



# Back to St. Albans



Pupils and teacher pictured outside St. Albans' first school, the year 1894.

## 80th Anniversary 1969



## FOREWARD

*In compiling a book of this nature, much research and delving into the past is necessary. Without the co-operaton of many people this task would be impossible, and therefore I would like to extend my sincere Thank You's to all those who so readily gave me their help —*

*Mr. Street — Latrobe Library Archivist.*

*Keilor City Council Officers.*

*Victorian Education Department (Buildings) Officers.*

*Mrs. and Miss Crosby, St. Albans.*

*Mrs. J. McIntyre, St. Albans.*

*Mr. A. F. Blackie, the present Principal of the School, and*

*Messrs. M. Clancy, J. G. Goode, J. G. Campbell, B. Whelan, of the present School Staff.*

*To all those who have contributed photographs, and other material. If through any oversight, I have inadvertently omitted any person or persons, I can assure them that it is unintentional, and their help is much appreciated.*

*G. D. LAMBERT,*

*St. Albans State School 2969.*

*School Historian,*

*September 23, 1969.*



## A HISTORY OF ST. ALBANS STATE SCHOOL No. 2969

St. Albans comes under the Keilor Council on the North side of Main Road. There is no doubt that the histories of Keilor and St. Albans are closely related.

The first habitation of the area could be traced to the aboriginal tribe which roamed around this area. The Woeurong tribe was the name of that which inhabited this district. They lived in the area where Keilor village is today. They moved occasionally to the coast or further inland, but stayed mainly in this area. They no doubt roamed over the area now known as St. Albans, hunting various wild animals, and then returning to their homes in the Keilor Valley.

Soon the white man was to come and bring with him the pastoral settlement. Later, the gold rush brought many men across this area on the way to the goldfields at Bendigo and other centres.

In 1835, on June 3rd, the schooner "Rebecca" moored in Port Phillip Bay, and John Batman decided to explore the Marybnong River. Batman and his men followed the river's course in a small boat and then went along the riverside on foot. They were armed, and carried goods to purchase land from the aborigines. On June 4th, the party reached Keilor, stopping at Soloman's Ford (now Avondale Heights) and turned east where they could see smoke. A few days later Batman negotiated with the Jagajaga brothers at Merri Creek. A year after Batman had explored the area, a man called Soloman from Tasmania was grazing thousands of sheep in the Keilor district, and this was the beginning of the Keilor area. Soloman was one of the first settlers in Victoria.

The gold rushes brought prosperity to the Keilor area, as it was a stopping place for those travelling to the goldfields, but gradually the rush came to an end, and Keilor was affected, as no money was available for the provision stores. Keilor entered into an agricultural establishment period which lasted until the 1900's. The majority of properties owned were large.

Closer settlement commenced under the Land Act of 1890, which contained provision for the acquisition of private land by the Government for closer settlement. The Act continued until 1904, and during its use six estates were purchased. Four estates situated in the country contained 33,571 acres purchased at a cost of £98,500. Other Acts were instituted, but the 1904 Closer Settlement Act was to begin the making of Keilor.

William Taylor's "Overnewton" property was one of the first to be affected, being cut up originally into small holdings, but later the land was to be further subdivided to become the suburb of St. Albans. The "Overnewton" subdivision was the beginning of St. Albans. Families began to move in, and gradually made St. Albans what it is today. Later in the history, you will see the effect this had on the school. We will look into the development of St. Albans, as it has a direct bearing on the school's enrolment and problems.

When the big properties and estates were cut up at the beginning of the century, and earlier, St. Albans became established as a district of farming families. The homes built were quite simple, and many of these were constructed on smallholdings of two or three acres. After the first World War, the total population of Keilor was only 1,191, and in 1947 had reached 3,243 with the population of St. Albans still only very small. When subdivision took place more frequently, St. Albans began to grow, with houses being built very quickly. St. Albans was no longer a rural area, but a suburb of Melbourne, with an ever-growing population. It became a new home for many migrants from many countries. Most things in the area have had to be geared to this large migrant intake, which has presented problems to local institutions. Schools in the area have had to be prepared to teach migrant children their new language, English, and to adjust their teaching accordingly.

The history of St. Albans proves to us all, that any man, no matter what race, religion or creed, can get along with his fellow men. In years to come historians will look back on St. Albans, and be amazed at what took place in such a short era.

