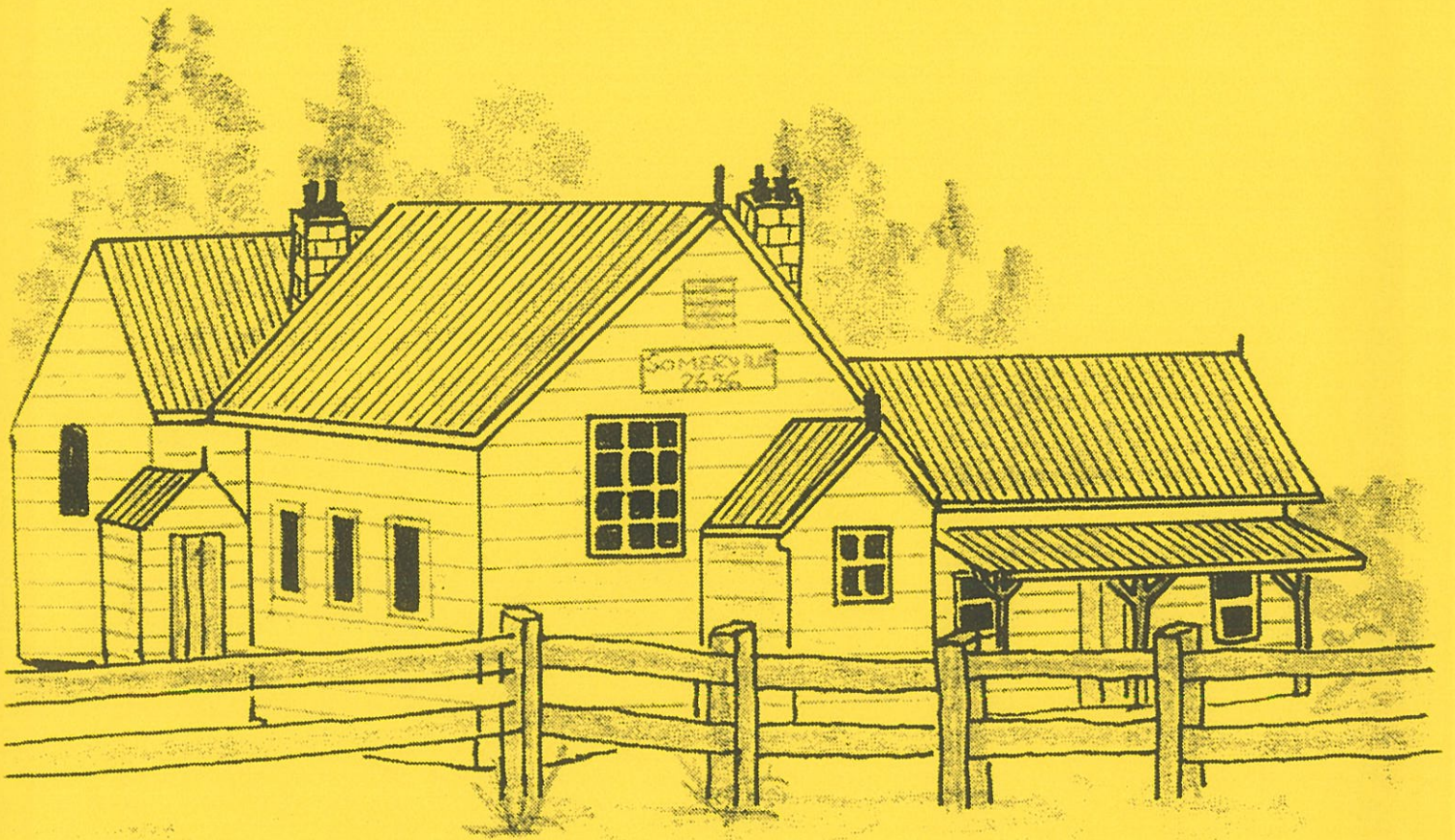


Somerville
Primary School 2656

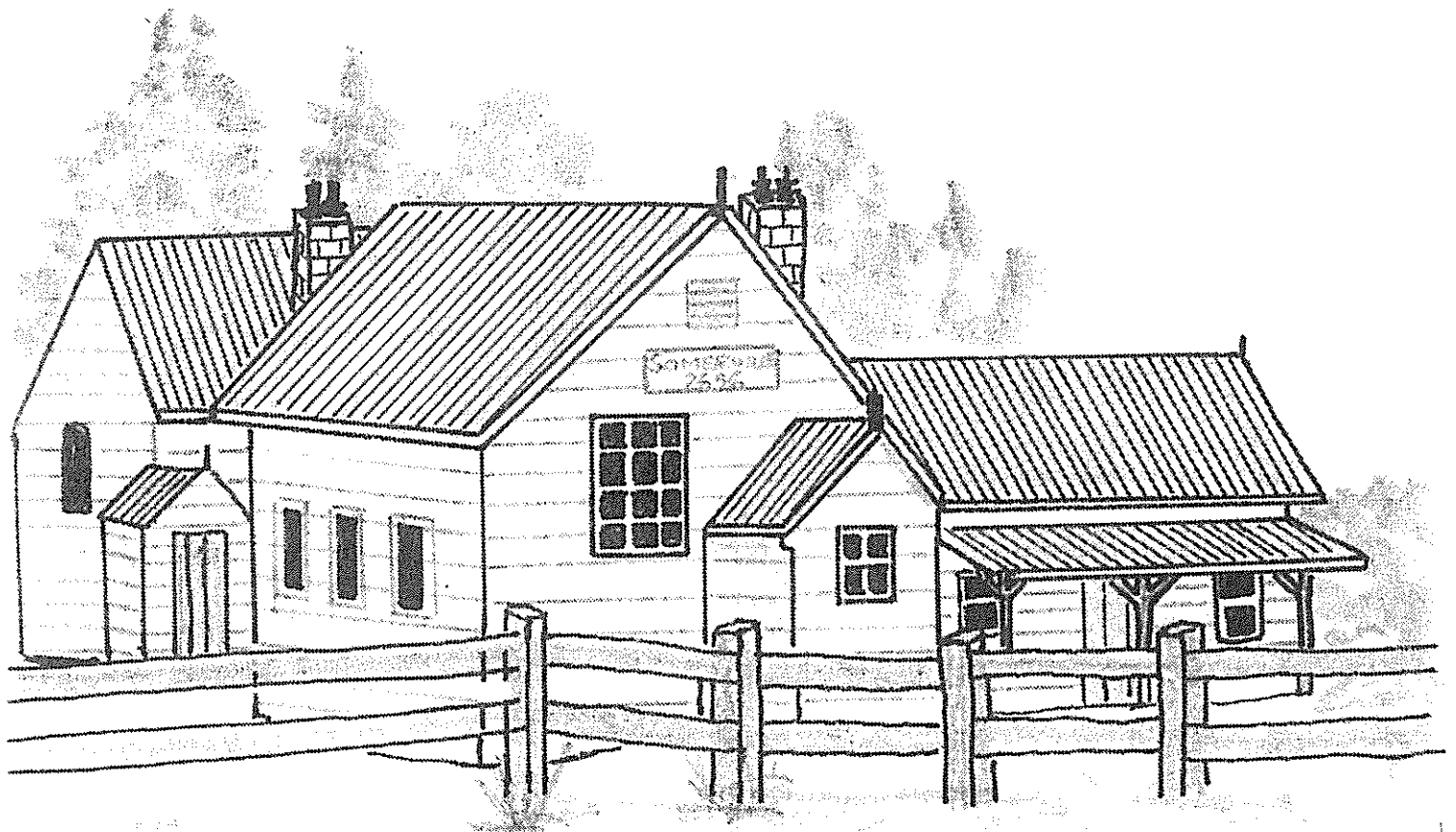


School 1885-1914

Centenary

1885-1985

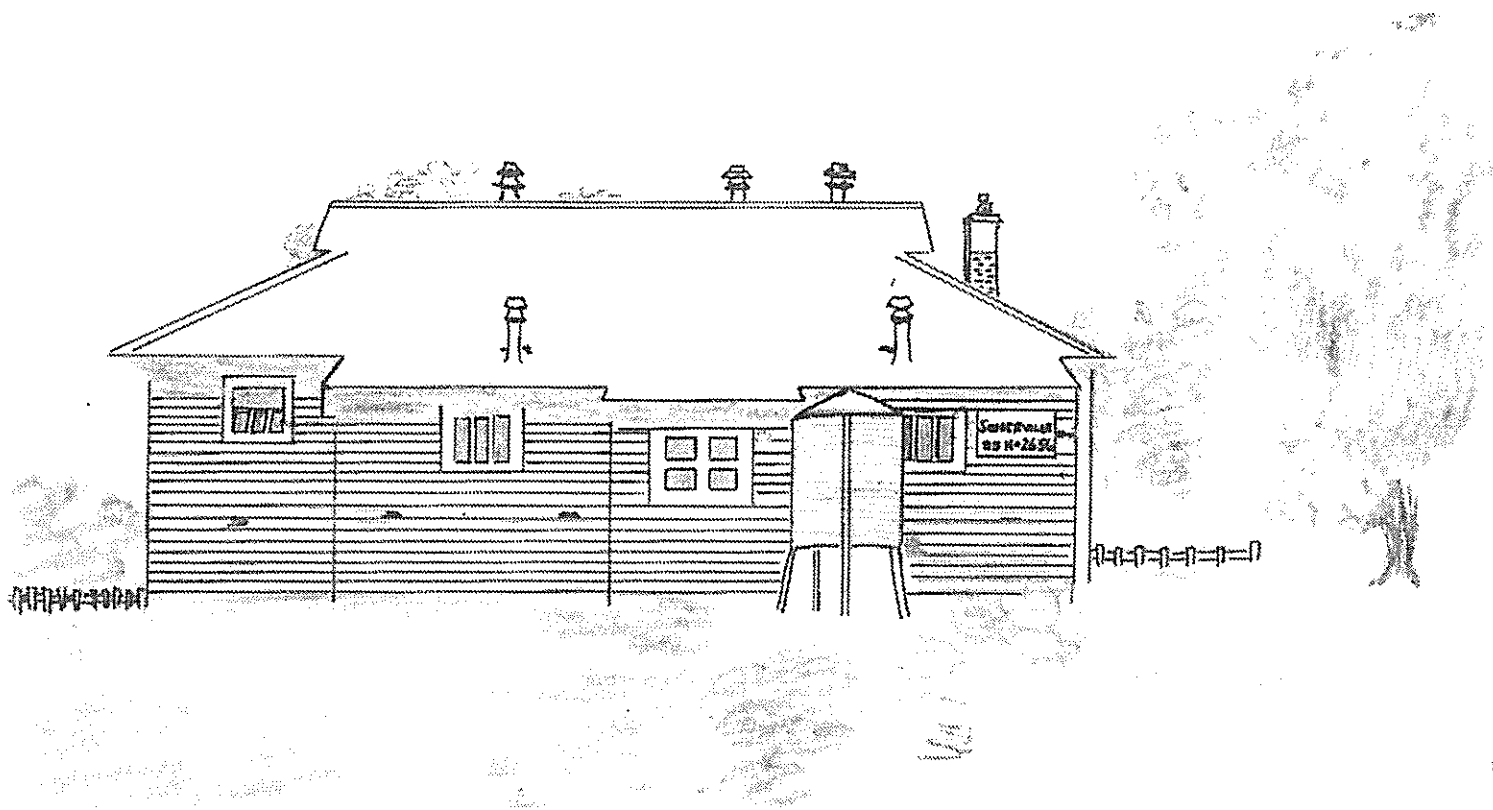
Somerville
Primary School 2656



School 1885-1914

Centenary

1885-1985



1914-1954

FOREWORD

This book has been published to commemorate the Centenary of Somerville, State School 2656, which is now known as Somerville Primary School.

SS 2656 was originally established at the corner of Lower Somerville and Eramosa Roads, one hundred years ago; having superceded State School 823 which had previously been Common School 823 and prior to that a Private School. When the school moved to its present site in 1914, it retained its name and number (2656), its staff, pupils, equipment, its bell and obviously many of its characteristics.

This book is not a complete history of the school and district, but we have attempted to capture a little of what school life was like down through the ages.

To the best of our knowledge, the details in the book are all authentic. If errors have crept in or names or important incidents have been omitted, that you feel should have been included, we regret the oversight and tender our apologies.

Vic. Pickens
Principal, 1985.
Somerville Primary School 2656.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Centenary Committee wishes to thank the many people who have contributed material and effort to the preparation of this book. Without their help this book would not have been produced.

We wish to acknowledge the contributions, effort and assistance provided from several sources:-

Education Department for Historical Information.

Various newspapers for allowing us to print excerpts of their articles.

Mrs. Valda Cole for granting permission for excerpts of her book, 'Western Port - Pioneers and Preachers' to be printed in this book.

Mrs. Vera Mills for her research into the history of the early schools.

The many Somerville residents (past and present) who provided information, written accounts of incidents, anecdotes and photos whether published or not.

