2003-2006	Colin McInnes-Smith
2007	Ben Solly
2008-2010	Steve Pleasants
2011	Marcus Harvey

## Sandringham East Primary School Principals

1931	Mr Charles Rowell
1932-1939	Mr Wilbert G Adamson
1939	Mr K N Dunt (Acting Head teacher)
1940 -1950	Mr Harold Tate
1950-1959	Mr Rowland J. Hassall
1959-1960	Mr Albert E. Collins
1960-1964	Mr Ronald C. Cordingley
1965-1968	Mr James L. Nuttall
1968-1971	Mr Albert R. Horn
1972-1975	Mr Ian C. Williams
1976-1979	Mr Ronald E. Palmer
1980-1986	Miss Helen McAlpine
1985-1987	Mr Geoff Swann (Acting Principal)
1987-1992	Mr Frank K. Fielding
1993-2001	Mrs Helen Richards
2001-Present	Mrs Laureen Walton

The first woman Principal at Sandringham East was Helen McAlpine. All Principals since that time have been selected by a School Council selection panel. Local selection gives the school community a voice to appoint the Principal most suited to take the school into the future according to the particular needs and strategic focus identified by the school community.

### **Amy Mc Glashan, Teacher 1978 - 2006. Re Principal Helen McAlpine**

All Souls Church in Sandringham was filled to capacity in January 1987 when the community mourned the death of our very popular principal, Helen Mc Alpine, who died at the age of fifty years.

Helen had been principal at Sandringham East Primary School since 1980 and during that time had enthused the school with her energy, passion for teaching and her love of children. She was well respected by both the school community and teachers and knew every child in the school. She cared immensely for their welfare, and ensured the best teaching for them and made sure their learning progress was a top priority. Helen was a friendly, positive, supportive, and caring member of staff whose time at Sandringham East Primary School is remembered and valued highly by past parents, teachers and students.

Four framed, embroidered pictures, including a plaque commemorating her contribution to Sandringham East Primary School, were donated by close friends of Helen and are displayed in the main corridor of the school near the staff room.

## Staffing History

In the early days teachers had no choice of their schools and teacher placement was based on seniority. Later teachers could present a preference list of schools but one's success or otherwise was based on one's number on the promotion list. Nowadays teachers can select their preferred school and appointment is through local selection by schools so that particular talents and expertise may be acquired through a merit based selection process.

### **An example of how sought after teaching positions were in 1930's...**

Leslie Keith Wade (born 1941 at Goroke) was a student at Warrnambool High School applying for vacancies as a Junior Teacher.

#### **June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1933 letter from Leslie Wade to the Department of Education's Secretary**

"I am in receipt of your memorandum of 7th inst. And as requested have indicated the order of preference of schools in which I am prepared to accept an appointment if selected for the position. At the same time I beg to advise you that I would be quite prepared to accept an appointment at any of these schools, my parents having stated their willingness to send me anywhere as may be desired. I am Sir, Yours Obediently. Leslie K Wade".

#### **April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1933 letter from Mrs Wade (mother) to Department of Education's Secretary.**

"I refer to my son Leslie Keith Wade's application for position of Junior Teacher. Will you kindly inform me if you can help in this matter. He has 10 Inter – 8 Leaving, 1 Honor and I pass in Honor. The HS (High School) informs me he is A by the HS and should get the first appointment available. He has turned 18 and I see all his mates leaving school and drifting. He feels his position keenly and he has worked very hard with the one idea of becoming a teacher like his mother before him. Now sir I sincerely trust you will pardon my appealing to you but it is a tragedy and I feel that I must keep on doing my bit to keep him at school until a vacancy occurs as he is keen on teaching. I don't mind where the school is or how far distant or how small (I heard there may be a vacancy at Mailers Flat) but again I beg you if there is any way you could help him I would be very very grateful.

Thanking you in anticipation. I am yours faithfully, Mrs F Wade".

#### **April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1933 letter to Mr Fairbairn MLA from Mrs Wade**

'Dear Mr Fairbairn,

I would be very grateful to you if you could make some enquiries on my behalf. I understand that some positions for Junior Teachers are being advertised, and that a list of vacancies has been supplied to some applicants, whilst others are not similarly treated. My son I know is better qualified than one who has not only received a list of vacancies, but has been appointed. I feel that my request is fair and claim that my son has prior right to an appointment on the following grounds:

- (1) He is better qualified. Is not that the basis for the order of selection?
- (2) He is a student of a Departmental High School. Is not preference given to such students?

Could you through the Minister of Education compare his qualifications with those of John Smythe of St Patricks College Ballarat who was appointed to Essendon N SS on Thursday April 13th inst. By giving this matter your early consideration you will greatly oblige. Mrs F. Wade. "

#### **Mr Fairbairn then wrote to The Minister of Education on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1933**

"Dear Mr Pennington,

I would be pleased if you could have this matter looked into, and in the event of further vacancies occurring I trust that a list of same will be sent to young Wade. Yours Truly, J V Fairbairn."

