

Glen Park Primary School  
Providing quality state education since 1872  
(150 years serving our community)

EVERY  
SCHOOL  
EVERY  
CHILD

Glen Park Primary School

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to our FACEBOOK page.

By T. Shaw principal (1997-2022)



# Glen Park Gazette

*A big thank you to the staff of Glen Park Primary: Pauline Moody,*

*Heather Angow, Linda Duke, Ryan Uren, Kirrily Urquhart, Kari O'Gorman, Alison Middleton, and our supportive school community*

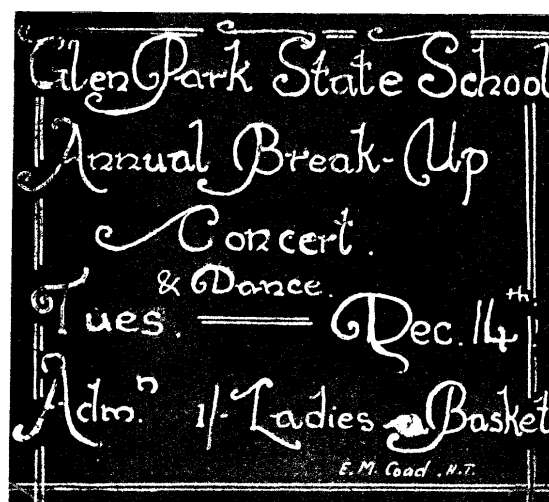
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## OUR FIRST FEMALE HEAD TEACHER

As well as it being the 150th birthday of Glen Park PS and state education in Victoria, this year is also my 25th year as head teacher/Principal of Glen Park PS. I'm proud to be part of the story of free, secular and compulsory education that began in 1872, Happy birthday to Glen Park and state education in Victoria. Agnes Hanlon was our first female Head Teacher—1917-1920

**Agnes Hanlon**, born in 1882, was the first female Head Teacher appointed to the school, although Nora Lyngberg acted in the position during 1917. Agnes gained her Merit Certificate, then became a probationary teacher in January 1901 at the age of nineteen. She was appointed to Glen Park S.S. in 1917 during the First World War. It seems that there were a number of female Head Teachers being appointed at this time and in the years that followed. This may have resulted from the number of men being employed in essential services and fighting overseas. Agnes Hanlon taught at the school for three and a half

years and received favourable reports from the Inspector on his visits. She transferred to Bangerang West S.S., near Stawell in 1920 and was forced to retire due to ill health in 1931 at the age of forty-nine. Another Female head teacher, Miss Goad (1944-45) hand wrote this ticket (below) to the school concert in 1944



## 2022 UPDATE



***Our new outdoor learning space finished in November.***

***Future work in 2023 will include a new fence, shade sail and a sensory garden.***

This year has been an 'almost back to normal' year for us after lockdowns and learning from home in 2020-21. We have been getting back to basics with our personalised learning program and resumption of tutoring and LOTE and MARC Van visits. We have also started music therapy this year and resumed our excursion program. This year has been dominated by the building of our deck which we are looking forward to using now its finished. (It will enable us to start other jobs in 2023.) This year long-time office manager, Heather Angow and Tutor/special needs teacher Alison Middleton have retired. A big thank you to them and good luck in the future.

Next year we will welcome three preps to the school (Our largest Prep intake for 13 years) Our 151st year will be another big year for us.

## History of Glen Park 1918-1962

### *Between the wars*

In 1919 repairs had to be made to the school building to stop rabbits living under it. They were doing considerable damage to the flower bed in the school garden. *(still a problem)*

Throughout the early part of this century many dances and fund-raising events were held in the school to raise funds for books, pictures, and a piano in the school. In 1912 the former Head teacher, Adam Long, wrote to the Education Department complaining that dances had lasted until two or three o'clock in the morning causing him to have almost sleepless nights.

In one letter he wrote, *"Will our Education Department sanction the use of our state school for dancing purposes, which I look upon as demoralising to our youth and unmixed evil. I taught for 27 years and never gave my sanction to such practices."*

Catherine Ritchie wrote on behalf of the school committee, explaining that the community did not have a hall in which to conduct such fundraising activities and that all funds raised went to the benefit of the school. Permission was then granted for dances to be held. It seems that the dances were extremely popular in the district and attendances of up to 200 people were not uncommon. It appears that many practical jokes were played on such occasions, particularly with the horses and buggies used to transport the participants. Common tricks were to remove the horse from the shafts and harness it again back to front in the shafts. Another popular prank was to put the shafts of the buggy through the fence and then harness the horse on the other side of the fence. In the early 1930's a Red Cross concert was held, with admission costing one shilling. The dance raised over twenty pounds but during the night a huge downpour flooded many local streams and Mr. Norton Davidson recalls spending the night at the school as he was unable to get home on his bicycle. During the 1930's the school was granted an area, opposite the White Swan Hotel, as an endowment plantation. On Arbor Day, each year, the children would walk to the site and plant pine trees. The mothers would cut sandwiches for lunch at the hotel and an enjoyable day was had by all. Although the trees would not have reached maturity at the time, there is no record of their fate when the reservoir was constructed.