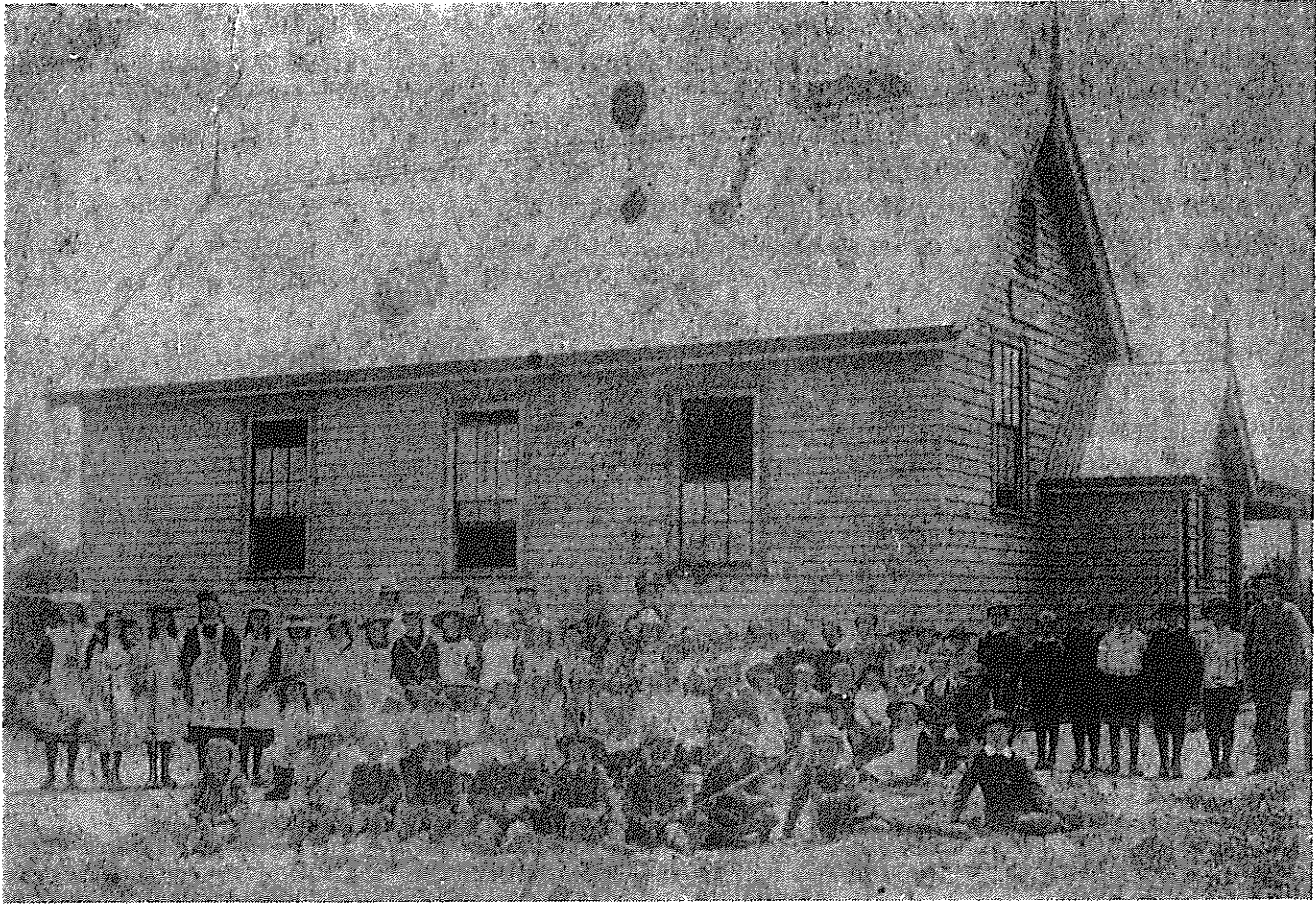
Barbara Alpine and Linda Sparkes for the present day photos.

Joanne Atkins, Sue Lyons, Jack Lewis, Eve Ives, Mary Milburn and Dawn Peters for their efforts in contacting the many people and organizing the collection of photos, memorabilia and information from older residents.

Linda Sparkes, Eve Ives, Jack Lewis and Mary Milburn for their efforts in collecting and collating all the material and arranging it into publishable form; with special thanks to Co-Editors Linda and Eve. Several Somerville Businesses, Social Set, Fire Brigade, Tennis Club, R.S.L., and Shire of Hastings, Central Peninsula Clinic, for financial contributions.

INDEX

1. The Early Days.
2. State School No. 2656, 1885-1914.
3. A New Beginning 1914-1928.
4. The Great Depression 1929-1939.
5. The War Years 1939-1945.
6. Post War Years (The Mephram Years) 1946-1959.
7. A New Era, 1960's and Beyond.
8. Head Teachers and Principals 1885-1985.
9. Roll Call 1985.



S.S. 2656 in 1885 when it first opened. 63 pupils in attendance, Head Teacher, Mrs. Marion Carter, and Junior Teachers at rear.

THE EARLY DAYS

¹ Prior to the general settlement, the locality now known as Somerville was included in two pastoral runs - Captain Benjamin Baxter's Carrup Carrup in the north, which was taken up in 1840 and Mrs. Martha King's Bungayan to the south, which was taken up in 1845, with a central portion within, an area of dispute between the two parties.

In 1859 these large cattle stations were surveyed into the Parishes of Frankston, Moorooduc and Tyabb and the Crown Allotments released for sale under the various land acts.

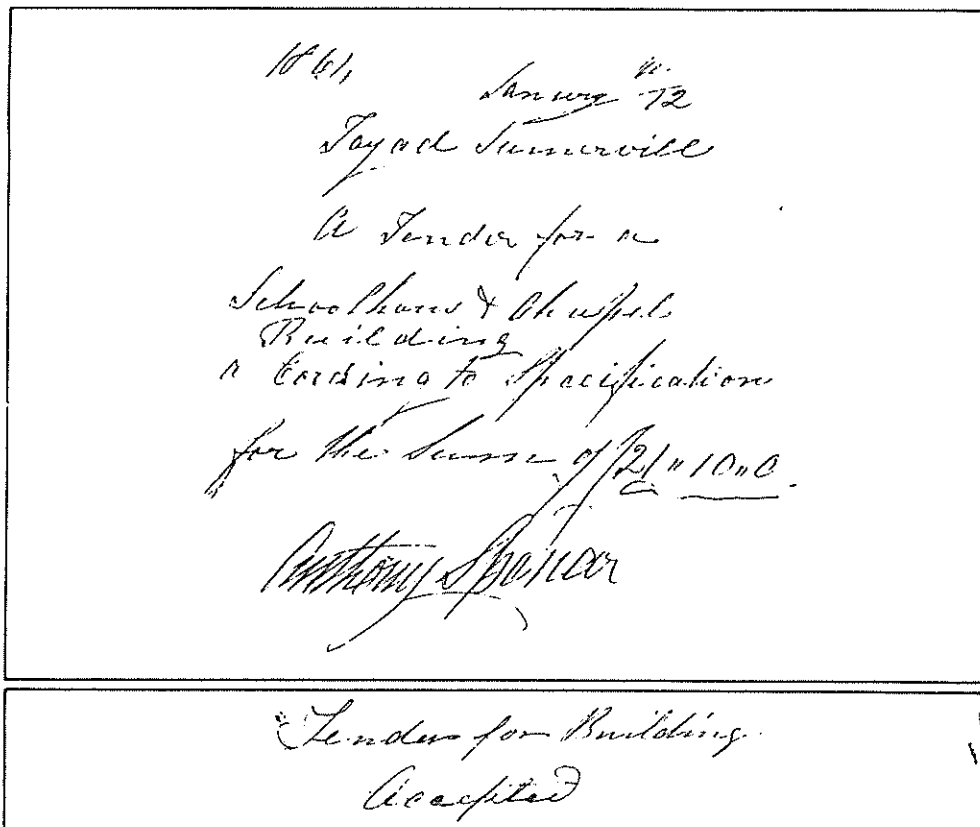
The original settlers were - Alexander Scott, James Grant, William A. Shepherd, Henry and John Thornell, James Clarke and Thomas Unthank.

¹ Westernport Pioneers and Preachers, Chapter xii Page 201

It is believed that prior to the Church School being established, Mrs. Ann Scott, wife of Alexander Scott, taught local children in her home, which was a wattle and daub home with an earthen floor.

² In the 1960's the Land's Department favoured the naming of towns after home-land parliamentarians: Hastings, Mornington, Berwick, Cranbourne, Pakenham, Lyndhurst, etc. Local preferences were also taken into account. When settlers gathered in the home of James and Elizabeth Grant, where the Post Office was located, they decided to name their town 'Somerville' after a township in Canada with which one of the settlers had an association.

On 31-12-1863 James Clarke, Alfred Jones and James Grant purchased, for the sum of £3, 1 acre of land from Henry and John Thornell, on which to build a House of Worship and a school. This land was 400 links (80 metres) south from the S.E. corner of the now Eramosa and Lower Somerville Roads.



1864, January 12th
Tendred Somerville
A Tender for a
Schoolhouse & Chapel
Building
in Accordance to Specification
for the sum of £21-10-0.
Anthony Spencer

Tender for Building
Accepted

Tender for the building of a Schoolhouse and Chapel, January 12th, 1864.

They built a 'substantial' building of wattle and daub, well plastered, the floor properly laid, with a verandah on three sides. It measured 26' x 16' x 10' high. Furniture consisted of 4 desks, 5 forms for older children, 2 forms for infants, a black-board, no maps, sufficient books. It was built by Anthony Spencer for the sum of £21-10-0. Nearby a 37' x 17' teacher's residence of similar materials was built from public subscriptions.

This first school was opened on 1-6-1864 with Mrs. Alicia Beilby as teacher, with a salary of 17/- per week. The children of Messers Isiah Mills, Thomas Cross, Henry Thornell, James Grant, Alexander Scott, William Draeger, William A. Shepherd, John E. Sage and Captain Baxter were her first pupils. Other persons could send their children for the sum of 1/- per child, per week.

Memorandum of agreement made this ¹⁴ 14th day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & sixty four between the Chairman of the School Committee of the Somerville School, Tyal, of the one part and Alicia Beilby School Teacher of the other part

That in consideration of the weekly sum of Seventeen Shillings to be paid to the said Alicia Beilby by the Treasurer of the School Committee of the Somerville School, the said Alicia Beilby agrees to teach according to the Government system & regulations all or any of the children of the undermentioned persons that they may choose to send to the said Somerville School viz

Mr Isaac Mills,	Mr Thomas Cross
" Henry Howell	" James Grant
" Alexander Scott	" William Burgess
" W. A. Shepherd	" Page
Captain Baxter	

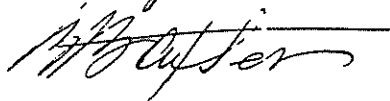
And furthermore the said Alicia Beilby, agrees to teach the children of the said Somerville School for 5 days in the week, to commence each day at 9.30. A.M. & to terminate at 3.30 P.M. one hour to be allowed for refreshment at Midday.

Should any other persons be desirous of sending their children to the said Somerville School, the said Alicia Beilby agrees to teach the children at one shilling per head per week, to be paid to her by the Treasurer to the said Somerville School, extra to the above mentioned weekly sum of Seventeen Shillings

This agreement to terminate at the end of three Calendar months from the date of signing this agreement, either party to give the other one month notice

A Beilby

Witness



Agreement between Alicia Beilby and the School Committee.

COMMON SCHOOL 823

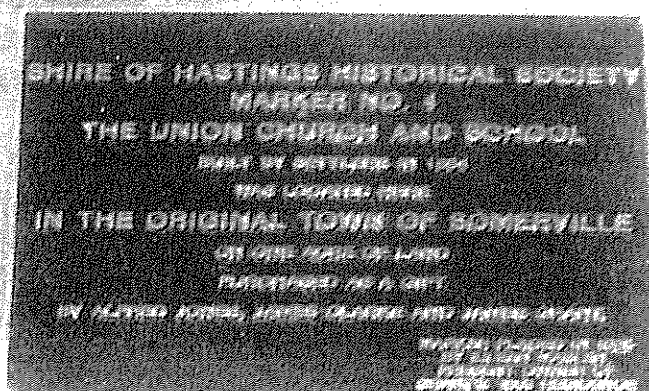
Several applications for government aid were made but were rejected due to insufficient number of pupils in attendance. Government aid was finally granted and from 1-10-1869 the school was known as Common School 823 with Abraham C. Dawson appointed as Head Teacher. In 1873 the Education Department took over the school which then became State School 823. It continued to operate in the original building, which was leased from the Committee for the sum of £12 per year, until December 1884 when the Government built its own school on the diagonally opposite corner of Eramosa and Lower Somerville Roads.

Head Teachers of State School (Common School) 823 were:

Abraham C. Dawson	1869-1872
Mrs. Lucinda Parkinson	1872-1873
Richard Hutchinson	1874
William H. Connell	1874-1881
George McHardy	1881-1882
Clara H. Sarjeant	1883-1884
Marion Carter	1884



Alicia Beilby and the children of the Church School.



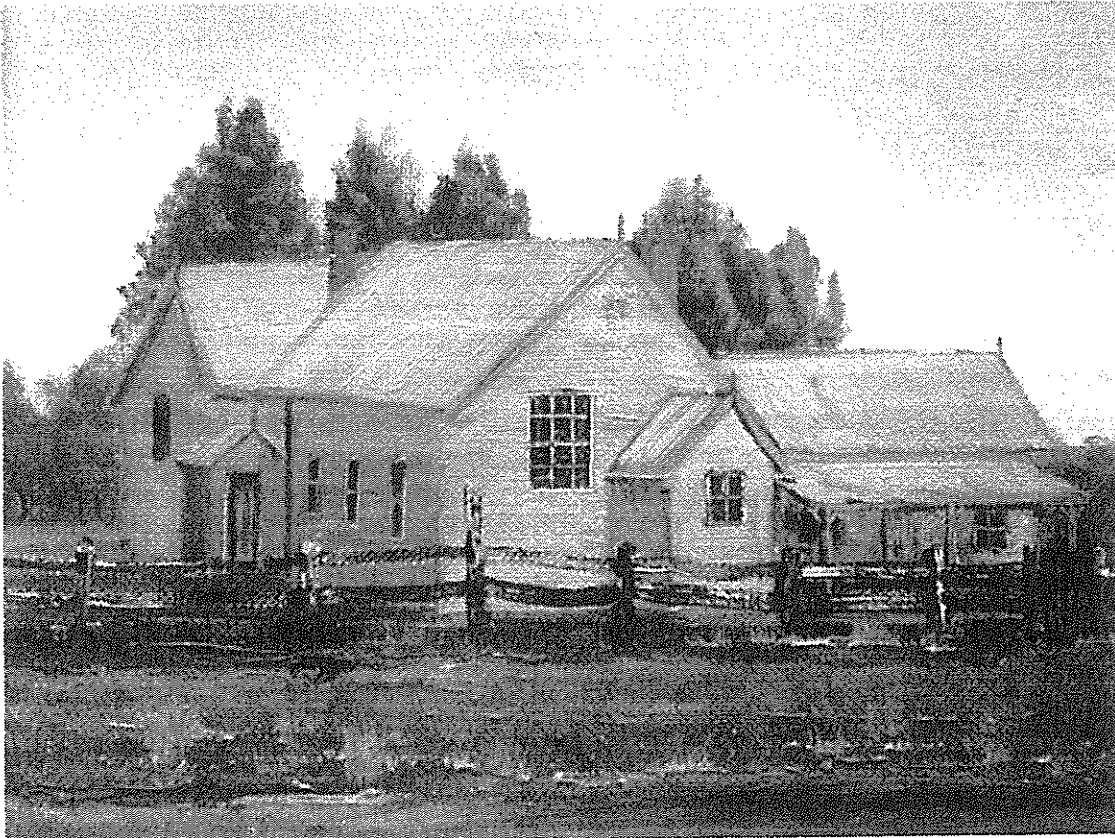
Plaque marking the site of the Church School, placed by the Hastings Historical Society.

