

## A Short History of Jarrahdale Primary School

The original Wanliss Brothers' timber company began construction of a saw mill in Sept 1871. It was located by the Gooralong Brook behind the Old Post Office (The Post Office was built in the 1880's). This was the largest timber venture to be seen in the new Swan River Colony. By May 1872, the saw mill was cutting timber and by November, a wooden-railed tramway was in use to take timber to Rockingham. The first ship load of timber went to Melbourne in March 1873.

The new town needed to provide services and facilities and this included the opening of the first school house. It was situated on the north bank of the Gooralong Brook at the southern end of Brook Road. Records show the first schoolmaster as Mr J. Harris who began teaching in 1874 with 11 students. In 1875, Mr John Allsop took charge with 29 students. Mr Allsop was born in 1830. He arrived at the Swan River Colony as a literate, unmarried convict on the ship "Corona" on 22-12-1866 Convict No. 9062. He was wrongly convicted of uttering counterfeit coins in 1865 in Warwick, England and at the time was a labourer. Allsop was granted his Full Pardon just before moving to Jarrahdale. In 1876, the school closed after the Wanliss Brothers' business collapsed. The Rockingham Jarrah Timber Company continued.

In 1878, the school re-opened at the same location. The teacher was Thomas Berwick with an enrolment of 33. Thomas Berwick was born 1825. He arrived at the Swan River Colony as a literate and married convict, Convict No. 9664 on the ship "Hougoumont" on 10-1-1868. This was the last convict ship to arrive and there had been 43 ships arrive between 1850 and 1868 with nearly 10,000 convicts. Berwick was convicted in the Central Criminal Court for scuttling a vessel. His sentence was 20 years and he had been a Master Mariner at the time of his conviction. Berwick was granted his Ticket-of-Leave on 22-11-1875 and Conditional Pardon on 30-6-1881. In 1881, the original schoolhouse had become too small and Berwick moved his students into a house he had built on location 277, which later became the policeman's house facing Jarrahdale Road. From 1882 to 1885, the Monitor Pupil Teacher was Charles H. Batty. From 1885 to 1891, the Monitor Pupil Teacher was A. Harmsworth.

Notes from a letter published in "The Herald" newspaper 1-11-1884 says "The Government School is about a mile and a half from the (rail) station. I paid a visit to it. Mr Berwick, the master, who is highly spoken of showed me his roll book which gave an average attendance of 50; the children were healthy and cleanly, and appeared to be very happy. There is no public house on the grounds. "

This building served until 1891. Berwick was a very popular schoolmaster and taught at Jarrahdale for 13 years until he died in October 1891. Mr J. H. McCollum then taught from Oct to the end of December.

In 1892, records state that the students moved to a Catholic Church building with Headmaster William Cousins.

In 1893, the students moved to a new location and building at 48 Cousens Street (Reserve 2228 on 5 acres). It had 3 rooms. The Monitress was Ellen Eva Hanrahan. In 1884 and 1885, the Monitress was Louisa Ethel Hanrahan. The enrolment was 41.

In the 1920's there were as many as 150 students in the 3 rooms..

On 10<sup>th</sup> June 1954, the school was gutted by fire. Excerpts from the School Journal stated "...at 11.40 am the school began to burn. Apparently a spark from the infant's room chimney caught the shingles alight. The roof caved in." The Headmaster was Mr Jones and there were 90 students.

14-6-1954, schooling is moved to the local hall at 5 shillings/ week rent.

24-8-1954, children transferred from the hall to the newly built school, Location Lot 24278 Wanliss Street (Lots 13-17 and 39-44 inc). This was a 2 roomed school with an office between the 2 rooms. A veranda was on the east, north and west sides. The shelter shed (now Room 5) and a separate classroom (now our Art Room) were relocated from the Cousens Street school site. Also the school bell was relocated to the new school site. The Shelter Shed was then used as an undercover lunch shed for many years.