In 1935 permission was given for the removal of pine trees which were casting shade on the vegetable and potato plots, affecting the growth of the patch.

In 1936, Mr. Giacometti, the Head Teacher purchased an Emmco, battery operated, wireless set for the sum of forty pounds. After many requests for urgent works to be carried out on the school building, action was finally taken in 1937. The building was raised, defective timbers were replaced, a new floor was installed and the building was painted. The cost of these works was £95.

### *Joyce Ralston remembered her time at the school*

JOYCE RALSTON (nee GOLDSMITH) A pupil 1926 - 1934  
During the year 1926 Miss Coles was teaching at Glen Park SS 1135.

As Miss Coles resided in Melbourne she boarded at our home, so at the early age of 4 1/2 years I walked off to school holding that lovely ladies hand. Those days we wrote on our slates with scratchy slate pencil.

Mr Allen taught next, he rode a motor bike. Mr Robert Gowan rode a bicycle out from Ballarat each day, he was a wonderful teacher. Those days we had a Garden Plot at the back of the school ground, we all shared the chores of digging, planting, weeding, watering etc of the vegetables, flowers & strawberries. Some times we would go for nature hikes. We planted pine plantations, our parents would come with us and help on Arbor days, the proceeds of sales of the pines would go to the up keep of the school.

The only heating at the school was the open fire place. After roll call of a morning we would do exercises and running on the spot to warm us up before class. We would take turns to walk to the Post Office to get the teacher's mail during our lunch time break.

The girls played Football, Cricket, Rounders etc with the boys, we did not have competitive sports in those days.

Mr Gowan tried to teach the children swimming in a muddy dam not far from the school. I mostly minded the little ones, never did learn to swim.

We used to decorate the school and have a Concert for the Christmas break up. Proceeds would go to the up keep of the school.

During the latter years the District School Inspector would walk into the classroom unannounced and I might say unexpected by Teacher and Pupils. Mr Gill or Mr Heathcote are names I remember, they would pick out a child at random to recite a poem or work out a sum on the blackboard, examine our work books etc. I do not know whose face would be the reddest the poor teacher or the pupils. On the last day of school Mr Gowan always had a special treat for us. I shall never forget the lovely red and yellow toffee slabs that the senior girls would crack up and place in white paper bags.

Perhaps that is why I shall always have proud and wonderful memories of having been educated and received my Merit Certificate from Mr Gowan, Head Teacher of the "Glen Park State School 1135" in 1934.





### **The Inspector**

The visit of Inspector was dreaded by teacher and pupil alike. He would often arrive unannounced to conduct his annual inspection of the school. The Inspector's Report Book, recording his comments, from 1924 until the early seventies. Is a goldmine of information. The Inspector was required to make a comprehensive inspection of the school and a written report in five areas: Grounds, Buildings and Furniture, Organisation, Instruction and Discipline. Favourable reports were very important to the teachers as they determined their salary and influenced opportunities for promotion. Children were often selected at random from the class and questioned, asked to read a passage from their reader or solve mathematical equations.

The following are extracts from the Inspector's Report Book and indicate the thorough nature of their inspection.

The 'out office's (toilets), rated regular mention in the reports:  
1926 The seats of one of the out offices needs immediate attention.

1939 Pans in the out offices need regular emptying.

1948 Out office pans are receiving regular attention.

The gardening efforts of the children resulted in many positive comments:

1926 great improvement has been noted in the school garden since my last visit.

1939 The potato experimental plot is flourishing.

1954 I have recommended that the school join the Victorian State School's Horticultural Society.

Comments on the instruction of the pupils were generally favourable, although the Inspector often found some area to criticise.

1926 Poetry was tested in the upper grades. The poems were rendered too fast with a tendency to slur words and insufficient expression.

1932 More songs should be taught.

The Head Teacher would have been ill advised to disregard the advice of the Inspector, who regularly made comment upon areas of deficiency noted at previous visits.

**Photo above is of children in the school garden in the 1940s.**



### **June Sobey remembered her time at Glen Park**

JUNE SOBEY (nee CARTLEDGE) (A pupil 1941 - 1950)

I started at the Glen Park School in 1941, there were four in my family going to the school at this time my brothers, Jim, Steve and Bill and myself. There were 11 children in my family. We lived at the bottom of Jimmy Longs Hill and we cut across the paddocks to get to school. At school we used to take it in turns to go and get the mail, Peterkins up the road from the school used to be the post office. When it was nature study day, if the weather was warm we would go for a day in the bush, we would take lunches, we thought it was rather good. Sports day was another great day. We would bob for apples, have an egg and spoon race, and a sack race as well as running and other sports.