No history of St. Albans could be complete without direct reference to William Taylor. It was in 1849 that he purchased the property that became known as "Overnewton". After purchasing the land, and settling on it, he began to wield a great influence over the district which was to last for many years.

The "Overnewton" mansion remained in the hands of the Taylor family until 1950, when it was sold by Mrs. J. Stewart, a grand-daughter of William Taylor. Another grand-daughter is Lady Bloomfield, wife of the former Minister of Education. Mrs. Stewart and Lady Bloomfield are daughters of William Henry Taylor, eldest son of William Taylor. When William Taylor died in 1904, it was written of him —

*"If he saw that he might convert an arid waste into useful land fitted for the habitation of civilised man, droughts, disappointment, and loss merely spurred him on to new efforts".*

## ST. ALBANS STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 2969

1889 - 1969

The year 1889 was a most important date in the history of St. Albans State Primary School. The residents of St. Albans began to feel the need for the establishment of a school for their children. It is believed that residents at this time were people with small holdings or those who worked with the Railways. There was also a subdivision of the St. Albans area which was known as the "Overton" Estate, and this was to attract many more people to the area in years to come. The main activity before this subdivision was the grazing of sheep across the land. The land originally belonged to William Taylor who purchased the property in 1849, which was known as "Overnewton".

Residents of St. Albans in 1889 pressed for the establishment of the State School. This need was not met for several months. A comment in the Railway report July 1st, 1886, to June 30th, 1887, shows the first mention of St. Albans Railway Station. The Railway Commissioners provided the reasons for some of the population at this time and the establishment of the School.

In the present Railway report 1886 to June 30th, 1887, was the first mention of the St. Albans Railway Station. The yard was built where the Station is to-day and the Station was on the other side of the level crossing in the Shire of Keilor.

The Railway Commissioners reported —

*Houses or cottages were built by the Railways and rented or leased to employees. Also, the subdivision of land in the area and people having small holdings in the St. Albans township made the opening of the School possible in the month of August, 1889.*

A letter received from Mr. F. I. Paten shows some of the feeling which had arisen over the establishment of the school and delay which was taking place.

The Circus,  
St. Albans,  
Melbourne.  
5th July, 1889.

S. Staughton Esq., M.P.,  
Australia Club.  
Sir,

*As a resident of St. Albans I would ask you to use firm influence in getting the district its right from an educational point of view.*

*I have now been anxiously waiting for the opening of the Public School for about three months and if it does not soon commence I will be forced to leave the district.*

*It may not be out of place to state that I am not a property*

holder in St. Albans which will at once prove that it is only in the Educational interests of my children that I complain.

F. I. PATEN.

It appeared that the Board of Advice was holding up the establishment of the School as they had not yet furnished their report. They appeared to have been giving the matter great consideration.

Education Department,  
Melbourne.  
5th July, 1889.

Memorandum — for S. J. Staughton Esq., M.P.  
St. Albans Application No. 3909:

*With reference to the letter submitted by him from A. H. Padley of "Heights" St. Albans drawing attention to the delay in establishing a State School at St. Albans. Mr. Staughton is informed that the Board of advice who may have been consulted as to the advisability of establishing a school have not yet furnished the Department with their opinion. They will be asked to be good enough to do so at their earliest convenience. Mr. Padley must be under a misapprehension as to a promise being given that the School would be opened on the 1st inst. He may have been informed that if possible this would be done, but the Department cannot overlook the Board of Advice in the matter and must afford them a reasonable time to deal with the question.*

SECRETARY.

The Board of Advice visited the site and agreed with the Inspector's report and gave a definite answer as to the establishment of St. Alban's Primary School. . .

Board of Advice No. 161,

School District of Keilor — July 8th, 1889.

To the Honorable Minister of Public Instruction:

Sir,

IN REFERENCE TO ST. ALBANS APPLICATION No. 3099

*Three of the members visited St. Albans and inspected the cottage and land. The Board agrees with the Inspector's report to rent the four roomed cottage for twelve months. We were told by Mr. Padley that it could be rented for a nominal sum, the site recommended is fairly good, it will be costly to fence having streets on all sides, and a very long point to the South West. The present population is not likely to increase much beyond its present number, the opinion is that a teacher should be appointed temporary and if the attendance should be satisfactory after six months' trial the site could be bought.*

Yours Respectfully,

DAVID MILBURN,

Acting Correspondence

Board of Advice 61.