STATE SCHOOL No. 2656 1885-1914

State School No. 2656 opened on 1-1-1885 in a new timber building on a one acre site on the N.W. corner of (Lower) Somerville and Eramosa Roads. The site was purchased in 1883 for the sum of £1. The School measured 24' x 16' x 12' with an attached three room teacher's residence. There were 63 pupils on the roll with an average attendance of 33 (16 boys, 17 girls). Marion Carter was Head Teacher and remained until 1895.

In 1890 the school was enlarged to 36' x 16' x 12' and another room was added in 1899. The building was able, under the Health Act, to hold 35 pupils and with the addition in 1890 "sufficient cubic space was provided for 59". However there were 102 on the roll, with an average attendance of 80. Enrolments reached a peak of 117 in 1899 and the overcrowding was expressed in this poem:-

³ "Densley packed like a hive of bees,
Scarce room to breathe, still less to sneeze,
Gasping the foul and tainted air,
Pregnant with microbes rev'ling there,
Seen through a cloud-like misty veil,
The pupils all look sick and pale,
The sweat like rain, drops from their pate,
In this death trap, run by the State."



State School 2656, after the additional room was built in 1899.

Composition

On Snake Bite

If you get snake bitten you should be quick about every thing you do. Tie a ligature round the limb on the side nearest the heart, & cut out the bit $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch deep, if you have no knife a piece of sharp stick will do. It is safe for any body with no cracks or sores in the mouth to suck it. Take spirits in regular doses or ammonia 15 drops to 45 of water.

Composition on Snake Bite, written by John Thompson, 1892.

On the 3-3-1898 the school was saved from a bush fire by "the strenuous efforts of residents".

The early settlers had planted fruit tree nurseries and orchards. These flourished and by the turn of the century it was estimated that 60,000 cases of fruit were being produced in the Somerville, Tyabb and Mornington Junction (Baxter) district. Apples were the most commonly grown crop. To protect their thriving industry, the growers formed "The Fruit Growers Association" in 1892. Their first show was held in the Mechanics Hall on the 14-3-1895, under the patronage of the Earl and Countess of Hopetoun. There were 500 exhibits displayed in the hall, with machinery exhibited in an adjacent marquee, including a milk, cream hand separator and one for extracting honey from the comb. The Show was followed by a Promenade Concert that evening. A public holiday was declared for the Shire of Frankston and Hastings and the Shire of Mornington. The second show attracted a crowd of 2,000. The Fruit Show became a feature of Somerville life. It continued for nearly half a century, and for many years was regarded as the leading Fruit Show in Australia. Special trains from Melbourne brought visitors, including many distinguished guests, among them Premiers, Governors and Governor-Generals.



1911 Fruit Show Archway, this was the 17th Somerville Fruit Show and was opened by Governor-General Lord Dudley.

In 1905, an acre was added to the school grounds at a cost of £15, but in 1907 the Frankston Shire Council reported the school was "built on an unhealthy swamp".

With the coming of the railway in 1889, the Township had grown up around the railway line. In May 1891, a group of residents made an unsuccessful application to the Education Department for the school to be conducted in the Mechanics Hall, soon due to be opened. The Department's comment was "They did not favour a site being procured in the railway area, at the present".

However a new site of 2½ acres was purchased from Eliza Martin in 1911 for the sum of £150. This new site was 1 mile west of the existing school in Eramosa Road. In 1914, a new school was built on the township site and the old school was sold to Mr. Chas. Murray for £120. The old school building was destroyed by fire in 1946. At the time it was the residence of Mr. and Mrs. 'Rolly' Thornell and their four sons.



Matron Annie Sage.

The old school's most notable ex-pupil was Matron Annie Sage, Matron-in-Chief of the Australian Army Nursing Service. Matron Sage was also a student teacher at the school before embarking on a career in nursing.

Privates J. Firth and Murray were volunteers for The Boer War, and the public of Somerville welcomed them home in May 1901.

MEMORIES

Eileen Webb, (nee Unthank) who began her school days at Somerville SS 2656 in 1905, remembers her school days:-

I started school in 1905 at the age of 6 and attended the old school on the corner of Eramosa Road and Lower Somerville Road. It was a wooden building, consisting of two large rooms known as the "big room" and the "little room". The infants and first class sat in the gallery in the "little room" and the second class sat at desks. The classes in the "big room" were from the third class to the sixth. Mr. Joseph Sleeman was my first Head Teacher and he lived in a three roomed cottage attached to the school. He taught in the "big room" with the help of a monitor. Miss Florence Philbrick taught in the "little room" with the help of her sister, Alice, the sewing mistress.

As a young child I can remember being taught elocution and it was always a great thrill to stand out in front of the class and recite the many little poems we learnt by heart. As the Head teacher lived at the school, they took a great interest in the children. If a child became ill they would put them to bed in their home until hometime when an older sister or brother would take them home.

Of course we had special days like "Bird Day", "Arbour Day" and Empire Day" (May 24, Queen Victoria's Birthday). On Bird Day we would go out in the bush and learn the colours and habits of the birds. Arbour Day, of course, consisted of tree planting and rose pruning and an address by a leading nurseryman. But Empire Day was the one we all enjoyed most, as we were far more patriotic then. We would all be marched to the hall where a local Shire Councillor would address us on 'What Empire Day meant'. Then we would sing patriotic songs like "Rule Britannia" and "God Bless the Prince of Wales". After the singing we would march to the park for a picnic lunch and races, including novelty races like the 'sack race' and 'potato race'.

A later Head Teacher was Mr. George Reed, who was very interested in sport and music, with the result that most of dinner break was made up of playing cricket with the boys or rounders or tennis ball games with the girls. Mr. Reed taught us songs, but best of all, he would get up a Cantata every Christmas to finish the year. We would all be given a part, we'd practice for weeks before the great night. Two we did were "The Picnic Party" and "The Sleeping Beauty". How I longed to be the Fairy Queen, but I wasn't built for it, even then.

The only qualifications we had were 'The Standard' in 5th class and the Merit Certificate in 8th class.

These are my memories of life 80 years ago at Somerville 2656.

by Norm Unthank

There were no traffic jams when I started school in 1907; in fact there were not many roads to travel on. We walked down a bush track and cut through paddocks to go anywhere. My only pair of boots got very wet in the winter, and though they were not dry the next day we still had to wear them. Oh boy! those terrible chillblains most of us had.

I remember a train excursion to the Eastern Hill Fire Station to watch the firemen harness the horses, and how quickly they all got ready to go to fires.

We played football in the "field" next door to the school, and Arthur Unthank would take us to other schools to play. The fare was 3d. each. Once we went to Frankston to play, by train, but we only scored one goal.

I remember my first ride in a car; the disbelief of hearing a cylindrical record played on a gramophone, and the astonishment of radio, that I could hear someone speaking from Melbourne.

Our Headteacher Mr. Reed was very musical, and we used to put on wonderful concerts; one Cantata was called "Picnic in Woodland Glen", and I can still sing all the songs from that show. Mrs. Reed played the piano. Every Monday morning we lined up outside the school, put our right hands on our hearts and recited "I love God, and my country, I serve the Queen, I salute the flag, and cheerfully obey my parents, teachers, and the law".

I remember standing in Alex Twyford's blacksmiths shop and watching him make horseshoes at the red hot forge. He also built coaches and lorries. His shop

was next door to the newsagency. In the early days of cars there were no petrol pumps and I used to bring petrol back from the Melbourne Market in 4 gallon tins, 2 tins to a case made of wood at 13/4 a case. These cases were then used to put apples in.

My wife May (Ross) used to drive a horse and dray from the Saltmans (Bembridge) bringing the Sullivans, Bill Medley, Telfords, and Young Brothers to School. They sat on a plank across the dray and paid 4d. a week. Later the Sullivans took over the job.

Would todays children believe that in those early days we lived without cars, radios, television, telephones, tap water, had tanks to catch rain water, had wood fires, wood coppers, chip bath heaters, and kerosene lamps.

As I reminisce, I wonder how we all survived and how I have lived to 84 years old, without the present day miracles.

A NEW BEGINNING 1914-1928

A new timber school of two rooms, each 26'6' x 24' with a corridor along the length of the building forming a cloak room and covered entrance, was built by T. Wood at a cost of £803.

The building was completed on the 27-7-1914 and occupied in August of the same year, with Mr. George Reed as Head Teacher. However, the new school was not without its problems, as reported in 'the Age' on 14-11-1914.



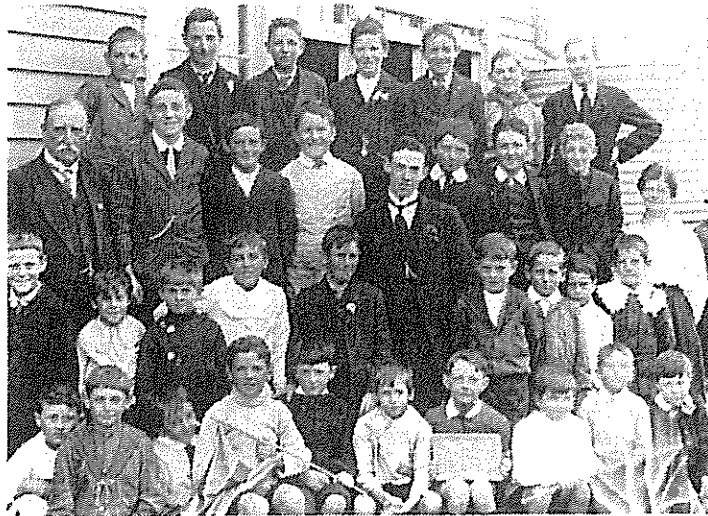
State School 2656, at the new Eramosa Road site (its present site).

"SCHOOL WITHOUT FURNITURE.

SOMERVILLE, Tuesday.

Much dissatisfaction has been caused by the Education department to parents of children attending the Somerville State school. Through the indifferent attitude of some officials communications are shelved, or ignored altogether. Three years ago the old school was condemned by the health authorities, and it was decided by the department to erect a new school. After a considerable delay in starting the work, the building was completed three months ago, and the head teacher received notice to resume work in the new school. No school furniture was provided. The desks and forms, from the old school are being used and over twenty scholars have to sit on the floor. The department promised to send the necessary furniture, and the school committee has delayed the official opening until all are disgusted at the methods with which the department is worked".

The school was finally 'Officially Opened' on the 2-7-1915, almost one year after the building was finished.



First commemoration of Anzac Day, 1916 (boys of the school).



First commemoration of Anzac Day, 1916 (girls of the school).

By November, 1918 school enrolments had reached 126 (i.e. 63 in each classroom) Mr. Samuel Uren was Head Teacher with two assistants (Miss Gunn and Miss O'Connor).



A reception for the local enlisted men towards the end of the Great War.



1918 Gymkhana procession, looking down Eramosa Road East.

With "the war to end all wars" over and hopes high for a lasting peace, the 1920's saw a decade of change.

Somerville was, by now, a well established centre of a thriving apple producing district. Progress saw the township connected to the mains water supply and to the electricity in 1926. The horse and buggy era was drawing to a close, as cars and trucks became an increasingly common sight on the improved roads.

By 1920, the position of overcrowding was becoming desperate and a plan to turn the new play pavilion into an extra classroom was submitted to the Education Department. There was also an application to extend one class room by 10' immediately.

There were 100 children with a Head Teacher and 2 assistants. Two-thirds of the pupils were in one class room with 2 teachers. Mr. Uren applied for an extra teacher which would allow 63 pupils and 2 teachers in each room.

The situation was relieved briefly in May 1922, when Tyabb SS No. 3129 was re-opened. The department decided that additions were no longer necessary.

In 1923, the school was facing yet another crisis. This time, the problem was the lack of water, although the water main passed the school. On 14-3-1923, Mr. Uren reported that only 2 weeks water supply remained in the tank and "many rare and valued plants were dying". On 28-4-1923 the Public Health Department reported "100 children and no drinking water . . . imperative something be done immediately". The application for mains water was granted but on 4-5-1923 the Frankston and Hastings Shire sent a telegram "Resolve your Department be urged to lay water to Somerville School. Urgent without delay".

It was not until 12-3-1924 that the Department reported "water pipes now laid, excepting meter".

In 1926, there were 108 on the roll with an average attendance of 100. The school had 40 dual desks and 5 uncomfortable, long desks, each holding five pupils. The Department reported, desks were in short supply with the demand in excess of supply.

Children who came from 'The Saltmans' (later known as Bembridge) were driven to school in a covered wagon by members of the Sullivan family. The wagon was kept over at Moore's Bakery (now the Antique shop) and the horse turned out there until it was time to go home once more. Victors and Triggs also came by wagon each day. The Education Department payed 4d per day for children between the ages of six and fourteen, who travelled over four miles to school.

In 1920, Mr. George Keast, who owned a grocery shop in Station Street, became the proud owner of a motor car. On Empire Day that year, he gave every child in the school "the thrill of their lives", their first ride in a motor car, down Hastings Road to Bungower Road and back.

Somerville SS 2656 was very proud of its prize winning garden. Special days and activities included the annual picnic, Empire Day, Arbour Day, bird day and the Cantatas at Christmas.