We used to play in the area before they built the White Swan Reservoir. When they started digging the holes we thought it was great, because we had the great mounds of dirt to run up and down in, we also used to walk along the big pipes. One day my brother Steve and I wagged school and we went swimming in a dam in the bush, we remembered it was bank day, and we had to get our bank books from school so mum wouldn't know we wagged. When we got back to school everyone had left, there were some swaggies and their dogs camped in the shelter shed. They had a fire going and they were eating hard boiled eggs, shells were everywhere on the ground, we got scared and ran home. We all had a garden at school. The boys grew vegetables and we planted flowers, my garden was a big round one. There were three teachers as I can remember Mrs Knights, Miss Terry and Mr Swenson. There were about 14 children going to school.

We used to like Mrs Knight, she had an old car, it could hardly make it up Jimmy Longs Hill, if we were walking up the hill we would give her a push and she gave us a bag of lollies. I left Glen Park when I was 13 and came to Ballarat and went to the Humffray Street School.

### **The Glen Park Methodist Church (photo above)**

Was situated where the CFA shed is now. (When I first arrived here you could still see its foundations) It was closed and was demolished in 1975 due to the poor state of the building and the declining numbers of the congregation.

**Our next edition will cover 1963-2022**

## GLEN PARK PUB and CRICKET CLUB

The White Swan is best known today as a reservoir but the name originated from a hotel which was built on the site last century by William Ritchie an immigrant from Scotland, who still has descendants living in the district today. One well known story involving the White Swan Hotel is that during the days leading up to the Eureka Revolt in 1854, a group of miners from the Creswick diggings set out on foot to join the diggers at Eureka. On the way they were caught in a terrible rain storm and sought shelter at the White Swan Hotel. These miners never made it to the Eureka Stockade. It closed in the 1920s. The reservoir covering it was completed in 1952.



The Glen Park Cricket Club seems to have existed during two distinct periods. The only evidence of the first Glen Park Cricket Club is in the form of the attached Members Ticket for season 1924-25 and team photo. Why it disbanded in the 1930s, nobody knows.

The Glen Park Cricket Club was reformed at a meeting held at the Glen Park State School on October 23rd 1945.

In order to maintain a team in the later years, many players from the surrounding districts had to be called in to make up numbers. After 1958, the club seems to have been disbanded.



## BUSHFIRE COMES TO GLEN PARK

*Regarding the 1939 bushfire, I can consider myself lucky that I am able to be here to write this article. I belonged to the Glen Park Fire Brigade. Mr McBain at Kirks Reservoir was the Captain. When the smoke from the fire came towards us from the north, he phoned me and advised me to meet them at Springs Road. We assembled there and the wind on that day was terrific. Pieces of gum bark, as long as one's arm were coming over our heads fully alight. Anyhow with several others, we saved Harding's house and a Mr. Frank Davidson, an employee of the Water Commission said to me "go up home, you could be in trouble there". I made a run to go up the gully towards home. This gully was not on fire at that time. He called out to me "The pig sty is alight". I went back to him and put the building out and if I had continued on my first attempt I would never have survived, the wind and burnt leaves were going south like a big suction.*

*When I arrived home or near home the stables housing four horses was burning. I rushed in, undid their ropes, put a chaff bag over their heads and pushed them out into a clear spot. All the sheds were burnt, including the apple packing shed. My home was saved with help from J. L. Bennett and Co. who I had called for help. Mr W. Curnow of that firm used the orchard spray plant to keep the west side of the*

*orchard spray plant to keep the west side of the house wet to stop it going up also. This fire burnt as far as Bungaree, taking with it the Water Commission factory pine plantation and several houses. The temperature on the four days before the fire, was above 110 degrees and you may imagine how dry things were.*

*Being in the Brigade and having lost the sheds, my friends gathered together later on, on a couple of Saturday's and they rebuilt the sheds. My main loss at that time was 1000 twelve year old fruit trees with a good crop of saleable apples on and that year the price was good.*

### **A Recollection by MR ALBERT ERIC WILSON**

Prior to 1952 fires in the district were fought by the local farmers using tanks which had to be loaded onto available trucks. At a meeting held in January 1952 the Glen Park Rural Fire Brigade was formed with Mr. Alan Jeffrey as President and Mr. C. Rumler as Captain. The brigade had the use of two tanks located at Mr N. McRaes and Mr. J. Ritchies properties. Other equipment included 12 knapsacks, 24 beaters and 14 rakes. Mr. Moss offered the use of his two-way radio. At the beginning of 1960, the brigade worked towards obtaining a truck from the CFA and raised a total of

£250. In February the CFA handed over a Chevrolet truck (photo below) to the Captain, Mr. W. Ritchie. A shed was required to give the truck and the brigade a permanent home. the first fire shed was constructed on the corner of the Creswick-Bungaree Rd and Madderns Rd. In 1989 the Austin was replaced with a new tanker, and a new headquarters for the brigade was constructed on the site of the former Methodist Church.

Bush fires in 1997 caused extensive damage and destroyed the local fire truck (The school was very close to destruction itself). The locals rallied around to raise money to replace the truck and repair fire damage. The school stopped fund raising so that money in the community could be dedicated to that. Unfortunately the fire and government policy led to the closure of the White Swan Reservoir to the public.