**A happy end to the story... Leslie Keith Wade was appointed as a teacher to Sandringham East on July 7th 1933.**

*The Leadership team was depleted after the “Fab Four” below retired in 2004.*



**Clockwise: Peter Carins, Allena Hamilton, Margaret English and Julie Anderson.**

## **Foursome fans of the three Rs**

THESE four people all share a love of reading, writing and arithmetic.

With more than 140 years' teaching experience between them, this year marks the end of an era for Peter Carins, Julie Anderson, Allena Hamilton and Margaret English.

The four teachers from Sandringham East Primary School will put away their chalk, dusters and report cards for the final time this month.

They all say they have seen vast changes in the education system during their careers.

They plan to spend their retirement, travelling interstate and overseas and reading plenty of books.

We were fortunate that Peter Carins and Julie Anderson rejoined our teaching staff. Julie then retired, this time from Reading Recovery, again in 2006, and Peter continues to teach part time supporting students with their numeracy understandings which he is passionate about.



## Retirement — it's never easy

When a career is more than just a job — when it's part of one's life — then retirement is never easy.

But for Mrs Vi Hurney, caretaker of Sandringham East Primary School with her late husband for 15 years, the wrench will be especially difficult.

Mrs Hurney has brought up a family at the school residence, she is a member of the school's women's auxiliary, Sandringham Tech's women's auxiliary and she works at the All Soul's Opportunity Shop in Bay Rd.

Principal, Mr Ron Palmer, said: "Of all the schools I have been involved with, I can without argument say this is the best cared-for school I have ever encountered and this is due to Vi's efforts."

"We all wish her a healthy and happy retirement and trust that she keeps in touch with us at the school after she returns from her holidays."

● In the picture, Mrs Hurney is presented with a silver tea service on a silver salver by Nigel Rose and Lisa Bennett — a gift of appreciation from the whole school.

Sandringham's Brighton Advertiser  
29/9/76

Caretaker Mrs Hurney's retirement in 1976.



**Jul 2006** Kita Sensei our new Japanese Teacher



**Aug 2006** Mrs Sheddan Prep teacher leaves for a teaching job at Haut-Lac International Bilingual School in Verey, Switzerland.



**Aug 2006** New Prep Teacher, We welcome Claire Chapman our new Prep teacher.



**Oct 2006** Teachers worked with Regional Consultant Dennis Barnes on the new reporting system. Teachers also had the opportunity to work in their teams and moderate student progress.



**Nov 2006** James Whitla was appointed to Beaumaris Primary School as a Leading Teacher. Appointments at Sandringham East Primary School include:

- Michelle Smith on her promotion to Leading Teacher.
- Kendra Parker on her appointment as Leading Teacher.
- Shannon O'Neill - Performing Arts Teacher.
- Jessica Wadley, Tony Brown, Claire Chapman, Aaron Steele and Trudy Jeacock who will be class teachers.
- Stacey Hayward - Physical Education Teacher.

**Dec 2006** Classroom teachers - Georgi Evans, Claire Chapman, Jess Wadley, Wendy Arkey, Nola Baker, Michelle Smith, Genevieve Whitely, Trudy Jeacock, Mark Lockwood, Lorraine Lee & Amy McGlashan, Peter Carins & Rochelle James, Pam Brain, Louise Abbott, Tony Brown, Aaron Steele and Kendra Parker.  
 Reading Recovery - Kathryn Brereton.  
 Specialists - Shannon O'Neill, Stacey Hayward, Karen Roberts and Angie Gall.  
 Office - Helen Dalzotto, Cath Lamb, Von Singleton and Kerry Forsyth.  
 Integration Aides - Anne Picking, Cath Drury, Maureen Whitehouse.  
 Library Assistant - Noreen Carr.  
 ICT Technicians - Alexey Koriev and Bryan.  
 Principal - Laureen Walton and Graeme Bartholomeusz.

*Principal Laureen Walton with Students in 2006.*



**Feb 2007** Welcome to our new staff—Genevieve Casonato, Trudy Gau, Kath Brereton, Aaron Steel, Kendra Parker and teacher intern Alexis Tame.

**Aug 2007** Resignation of “Mr B” – Graeme Bartholomeusz. It was with much sadness that we heard our wonderful Mr.B resigned as of 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2007. Graeme was a much loved part of Sandringham East Primary School but he made the decision to resign for personal reasons. His loyalty, reliability and strength of moral character are second to none and Principal Laureen Walton very much appreciated his support personally as well as the school community. He was well loved by everyone and his sense of humour was great fun. The care and concern that Graeme showed to students, staff and parents alike was well recognised throughout the school community. An Assistant Principal is “Jack of all trades” and Graeme was certainly that. He was always thinking of better ways to achieve tasks and was a dedicated and committed person, always looking to achieve to our best! Graeme was a “You Can Do It” person and a great problem solver. Sandringham East Primary School has been fortunate to have Graeme’s devotion over 14 years.



**Aug 2007** Pam Anderson was appointed Assistant Principal at Sandringham East Primary School, coming from Assistant Principal at Glenhuntly Primary School. She commenced at Sandringham East Primary School on 15th October.