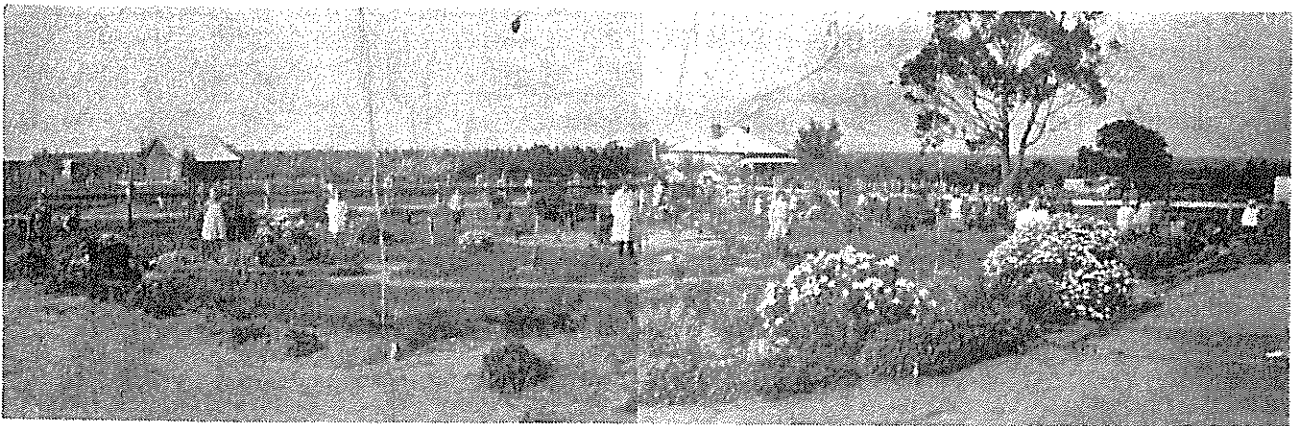
On Arbour Day each year, the children took part in planting trees in the school grounds, the park and the streets. The Avenue of Honour in Eramosa Road was an Arbour Day project, when a tree was planted for each man from Somerville who enlisted in the Great War. This has now, sadly, been sacrificed to "progress".

THE SCHOOL GARDEN

In the early 1920's Somerville School was noted for its beautifully laid out gardens. Each family being allotted a garden to look after and maintain. The first one on the right inside the gate belonged to the White family, the first on the left was West's, Moore's, Iles', Hawkens', Clarke's, Thornell's, Williams', etc., being other families to have a garden. In the centre on the left side was a large round rose garden, the clay for it being brought up by the barrow load from down in the gully at the bottom of Monks Hill as it was then known. The boys were paid a threepence a load. Part of our school work was learning the names of each rose.

The school won several prizes for 'Best Kept School Garden' in this area. The pictures donated by the A.N.A. hung on the wall in the 'big room' until the school was destroyed by fire in 1954.

The school was also enclosed with a beautiful Post and Rail fence which went right around the school ground. Mary Sullivan was famous for walking around the entire grounds on the top of the fence.



The School Garden in 1922.



Children at their P.E. lesson in the 1920's.

Former pupils recall some special days activities at Somerville SS 2656:-

EMPIRE DAY

The day began around the flag-pole with the saluting of the Flag and the reciting of the Oath, then an address on the history of the British Empire and our heritage. Usually we sang a few patriotic hymns. I always remember 'God, our help in ages past' was sung on all important celebrations like Empire Day and Anzac Day. After recess, we all marched to the Show Grounds where lunch was served at long trestle tables by our mothers. Following lunch, games and races were organized and we always had a lolly scramble to end the day.

BIRD DAY

Bird Day was another highlight. We always had a talk by Mr. 'Birdie' Shepherd, a well known field naturalist. The talk was often illustrated with pictures and stuffed birds from his vast collection. If the weather was fine we usually had a bush walk. The bush came almost to the back fence of the school grounds in those days. The children who walked to school across the paddocks knew where all the birds were nesting. The boys shinned up the trees and brought down eggs to show us or counted and described the young in the nest. When it was too wet to go out, there was a session for the talented mimics to perform, and very good mimics they were too.

THE ANNUAL PICNIC

The school picnic was "the day of the year". No one was ever late on Picnic Day, usually held early in December. We travelled to Frankston in horse drawn lorries that were used to cart the fruit from the orchards to the coolstores. We sat on two rows of fruit cases, back to back, with our beach paraphernalia stowed inside them. Well before 9 o'clock, the school yard and the road out front was a melee of children, lorries and jinkers, with an occasional buggy, all either delivering or loading a horde of very excited children.

The first to leave was the most important, carrying the food and a trestle table and utensils for serving and washing up. Eventually, all was in readiness and away we went along the Main Road singing at the tops of our voices.

At the bottom of the mount, we paused to spell the horses and most of us walked up the mount along a track where the present road goes, while the horses took the easy grade on the old road. On arrival at the picnic ground, set between Kananook Creek and the pier, we were handed a buttered bun each to take the edge off our very healthy appetites until our mothers got lunch ready.

The Mums and a few Dads sat beneath a tarpaulin stretched between the banksia trees, at a trestle table and cut up a mountain of cake and a veritable Mt. Everest of sandwiches.

The water being the main attraction, we took to it immediately, the girls with dresses tucked into bloomers - I mean small girls of my age! The older girls from the sixth grade up, were too grown up to paddle. They paraded along the sand, hoping the older boys would notice them. The boys, of course, just put on dry shorts when they got wet. Swimsuits were something we young yearned for, but the frugal parents of that era thought an old pair of pants and a singlet quite suitable for anyone under the age of eight.

My first bathing suit, inherited by way of two older brothers and one sister, was a delectable model of grey flannel with red binding, short sleeves and about mid-thigh length. It was embellished at the neckline with pearl buttons.

After devouring a huge lunch, we had to stay on shore for the longest hour of the day. Armed with sixpence to spend, off we went to Sages shop where they dispensed ice-cream in penny cones and a wonderful assortment of lollies. They also sold boiling water by the billy, teapot or four gallon kero tins for large picnic parties.

Later in the afternoon, there were races for every age group, including toddlers and grannies. Then another meal of sandwiches and cake before all the kids were loaded up for the trek home. We arrived home at dusk, very tired, very cranky and horribly sunburnt, but, "GOSH" it was worth it.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION YEARS 1929-1939

Despite the hardships caused by the Great Depression, life at SS 2656 continued in much the same way as the previous decades.

The Ladies Guild raised £20 and with a £20 subsidy were able to build a tennis court.

In 1934, attendances averaged 105 to 109. There were 4 grades and 2 teachers in the infants room with three children to a desk. Applications were once more made for an extra class room. The Department reported, "Apple growing now the main industry. . . Attendances likely to be steady". The new room was finally completed in 1936.

During this time, it is believed that Somerville State School created a world record, four sets of twins from the one family attended the school at the same time, along with two other siblings. The twins were from the Currie family, 13 children in all. Mr. Currie was the Stationmaster at Somerville from 1924, and was actively involved with many local organizations, including the school.

Fruit packing was an important subject taught at the school. The expertise of the pupils of SS 2656 in apple packing was shown by the many prizes won at the Royal Melbourne Show. Rose Dennett (now Mrs. A. Stockston) won first prize at the Royal Melbourne Show in the early 1930's. Her winning entry was sent to King George V; a great honour for a young country girl.

APPLE PACKING

For many years, apple packing was taught as a subject at the Somerville school. Classes went to the Coolstore once a week for their lesson. There was even an 'apple packing certificate' which was awarded to those students who successfully passed their course. An Instructor from the Department of Agriculture, taught the children how to tell the different varieties of apples and how to grade them according to their size. We packed them into a 'dump box' according to their grade, small was 3/2 pack and 2/2 for the bigger apples.



Students at their Apple Packing lessons.

We also packed pears in 'a long bushell' case. Many students later worked at the packing sheds after they left school.

Many trophies and competitions were won by the apple packing teams from Somerville SS 2656.

Apple packing continued to be taught at the school until 1967.

Pupils of the time reminisce:-

My recollections of school life at SS 2656 are fairly sketchy but some incidents and annual events stand out. Miss Hutchins had charge of the infants up to grade 4, after which we moved into the second room for grades 5 and 6 (and up to grade 8).

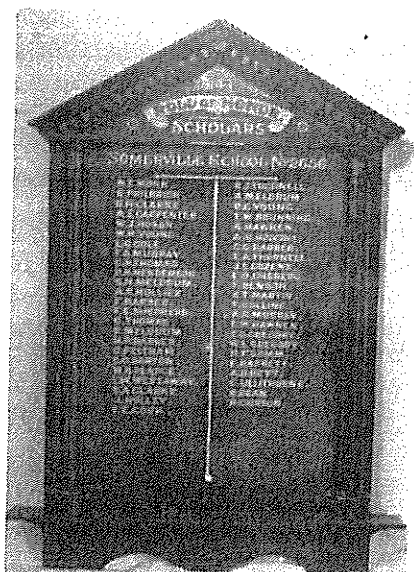
The Head Teacher, Mr. Thomas Webster lived in Frankston and he commuted daily. He drove a Capital Chevrolet Tourer, which from memory was green with a gold band and was kept in immaculate condition. Mr. Webster's influence and interest in the progress of the older boys persuaded parents to send them on to High School.

The periodical visits by the school dental unit was not welcomed by the pupils. Absenteeism increased dramatically whenever the grey van pulled into the school grounds. My own initiation was one in which I would have sooner forgotten (or avoided) as I parted company with several molars, allegedly too far gone to be filled.

Of the school itself, the comforts were few and far between. No floor coverings graced the floors which were of bare timber, scuffed and splintered by the shuffling of many feet over the years. The children of Baxter and Pearcedale schools came to Somerville to sit for their Merit Certificate examinations and left behind their initials carved in the desks. Heating comprised an open fire in a corner of the room and the blackboard stretched the length of the wall with a slightly raised platform for the teacher. Both rooms were identical in this regard. For cooling, one simply opened the windows which overlooked the playground.

In the front of the school were the formal gardens and we were given outdoor "lessons" in the art of weeding and digging around established plants, practical gardening experience! The gardens had obviously earned recognition in years gone by, for on the back walls of the class rooms hung several framed prints with plaques attached. All had a decidedly warlike character, representing incidents in

British history - "The death of Nelson at Trafalgar", "Wellington at Waterloo", "Charge of the Light Brigade" and "Landing at Gallipoli". The centrepiece of the senior room was the Roll of Honour of former pupils who served or gave their life "For God, King and Country" in the Great War. A tired wreath of laurel adorned the Honour Roll throughout the year and it would be ceremoniously laid at the monument, the war memorial then situated near the rail crossing at Eramosa Road and Frankston-Hastings Road intersection, every Anzac Day.



*School Honour Roll,
which was lost in the 1954 fire.*



*Anzac Day service at the Monument
in Frankston-Flinders Road.
The Monument was unveiled on 4-11-1923.*

If SS 2656 had to be rebuilt in replica, I could describe it in the minutest detail. When I began in 1935, the school consisted of two rooms, opening from a long corridor with double doors at either end. These rooms were known as the 'big' room, 'little' room and later the 'new' room was added. The little room boasted an organ, so hard to pump, that it quickly tired the legs of the strongest pupil. On the mantels and picture shelves were the flowers, (and usually a preponderance of gum leaves) from the pupils or the school garden, carefully arranged in jam jars, covered with small triangles of coloured paper and laquered in handwork classes. Every Monday morning this envious chore was carried out by the 'big' girls, who had been appointed as flower monitors. Some of the teachers I remember were; the stern and portly headmaster Mr. Webster, neat little Miss Stevens, Miss Murphy, Miss Mackie, Miss Murray, red headed Miss Chandler, Mr. Binder, Mr. Currie and young Mr. Percy Webb who died whilst a Prisoner of War in Malaya. Amenities were practically nil, the entire library was in a cupboard in the corridor, comprising a few battered copies of Mary Grant Bruce and L.M. Montgomery books. A rounders bat, a flat basketball, football and a cricket bat and ball comprised the sports equipment. Gone are the smells of banana and apple skins in musty leather school bags, countless inkstains on the floor, chipped and cracked inkwells, schoolboy caps askew on the pegs, the squeaky treadle sewing machine, the ever incomplected cane baskets, grey and grimy plasticine and boards, wooden edged slates and grubby rags on which we spat to obtain moisture to remove our work! But ever present are a thousand memories, held by a generation of a simple but happy school life.

THE WAY WE WERE (reproduced with permission of the Hastings Sun)

Our school was attended by pupils who walked from miles around, even as far as Tyabb-Tooradin Road where the district was then called Bembridge. The two Bradley boys walked from Bembridge every day, or perhaps jogged tirelessly along behind the horse and jinker which brought the Roach children to school. In those days, we wandered in and out of the school grounds and around the streets at dinner-time without fear of dangerous traffic or undesirable strangers. One of our favourite calls was the Bakery run by the Moore family. What pies the bakery used to make, fresh out of the oven every day, with light flaky pastry and delicious mince filling. I'm sure it's not nostalgia to say they were the most delicious pies ever!

Moore's, as it was affectionately known, also sold sweets and we spent ages with pennies held tightly in our 'hot little hands' whilst we stood in an agony of indecision over the halfpenny and penny boxes of sweets. The Moore girls would stand waiting patiently for the choice to be made or until the school bell caused a hasty decision.

SUNBURN AND SANDWICHES

In December each year, SS 2656 had a wonderful school picnic, usually at Mother's Beach, Mornington, adjacent to the baths; this was the only trip most pupils had to the beach annually, and so we were very excited.

Mothers and children would be transported to the picnic in the orchardists' and fruit carriers' trucks. Fruit cases topped with rugs would form the seats. I remember the trucks belonging to Geoff Grant, Harold Westaway, Syd Clark, Chas Allen, John Shelton, Perce Cook, Joe De Bernardi and Ken Webb's green Rugby, all lined up outside the school, preparing for the epic journey.

I longed for the day when I might have a pair of new bathers, but like most of the other children, always ended up with a pair of cast off woollen ones, very matted and prickly and usually with a moth hole or two. Our beach gear was very basic, sun bonnet, sand shoes, worn towel and an aged tin bucket and wooden spade.

Regardless of the temperature, we were quickly into the sea, firstly being heavily anointed with zinc cream, and lectured not to go out too deep; the big children were allowed to swim (very few could) in the baths nearby. The slippery dip into the water provided plenty of fun and horesplay and was not for the faint hearted.

The fathers, dressed in dark suits, white shirts, collars and ties, would be dispatched up the street for the hot water, as no-one possessed, or had heard of a thermos flask. The tea leaves would be in the billies and the school teapots, in readiness for the brew. Often this errand would take some time, as some of the Dads would call in at the Royal Hotel, to slake their thirst, generated from the steep climb up the cliff, so they would be in 'hot water' as well as with it.