The Cosmopolitan Land and Banking Company Ltd. had been the agents in the Subdivision of the "Overnewton" Estate. In their original Subdivision of the area they had set aside a block of land for the erection of a State School. This was Lot 100B of the subdivision.

Letter from — The Cosmopolitan Land Banking Co. Ltd.  
3rd June, 1889.

Secretary,  
Education Department.

Dear Sir,

*Yours of the 31st with regard to land Lot 100B St. Albans — on our plan of subdivision which is reserved for school purposes is in the Government Section 21, Parish of Maribyrnong and is in the Shire of Keilor.*

Yours faithfully,  
A. H. PADLEY,  
Managing Director.  
per D. M. K.

The Cosmopolitan Land and Banking Co. Ltd. wrote to the Department on the 29th November, 1890, inquiring as to their wishes regarding the block of land.

The Cosmopolitan Land & Banking Co. Ltd.,  
29th November, 1890.

The Secretary for Education.

Sir,

*I beg to advise you that some time ago a site for a State School was set aside at St. Albans to be given to the Department free of cost if a School is erected within a reasonable period — if so steps have been taken to secure the grant. I have now to ask the wishes of the Department in the matter. The enclosed plan shows the site.*

I am,  
Yours faithfully,  
MANAGING DIRECTOR.

The Education Department does not appear to have used this land set aside for the building of a school. It appears that they were short of money at the time and were only prepared to rent a building. A suitable cottage was brought forward and the Inspector was to judge its suitability as a school.

It is interesting to see in his report that the residents were living there on a permanent basis. The Cosmopolitan Land and Banking Co. Ltd. were widely advertising the subdivision of the Overnewton Estate and were offering various concessions to those who bought land. One of these was a free rail pass for one year's travel between St. Albans and Melbourne.

St. Albans was within easy reach of Melbourne and was on the Melbourne — Bendigo Line. It therefore gave easy access to places of employment on the western side of the City. This brought more people to reside in the area and in consequence this contributed to the enrolment at the proposed school. The number at the school originally was estimated as being thirteen with about four pupils from Sydenham who would have to travel daily by train. By May, 1893, the number in attendance was twenty-four and later in the year on the 3rd of November had risen to thirty-two. The increased population was now having its effect.

It is little wonder that residents in 1889 were agitating for a school of their own as the nearest school at that time was No. 1434 at Derrimut, 2½ miles away at the other side of the Koroit Creek. It was highly inconvenient for the children to have to travel this considerable distance each day. The proposed school would greatly eliminate this problem as it would be more centrally situated.

The Inspector recommended that the school was to be unclassified and that the teacher could take up residence at Mrs. Servante's in St. Albans, or could travel daily from the city. Use of the cottage as a school was to be for a period of twelve months, after which the permanent school would probably be built.

The Inspector of this area, Mr. Curlewis inspected the proposed site of the school which was to be in a cottage in the present Adelaide Street. His report:—

### **Application for establishment of a State School**

App. 3099.

Date of Inspector's visit May 4th, 1889.

*Inspector Curlewis.*

Postal Address for proposed School — *ST. ALBANS*

On application — *Inspector's Report.*

On application for a State School at St. Albans.

County of Bourke, Parish of Maribyrnong.

School District, Braybrook.

### **QUERIES**

1. *What is the character of the population, i.e. whether mining, farming or stock holding?*

*Is it likely to be permanent?*

### **REPLIES**

Railway repairers and suburban residents.

Yes as far as we can judge.

9. *What is the title of the land?* Freehold.  
*If private property, is the owner willing to convey to the Minister, and on what terms?* The Cosmopolitan Land Co. is willing to convey the same to the Minister free of charge. Address: Normanby Chambers, Chancery Lane, Melbourne.
10. *Have any other sites been proposed, if so state your objections.* No.
11. *Do you recommend the establishment of a full time or half time school?* An unclassified School.
12. *Do you recommend that a school house be built?* Not at present till we can ascertain what the population is likely to be.
13. *Can any suitable building accommodation be obtained for a female teacher? If so, with whom.* Yes at Mrs. Servante's. As St. Albans is within the suburban radius, the teacher could reside in town.
14. *Can any suitable building be rented temporarily for School purposes. If so, give full particulars respecting the position, dimensions and general character of such buildings, and the terms upon which it may be rented. It should also state whether there are spoutings, tank and out offices.* Yes. The Company will give the Dept. use of a four-roomed cottage rooms 13 x 9, 9 x 8, 13 x 11, 11 x 9. The cottage is fairly suitable for the purpose, it is the one West of Hogans, the key can be got at the Servantes'. There is an 0.0 Rent 1/- per week and can be taken for 12 months. There is spouting and a tank.
15. *Give a sketch showing the position of the site recommended, of the families within two miles of it, and the nearest School.* A plan of subdivision of St. Albans is attached. The families all reside within or about the area indicated. A list of children is attached.