- Oct 2007** Change has been a constant - the following teachers will be on leave from Sandringham East Primary School in 2008...
- Michelle Smith is pursuing business interests and will happily help you if you need a water tank or solar heating!
  - Tony Brown has been lured to Haileybury
  - Shannon O'Neill will work overseas
  - Rochelle James is travelling within Australia
  - Joy Knox and Julie Anderson will continue their leave for another year

**2008** Staffing for 2008 was a great teaching team including:  
Class teachers - Louise Abbott, Trudy Gau, Pam Brain, Peter Carins / Karen Roberts, Lorraine Lee / Amy McGlashan, Georgi Evans, Mark Lockwood, Kendra Parker, Wendy Arkey, Genevieve Casonato, Claire Chapman, Shannon Price, Jessica Wadley, Aaron Steel, Sam Casey, Marnie Majewski and Jana Jacobs  
Physical Education - Stacey Hayward  
Performing Arts - Claire Davis  
Visual Art - Nola Baker  
LOTE - Michelle Keane  
Reading Recovery - Kath Brereton

**May 2008** Two of our Sandringham East Primary School staff were honoured with awards for achieving service milestones with the Department of Education. Laureen Walton celebrated 40 Years of continued service and Pam Brain celebrated 35 years of continued service. They both enjoyed attending the award functions held by the Department of Education in Melbourne to mark the occasion. Pam and Laureen were commended on their dedicated service and outstanding commitment and contribution to Education spanning three and a half and four decades respectively.



**Oct 2008** The following new staff were appointed to Sandringham East Primary School for 2009:  
Classroom teachers - Sam Casey, Marnie Majewski, Jana Jacobs, Bryony Killen, Claire Parsons Sally Holbrook and Michelle Smith returned from leave.  
Japanese teacher - Michelle Keane  
Performing Arts teacher - Geoff Ryan  
Library technician - Olga Lawson  
Office Assistant - Leanne Matthews

**Dec 2008** Sandringham East Primary School Farewelled these staff members  
Nola Baker who taught at Sandringham East Primary School for 16 years, teaching many classes and specialists programs including art and widening horizons. Nola loved her time with the children here and given them much care and learning opportunities. The many students she has taught over these years remember her as one of the great teachers in their lives. Nola had a fantastic sense of fun and humour which stand her in good stead in her retirement.  
Kath Brereton taught Reading Recovery to around 18 students over two years and has made a difference to their lives when they "catch" the reading bug – most rewarding.  
New babies - We are excited that some new babies were on their way with Trudy Gau expecting in March along with our Teaching and Learning coach Bryony Lowe. We wished Trudy and Bryony the very best with their confinement leave.  
Tony Brown resigned after being sought by a private school and Julie Anderson retired. Both of these outstanding teachers were a great loss to Sandringham East Primary School.  
Staff on leave in 2009 included Georgi Evans, Shannon O'Neill and Joy Knox.

- Feb 2009** Mrs Michelle Smith was appointed to a school closer to her home. Michelle's inspiration and hard work for the students at Sandringham East Primary School was phenomenal. Michelle's commitment was outstanding and she has made a significant contribution to Sandringham East Primary School.  
Welcome to our new staff:  
Class Teachers - Miss Briony Killen, Miss Claire Parsons, Mr Karl Meban.  
Performing Arts - Mr Geoff Ryan.  
Integration Aides - Julie Laurent and Cath Drury.  
Dave Laursen - ICT technician for two days at Sandringham East Primary School and three days at Sandringham College.
- Mar 2009** Retirement - Mrs Pamela Brain retired after 21 years at Sandringham East Primary School. She left a gap at Sandringham East Primary School as she was an integral part of the school community for such a long period. Pam taught many students over this time and made a difference to their lives. She was flexible teaching different year levels and finished her career with aplomb teaching art and literacy support. Pam was a member of the school's leadership team for many years and has also contributed as a School Councillor for five years. Pam was involved in student leadership and led the Junior School Council to think of others in the community. Pam established a relationship with a Field Company of AIF Engineers from the World War in order to preserve their memories and contribution to all of us. School Council, staff, students and community acknowledged Pam's contributions to Sandringham East Primary School and congratulated her on 36 years of teaching service.
- Mar 2009** New Appointments 2009  
Art Teacher - Mrs Leanne Murray.  
Literacy Support Teacher - Mrs Sheila Pfeffer.  
Integration Aide - Mrs Julie Laurent.
- Jun 2009** Sandringham East Primary School Teacher Professional Leave Project Update - Ms Parker, Miss Wadley, Miss Parsons and Miss Hayward worked on the Sandringham East Primary School Teacher Professional Leave (TPL) project. TPL is a program where teachers are given government assistance to complete a research project that will ultimately enhance their teaching and learning practices. It is a great way to find out about new initiatives in education and to bring new ideas into schools. Projects are achieved by providing the school with a number of days that teachers can use to research, meet with educational professionals and mentors, visit other schools to see certain practices at work and then come back to their own school and work on implementing the fantastic things they have seen.  
They developed a new school document for Sandringham East Primary School teachers to use for inquiry and developmental learning.
- Jul 2009** Staffing Changes - Working in the Department of Education sometimes throws up curve balls which we have to be flexible with. We welcomed back Pam Anderson to Sandringham East Primary School but the Regional Network Leader from Central Peninsula offered Pam the opportunity to continue working with the Mt Eliza school community. This was a great career opportunity and much closer to Pam's home. Pam was torn to be leaving Sandringham East Primary School as she truly loved our school community of colleagues, students and parents.  
As a consequence of Mrs Anderson's appointment, Ms Parker took on the Acting Assistant Principal at Sandringham East Primary School.  
Mr Rob Collins came to teach the year 6 students.
- Sep 2009** Mr Jim Griffin was appointed to McKinnon Primary School as of Term 4.  
Miss Lisa Bowers appointed for the year 2's

