

Glen Park Primary School
Providing quality state education since 1872
(152 years serving our community)EVERY
SCHOOL
EVERY
CHILD

Glen Park Primary School

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

By T. Shaw principal (1997-2024)



Glen Park Gazette

A big thank you to the staff of Glen Park Primary: Pauline Moody, Linda Duke, Chilanka Siriwardana, Korrily Urquhart, Katie White and our supportive school community

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Allan McLeod 1948-2024

Last month I attended the funeral of an old colleague and friend Allan McLeod.

I first met Allan when we were Principals in 1994, I was at Mt Wallace and he was at Bungaree. At that time the Kennett Government was in power and small rural schools were an endangered species.

Bungaree Cluster had been formed to manage shared specialists but as part of a cost cutting exercise, that very worthy program was axed.

We decided to keep the cluster (renamed the Moorabool Collegiate Group) running as a way of supporting each other (Not so easy to pick us off if we had each others backs) and providing opportunities for our students.

The MCG started holding conferences (to meet our professional needs as rural educators and leaders) and Allan organised our first conference in Daylesford in 2000. The Bracks Government had unexpectedly come to power with a mandate to boost funding and support to state education and Allan invited the brand new minister (Mary Delahunty) to be guest speaker. She said yes and it was quite a coup and put a few noses out of joint. Protocol dictated that Regional Office be involved but Allan wasn't interested in that.

On the first day of the conference there was a literal race to see who would get to the minister first when she arrived. Allan won (elbows may have been involved....) and he introduced her around and she spoke, had her photo taken (photo attached) and had morning tea with us. The

conference was a huge success and we had many more. It may not sound like a big deal but to us it was.

It put a full stop to the struggles we'd endured (poor budgets, reactionary staffing formula changes, unnecessary school closures and a reduction in school support services) for years and it ushered in the beginning of new found respect for state education, rural schools and their communities and small school leaders.

Allan was at the forefront of that. He was a champion for state education, a champion for rural education and an advocate for rural students.

He believed every child had a right to the best education and the best opportunities even if they lived in the country. The struggle sadly still goes on but we are in a far better place today because of educators like Allan McLeod.

Below L-R Myself, Alan Peach, Geoff Howard, Alan McLeod and Minister Mary Delahunty

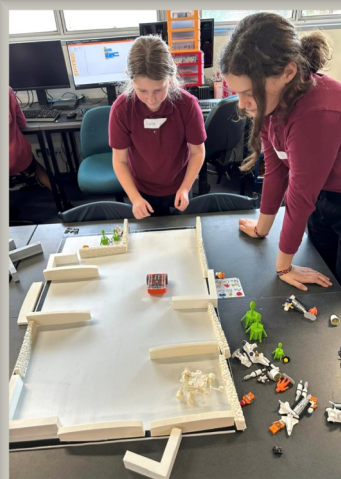


NEW FENCE

Our old school bog-standard wire front fence (Which has been in place since the 1970s) was starting to show signs of disrepair. It had been damaged by fallen branches, cut up to make way for our BER building and welded (badly) back together and was very rusty. We decided to replace it with a new black tubular steel fence and gate. We also had our playground equipment re-furbished. Both look fantastic.



Semester 1 2024 Photo Gallery



Photos include:

Experimenting with robotics and fossils and investigated rocks with our scientist friend from Swinburne, Heather. Running around outside, testing boats, borrowing books from the MARC Van and constructing with Lego.



MARC Van

Glen Park joined the MARC Van program before the pandemic. MARC stands for Mobile Area Resource Centre. The MARC Van is a small mobile library. The MARC van is filled with picture story books, fictional novels, non-fiction books for students and teachers to borrow. Students are able to choose books from the library van to read over a two-week period.

MARC lessons allow students to share a book, discuss plot, setting, characters, think critically and explore issues in detail with activities that integrate into other key curriculum learning areas.

We have been lucky to have had two sensational MARC Van teachers. (Kari and now Katie) Although Glen Park has an excellent library, the MARC Van enables small rural and regional schools to provide students with access to a broader range of texts and educational resources. That they may not have in their schools

as well as providing children with the opportunity to borrow books. At Glen Park Katie works with small groups focussing on special days and themes and enhancing their research skills.



Our students reading with Katie on our decking

PHONICS

All Victorian state schools will embrace phonics in 2025. The VED has announced an updated Teaching and Learning Model for all government schools to be implemented from next year that focuses on what's known as "explicit teaching". Students from prep to grade 2 will be taught reading using synthetic phonics. Teachers will spend a minimum of 25 minutes a day on explicit teaching of phonics and phonemic awareness in classrooms. All Victorian state schools will be required to use this approach when teaching reading. It brings Victoria into line with other states such as NSW and South Australia, which have a uniform approach. We teach phonics at Glen Park (for the last 27 years) for as long as required and to whoever needs it. There is funding attached to this presumably to develop resources. I'm assuming we'll hear more (through media release) about its implementation during the year.