LIST OF CHILDREN

ST. ALBANS

Name	Occupation	Ages bet. 6 & 15	Under 6
T. Airior	Dealer	1	
Kaley	Ganger	2	1
Lambert	—	4	3
Hogaw	Employee of Cosmop. Land Co.		2
Pethrich		2	1
Padley doubtful	Manager, Cosmop. Land Co.	4	2

Two other families are said to have come since I visited the locality. Servante and Clarke have no children.

The list drawn up by the Inspector shows the families and children at this time. These children would be amongst the first to attend the School as far as we know.

After considering the stability of the population and the needs of the area and the sites available the Department made up its mind that St. Albans State School was to be opened as an unclassified School in August 1889, its school number to be 2969.

Miss Helen Couston arrived at the School on August 19th, 1889, to take up duties as a teacher. Our first teacher was to hold the post for only a short length of time. On January 20th, Helen Couston was unfit for duty. She forwarded a Medical Certificate and asked if she could resume her duties. For some reason she was replaced by Miss Ellen Bird. Miss Ellen Bird commenced teaching on the 10th February, 1890.

One would have thought that the opening of the School would have been the end of many problems. It was not, it was the beginning of a host of problems to be faced by the School at St. Albans.

Enrolment for 1889 was 26 pupils (14 boys, 12 girls), average attendance (8 boys, 8 girls), 16 pupils.

Equipment originally provided was —

Furniture: 2 — 7' 6" desks

2 — 6' 0" forms

and the miscellaneous furniture for a portable (small sized desk).

Mrs. Servante wrote, to the Department's Correspondent in 1889 about a complaint from Mr. Paten in regard to the accommodation at the school.

school. Mr. Balmer suggested that the building could easily be extended to provide accommodation for 75 pupils. Mr. Larnach the Inspector, wrote that there was £90 estimated cost of the extension which would add 12 feet to the building, and would be completed in 1908 on the 3rd January.

The St. Albans State School was awarded a First Class Certificate for improvements to the grounds and gardens. This was published in the Education Gazette, in 1910.

Mr. Balmer left St. Albans State School in 1912, and from his record one can assume that he fought for better accommodation and education for the children of St. Albans.

Mr. W. Rankin was appointed Head Teacher in 1912, and the first report which he sent to the department was of cracked and broken window panes. The Inspector of Schools during this time was Mr. J. W. Owen.

In 1914 the School had a need for a new set of school desks as the old ones were too small for the large scholars. There were over 60 scholars in attendance.

### **A DANGEROUS SCHOOL ROOM**

A complaint from St. Albans in a Keilor paper reported about the dangers at the School. There was only one door opening inwards and the windows were 3 feet from the ground. The danger was that the children would panic in the event of a fire. A new door was requested but this was considered unnecessary.

The Head Teacher in 1914 was Mr. David Morgan.

Cattle were still coming into the School ground. There was a further move for a residence so that the teacher could look after the School building. Later in 1915 this was viewed as unnecessary, as Mr. David Morgan was going to build his own house. In 1916 the "Water Committee" said there was the possibility of a local water supply for household and domestic use with limited irrigation, and the school would possibly have it if it was supplied. Previous to this St. Albans residents had to purchase their water from a man with a cart. They used to get various containers and have them filled or used tanks.

Mr. J. W. Owens was the Inspector of Schools for this district in 1916.

Things needed in 1916 by the School were —

Scrapper mats.

Ventilators in ceiling.

Doors were to be left, as they were handy when North winds blew.

An extra water tank.

Blinds.

Painting of the Building.

Wall ventilators needed.

St. Albans,  
September 19th, 1889.

D. Millbourn Esq.,  
Correspondent,  
Keilor Board of Advice.  
Dear Sir,

*Herewith I forward you a complaint I have received from Mr. Paten re- the School accommodation. I have also visited the School myself and I find it very much crowded in fact so much so that it would be impossible for the children to remain as at present in the hot weather. I should think it would be advisable to remove the Sydenham School as I am prone to understand that it is a portable one. The furniture is also insufficient and the teacher requested to ask you to get three more desks as at present she has not enough only having two small ones, there being an average attendance of twenty-one scholars.*

*Your early attention will oblige.*

*Yours faithfully,*  
MRS. SERVANTE.