- Dec 2009** New appointments: Ms Parker was selected as substantive Assistant Principal at Sandringham East Primary School.  
Performing Arts Teacher - Katherine Zachest.  
Classroom Teacher - Sean Daley.  
Farewells: Geoff Ryan to Derinya PS, Sam Casey to Mentone PS, Rob Collins will return to his CRT roles.
- May 2010** Congratulations to Wendy Arkey who become accredited in the Walker learning Approach. Sandringham East Primary School is also on its way to becoming a lighthouse school for this curriculum. For more information go to the website: [www.walkerlearning.com.au](http://www.walkerlearning.com.au)
- Nov 2010** We farewelled Miss Shannon Price as she began her maternity leave after teaching our students for the last eight years at Sandringham East Primary School and working as PE teacher for two years.  
Mr Jack Rosenblatt, an experienced PE teacher came to us from Brighton Beach Primary School.  
Welcome to year 5 teacher Karl and wife Lara's new baby Adam David Meban, born Saturday 6th November.
- Dec 2010** Retirement News – Amy McGlashan It was a privilege to work with Amy McGlashan a wonderfully dedicated teacher and staff member. Her influence on so many budding teachers is phenomenal. She leaves a legacy at Sandringham East Primary School and a space that will be hard to fill. Amy taught at Sandringham East Primary School for over twenty-five years and made a difference as a class teacher to the lives of around 700 students. Amy is a passionate teacher who played a major part in whole school programs and spread her “magic” on many other students, parents and teachers.
- Dec 2010** Staffing changes 2011 included:
- Retirement of Amy McGlashan after around 25 years at Sandringham East Primary School. Amy was a big loss and we welcome her back as a CRT!
  - Resignations include Georgi Evans and Mark Lockwood.
  - Returning from leave include Jess Wadley and Aaron Steele in semester 2.
  - Stacey Hayward – on leave for 2011.
  - Briony Killen - transferred to Derinya PS.
  - Lorraine Lee - on leave.
- Feb 2011** New appointments for 2011 include:
- Renee Atkinson for semester 1.
  - Breanna Neighbour for semester 1.
  - David McGuinness.
  - Michelle Palmer.
  - Kristy Cullen 5.
- May 2011** Congratulations to Kendra Parker on being promoted to the Principal position at Mentone Park Primary School – a great achievement. We all miss Kendra's expertise and leadership at Sandringham East Primary School and we are adjusting to life without her here. Kendra has made a significant contribution to our school which is her great legacy to us through her work with students, staff and community. She made wonderful contributions to School Council and also our Building Futures work. The sign of a successful school is that teachers learn leadership roles and move to higher positions. We celebrate this success. We wish Kendra every happiness and know that Sandringham East Primary School students, staff and families will always have a special part in her heart and she will be sorely missed at Sandringham East Primary School.  
Karen Roberts and Genevieve Casonato-Pal share the Assistant Principal role until a substantive Assistant Principal is appointed.  
Mrs Amy McGlashan and Mr Rob Collins will be teaching a component of their classes.

**May 2011** Miss Lunney and Miss G, came to us from the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada completing our education degree / internship at Sandringham East Primary School.



**July 2011** Farewell to: Terry Anderson, Renee Atkinson, Michelle Palmer and David McGuinness.

### **Kendra Parker, Teacher 2007 – 2009, Assistant Principal 2009 – 2010.**

I became a part of the Sandringham East Primary School community in 2007 – taking on Leading Teacher role in the Level 4 area. After just a short time, I took on the role of Assistant Principal in 2009 – first in an acting capacity and then substantively.

In my time at Sandringham East Primary School, although short in comparison to its 80 year history, I saw some fantastic changes occur that took Sandringham East Primary School into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The installation of Interactive Whiteboards, the use of Lap Top and Netbook computers, iPods, Flip Cameras and online learning environments such as Mathletics and Intrepica – big changes that changed the way we teach and learn!

Not just technological changes occurred whilst I was at Sandringham East Primary School, but many curriculum enhancements as well. The implementation of the Walker Learning Approach in our Level 1 and 2 areas, as well as a focus on concept-based inquiry learning for our older students. Through these programs, we began the journey of personalizing learning and preparing students for an uncertain, and rapidly changing, future. With a continued focus also on the key areas of Literacy and Numeracy, students at Sandringham East Primary School were being exposed to a learning environment that enabled them to develop their thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication and creativity skills.

