

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

EVERY
SCHOOL
EVERY
CHILD

Glen Park Primary School

Contact information:

Phone: 53345360

Web:

<http://glenparkps.vic.edu.au/> Also refer
to our FACEBOOK page.

By T. Shaw principal (1997-2022)



Glen Park Gazette

A big thank you to the staff of Glen Park Primary: Heather Angow, Ryan Uren, Kirrily Urquhart, Kari O'Gorman, Alison Middleton, and our supportive school community

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS

This year is also my 25th year as head teacher/
Principal of Glen Park PS.

I'm proud to be part of the story that began in 1872,
when Victoria became one of the first jurisdictions in
the world to create a central school system offering
free, secular and compulsory education.

I follow in the footsteps of some excellent teachers
who have worked here including the first head teacher
and local pioneer, Adam Long, who had established a
private school in the district (then known as Bungaree
Springs) ten years before becoming the first head
teacher here in 1872.

It wasn't always plain sailing for him. In 1885 there
seems to have been great division in the community
over him remaining head teacher. Numerous letters
and petitions were forwarded to the Colonial Minister
for Education outlining serious concerns over the con-
duct and teaching ability of Adam Long. The main cor-
respondent seeking the removal of head teacher re-
ported that the head teacher was 'quarrelsome and

cantankerous! '(I can relate to that). Twenty members of
the school committee petitioned for the retention of Adam
Long, citing the work he had done in establishing the
school and the fact that he had spent £200 building his
own house opposite the school. Adam Long was not re-
moved from the school and continued as head teacher un-
til 1888.

Happy birthday to Glen Park and state education in
Victoria. *(Below: Our old school building in the 1960s)*



2022 UPDATE



So far we have three new prep enrolments for 2023 **(if you are considering enrolling for 2023 then please contact the school in Term 3)**

Our Zone is quite large covering Coabin and Hillview Estates and stretching out through Pootilla, up to Kirks Reservoir, Wattle Flat towards Dean and Creswick. We do accept children sometimes from outside our zone in special circumstances.

We have been very busy so far in 2022 (like most schools adjusting to staff and student illness, luckily we have been largely COVID/Flu free). We took staff/student safety seriously in 2020-21 and continue to do so this year.

This year we are building our outdoor learning area and hope to replace our old front fence. We have invested in landscaping and ensuring our water supply is safe with the purchase of a UV filtering system. We also have our gymnastics and swimming program in Term 3 and the resumption of our excursion program.

We hope to see DETs new rural education Strategic Plan completed before the end of this year and delivering on their promised reforms.

Left: Handling (carefully) a blue-tongued lizard during our snake safety incursion in Term 1

History of Glen Park 1872– 1914

Early days

The early settlement of the area is not well documented but clearly the first settlers came for one of three reasons. In the early days of Ballarat, timber was in great demand for building, industry and use in the mines. Miners also came to the area searching for the deep leads buried beneath the basalt flow. A legacy of these efforts are a number of mullock heaps still visible near the school today. The soil which resulted from volcanic activity in the area was, and still is, much sought after for agricultural purposes. There were many small farms and orchards in the area.

John and George Kneeshaw, two of the early settlers in the district, worked the Eastern Plateau Mine (southeast of the school) to a depth of 250 feet but were beaten by water. The mine was abandoned.

