

EAST MANJIMUP PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Memories by Peg Johnstone - 2015.



When we lived on the corner of Seaton Villa Road and O'Connor Street, on the east side of town, we had two young sons, so the building of a new school in that area was important to us.

The land was part of Charlie Hastie's farm on which the original Manjimup House was situated. I can't be certain, but think that the land was donated to the Education Department by him as a school site.

In 1971 when the school was officially opened, our eldest son Mark was enrolled. That started our long association and interest in the development of the building and surrounds. Mr Joe Martin was Principal, and my husband Graham was the first President of the Parents and Citizens Association so there was a lot of consultation about the planning of the surrounds and the oval on the north side of the school.



4th Class Seniors – 1971

L-r Andrew Benton, David Prunster, Mr Joe Martin, Glen Clarke, Peter Buchanan.

Initially there were only four classes, Years 1-4, so the students in 4th Grade were Seniors for all the years that they were at primary school.

An important decision was a uniform for the students. After much discussion it was eventually decided on a green plaid pleated skirt with matching tie, light green blouse and a bottle green jumper. Boys wore the same colour shirt and tie with grey shorts. They were really nice. Later the girls had a light-weight dress of green and white check with a hint of red in it. There wasn't a special sport uniform. The group colours were simply Red, Green, Yellow and Blue, so the students wore a T-shirt the colour of their faction with black shorts.

At the commencement of the day, each student was given a small bottle of milk.

We had a wonderful crowd of parents who were enthusiastic to raise money, and help in a variety of ways. At that stage only students living on the East side of town were permitted to be enrolled, hence no children from farms or traveling in on bus; most of the Forestry Settlement were involved.

Probably one of the main fund raising events was the Gala Day which was held each year. What an array of different stalls, fun events, displays etc. was set up in the grounds. My main contribution was a stall which I called "Kiddie's Korner." This sold all sorts of goodies for children to eat – probably frowned on these days, but it was successful. For example there was Turkish delight, sherbet bags, toffees, toffee apples, angel cakes, chocolate crackles, honey crackles and drinks. We required a lot of money to purchase equipment etc. so had Cent Auctions, Melbourne Cup luncheons, Money Chains, Tuck Shops and Fancy Dress Balls

Sport Days at our own school or interschool were always a lot of fun, and we especially loved the end of term/year concerts. The curriculum was the same as other schools, but EMPS was what was termed a cluster school, innovative for its day.

Bernie Muir worked around the gardens for many years. Several trees were planted to recognize Arbor Day, but unfortunately most of them had to be removed as more room was required for other buildings in the later years.

A Twenty-Fifth Anniversary was celebrated in 1996, with many of the original students and parents enjoying a day of reminiscing. There was a booklet in the library which the Committee compiled showing photos etc. of first ¼ of a century. Also the lectern which was presented on the day is still in use I believe.

There are so many names associated with that special school, great changes have been made, but it still holds a place in my memories.

Trivia – Our second son, Scott, married one of his classmates Leanne Prunster in 1990 so I thought it appropriate that we had some photos taken at the school after their wedding..