It was a privilege for me to have worked at Sandringham East Primary School. From my time there, like all the students that pass through, I learnt many skills and gained much knowledge that will hold me in good stead in my future.

### **Pamela Anderson, Assistant Principal 2007 - 2010.**

Pam Anderson was appointed Assistant Principal at Sandringham East Primary School, coming from Assistant Principal at Glenhuntly Primary School. She commenced at Sandringham East Primary School on 15th October 2007. In 2009 Pam went on to gain an acting role, firstly as Assistant Principal for term 2 at Mt. Eliza PS, then as Acting Principal at Mt. Eliza PS for the following 11 months. Pam obtained an ongoing role as Assistant Principal at Mt. Eliza PS in September 2010, marking the end of her official time at Sandringham East Primary School.

“During my time as AP at Sandringham East Primary School, I enjoyed working with the Principal - Laureen Walton, staff, students and community on many new initiatives and developments at the school. I remember the staff putting in a great deal of effort into developing a new whole school spelling program and also working on improving teaching practices and understandings in maths. All classrooms were equipped with electronic whiteboards in my first year at the school. The IWBs quickly became akin to the teachers’ right arms in terms of their value to teaching. Discovery Play Based learning was a huge focus. Under the guidance of Kathy Walker “Discovery Learning” was introduced at the Prep level and the Prep rooms were remodeled to accommodate the inquiry approach. Every week something new seemed to be happening. My little office at the time, nestled in the midst of the Prep rooms was a perfect location to witness all the wonderful things going on with the Preps. One minute the children were simulating the high seas on the fishing boat resurrected from someone’s back yard, the next a “Prep production’ with musical instruments, drama and dance, fully composed, choreographed and directed by none other than our amazing Prep students was on the go.

I remember supporting a group of teachers in their undertaking of a Teacher Professional Leave Project on Inquiry Based Learning. This tied in beautifully with the prospect of the new BER

classrooms and fostered further changes to the learning spaces to support the implementation of inquiry based learning. It was a time of change and excitement at Sandringham East Primary School in which the foundations were laid for developing pedagogy and learning practices for students of 21<sup>st</sup> century. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a leader at Sandringham East Primary School and will always remember the vitality, enthusiasm and proactivity of the staff, students and community. The history of the school was always revered and respected as the school moved forward. The school and all associated with it can feel very proud of the education that has been offered to past and present students over that time. I feel honored to have had the opportunity to have contributed to Sandringham East Primary School at a very crucial time in education. For all the present and future students at Sandringham East Primary School the sky is the limit, continue to **think, imagine and become!**”

## Honour Board Reciepients

### Students who were Dux of the school

1931 R. Rowell	1951 Carol Collins
1932 L.Booth	1952 Betty McNabb
1933 L. Lugg	1953 Beverley Sully
1934 J. Marshall	1954 Lorraine Wilks
1935 I. Budd	1955 B. Loh
1936 R. Letcher	1956 Suzanne Wallace
1937 Peggy Strogeon	1957 P.Mckenna
1938 W. Horn	1958 K.Nance
1939 G.Hawkins	1959 Glenda Nance
1940 Elaine Sissons	1960 D.Mckellor
1941 Gloria Williams	1961 Susan Cook
1942 June Walker	1962 K.Bailey
1943 Joyce Fellows	1963 Alan Saunders
1944 I.Alexander	1964 Helen Quirk
1945 D.Plaisted	1965 Ian Campbell
1946 M.Boyce	1966 Mary A. Thackeray
1947 Patricia Gregory	1967 Geoffrey Campbell
1948 Joan Corrie	1968 Susan Hawke
1949 Paulette Sandow	1969 Graeme Campbell
1950 Joan Clementson	1970 Greta Moon

### Rotary Citizenship Awards

2004	Sarah Miller	Alexander Colacino
2005	Megan Cavigan	Sean McPike

## **Principal's Awards – You Can Do It!**

2004	Katie Manson	Merim Celikovic	
2005	Amy Harrop	Andrew Culvenor	
2006	Jessica Allan	Camden Bush	
2007	Elektra Vlogianitis	Sian Neale	Jeremy Ephrams
2008	Laura Sheppard	Johnnie Vasilakis	
2009	Jazzy Nowles	Declan Dempsey	
2010	Ella Batish	Hugo Birch	

## **School Council President's Award for Academic and General Excellence**

2005	Sara Casey	Ethan Watkins
2006	Eliza Baumgartner	Kieran Watkins
2007	Hannah Vass	
2008	Julia Haigh	Robert Rae
2009	Kelly Knowles	Billy Roberts
2010	Zara Roussel	Kyle Solterbeck

# 2006 Sandy East Students Learn About Our History

*Students celebrated the 75th birthday by learning about the past and attended the Colonial School.*







*2006 staff celebrate the commencement of the history unit of work to recognize the 75th birthday.*

## Looking to the Future...

### 80 years from now...School in 2091

Reflections from students in grade 6, 2011.

#### School in 80 Years, written by Zoe and Caitlin

Thinking of the future  
Makes my head spin  
The changes to the exterior  
And also within

There are many questions  
In want of answers  
A shame we can't peer into a crystal ball  
And find the right advances

What changes in dress will we see?  
Will the old building survive?  
Will schoolwork ever be the same?  
Will teachers always thrive?