The Mother's Club ladies would be busy cutting stacks of sandwiches, having obtained the bread from Moore's bakery prior to leaving, no such thing as sliced bread in those days, so it would be someone's unhappy lot to have to cut the loaves. Usually this task fell to Mrs. Wain, who was a dab hand with a knife. Nothing ever tasted as good as those sandwiches, rather thick and by now a mite sandy, also the boxes of cakes and jam tarts, again made by the miraculous Charlie Moore. This was all washed down with weak and tepid raspberry vinegar, poured from large enamel jug, into the cup which the children had been instructed to bring.

Then we would all have to endure the agony of waiting an hour before we were allowed in the water again, so we would beg permission to take the long walk back to the pier, or go up the street to spend our precious sixpence, on perhaps a fruit salad ice block and a violet crumble.

Lastly, the men would bring out the ropes and mark off a section of smooth sand for the races. Often they would play tricks and bring the finishing rope closer for the little ones, and further away for the more fleet of foot, older children. The married ladies race was last and usually won by Elspeth Green or Mae Allen; prizes were chocolate frogs and wrapped sweets for all competitors.

All too soon the shadows would lengthen and the little convoy of tired, happy and sunburnt children would set off for home; the ritual of our special school picnic would be over for another year.



School Picnic at Mother's Beach, Mornington.

SKINNED KNEES AND HAIR RIBBONS FROM PETTICOAT LANE

Webbs Lane, Somerville, where I grew up with my older sisters, was often called 'Petticoat Lane', as, when I started school in 1935, fifteen girls and one boy lived and walked to school from there.

There were the four Campbell girls, Dolly, Martie, Margaret and Jean, Dorothy and Audrey West, with soul mate, Adrian. Next came Iris, Jean (Tubba), Marj and Vera Shout, (whose younger sisters Pat and Maureen, came later) then we three Webbs, Marie, Diana and Joy.

We were often joined by Don, Les (Cobbie) and Margaret Heywood from Coolart Road and their cousins, Phyllis, Len (Sonny), and Mavis Heywood, who lived around the corner in Bungower Road. Melva Scott waited at her gate for us and midway along we collected Queenie, Cecelia, Bill and Eric Unthank.

More pedestrians at 'Two Bays' corner, were the Adams family, Marcia and Tony Bissett, then Gladys Jones and the Cursons, who lived on the outskirts of the town. We rarely scored a ride to school, as most of the trucks, which passed us, were fully loaded with apples en route to the cool stores, but sometimes we were more fortunate when homeward bound.

At less than five years of age, I felt that our two mile walk to and from school was extremely hazardous and fraught with danger. Firstly the Unthinks invariably owned a savage dog, which would hear us approaching and snap and snarl at our fleeing heels. Then Gomms' bull had a distinct dislike for chattering children who dared to shortcut through his paddocks. Lastly, the fearsome thought of passing a new swagman in the park, or football pavillion, was always in my mind.

Returning home held many imaginary perils for me also, as often the audacious Shout girls would suggest that we detour along the dreaded Black's Camp track. Passing the large, gloomy, snake infested swamp, with its many bullfrogs, eerily croaking in their basso tones, or a sudden movement in the thick, head high reeds, filled my timid heart with terror.

One day we were confronted by Gomm's bull, out and on the rampage. We were lucky to be ferried past, two at a time, by Mr. Barnes, in his long silver car, which was a thrill in itself.

Some of the compensations for our long trek were the joys of playing 'First Luck, White Horse', gathering wildflowers, picking and savouring the wattles and gums, birdnesting, munching juicy apples from Jack Scott's or Armstrong's orchard and learning and singing the newest song from our school paper.

After the older children left school, we were joined by others, Hazel and Laurie White, Colin Wagner and the Cockhead family. Eventually most of us graduated to bicycles, which made the trip much faster and easier. We'll always remember our happy, simple days at our school, Somerville SS 2656.

THE WAR YEARS 1939-1945

Somerville prepared for the war with blackouts and an 'air raid' shelter in Station Street. This was a trench dug on railway land opposite the station, where the car park is today. A similar trench was dug in the school grounds. Luckily, the Japanese planes did not penetrate as far south as Somerville.

Rationing became a way of life with ration books for food, clothes and petrol. Soldiers appeared on 'bivouac' and the hospital (which is the old white house opposite the Doctor's in Eramosa Road) was taken over by the Army. Horse drawn lorries and jinkers were still a common sight along with the odd swagman.

No-one owned a refrigerator, ice-cream came by train packed in ice. An eagerly awaited, but rare treat.

1944 was a bad year for bush-fires with one causing particular concern, threatening the Township and burning the 'big hall' in the Fruit Grower's Reserve.

The end of the war was celebrated with a picnic sports day at the sports ground and the distribution of lollies to all the children.

The school was still much the same as the previous decade, acquiring a gramophone in 1943 and its first 'wireless' towards the end of the war. Modern amenities such as the telephone were still unthought of luxuries.

"I LOVE GOD AND MY COUNTRY" 1940's

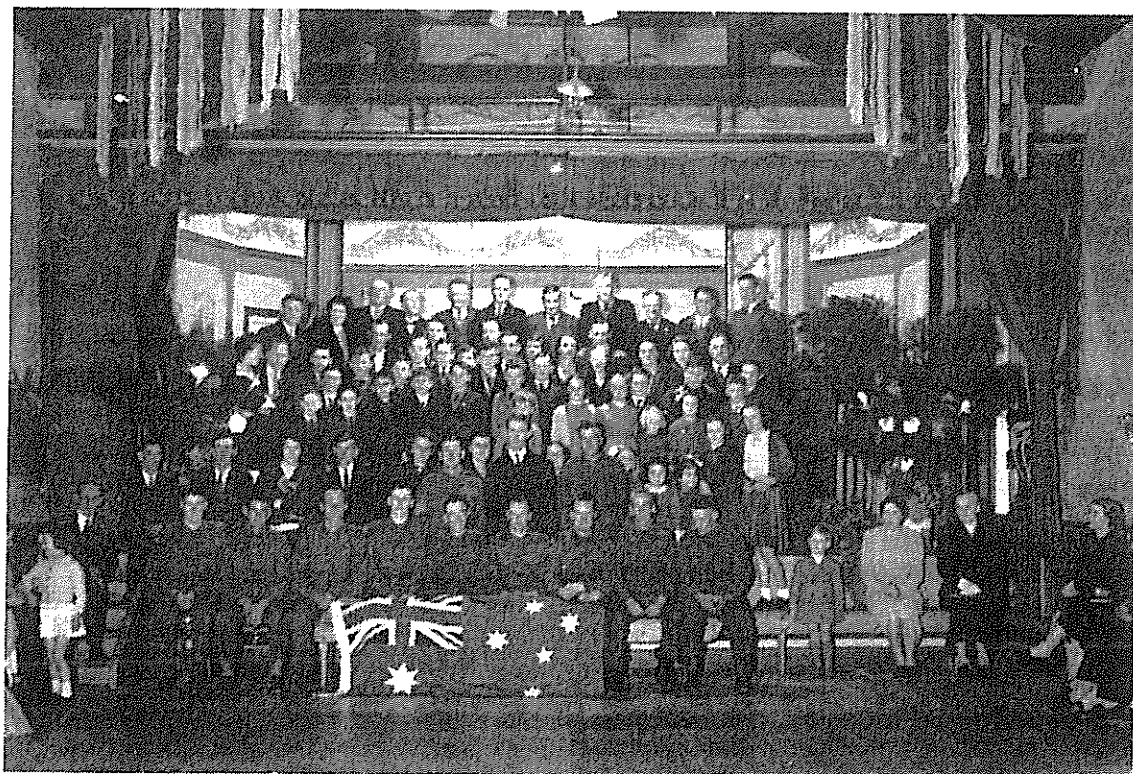
Initially World War Two did not have a great effect on the pupils of 2656 Somerville, as it seemed very remote, but as it progressed and the Japanese threatened, we were all to be touched by it quite dramatically.

Most of the children were members of the Junior Red Cross, and we constantly raised modest funds, (by today's standards), with penny concerts, lunch time stalls and little fetes, when we would bring goods from our patriotic parents, for sale. Jelly days were very popular, and the big girls would make the jelly, and set it in a variety of chipped cups and cracked plates, which we had accumulated. Next day, we would bring cream from home, and sell this popular delicacy for one penny, or tuppence for the deluxe version.

The big girls made milk jug covers for use in service hospitals, and knitted balaclavas, scarves and socks; good knitters like Leila Brunning and Betty Binder, received thank you letters from soldiers, whilst I struggled on the dreaded four needles for months, with teacher Miss Chandler, disparaging that I would ever turn the heel unaided. My socks must have been kept in the depot for any dwarf who enlisted, as they were invariably undersized, and no letter was ever forthcoming!

Our War Savings Stamps cost two shillings, and when eight were attached to a card, it was exchanged for a War Savings Certificate; when I cashed out my twenty, well after the war, they were worth one pound each, an appreciation of four shillings! We all saved silver paper, aluminium and toothpaste tubes. The headlines from the newspapers were read out daily, and the boys cut dozens of pictures of tanks, planes and battle ships; Barrie Simcock and Kevin Thornell, stuck many of these (with flour and water paste) onto copious pages in their project books, figuring that more pictures, left less space for words!

One of the saddest days that I remember at school, occurred when the Post Mistress Enie Thompson, sent the post girl, Barbara Murray down to the school with a telegram for Norma Roberts to take home to her mother. This contained the dreadful news that Norma's brother Stanley had died in New Guinea. It is hard to imagine the thoughts of that little girl, walking over three miles home, alone, with such tragic news. Norma's father was a P.O.W. in Malaya at the time. Other local boys to pay the supreme sacrifice, were Les (Skeeter) Thornell, and Charles Boyd, also former teacher Percy Webb, died whilst a P.O.W. Many former pupils were in the services, Graham Cook, Don Heywood, the Hicks brothers, Phil (Billa) Webb, Stan Clarke, Howard (Hoot) Armstrong, Stuart Clarke, Wes Thornell to name a few.



Send-off for the local enlisted men during the Second World War.

My sister Marie, Millie Brewer, Gladys Wagner and Dulcie White were all in the Women's Services, whilst Edward Shepherd was a survivor of the sunken H.M.A.S. Perth. The townspeople afforded evening 'send offs' to each of these enlisted people, when everybody, young and old turned out to honour them. We were all immensely proud of a pupil from the old school, Colonel Annie Sage, who became Matron in Chief of the Australian Army Nursing Service.

In 1945 I was to return to 2656 as a student teacher, my salary for this exalted position was two pounds, two shillings per fortnight; but as I had my bike for transport and lived at home, I was able to save from this amount.

Peace came to the world that year, and I will always remember Pearl Thornell (Whykes) who worked at Moores Bakery opposite the school, come marching over, with the ensign from her husband's ship tied around her waist, and beating a biscuit tin with a stick; the Head Master, Don McInnes and Doris Couper, the assistant and myself, all embraced Pearl, and with the children joined in her Victory march around the school ground! The pupils were allowed to ring the school bell continuously until they were exhausted and dismissed for the day; I can still hear the joyous pealing of that old brass bell.

Some of the pupils I fondly remember were Florence Robb, Marcia Simcock; Arnold Clarke, the Gallus girls, Julie Stanford, Jenny Thornell, Coralyne Camm, and tiny Shirley, Dulcie and Keith White, Faye Green, Eve Ross, the Grant girls, Max Lord, James Maslen, Kevin Bullen, Anthony Williams, John Martin and other fine children too numerous to mention.

I was replaced when another student teacher, Glenda Walker, was appointed to the school, but I was eternally grateful for the additional happy years which I spent at 2656.

WHO?

- Who drew a rat with teats on his first day at school?
- Who wanted to miss school and 'grow straight to be a man'?
- Who smoked bark cigarettes in the old tank?
- Who were the sisters from Eramosa Road who were always late?
- Whose initials are in the concrete at the gate?
- Whose nicknames were 'big boots' and 'little boots'?
- Who ate forbidden beef sandwiches on Fridays?
- Who recited 'The Ducks Ditty' with a lisp?
- Who threw girls berets on to Moore's roof?
- Whose brains were exposed by a spade during Friday's gardening period?
- Who bought silver sticks and gave the rings to the girls?

POST WAR YEARS (THE MEPHAN YEARS) 1946-1959

When peace returned to the world, Somerville was a sleepy township in a quiet farming community. In 1947, Mr. Harry Mephan became Head Teacher and in his quiet, gentle way, oversaw a revolution in teaching methods, doing away with the dreaded examinations and encouraging the individuals skills of his pupils.

School broadcasts became a feature as classroom lessons were supplemented with wireless lessons in Music, Geography, History, Health and Hygiene, Nature Studies, Kindergarten and Professor Black's 'The World Around Us'. The Combined Eastern Peninsula State School Sports at Hastings became an eagerly awaited annual event.

High school education was open to those students who passed an entrance examination. Other children stayed on at State School until the 8th grade. Both entrance examinations and 7th and 8th grades were abolished in the early 1950's.

School Committee 1953.



Right State School Committee. — Back row: Messrs D. Dabert, B. Carpenter and C. White. Front row: Messrs K. Manley (pres.), B. J. Mastler (sec.) and T. A. Atar.

Most of these people were responsible for the rebuilding of the school after the fire.

Mother's Club 1953.



State School Mothers' Club.—Back row: Mesdames D. Saunders, A. Sage, J. Richardson, C. White (pres.), U. Mason, S. Thornell, A. Stanford, H. Armstrong, A. Bennett. Front row: Mesdames R. Carpenter (pres.), G. Bullen, H. Bullen and R. Armstrong (sec.). This was also a farewell to Mrs G. Bullen and Mrs H. Bullen who are leaving the district after 20 years to go to Kyneton.

The School Committee and Mother's Club worked tirelessly to equip the school to contemporary standards and were proud that Somerville was considered the 'best equipped school on the Peninsula'. On the evening of Friday, 23rd July, 1954, the school was completely destroyed by fire.

Immediately, the hard working School Committee and Mother's Club, with the support of the local community, began raising funds to re-equip the school which was temporarily housed in the local Church halls.

Miss Joan Kenny taught Preps, Grade 1 in the Methodist Sunday School Hall next to the school grounds. Mr. Mephan took Grades 2, 5 and 6 in the Church of England Hall, assisted for some of the time by student teacher, Kevin Mirrabella. Mrs. Mephan taught grades 3 and 4 in the small unlined kitchen behind. The 89 pupils and teachers had to endure these cramped and extremely cold conditions for nearly two years before the re-located old Eildon School, with the addition of an extra classroom and small staff room was ready for occupation on 24-4-1956. The new school was officially opened on 30th May, 1956. Mr. Mackie of Frankston was awarded the Contract to re-establish the school and build the additions for the sum of £4445.