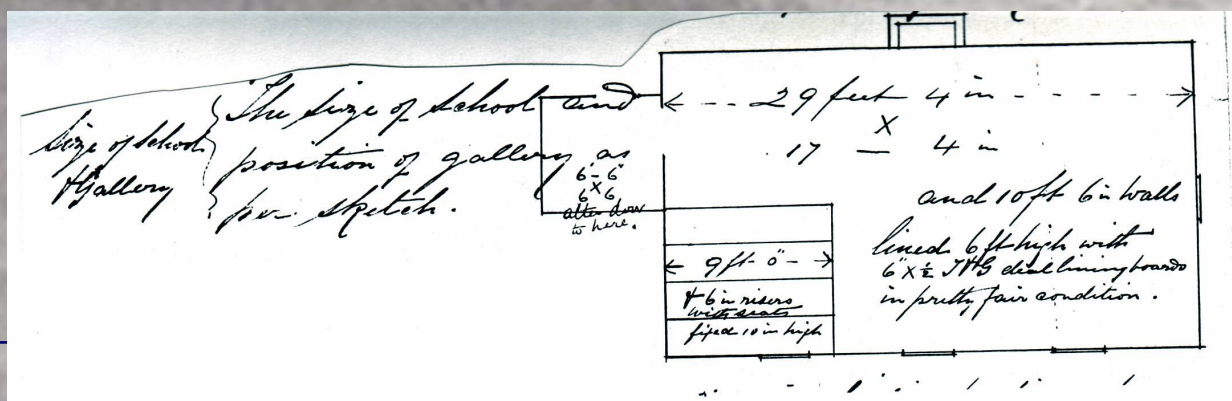
Schooling for early residents

The schooling options for children in the district were limited until a public meeting was held to consider the establishment of a Common School in the Springs area. Following this meeting, an application was made to the Board of Education for funding of the school. With transportation being a limiting factor in the choice of schools for many families, the neighbouring schools of Brown Hill and Little Bendigo, which opened in 1853 and 1858 respectively, were not a viable option for many of these families. On the goldfields, at the time, there were many private schools operating prior to the Common Schools Act of 1862. The letter written by the first school committee indicates that a small private school was operated in the district some time prior to 1871. Teacher, Adam Long established what was the forerunner of the present school, in a private house in the district (refer to the Sunday school book plate from the Wesleyan school which was situated where the CFA shed is now). In order to gain government support for the establishment of a Common School, Adam Long was required to demonstrate that the school had a reliable average enrolment and that it was not within two miles of a school already receiving funding for the Board of Education. A meeting was held on October 21st 1871 to make an application for the establishment of a Common School at Bungaree Springs.

Establishing a government school at Bungaree Springs

The reply of the Board of Education to the application for a new school was written on the 23rd October 1871, granting the sum of forty eight pounds toward the cost of purchase of land and erection of a school. Under The Common Schools Act 1862, for the proposed school to receive aid, a requirement was that the school be placed under the management of a local committee of not less than five persons. The first committee of Bungaree Springs Common School consisted of John Kneeshaw, John Free, John Donnelly, John Chisholm and George Kneeshaw. By December 6th, the School Committee wrote again to the Board of Education with plans and specifications for the construction of a school building and internal fittings. The School Committee reported that the average attendance at the school was 41 and expressed satisfaction with the present master, Mr. Long. They respectfully requested that the Board allow Mr. Adam Long to remain as teacher of the school at least until the new school is erected.

By January 17th 1872, Bungaree Springs was formally designated Common School No. 1135. At the end of July, an Inspector of Works visited the proposed site to inspect two nearby shafts, which were abandoned at the time. He reported that the shaft, which was 4 chains to the east of the site, had been worked by the Eastern Freehold Co. It had bottomed shallow at 60 feet and was now abandoned with no drives (as the shaft is no longer visible it must have been filled or capped at some later time). The second shaft to the west of the site was worked by the Kneeshaw Co. The shaft was 250 feet deep through bluestone to a gutter averaging 60 feet wide. The mullock heap can still be seen today. The inspector determined that the proposed site was suitable for a school and was not under any threat from past mining activities (ironically an air shaft from the mine opened up in the school grounds in 2017 and had to be capped).

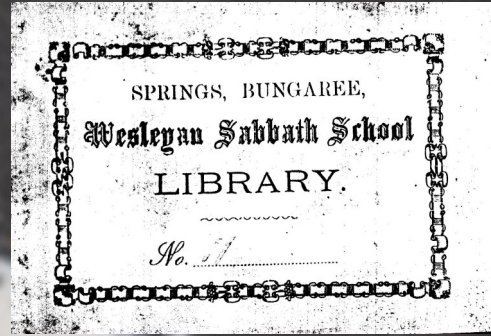




The school takes off

The School Committee, by October 1872, had plans for the school approved so that finally, tenders could be called. By the end of October, seven tenders had been received. The highest tender received was for £106-12-00 and the lowest was for £83-10-06. The lowest tender from Quarrel and Mackenzie was accepted for the erection of the school building. By November 27th 1872, the building was completed and painted. The main room was 29 feet 4 inches long by 17 feet 4 inches wide with a 6 feet square porch at the front. At the front of the main room was a gallery, 9 feet wide fitted with benches (an early plan of the building is on page 2). In 1872, the enrolment was 29 but with the completion of the new building the enrolments at the school grew quickly with 45 students by 1875 reaching 59 students in 1878.

With enrolments increasing and the new school building having been completed for a number of years, the school committee and head teacher were regularly writing to the Minister for Public Instruction seeking further improvements to the facilities at the school. In March 1875, with an enrolment of 45, the school only had six desks which were "not in a fit state for children to write upon" and there seems to have been no toilets. In 1876, the head teacher, Adam Long, wrote expressing concern that "the paddock in which the school is located is very much frequented by snakes. We have had several narrow escapes already. If the whole schoolgrounds were fenced accidents might not occur. Mr. Kneeshaw spoke to me about having it fenced as it would prevent his cattle from getting out. I have the honour to request that the Honourable the Minister of Public instruction will get it done at once." (the struggle sadly goes on).