Well here is our view...

School uniform discipline  
Will go crumbling down  
The change from dress code to none  
Shall be the talk of town

Technology will be hugely advanced  
I-pads surely will be surpassed  
School work will be so progressive  
Though some would call it weak in contrast

Teachers are the centre of school today  
Learning to pass on knowledge is a sacred art  
But what if it's not around then?  
That will be a huge blow to schooling's heart

Schoolwork is a huge factor  
How much will it have transformed?  
Will we even **do** work?  
That'll influence how SEPS kids perform

Some might think the old building vintage  
Others might think of knocking it down to the ground  
We believe Sandy East to be a place of knowledge  
Our education levels **will** live to astound

We believe that Sandy East's  
Spirit can't be compressed  
But we **know** that Sandy East  
Will always **Be Their Best**

### **School in 80 Years, written by Hannah and Rachel**

We think in 80 years time we will have to go back to no electronics because there will be no coal so we cannot produce electricity.

In 80 years our school will have changed a lot. The buildings will be environmentally friendly and we will have bigger windows for light. We will use our lights less and we will have white walls. The buildings will be bigger and higher. We will have solar panels and we will save more energy.

We will have more playing space and garden space. The play ground will be bigger and better, with swings and chair lifts to the top of the play ground. We will have big slides, a pool and a water slide. The games we play in 80 years will be games that are the complete opposite to marbles and hop scotch. They will be much different and will be something like springing up and down on springy shoes or flying in the air with propeller hats.

To get to school we will have to go in an air bubble and float our way to school. The teachers will have to fly in their flying chairs to get to school. There will be no traffic lights and roads you will only fly in the air.

### **School in 80 Years, written by Alex**

In 80 years time, a long way from now.

I have written a rhyme, to explain to you how.

Deep in the future, the students will say ENOUGH!  
And away goes the teacher, replaced by a holograph.

At each door, will stand a guard.  
Making sure, that no student escapes the school floor.

Take this overseas: electronic writing paper.  
No more wasting trees, and with the touch of a button, your writing turns to vapour.

The chairs and tables? Well, they're for stables!  
Because when you can fly, to sitting you say goodbye.

In 80 years, the classrooms won't float.  
Not in the sky like a bird, nor in the sea like a boat.

It's now time for art, where your paintings will look really smart,  
Because the Mona Lisa, who still hasn't smiled, can in the future, be drawn by a child.

Let's play some sport; today's equipment is none of the sort.  
The new hover balls will have super range, and to some, may look quite strange.

Come to LOTE, and learn a language with the touch of a remote.  
You can learn French or Japanese or any other language you please.

Let's sing a song, and stay at music for long,  
because rhythmic education, is considered a vacation.

Why run, when you can do something much more fun.  
With a bit of fairy dust, you'll be up in the air, controlling your thrust.

Some might ask: "Why bother fly?" well, listen up, I'll tell you why  
When you're up in the air, eating becomes rare,  
Because the energy you once needed to walk, is no longer there.  
This means less pollution, I think we've found a solution!

In 80 years time, a long way away,  
but imagine your great grand children, how will they play?

# Current 2011 Students and Staff at Sandringham East



## Sandringham East Primary School Prep A - 2011

Principal: Mrs Lauren Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Teachers: Ms Trudy Gau, Mrs Wendy Arkey



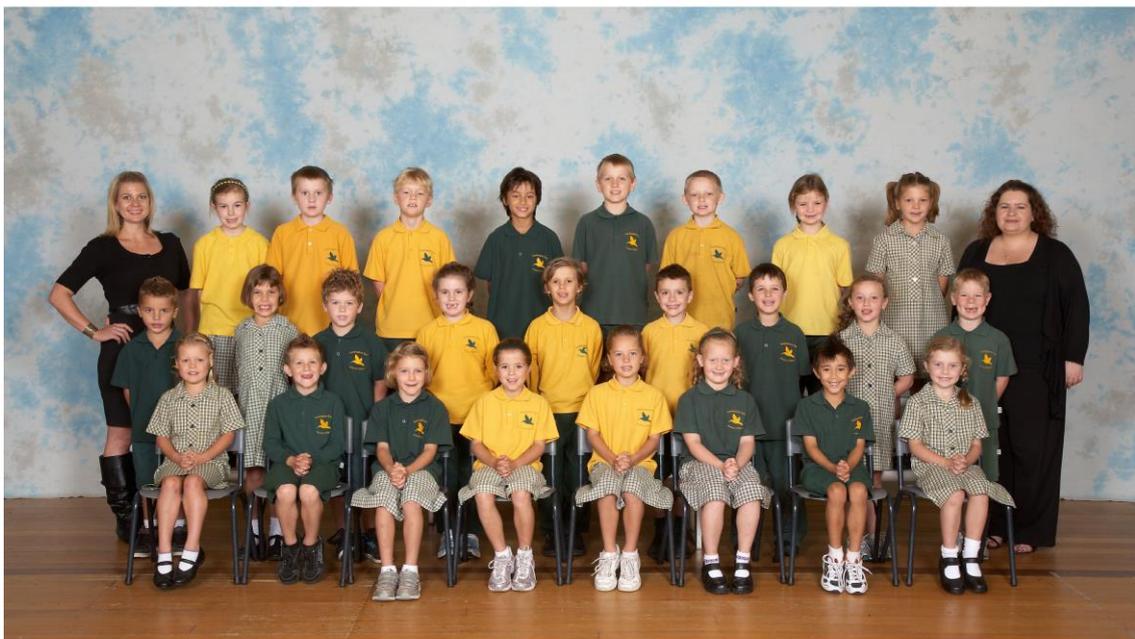
## Sandringham East Primary School Prep B - 2011