By 1962, the third classroom (now Room 3) and a storeroom were added. The toilets were up-dated to flush toilets from being the old pan system.

In 1975, a Pre-Primary room was added to the Art Room. The old Pre-Primary is now the Music and Art Rooms.

In 1993, a demountable classroom was built behind Room 3 to house the Year 1's. It remained for over 10 years until the Education Dept. Relocated it to another school.

In the 1990's, the verandas next to Room 1 were closed in to create a new bigger office. The west veranda next to Room 3 was closed in to make a Staffroom.

In 2001, the new toilet blocks were transported in behind Room 3 to replace the 1962 toilets. They were where the Science and Furniture Sheds are today.

In 2003, a demountable classroom came behind Room 1 to be our new library. The library had been housed in Room 5 in the 1990's and early 2000's. Now that demountable classroom is the I.C.T. room.

In 2007, a transportable classroom came to be the new Kindy/Pre-Primary next to today's Music Room.

In March 2011, another transportable classroom came to be Room 4 on the bottom oval. This classroom was removed by the Education Dept in 2020/21. Also in 2011, the new undercover/canteen assembly area and the new library were built.

In 2012, the new administration building, office and staffroom, became operational and in September that year, the Memorial Garden was officially opened.

#### Other Schools around Jarrahdale:

In 1924, a Roman Catholic School, St. Joseph's Convent was established on Location 429, near the Maria Goretti Catholic Church facing Atkins Street. The enrolment average was 65 students who were taught by 3 nuns. It closed in 1930.

A number of schools were also maintained during the 1890's and before W.W.1 at outlying sawmills in the Jarrah bush. These were called Mill Schools.

Bush Landing School – In 1909, Peter O'Loughlin M.L.A. wrote to Minister of Education requesting a small school on wheels for children of bush workers. The first bush landing school was opened in 1910 and was a tent covered by galvanised roofing. Years later, a pine wood structure that was easily dismantled was used. The school on wheels (on a railway truck) came in October 1926. This school closed in March 1928.

#### Sporting Factions:

J.P.S. factions were colour coded, Gold and Maroon, until 1972, the Centennial year of Jarrahdale. Mr Prosser, the Headmaster of the time, decided that the factions should be named after 2 steam trains, "Pioneer" and "Samson" that used to haul the timber to the mills. The name plates on "Pioneer" were green with gold lettering. The name plates on "Samson" were blue with red lettering we have been told and that is why the factions use those colours.

#### School Bell:

The bell was off one of the steam trains that worked in the forest around Jarrahdale. It was also used at the old school (1893-1954) and can be seen in an old photograph.

#### School Song:

In 1996, the J.P.S. Music teacher, Mr Ian Cullen, asked the students to write a verse and chorus to the tune of Waltzing Matilda. Two Year 4 boys, Simon Johnson and Daniel Wright wrote it.

#### School Motto:

In the 1990's the school community was asked to create a school motto using JPS. Joy, Pride and Success was the winner from a mum, Janet Gianatti.

#### Memorial Garden:

The garden remembers 2 prominent people of the Jarrahdale School community. Mr Peter Dimopolous was a prisoner of World War 2 and Maxine Haddow was a much loved teacher, whose whole teaching career was at J.P.S.

#### 50<sup>th</sup> Year Reunion:

In 2004, J.P.S. held a reunion celebrating 50 years of education at the Wanliss Street site and 130 years of schooling in Jarrahdale.

#### Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden:

This is an important part of the curriculum at J.P.S. and has been for many years.

References:

- “The Brand on his Coat – Biographies of some W.A. Convicts” by Rica Erickson.
- “Dictionary of Western Australians 1829-1914 Vol.2 Bond 1850-1868” by Rica Erickson.
- “Dictionary of Western Australians 1829-1914 Vol. 3 Free 1850-1868” by Rica Erickson.
- Notes from Rockingham Branch – WA Genealogical Society.
- “The Serpentine” by Neil J. Coy.
- Notes from a letter to “The Herald” newspaper 1-11-1884.