School in ashes starts again from scratch

The fire which reduced the Somerville State School, No. 2656, to ashes left behind it a mass of rubble and many heartaches.

The building and all school records were destroyed. So were all text books and exercise books of the 89 pupils.

But, on top of these losses, equipment representing years of hardwork by the Mothers' Club, which raised the money to buy it, was wiped out at one stroke of fate.

First arrivals at the scene of the fire, at about twenty past ten last Friday night were Messrs. Ray Grant and Stan Thornell.

The fire already had such a hold that saving of any part of the school was obviously impossible.

Brigades from Somerville and Frankston fought the blaze and did their utmost with the poor pressure of water at their disposal, to prevent the flames from spreading.

School's plight

Although the total loss of equipment is not known, it is estimated the value of the equipment provided by local people was well over £500.

The headmaster of the school, Mr. Mephen, has been busy with his committee and teachers organising temporary accommodation for classes. Much work, however, must be done before the school can carry

on. New records must be prepared and teaching material has to be obtained.

Public appeal

Below is a list, by no means complete, of the amenities provided by the Mothers' Club and School committee and now lost.

An urgent appeal, sponsored by "Post" Newspapers Pty. Ltd., is made to all Peninsula residents to help Somerville to make good its crippling loss.

If there is anything in the list that YOU can provide will you please contact the "Post" and arrange for it to be picked up, or deliver it yourself at Somerville.

Gifts of money to help the school in its difficult task of re-establishment will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

The need is urgent for sporting equipment, text, reference and library books.

Locally provided amenities at the school included a piano, work bench and tools, etc.

For more than 30 years Somerville folk have worked to provide these and many other things, to make this small school one of the best equipped State Schools on the Peninsula. Now the fruits of that devoted service are a heap of charred rubble and twisted metal.

Mother's Club busy

So complete were the furnishings at the school that the Mothers' Club, after its next achievement, the supply of new sinks in the school, had been contemplating giving help to a school in greater need.

Now the club must make a fresh start.

On Saturday, July 31, the Mothers' Club will do this with a street stall in Somerville's main street.

It hopes that this will be a "bumper" stall. Anybody who can help is invited to send saleable goods, or cash to Mrs. S. Thornell before hand or hand their gift to the people in charge of the stall.

Classes will be housed in the Parish Hall and Methodist School Hall pending the erection of a new school.

Somerville's Memorable Day

New school from the ashes

From the ashes of the old Somerville School, burnt to the ground in July 1954, a new, modern school has arisen.

This new edifice was officially opened by the Director of Education, Major-General Ramsay, last Wednesday afternoon.

Attended by parents, representatives of local organisations, staff and pupils, the occasion marked a memorable day in Somerville.

It represented the culmination of numerous frustrations and difficulties, inconveniences to pupils and trying conditions for teachers, who, during the period, have laboured under great difficulties and privations.

Appreciation of these efforts and the tremendous assistance given from all quarters was expressed by the president of the School Committee, Mr. B.J. Maslen, before introducing General Ramsay.

In declaring the school officially open, General Ramsay said it would probably prove a good thing for the school to have passed through such trying times, as it was the troublesome times which had shown the school who were its friends.

Interest aroused

"All have pulled together and aroused interest which I hope will be maintained," he said.

Continuing, General Ramsay contended that education was not a matter for teachers alone.

"A school wants the full co-operation of parents, friends and councillors of the shire if full use is to be made of the school," he added, and concluded with the hope that all would continue to support it and provide even better things for the school children.

The new school rooms, three in number are a combination of the old and the modern.

Two of the classrooms are an original building transported from Eildon, and to which has been added a new type classroom.

Credit to builder

Both buildings have been expertly joined to give the effect of being one large school of modern structure.

A long corridor, running the length of the new classroom, allows access to each room under one roof.

Into the two old rooms have been constructed skylights to supplement the old-type window structure for additional light.

All rooms are light and airy and tastefully painted in pastel colourings.

All structural alterations are a credit to the thorough workmanship of the builder, Mr. Mackie of Frankston, to whom special appreciation was expressed.

Guests

Guests of honour included Mrs. Ramsay, to whom pupil Wendy Sage presented flowers, Mr. and Mrs. Felstead of the

Education Department, District Inspector Cross-thwaite, and Mrs. Cross-thwaite, Cr. and Mrs. H. Gallus and Matron Sage, a former pupil of the school, referred to as having brought lustre to the school.

Apologies were received from Cr. K. Webb, also a former pupil of the school, and Cr. P. Mair, both attending a conference in Canberra.

Committee representatives spoke in glowing terms of the interest and support given by the former Minister of Education, Colonel W.W. Leggatt, and expressed regret that he was not present to witness the fulfilment of a project for which he had worked so hard.

Another absentee was former president, Mr. Keith Manley.

To the speaker, visitors and all who had helped re-

establish the Somerville State School, Dr. G. Pryor, supported by Mr. White, gave thanks, with special reference to the work of the committee secretary, Mr. Alan Agar.

After inspection of the school buildings and surrounds, all visitors were entertained at afternoon tea by the Ladies' Committee, "the best in Victoria".

WHAT WAS SCHOOL LIKE IN THE 1950's?

I have vivid memories of those days, it wasn't that long ago. Well, only 30 years. There is nothing like the passage of time to dull the not so pleasant experiences, but I can readily recall the happy days spent at Somerville State School.

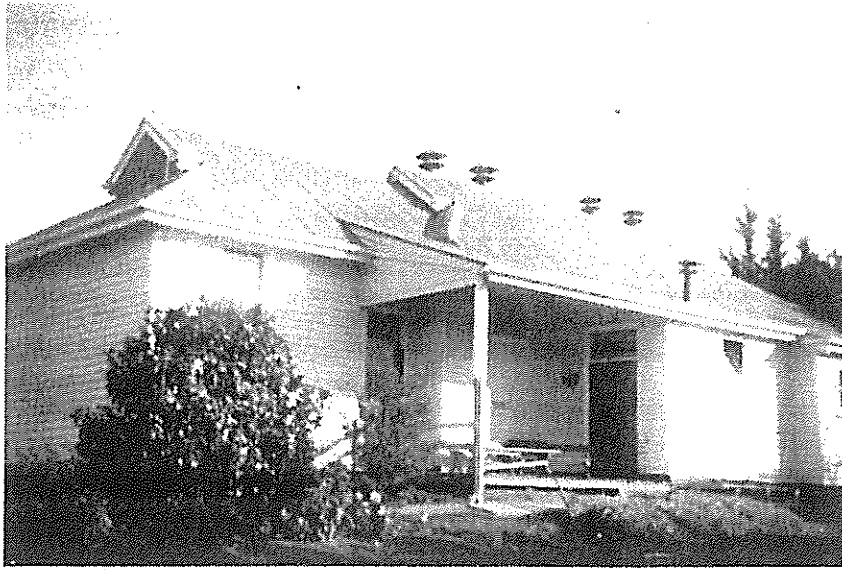
During the 1950's, the population of Somerville was made up of families who had lived in the district for many years, many of them were related to each other, all of them knew each other well. So, we children, fortunate to be growing up in this small rural community, going to school for the first time, was like going up the road to visit friends.

The School had only three staff members, Mr. Mephram, a tall balding man was the Head Teacher, he taught grades 5 and 6 in the 'big room'. His nick name was 'Old Harry', used only when we were out of ear shot, but we all had the greatest respect for him. Mrs Mephram, his round cheery wife, was the grades 3 and 4 teacher. She kept a motherly eye on us all, and also taught needlework and singing. Once a week she would teach us a new folk dance and try to instil in us a few social graces. Miss McGowen was the Infant teacher. She was young and attractive - the girls all wanted to grow up to look like her; the boys all wanted to grow up and marry her!

Our school days passed with the learning of basic skills. The one regular distraction, which we anticipated with great delight was 'Film Day'. Once a month the 'Film Man' would arrive, a small bespectacled man in a grey dustcoat. He would set up a small screen and a large black projector, and the whole school would crowd into the 'big room' to be treated to a morning of films. Shame on anyone who spoke, they were banished to the oval. Fear of missing out on 'Film Day' was sufficient to deter most offenders from misbehaving.

The ultimate deterrent was 'The Strap', a long brown leather strap that Mr. Mephram kept in the yellow cupboard near the blackboard. I don't remember him ever using it, but a mere motion towards its hiding place was sufficient to strike fear into the bravest of hearts.

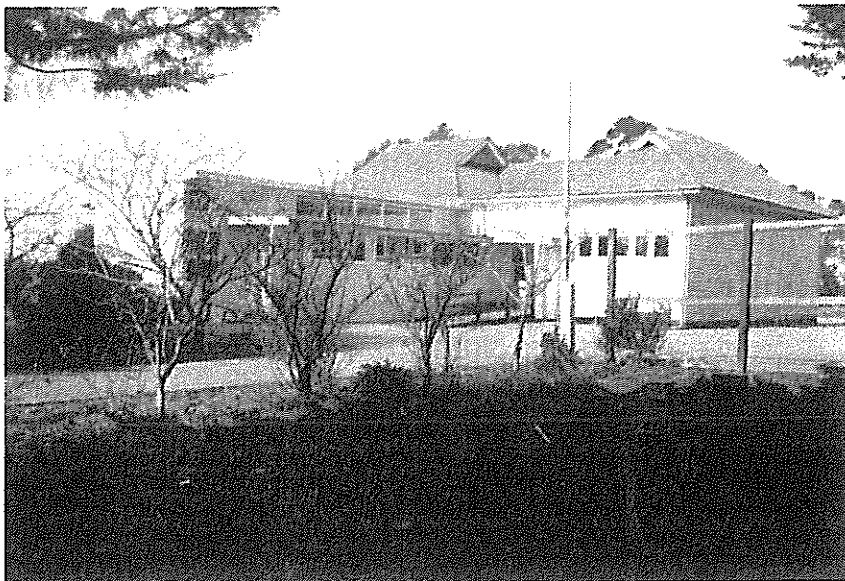
'Education Day' was an annual event at school. All the parents would come along to view the display of written work and art work, as well as items of singing and folk dancing. We were all thoroughly drilled to be on our best behaviour for Education Day. The same was expected of us when the 'School Inspector' visited the school, little did we realize that he was in fact inspecting the teachers!



School before the fire.



The Ashes.



The New school.

But, the highlight of the school year came in December. The school picnic was a great occasion. All the school children, together with mothers and fathers, older brothers and sisters (who 'wagged' secondary school for the day) and younger ones in prams and pushers, would pile into the back of the trucks for the trip to 'Mother's Beach', Mornington. Two or three trucks, owned by local fruit carriers and orchardists, would set out early in the morning, everyone excitedly anticipating the day's activities. At the beach we enjoyed swimming races, running races and sand-castle building competitions. Everyone sat around together to eat their picnic lunches. The Mother's Club ladies provided ice-creams and drinks. What a great day it was!

On the evening of the last day of the school year, everyone in Somerville went along to the school Christmas Party at the park. After the usual Christmas Carols and class items, Father Christmas would arrive and distribute gifts to all the children. Was it really Mr. Maslen under all those whiskers? I wasn't too fond of Father Christmas, so I didn't dare to look closely enough to know for sure.

Thirty years later, Somerville State School has indeed changed. I hope my children will recall, in another thirty years time, their own happy memories of school days spent there.

As we had a 2½ mile walk to school, we had to make an early start. We were joined by many others as we passed their farms, walking in rows across the road, often as many as 20 children, all with school bags on our backs. We were seldom offered a ride because there were so many of us, often we got wet and had to dry off in front of the fire at school.

On the way home we detoured to check the nest of a parrot in a hollow log, a blue wren in the ti-tree by the creek or a tawny frogmouth which lived in an old gum tree. We knew the names of all the birds and were encouraged to look up "What bird is that", at school if we saw a bird we didn't know. Our annual Bird Walk contributed to our interest in nature.

We were all very enthusiastic about some aspect of school and those of use who were not academic were encouraged to excell in some other way, at sport, gardening, art or craft. We were allowed to do projects on a topic which took our interest. Horticulture was a popular subject, growing trees from seeds, learning about bulbs and unusual plants. My school days at Somerville (1948-1954) were happy days. There never seemed to be any behavioural problems, though the strap was occasionally used. I will always be grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Mephram for the very stable schooling they gave us.

My first day at school was memorable. My mother and younger brother saw me off at the gate where I walked to school with Jim, the Shepherds, Lords, and Youngs. They pointed out with much merriment that I was wearing my school-bag (new, leather satchel, shoulder straps and embossed initials) upside down. It was a great blow to my self importance.

Miss McPhail was in charge of the 'little room'. Much of our work was done in foolscap sized drawing books and no space was wasted. Miss McPhail could always find another space in which to squeeze a picture or number.

When I could master some simple reading I went into the 'big room' to read to Mr. Mephram, '1, 2, 3, I can see, three little birds, in a . . . No prizes for guessing the word! From there we progressed to reading 'Dan has a gig. Dan has a pig in his gig.'

Progressing to the Second Grade reader we read, 'The Hobbyahs', a wonderful, unforgettable story which gave substance for nightmares.

Gentle Miss Walker and smiling Miss Lynch were also Infant teachers during my years in the 'little room'. Mrs. Mephams's 3rd and 4th class children loved her dearly. I particularly remember Peter Richardson and Lindsay Robb avowing their love.

We brought flowers, *usually* remembering to omit wattle which made Mrs. Mephams sneeze. We showed our teeth, fingernails, and clean handkerchiefs daily and were left no doubt about the function of 'Policemen'.

When I was in Grade 5, senior pupils were invited to plan a new design for the school garden. I think Florence Robb's and Marcia Simcock's ideas were adopted. The Mephams have always been keen gardeners and they made Horticulture and Nature Studies fascinating subjects. Many Somerville gardens have a flowering gum propagated from seeds of Eucalyptus Ficifolia trees in the school grounds.

During my last years at Somerville State School, 7th and 8th grades were phased out. All students progressed to Secondary School. Younger children in the 'big room' no longer added a smattering of Latin, which was taught to the seniors, to their already well-rounded education under the tutelage of Mr. Mephams.