Principal: Mrs Lauren Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Teachers: Miss Lisa Bowers, Ms Kristy Cullen



## Sandringham East Primary School Prep C - 2011

Principal: Mrs Laureen Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Teachers: Mrs Claire Castrillon, Ms Kristy Cullen



## Sandringham East Primary School Year 1-2 - 2011

Principal: Mrs Laureen Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Level Coordinator: Miss Claire Parsons    Teacher: Miss Marnie Majewski



**Sandringham East Primary School**  
**Year 1A - 2011**

Principal: Mrs Lauren Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Level Coordinator: Miss Claire Parsons    Teacher: Miss Tarryn Anderson



**Sandringham East Primary School**  
**Year 1B - 2011**

Principal: Mrs Lauren Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Level Coordinator: Miss Claire Parsons    Teacher: Miss Kate Miller



**Sandringham East Primary School**  
**Year 1C - 2011**

Principal: Mrs Laureen Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
 Level Coordinator: Miss Claire Parsons    Teacher: Miss Renee Atkinson



**Sandringham East Primary School**  
**Year 2A - 2011**

Principal: Mrs Laureen Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
 Level Coordinator: Miss Claire Parsons    Teacher: Mr Sean Daley    Teacher Aide: Mrs Julie Laurent



**Sandringham East Primary School**  
**Year 2B - 2011**

Principal: Mrs Laureen Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Level Coordinator: Miss Claire Parsons    Teacher: Miss Michelle Palmer



**Sandringham East Primary School**  
**Year 3-4 - 2011**

Principal: Mrs Laureen Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Teacher: Mrs Louise Abbott



**Sandringham East Primary School**  
**Year 3A - 2011**

Principal: Mrs Lauren Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Teacher: Miss Breanna Neighbour



**Sandringham East Primary School**  
**Year 3B - 2011**

Principal: Mrs Lauren Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Teacher: Miss Sally Holbrook



**Sandringham East Primary School**  
**Year 4A - 2011**

Principal: Mrs Lauren Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Teacher: Ms Genevieve Casonato-Pal    Teacher Aide: Mrs Sonia Dickson



**Sandringham East Primary School**  
**Year 4B - 2011**

Principal: Mrs Lauren Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Teacher: Mrs Jana Hain



**Sandringham East Primary School**  
**Year 5-6 - 2011**

Principal: Mrs Laureen Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Teacher: Miss Karen Roberts



**Sandringham East Primary School**  
**Year 5A - 2011**

Principal: Mrs Laureen Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Teachers: Mr Karl Meban, Mrs Catherine Drury



## Sandringham East Primary School Year 6A - 2011

Principal: Mrs Lauren Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker  
Teacher: Mr David McGuinness



## Sandringham East Primary School Staff - 2011

Principal: Mrs Lauren Walton    Assistant Principal: Ms Kendra Parker



**Back Row:** Leanne Matthews, Sally Holbrook, Kate Miller, David Martin, David McGuinness, Breanna Neighbour, Helen Dalzotto, Karl Meban, Kristy Cullen, Jack Rosenblatt  
**Middle Row:** Claire Parsons, Renée Atkinson, Tarryn Anderson, Marnie Majewski, Leanne Murray, Sean Daley, Lisa Bowers, Wendy Arkey, Louise Abbott, Marney Whitlock  
**Front Row:** Michelle Palmer, Claire Castrillon, Genevieve Casonato-Pal, Kendra Parker, Lauren Walton, Karen Roberts, Julie Laurent, Michelle Keane, Jana Hain  
**Absent:** Peter Carins, Sonia Dickson, Evan Dour, Catherine Drury, Trudy Gau, Lorraine Lee, Sheila Pfeffer, Ann Picking, Marco Piscioneri, Von Singleton, Chris Sloan, Georgick Vartanian, Katherine Zachest

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## Conclusion

### **Marcus Harvey - School Council President 2011**

My family's involvement with Sandringham East Primary School is already approaching five years, and still we're only half way through our time at the school. Considering how much the school is part of our lives every day, it is hard to believe that we are just one of the 3,000 or so families that have been part of the school and helped to make it what it is today.

Back some five years ago, when considering schools from the outside, Sandringham East Primary School didn't appear to offer as much as another local Primary which was closer and promised newer classrooms. It was only when visiting that we began to realise Sandringham East Primary School offered the things we valued more. A strong sense of community, and an undertaking to developing in students a sense of fairness and sound values. A commitment to the 'basics' (reading writing and arithmetic), complemented by a strong program of art, language, sport and drama to help all students develop a love of learning. Perhaps most importantly for us, it offered the possibility of a school where our children would not get lost in the crowd. These initial impressions have proven to be accurate and our whole family has benefited as a result.