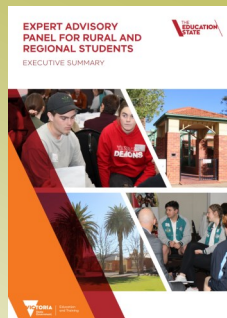


Rural Education Plan

In 2019 the Victorian Government announced that it was 'taking action to bridge the divide between regional and metropolitan schools, with a funding boost for new and existing initiatives to support country students.

An Expert Advisory Panel into Rural and Regional Students was commissioned to undertake a review and meet with local communities to identify ways to improve educational outcomes for rural and regional students. The report (right) had eight recommendations.

The panel's recommendations include considering measures to attract principals and teachers and support staff to regional areas making more resources and subjects available for senior secondary students. The first recommendation was to develop a 5-year Strategic Plan to help deliver the recommendations in a strategic manner. A draft plan was developed in 2022 but was never released. Funding has gone to some rural initiatives but there is no strategic plan to co-ordinate it and no means to report on progress in 'closing the divide'. I will continue to ask questions about this seemingly lost opportunity because the divide is real. There is plenty of data to show it, including a recent Auditor General's report that showed *that further work is required to lift numeracy achievement across all cohorts, and literacy and numeracy outcomes for disadvantaged and Koorie students*. The Victorian Auditor-General's Office also found in a 2023 report that Victorian school principals experience worse health and wellbeing than the general population and numerous government initiatives introduced since 2018 have done little to improve the outcomes. More action is required to support rural schools and rural school leaders.



RURAL ROAD SAFETY

ROAD SAFETY IN RURAL AREAS

Recently a small rural school principal colleague died in a road accident on a Victorian rural road on her way to school. There have also been other incidents, some fatal concerning buses on rural roads.

Statistics show that 55% of road fatalities occur on rural roads, but only 25% of the population live in rural Victoria. Across Australia this problem increases significantly to 1,400 people who are killed each year and more than 32,500 who are hospitalised. Most crashes occur when ordinary people make everyday, human mistakes.

RACV data shows that the key reasons for higher death rates outside of cities are high speed roads — a greater proportion of the crashes are in higher speed zones.

A number of roads in regional and remote areas are undivided, single carriageways with poorer surface conditions and design, and increased road side hazards (legacy road standard). The default speed limit for these roads typically applies (100 km/h in most jurisdictions, though many roads are signposted at 110 km/h). These roads have been found to consistently have a much higher proportion of crash deaths than other roads.

The types of crashes and the speed at which they occur are particularly dangerous. 73 per cent of fatalities in regional areas were the result of lane departure (run-off-road and head-on) crashes. In addition to high speeds and surface conditions, other contributors include:

- fatigue
- limited public transport access
- driver behaviour including not driving to conditions
- limited enforcement resources and larger areas to cover longer journey time.

There are a range of low cost, high impact road treatments that can be applied to reduce the risk and consequence of lane departure and head-on crashes. These include:

audio tactile line markings, wire rope and other barriers, median treatments including wide centrelines or safety barriers, targeted stretches of barrier treatment, shoulder widening and sealing protection on curves and from road-side hazards, managing the speed limit, (going too fast and too slow) clear signage when moving stock or wide, slow vehicles and heavy vehicle and farm vehicle management on rural roads. Driving on rural roads can be very different than in the suburbs or capital cities — drivers need to adapt, be alert and drive to the conditions.



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. Contact Andrew 0419 091 601 or Stephanie 5334 8035 Refer to their web page: leighcatchmentgroup.org/wattle-flat-Pootilla

The Brown Hill Bulls The Brown Hill Bulls Cricket Club is looking for players for the 2020-21 season (their home ground is behind the old Brown Hill Pool site), If you're interested (and this will be a great year to get involved) contact Phillip Knowles 0407399971. Visit their Facebook page for more information and fixtures.

White Swan Reservoir (Opened in 1952)

Current capacity of the White Swan water supply currently at 50% down from 76% June 2023.

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) Email: bhpa@brownhill.vic.au
Phone: 5334 8014 (evenings only)

Dean Hall and Mechanics Institute Inc. Hall hire contact : Ngaire McKay 0417111485 or email gmckay3@bigpond.com

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. Bridge Street, Park Lake Creswick Victoria 3363
President: Peter Bertoncini - 0468 534 105 Post: PO Box 1863, Bakery Hill 3354