'The House', a ground floor plan under the cypresses, had walls and beds made of living moss. This was passed on by successive senior girls and was often inspected and criticized by immediate past housekeepers. The tradition then died, I wonder if this was a unique idea and who instigated it.

Shocked teachers and pupils had to adapt to loss and sudden change when our school was burnt to the ground.

In the Church of England Parish Hall, where I completed my primary schooling, spilt ink was unwanted and biros were suddenly acceptable. My biro was moody, but so much easier than dealing with the tricky refilling of a fountain pen and bliss compared with the compulsory 'dip-in' with which I learnt to write. The latter would scissor, jab into the paper, splutter and blot its blue-black, school-mixed ink, with agonising regularity.

I was one of twelve pupils, six girls and six boys who completed their primary schooling at Somerville State School in 1954. In later years it became evident that we had every reason to be grateful for the skilful teaching, kindly guidance and encouragement which we received there.



All the children of the school, 1952.

A NEW ERA 1960's - 1970's AND BEYOND

The 1960's saw a gradual growth in the population of Somerville. This was accelerated in the 1970's, as many farms and orchards were subdivided into housing estates and hobby farms.

With the growth of the town came an increase in the school population creating once more a problem of overcrowding. New rooms were added to the school in 1962 and 1965. Later, with the population explosion of the 1970's, re-locatable classrooms became a permanent feature of the school.

In 1965, the original site of 2½ acres was increased to 4½ acres. The 60's and 70's saw many changes in Victorian Primary School education. After the post war 'baby boom' had squeezed its way through the Primary Schools and more rooms, more teachers and more resources became available, experiments in more enlightened approaches to education were attempted.

The 1954 Social Studies course led the way for the children to be involved in projects and group work which required Reading, Research, Recording, Reorganizing and Relating information to the class rather than learning and memorising lists of facts. This approach has been extended into areas of science, health, etc. under today's title of 'General Studies'.

The various fragmented sections of English such as Grammar, Sentence Structure, Composition, Poetry and Punctuation which had previously been taught in isolation were gradually united under the heading 'Language' which was integrated more closely with most subjects of the curriculum. Greater emphasis was also placed on Oral Language.

Experimentation took place using various methods of teaching reading including; Look and Say, Sentence and Word methods, words in colour, phonetic alphabet and limited phonics. Greater emphasis was placed on silent reading and comprehension rather than the 'barking at print'. Reading Rate Controllers were used to increase the speed of silent reading and 'SRA', 'WARDS' and other individualized kits and reading schemes became very common.

The Victorian Cursive Script was used throughout the state in an effort to increase legibility and speed of writing and the biro took over from pen and ink.

1966 saw the introduction of 'Maths' in the Primary School rather than the old Arithmetic course with its mental, speed and accuracy processes and problems. Although the use of Cuisenaire caused many teachers, children and parents some worry, the Maths course does increase the child's knowledge of mathematical concepts, spatial relations, equations, value relations, etc.

Physical Education was more systematically taught to ensure that areas such as gymnastics, ball handling, athletic skills, major and minor games, swimming skills and dancing were all included and the camping program was introduced.

The Art/Craft Program of the 60's ensured that children were given experience with painting, drawing, printing, threads and textiles, clay modelling and constructions, whilst in the Art and Music programs, attempts were made to increase cultural awareness.

Experimentation has also been carried out with various forms of school organisation including 'team teaching in open areas, streaming, fluid grouping of various types and multi age or 'family grouping'.

LIFE AT SOMERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THE SIXTIES

I wonder how many people were as influenced by Somerville Primary School as I was when they attended here. It is because of the terrific time I had at primary school and those teachers who gave me such fond and wonderful memories that I became a teacher.

I find this a rather strange exercise, sitting down and writing about life at Somerville Primary School in the sixties. I guess it's because, here I am, back at the school, twenty years later as a teacher.

After sitting down and recalling various events I found, strangely enough, that most of those I remember vividly are incidents or exploits that occurred, rather than "educational experiences". I wonder whether the children I am teaching today will remember similar type experiences in twenty years time.

Those "educational classroom events" I remember, were doing IMP maths (around grade 4), having class table races to determine who would become "King" or "Queen" for the day, and those rubber fights (the cheese type were most favored as you could pick off pieces to flick around the room) whenever the teacher left the room. I class the last one as educational as you had to take careful aim and develop your physical co-ordination to strike your target. I remember desk tops were always a good shield!

The other events I spoke of, I have listed below in point form as there seems to be no sequence into which I could write them - My education at Somerville Primary School began in 1964 . . .

* The first day I found intriguing, witnessing tearful children and parents leaving each other for what may have been the first time. My sympathy is now extended to our prep. teacher that year who had to deal with some tears and children considering escape from the room to go home with Mum.

I felt rather proud of myself shedding no tears, as my mother had left me at my grandmother's earlier that morning, as she was off to work, and I was to walk to school with my aunt. Tears, I felt, would have done me no good as Mum was well and truly at work, and so I sat there in stunned silence.

* Infant assemblies were always enjoyable, with Miss Carruthers playing the piano for us to sing with, usually out of tune. Songs like "Old MacDonald's Farm" and "Five Little Ducks".

* My only other infant memory I have is of those "red shorts". These we wore to the Annual School Sports; however, they did have a dual purpose - embarrassed was the child who had to wear them at school for the remainder of the day if they didn't quite make it to the toilet on time! Everyone knew!

My other memories are of middle and upper school life events.

* The most vivid recollection I still have of Somerville Primary School is of the school winning one of the aggregate shields at the Eastern Peninsula School Sports Association day. Having trained hard for this event and having won two prized first ribbons on the day, I think this was a special day that I will always remember. The year was 1968.

* The training that we all did and the encouragement we received from the teachers of the time, really paid off this year. We used to be at school at eight o'clock and running laps of the oval before school in preparation of this event. How we all worked so hard! Mr. Walshe was our Principal at the time and I remember how he urged us all to train, and how pleased he was when we won.

* In our grade 3/4 class having; Mrs. Ryan read us "The Faraway Tree" books. I loved these stories and have even bought my own copies of the stories which I read from time to time.

The other thing I recall was Mrs. Ryan's fabulous blackboard drawings – how we all envied them! It is here that there is one black spot in my memory. We always used to wonder why our teacher had so many absences. It wasn't until the end of the year (I think it was 1968) that we learnt she had died. She had been in her twenties (I think). I remember how stunned I was.

I now look back with fondness of the wonderful years (two) I spent in her classroom. She was a teacher I had a great deal of respect for.

* End of year school concerts held in the Mechanics Hall were always great. How excited we all became the week before the concert. Who would be coming to watch us? Mum, Dad, Grandma etc.? This was a time of high spirits.

One year I felt particularly honored to play the piano at one of those concerts.

* Charlie Over The Water used to be one of our favorite games on the asphalt netball court.

I introduced this game to the children of my class this year (1985) and it's just as popular as it was in my time!

The only other game I vividly remember was "kiss chasey". We girls always chose a boy who couldn't run as fast as us, as to be caught and kissed would have been a fate worse than death.

I distinctly remember one game when the chaser got fed up with chasing us and demanded a kiss from each of us before the game continued. That game came to an abrupt end!

* Lunch orders were a special event in the sixties. We would order from Mrs. Parkinson's little shop on Hastings Road and get an enormous lunch for twenty cents with change being left over for lollies to buy on the way home. Cream buns, pies etc. were the order of the day.

* Walking home was always an event in itself. As we walked home in our friendship groups, we would often stop and talk to "cockie" who lived on the corner of Hastings Road and Eramosa Road (near where Crowder's is today). Cockie would dance for us and on the odd occasion someone might try to teach him the odd swear word.

* Finally, this memory arose the other day at school when a grade six team had to be picked for the Lions Club Quiz, held at Balnarring Hall. In 1970, Helen Cousland, Annette Yates and myself were the representatives for Somerville Primary School. I remember we drew that night. (I can't remember with which team, although I think it may have been Hastings) We had to have a tie-breaker.

We, an all girl team were asked a "cricket" question which was seeking information on a famous Australian batsman. You may guess that we didn't know the answer. After all, who on earth was Donald Bradman?

The other team was asked, "Who was the famous Egyptian Queen who committed suicide by clasping an asp to her breast?" It wasn't fair! "Cleopatra", we thought, "Didn't everyone know that?"

Consequently we lost the quest. How close it had been!

This memory has served a useful purpose though, for as the 1985 Somerville Primary School team consisting of Gordon Taylor, Adam Webber, Ryan Pritchard, and emergencies Scott Debernardi and Natalie Jones prepare for their appearance at the quest, you can be sure of one thing. If a question about a famous Australian batsman comes up, they'll know the answer.

Joanne Atkins.
(nee Ottaway)

THE SCHOOL SPORTS

It is funny how everyone I have talked to about this very special day has only vague recollections, and yet there was an exciting feeling about attending. We all remember going down to the Hastings Football Oval in private cars or sometimes on a bus, with great expectations.

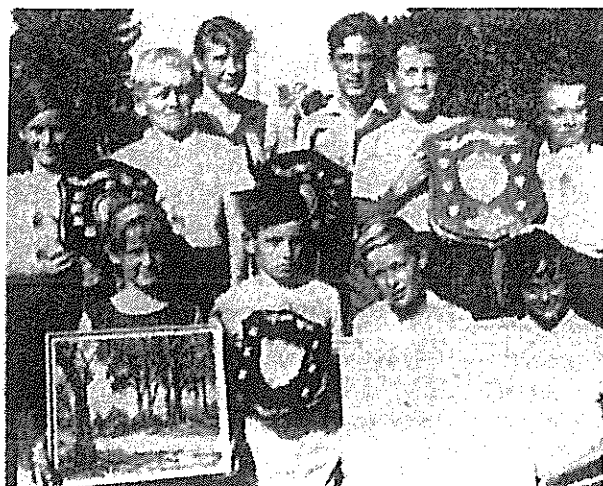
The whole school attended these days, wearing red shorts and white T-shirts. The other schools arrived wearing their school colours. Some of these schools were the Hastings State Schools and Catholic schools, Crib Point Catholic and State schools, both Tyabb schools, Baxter, Moorooduc, Bittern, Red Hill Consolidated, Pearcedale and French Island State Schools. The sports day was known as the 'Eastern Peninsula Combined State School Sports'. There were hundreds of children all the way around the ground.

I can remember one particular year, our school champions were Kerry Debernardi and Anne Tarbolton, they won all the events they participated in and were the Boy and Girl Champions of the Sports. This was a great honour and Kerry and Anne carried the banner to start the marching at the end of the day.

The events I can recall were, running, high jump, long jump, sack races, cross ball and tunnel ball, relay races, which, in those days were run in a straight line and not around the oval. The students sat together in school sections, cheering on their school and when our turn to compete came, the feeling was quite tremendous.

I can't remember whether we actually won the school sports, but we must have come very close. At the end of the day we would all march around the oval following the school banner and sit in our group to wait for the announcement as to which school was the overall winner. They would then be presented with a perpetual shield.

You know, it's funny now, talking to other people who went to school around the same time, that they all have the same feeling as I. When we hear the music we used to march to, we all have the same urge to get up and march.



Winners and Trophies, 1968.

At the Eastern Peninsula Combined State School Sports held at Hastings last week these children displayed the trophies they won.

Back Row: Kuron Clarke and Ralph Tarbolton (Somerville S.S.) with "C. H. Hodgins" Athletics Shield, Janice Scott and Roy Cox (French Is. S.S.) with "K. J. A. Grant" Shield for team games, Adrian Libisifer and Patsy Reisinger (Somerville S.S.) with "D. J. Dacy" Shield for Section 'A' team games.

Front Row: Marianne Goritchon and William Campbell (St. Joseph's Crib Point) with S.S.B. Shield for Athletics Supremacy Section B and Painting for Aggregate Section 'B', John Sage and Jan Arnold (Somerville State School) with painting for Section 'B'.

On the afternoon of the 20-7-1969, the excited pupils gathered around the television sets and watched as the first man landed and walked on the Moon.

The 'paper-shed' was an important fund raiser for the school. Under the guidance of the hard-working and capable President of the mother's Club, parents collected, sorted, stacked and tied bundles of newspapers. Their hard and often grubby work raised many thousands of dollars for school equipment.

After many years of campaigning, in 1974 supervised school crossings at Eramosa Road and Frankston-Flinders Road meant safety for the children crossing the increasingly busy roads.

With the school literally bursting at the seams, Stage 1 or the 'core building' of a bright, spacious new school was completed during the 1978 school year.

AN OVERVIEW OF SS 2656 TODAY

Steadily growing, Somerville Primary School is situated on a 1.77 ha site which will be increased to 3.117 ha when the purchase of the site extension has been completed.

The buildings comprise an incongruous mixture of the two old rooms from Eildon together with three L.T.C. classrooms and canteen, plus two very old portables, three 5 Module metal relocatables and the modern architect designed core building. The core contains four attractive open plan learning areas, an exciting split-level library, a gymnasium-type general purpose room, an art room, sick bay, toilets, staffroom, offices and adequate storage and resource rooms.

The policy of our school embraces notions of a high regard for the individual, and development of the total person; socially, academically, physically, creatively and in terms of attitudes, values and appreciations.

The teachers work hard to help equip our children with the appropriate skills and attitudes that will enable them to function happily and confidently in, and to contribute positively to, the rapidly changing society in which they live.

Currently some school programs are in a transitional stage, as the child based developmental learning experience approach is being fostered. The total language program, including the newly adopted approaches to the writing process, is assuming greater significance as an integral part of all learning activities.

Parents are involved in a variety of school activities including: reading, "Goodger" Maths, electives and conferencing and typing for the writing process.

We have specialist teachers to promote physical development and to foster cultural and creative pursuits, and an extensive horticulture program is used to encourage environmental awareness and to enhance the school surroundings.

Electronic equipment such as listening posts, and a video recorder and camera are widely used and the school has just been donated its first computer.

Equal opportunity for girls and boys is being encouraged, and the integration of mentally, visually and physical disadvantaged children is taking place.

The stimulating physical and social environment and the policies and programs outlined above together with the caring, interest and energy of staff members make Somerville School today an exciting and happy place at which children enjoy the success of learning.

In the year of our Centenary, Somerville Primary School has begun some new programs as well as having extended and retained existing programs.