The school's culture and values have not developed overnight. Past and current students, and their families have benefited from and contributed to the wonderful heritage that has been built (and built upon) by so many dedicated individuals who have invested so much into the lives of generations of young people. Our local community has also benefited greatly through the many students and their families who have attended and been involved at Sandringham East Primary School.

Our school heritage is due in no small part because of the willingness of the parent community to be involved in their children's education process. There is no doubt that our school would not be where it is today without the level of parent involvement over the years. From Fundraising to Class Reps to School Councillors, our parents continue to step up. In our current education climate parents also contribute financially through fundraisers and direct contributions. Much is asked of our parents, and much is given by them. It is only with the support of our community that we are able to support not only each other through programs like Cook & Care, but also provide a wonderful environment for our children. There is no better investment than in the next generation!

The more I become involved, the more I realise that we also have a lot to be grateful for in the commitment and dedication of the teaching staff, administration, and support staff. Our school Principal carries a unique and unenviable responsibility to guide our school community. Today Sandringham East Primary School is academically very strong. The school has been recognised as a Leading Practice School in areas including mathematics, writing and school leadership. Students are able to learn about sustainability through hands-on learning using our sanctuary, vegetable patch and chicken run. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Principal, Leadership Team, Teachers, and Staff - both present and past. Thank you all so much for what you have sown into our children and, through them, our families and our community. Without your efforts our children would not have the opportunity to make the most of their skills, or to fulfil their dreams, talents and ambitions and live up to our goal of "Always our Best"

Looking forward, we have a bright future in front of us. Our Preps have a wonderful new learning centre, enrolments continue to be strong, we are about to open a state of the art learning environment for our Grade 1 and 2 students and much, much more is planned. Our students, future students, and their parents have every reason to be full of hope for the next 80 years and beyond as we all think...imagine...become...

Yours in gratitude,  
Marcus Harvey. School Council President

## Acknowledgements

Writers of the 75th history parents Kate Higgins and Fiona Pollard have achieved what we thought was impossible. Their commitment and doggedness is symbolic of our forebears and bodes well for our future. Recognition for an outstanding contribution to the production of this history goes with enormous thanks to Kate and Fiona, who researched the archives and spent an inordinate amount of time planning, organising, interviewing, sorting, typing and laughing in order to get this history to the point it is today. What amazing women!

They were very much supported by a huge team of both past and current teachers and parents including; Rob Cook, Elaine Coventry, Sharyn Seeberg, Eva Hirst, Jacqui Paling, Graeme Bartholomeusz and Laureen Walton.

Thanks to the following for their special contribution:

Ronda Henderson, Ann Picking and Cath Drury who worked so hard to ensure that the school archives are preserved for display for future generations.

### **Updating the school history for the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in July 2011**

Again a considerable amount of time has been given to ensure a continuing record of the achievements at Sandringham East Primary School.

Thank you to the following for their wonderful contributions for the benefit of past and future generations...

- Sandra Dickson has spent an inordinate amount of time ensuring that documentation of the years 2006-2011 is recorded. Sandra has researched newsletters from these years and has also edited the final history. Her work has been an outstanding contribution for the history of Sandringham East Primary School.
- Fiona Pollard who spent many hours proofreading the final copy.
- Compilation of a coffee table pictorial by parents Julian Cowley and Chris Kapel has also been a wonderful contribution. Julian's photographic skills have greatly enhanced both this history and the coffee table book and we are indebted to him and Chris, his right hand man!
- Thanks to the many past and present parents, teachers and students who have contributed recollections and memories to this history. Many memories have been attributed directly to these contributors while others have been incorporated into the body of the text.

**This is an evolving history still with many gaps yet to fill. If readers find inaccurate information or know of additional information please contact the school so that we can continue adding to ensure a living history.**

### **Bibliography**

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We acknowledge the use of articles published in the Herald Sun Headline pages and the Bayside Advertiser and Leader Newspaper.



## Sandy East School Song

Sandy East // // ///

Sandy East // // ///

The kids from SEPS rise above the rest  
Always our Best

You can see a SEPS kid as they walk to school  
With a skip in their step looking super cool  
Getting along - greet their friends with a smile  
A confident smile that could stretch for a mile

Konnichiwa, would you care to dance?  
Pick up a paint brush sing a victory chant  
Sports Days LOTE days Concerts too  
Artwork we are proud to show you

Sandy East // // ///

Sandy East // // ///

The kids from SEPS rise above the rest  
Always our Best

In our colourful classrooms we learn and we share  
We follow the school rules, we know that they're fair  
Resilience helps us after a fall,  
We bounce right back and we stand proud and tall

We're fit and we're active, we play and we run,  
Lunchtimes with friends are lots of fun  
When the bell goes we're back to our desks  
We persist and try our personal best

Sandy East // // ///

Sandy East // // ///

The kids from SEPS rise above the rest  
Always our Best     Do do do do do do do do.....