Name change

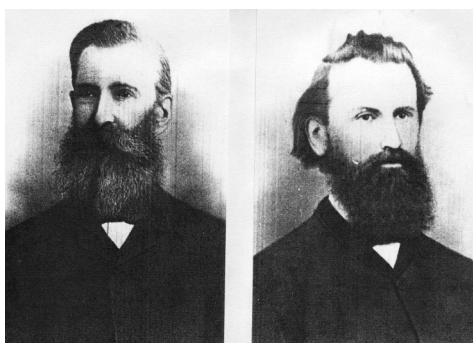
On September 21st 1893, the School Committee wrote to the Registration Branch of the Education Department seeking approval to change the name of the school to Glen Park State School. The Committee pointed out that at the time, there were three other schools in the district called Bungaree. They were Bungaree Springs 1135, Bungaree 3147 and Bungaree Junction 1958. Mail was regularly being confused between schools and often did not reach its destination at the proper time. They also pointed out that the district which was earlier known as Bungaree Springs, or 'The Springs,' was now generally known as Glen Park. (To date I have been unable to discover any possible origin for the name Glen Park). The Education Department accepted the request of the School Committee and from late in 1893, Bungaree Springs State School 1135 became Glen Park State School 1135, retaining the original number.

Illnesses

With COVID impacting the world we often forget that just over a century ago the impact of nowadays *obscure or rarely heard of* diseases impacted schools just as COVID is today. In searching through the school records there were many cases of epidemics in the school community. In 1872 not long after the school began, the School Committee had to close the school due to an outbreak of Diphtheria in the district. Four of the children of Mr. John Chisholm, a member of the School Committee, had died. A number of other children and several adults were also reported to be victims of the outbreak. In 1885 the school was closed for several days due to an outbreak of Measles. In 1887, the school had to be closed for eighteen days due to a serious outbreak of Typhoid fever. In May 1900 the school was closed for one week due to a Whooping Cough epidemic. The school had to be thoroughly cleaned and fumigated before the children could return. In addition to these cases there were many reports of minor outbreaks of illness in addition to regular absences of children to assist with harvesting and other farm work.

Our summer edition will cover 1918-63

PRE-WORLD WAR ONE PHOTO GALLERY



Photos

Students photographed in the early 1900s at the back of the school .(note the bush that comes up to the back fence) . Pioneer miners and land holders, John and George Kneeshaw in the 1870s Also John and Lucy Ritchie photographed at the school in the early 1900s.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Wattle Flat - Pootilla Landcare Group

is a committed community group aiming to enhance and protect biodiversity throughout the local area. The group formed in 2002 and now has nearly 100 individual members. The group continues to develop momentum, evolving from its early days in controlling roadside weed invasion to undertaking major projects and tasks like fencing local streams and tributaries, protection of native vegetation, propagation of seeds, wetlands establishment, and road side restoration. Refer to their web page: <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/corangamite/wattle-flat-pootilla/>



STREET LIBRARIES

Glen Park Primary School has its own Street Library (since 2018) Currently, we have true crime and mysteries in our library but we change them often. If you are a local, stop by and borrow some books to read.



White Swan Reservoir

White Swan is currently at 78% capacity. The Gong Gong is 84% and Kirks 90% .



Brown Hill News

For all the news about what's going on in Brown Hill (Such as the Brown Hill Market re-starting up this year in the Brown Hill Hall) refer to the excellent Brown Hill Community news Hub: <https://www.brownhill.vic.au/news/2018/04/22/brown-hill-market-coming/> for more information.



EVERY DAY IS AN OPEN DAY AT GLEN PARK!



Don't put up with second or third best, don't just hope it will 'get better next year'. We offer so much and we are just a short distance out of town.

Give us a call, or visit our website or Facebook page which is updated daily to see what we do. We are always happy to welcome new local families to our school.

Dean Hall and Mechanics Institute Inc.

looks set for another fantastic year of special events for their community. The hall looks terrific from the outside and is a credit to all those who've worked on it. The beautifully renovated community hall not only acts as a focal point for the vibrant Dean community who use it for yoga, film nights and community get-togethers but is available for hire for weddings and art shows. Hall membership is \$20 per family per year or \$50 for 3 years. If you are interested in membership or hall hire check them out on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Dean-Hall-Mechanics-Institute-165496563471217/>



The Brown Hill Public Hall is also available for hire (phone: 0455862379)

Mt Prospect District Tennis Association

Inc. is well renowned for its well groomed sixteen grass tennis courts. It's located in the picturesque town of Creswick and is surrounded by the old Creswick Botanical Gardens. Ring James Maher if you are thinking of participating 0422607224.