A Development Learning approach has begun in the Infant Department, where the emphasis is on planning, or initiating programs for the child rather than fitting the child into the program. Teachers have become 'kid-watchers' rather than 'kid-testers'.

Throughout the school, great emphasis is placed on story writing. Children have become 'authors' and regularly 'publish' books, which are read by other children. The children now read books instead of 'readers', listen to taped stories on headphones, give book reports, have short intense silent reading sessions and participate in shared book experiences with the teacher using 'big books'.

Reading, spelling, story writing, sentence structure, grammar and punctuation are no longer 'taught' in an isolated manner, but are 'caught' during the Natural Language activities.

Handwriting has changed too. The new state wide handwriting course is more natural, letters have the same basic shape in all grades and it caters for the different writing implements we use today. Somerville was one of the few schools chosen to trial the new handwriting course.

A 'hands on' approach to mathematics called the 'Goodger Maths' is used in grades 3-6. The children enjoy using all the concrete learning material, and inside and out is a buzz of activity.

Of course our school still has general studies, art, physical education, sport, library, music, science, horticulture, television and video, and our newest addition is a computer. However we still have assemblies, recesses and lunch-break.

During the last few years, the school garden has once more become a focal point of the school. Every child participates in the planting and upkeep of the garden, giving them a pride in their school surrounds. In 1983 and 1984 the schools gardens have won prizes for the 'most improved school garden' in the Western Port region.

Since the beginning of the 1980's the school population has increased from 170 to its present peak of 420 students.

The school has overcome many difficulties over the last century, coping with persistent overcrowding, and shortages of equipment etc., however it has always been a happy place for the thousands of children who have attended, leaving them with many happy memories, and a good basic education, which has enabled them to pursue their many and varied careers.



Grade six children, 1985.

HEAD TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS 1885-1985

NAME	YEAR
Marion Carter	1885-1895
John Whitfield	1895-1904
Joseph Sleeman	1904-1906
Arthur Holmes	1907 (Jan-May)
James Horsfall	1907-1910
George Reed	1910-1915
Thomas White	1916-1918
Samuel Uren	1918-1927
Thomas Webster	1927-1936
Frederick Binder	1936-1941
Thomas Currie	1941-1944
Donald McInnes	1944-1947
Harold Mephram	1947-1959
H.T. O'Toole	1959 (Feb-May)
R. Franklin	1959-1960
L.K. Donnelly	1960-1961
S.J. Magee	1961
K. Kirk	1962-1964
J.A. Hellwege	1964-1966
C.H. Harling	1966-1968
George Walshe	1968
Ronald Yates	1969-1973
J. Ann Carr	1973
Bruce Lundgren	1974
Geoffrey Hudson	1975
Barry Darnett	1976-1977
Betty Hardwick	1978-1983
Dennis Cronin (Temp)	1982 (July-Dec)
J. Vic. Pickens	1983

ROLL CALL 1985

STAFF AND CHILDREN IN ATTENDANCE DURING 1985 - THE CENTENARY YEAR

Each Class Teacher is listed at the head of his/her class.

Other Staff Members are:

Principal - Vic Pickens
 Librarian - Margaret Page
 Music - Barry Ross
 Temp. Appointee - Debra Hamilton
 School Secretary - Lyn Carey
 P.T. Cleaner - Mary Hines
 Teachers on leave from the school:
 Merran Stewart - 1 year L.W/OP
 Christine Gillard - Family Leave
 Sharron Hearn - Family Leave

Deputy Principal - Leigh Joslin
 Art/Craft - Leigh Gordon
 Phys. Education - Pam Kenton
 Reliever - Julie Cosnett
 F.T. Cleaner - Barry Glenister

Kerryn Smith - Family Leave
 Patricia Hunter - Family Leave

YEAR 6A
Joanne Atkins

Scott Debernardi
 Glen Cassar
 Hing Kwong
 Craig McQuilkin
 Cameron Miller
 Sean Murphy
 Ryan Pritchard
 Jason Spark
 Simon Strode
 Paul Twikler

Adam Webber
 Matthew Whitson
 Matthew Willshire
 Russell Wootton
 David Smith
 Jeremy Leighton
 Beth Bowler
 Raelene Elliott
 Natalie Jones
 Rebecca Keep
 Dorothy Kukwa

Tracy Laurence
 Gillian Lord
 Michelle Lovell
 Samantha Munday
 Penny Oram
 Samantha Rogers
 Jodi Shepherd
 Melissa Shiner
 Fiona Sparkes
 Amanda Stevens
 Mimi Stoffels
 Kerrie Wiseman

YEAR 6G
Sherry Graham

Morgan Beniada
 Bradley Bride
 Jason Compaan
 Daniel Graham
 Brett James
 Greg Kent
 Damian Lyons
 Darren Phillips
 Chris Robson

Peter Seaman
 Glen Spokes
 Dean Taylor
 Gordon Taylor
 Michael Wasseige
 Janet Begent
 Suzie Clements
 Karen Comfort
 Adele Cookson
 Lee-Anne Devlin
 Karla Edridge

Kim Hudson
 Jennifer Ingledew
 Lisa Jennings
 Daniella Juraschek
 Sharon Knapp
 Joanne Nathan
 Lori Sadler
 Sarah Sheffield
 Jacqueline White
 Claire Wilson
 Karen Wilson

YEAR 5L
Sue Lyons

Trevor Balcke
 Danny Barlow
 Rohan Bayley
 Graeme Corn
 Matthew Harper
 Matthew Leary
 Aaron Maslen
 Scott Norton
 Michael Rule

Matthew Ryley
 Craig Smith
 Leigh Smith
 Ross Smythe
 Adrian Spark
 Dillon Taylor

Carole Barber
 Melanie Beckham
 Leah Broadbent

Sally Charleston
 Tristin Donald
 Melissa Govier
 Kylie Harris
 Jenny Lanting
 Kirsty Lobb
 Kylie McDonnell
 Claire Mott
 Alison Osterberg
 Angie Rowe
 Emma Seaman

YEAR 5W
Tony Wynton

Stuart Allen
Matthew Bell
Jonathan Crewe
Andrew Kennedy
Paul Cox
Christopher Jones
Brendan Jenkinson
Geoffrey Nanscawen
Matthew Parker

Ben Price
Devan Rippey
Ashley Shepherd
Craig Smith
Stuart Warden
Jason Waugh
Ben White
Nicole Czebotar
Natasha Frith
Andrea Graeme

Catherine Howard
Sarah Lawson
Narelle Leitch
Antoinette Parkes
Vanessa Phillips
Danielle Pullin
Cristy Surridge
Katie Thomas
Kelly Waddington
Rachael Zvirbulis

YEAR 4C
Bob Cannon

Chris Andrews
Michael Atkins
Colin Balcke
Michael Benton
Jamie Brady
Gary Compaan
Michael Devlin
Adrian Herron
Steven Hunter
Matthew Inglis

Anthony Kucic
Damon Lawrence
Adam Leahy
Andrew Lee-Brown
Damien Lobb
Beau Piercy
James Sparkes
Ryan Zinnow
Sharon Bailey
Jeynelle Broatch

Belinda Campbell
Sarah Eling
Jody Flower
Carly Gilbert
Chevaune Hume
Kate McIntosh
Sarah Munday
Celeste Murphy
Tammy Shepherd
Michelle Stevens
Kara Tuddin

YEAR 4H
Greg Hammon

Graham Bouette
Adam Delaney
Michael Frew
Matthew Harridge
Cameron Leary
Steven Lovell
Jamie Mason
Brad Miller
David Perrins
Darrel Pearce

Trent Piercy
Andrew Ralston
Craig Robson
Matthew Shepherd
Michael Wilson
Chris Young
Sharon Gordon
Rachel Harrison
Katie Herbert
Teleen Humbles

Sarah Kratochvil
Cathy Martin
Danielle Murray
Colleen Nanscawen
Lindy Paul
Kirsty Pettigrove
Rachel Price
Julie Shepherd
Wendy Smith
Kirsty Surridge
Rebecca Unthank

YEAR 3B
Trevor Bull

Terry Barlow
Luke Bell
Max Boundy
Leigh Cutting
Brent Debernardi
Darren Fisher
Steven Gray
Anthony Haynes
Aaron Hume
Travis Miller

John Paule
Luke Rowe
Jason Shaw
Darren Strobe
Robbie Taylor
Dean Waddington
Jamie Waugh
David Whittam
Robyn Bailey
Karli Barnett
Anna Bayley

Lisa Chilvers
Tanya Collins
Nicole Corn
Sharon Foden
Michelle Herron
Rebecca Jones
Belinda Leighton
Michelle Terry
Anna Walsh
Leigh Warwick
Dionne Zinnow

YEAR 3H
Cheryl Humphrey

Corey Adolphus
Darren Ashdown
Danny Brueckner
Michael Brightwell
Troy Clements
Brett Delaney
Timothy Jack
Callum Jones
Matthew Keep
Scott McHarry

Wayne Milburn
Paul O'Flaherty
Glen Strange
Russell Thomas
Brock Thynne
Steven Till
Nicole Bate
Sharon Bride
Caroline Carter
Tammy Govier

Danyelle Gowdy
Nicole Jenkinson
Meleana Kaitu'u
Linda Kidson
Marzenka Kukwa
Christina Lawson
Rachel Meehan
Jodi Rippey
Kylie Thomson
Holly Stewart
Fredericka Van Enk

YEAR 2D
Peter Daniel

Ben Ashurst
Andrew Begent
Ryan Benton
Gavin Corn
Jamie Faccioni
Bradley Gray
Bradley Harper
Scott James
Ernest Jones

Oliver King
Michael Kratochvil
Andrew Lyncoln
Brett Milburn
Peter Roberts
Dale Smith
Chris Willshire
Terri Austin
Felicity Balfour
Merissa Collins

Julie Gilbert
Laura Hovens
Vanessa Jones
Leigh Kent
Jodie Marsden
Kylie Miller
Tobie Newman
Gayle Shepherd
Kristy Smith
Natalie Trott

YEAR 2U
Jacqueline Utber

Paul Boyen
Tane Broadbent
Michael Carlstrom
Ryan Crockett
Daniel Czebotar
Mark Gray
Shane Gunston
Daniel Hurford
Chris Parker

Clinton Paul
Bradley Quinlan
Alex Raeburn
Bradley Smith
Lucas Van Dyk
Bradley Wilson
Simone Aiello
Kelly Ashdown
Audrey Beniada
Jade Boundy
Kelly Edwards

Cassie Gilbert
Misty Cunningham
Carleen Hobbs
Katie Lowe
Kim McQuilkin
Adielle Murray
Juanita Murray
Kelly Stewart
Martina Surridge
Leonie Terry
Michelle White

YEAR 1L
Phillipa Lancaster

Darren Andrews
Steven Beaumont
Anthony Bertuola
Justin Elliot
Jon Garnett
Daniel Garret
Scott Griffiths
Daniel Henry

Joshua Hurford
Ben Kwong
Mark Leary
Glenn Richards
Troy Richards
Ben Shepherd
Alan Zammitt
Kirsty Airs
Sarah Benton
Amber Boundy

Stacey Burns
Eleanor Collins
Kirsty Hird
Luisa Kaitu'u
Nicole Shaw
Caroline Madeley
Ann-Marie Thomson
Alisha Waddington
Holly White
Fiona Collins

YEAR 1P
Dawn Peters

Brendan Bastin
David Brightwell
Adam Brueckner
Clayton Griffiths
Mark Harper
Stuart Harridge
Bradley Hodgins
Shaun Hunt
Scott Linford
Ben Norton

Dale Quinlan
Bradley Shepherd
Brent Thomas
Jason Walker
Danny Wilson
Aaron Utber
Kylie Bell
Kristy Bidgood
Emma Cooper

Angela Cutting
Melissa Ferabend
Stacey Gowdy
Jodie Harris
Stacey Jessop
Leonie Martin
Nicole Mournian
Megan Rees
Kristy Van Berlo

YEAR PREP/S
Patricia Sullivan

Andrew Cameron
Sean Charles
Keith Delany
Jason Fisher
Martin Leahy
Alister McHarry
Adam Metcalfe
Douglas Sparkes
Nicholas Speed

Paul Starkey
Daniel Trott
Matthew Unthank
Chantel Adolphus
Prue Barling
Hayley Blogg
Lauren Bouette
Narelle Corn

Sarah Dousset
Joanne Gilbert
Sarah James
Kelly Jenkinson
Rachel Smith
Mary Walker
Talia Wilson
Wendy Stewart

YEAR PREP/R
Julie Reading

Roy Carlstrom
Daniel Couper
Adam Fillis
Benjamin Kent
Grant Kidson
Timothy Mason
Matthew Roberts
Daniel Strode
Marcus Van Enk

Jarrold Vetesi
James Wangman
Shyvonne Aiello
Shanna Anderson
Jodie Barnes
Hayley Beecroft
Natalie Chatfield
Lisa Darnelle

Janelle Flower
Lisa Henry
Leanne Kinnane
Amanda Murray
Samantha Stevens
Megan Walsh
Debra Jones
Stacey Wood

YEAR P/1/2A
Barbara Alpine

Daniel Anderson
Justin Flower
Warwick Frith
Ryan Johnson
Shane Thompson
Jason Vetesi
Sarah Mutch
Helen Privett

Kirsten Rust
Ailsa Stewart
Adrian Fisher
Jarrod Frew
Shane Ganderton
Kerry Balcke
Kylie Danks
Rebecca Leahy

Christopher Austin
Michael Chadd
Edward Dearing
Nathan Jones
Rebecca Christian
Angela Crewe
Narissa Crockett
Jessica Reiserger

1985 SCHOOL COUNCIL

Parent Representatives:

Ian Rowe (President)
Laurel Broadbent (Secretary)
Robyn Walsh (Treasurer)
Margaret Pettigrove, Brian Parker,
Eddie Utber, Kim Anderson,
Christopher Warwick.

Teacher Representatives:

Leigh Joslin (Vice President)
Peter Daniel, Sherry Graham,
Sue Lyons, Cheryl Humphrey,
Joanne Atkins, Leigh Gordon,
Greg Hammon.

Parent Club Representatives:

Rae Frith, Barbara Willshire.

Principal:

Vic Pickens.

1985 PARENT CLUB OFFICIALS

Jane Shaw (President)
Margaret Norton (Secretary)
Millie McQuilkin (Treasurer)