### ARISING AT THE NEW SCHOOL

Rent for the School Cottage was to be a mere shilling a week. The School was to be opened on a temporary basis until a School could be built. This state of affairs was to exist until 1900, eleven years after the agreement was entered into.

The teacher also wrote to the Department complaining as to the partitions dividing off the small cottage. These divisions limited the accommodation made possible in the cottage. It was decided to remove these as is shown in the letter which follows:

The Cosmopolitan Land Banking Corp. Co. Ltd.  
5th December, 1889.

The Secretary,  
Education Department,  
St. Albans School.

*Sir — I beg to notify you that in accordance with the Inspector's request I have given directions to have the partition dividing the two rooms in the cottage leased to you, taken away to allow for increased accommodation. I have also to ask your permission to use the building on Sundays for the Church of England services to commence from next Sunday the 8th inst. The Rev. Mr. Scott of Footscray having arranged to hold regular Services there.*

*An early reply will oblige.*

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR.

The cottage had not only to act as a school, but also as a place of worship on Sundays. It was also used for dances and other social gatherings during the week. It became a meeting place for residents as well as for school purposes, and its importance was felt throughout the community.

The population at St. Albans continued to grow and this strained the resources of the Cottage School. The Inspector, Mr. Holland, reports that the attendance was increasing and present accommodation was inadequate.

He had the difficulty as to decide the size of the building, and if St. Albans would become important due to its nearness to Melbourne. If only the early founders had known what it was to be in 1969! His report is here enclosed.

21st May, 1890.

*Inspector Holland reports — in order. The room is 23 x 10 but space is taken up by a fireplace. If the attendance continues to increase it will be necessary to build here. A site was recommended at my last visit. It will be seen that the attendance has greatly increased during the past month. If it continues to increase, I think a new building will be required. The difficulty is to decide as to the size of building. St. Albans is near town and may become important, on the other hand the majority of parents appear to be rather unusual on that account. Should the average attendance increase to such an extent as to require a new building, I should be informed so as to be able to visit and ascertain the likelihood, or the reverse, of the new comers being permanent. I should then be in a better position to make final recommendations.*

In 1893 Miss Ellen Bird sent in the following particulars about the school:—

### **ST. ALBANS STATE SCHOOL 2969**

Form containing particulars of the above school as requested in Memo 93/24 on the 12th inst.

<i>Names of Children</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Distance to this school</i>	<i>Distance to other school</i>
K. Padley ..... 2.4.79	5	½ mile	4 miles
L. McGuinness ..... 10.2.81	5	½ mile	3½ miles
M. Rodgers ..... 19.2.82	4	1 mile	4 miles
J. Crosbie ..... 2.6.82	4	½ mile	3½ miles
A. Padley ..... 6.4.81	4	½ mile	4 miles
E. Crosbie ..... 31.10.84	3	½ mile	3½ miles
E. Smith ..... 5.6.82	3	½ mile	4 miles
W. Finch ..... 27.9.83	3	3 miles	3 miles
W. Padley ..... 2.4.83	3	½ mile	4 miles
J. Healey ..... 3.1.83	3	1 mile	4 miles
G. Mitchell ..... 30.3.80	3	¾ mile	4 miles
V. Servante ..... 30.3.80	2	½ mile	4 miles
E. Smith ..... 9.12.83	2	½ mile	4 miles
N. Healey ..... 6.10.84	2	1 mile	4 miles
L. Padley ..... 24.5.85	1	½ mile	4 miles
F. Crosbie ..... 16.11.86	1	½ mile	3½ miles
M. Padley ..... 10.9.87	1	½ mile	4 miles
G. Healey ..... 12.3.87	1	1 mile	4 miles
J. Cleary ..... 6.12.87	1	1 mile	4 miles
H. Smith ..... 7.2.87	1	½ mile	4 miles
Annie Cleary ..... 4 yrs		1 mile from school	
Mary Cleary ..... 4 yrs		1 mile from school	
E. Servante ..... 4 yrs 5 months		½ mile from school	
L. Smith ..... 4 yrs 3 months		½ mile from school	

Building in good order.

Roads are in fairly good order.

*E. Bird,*  
*May 16th, 1893.*



And later in the year on November 3rd, 1893.

**Names of pupils attending St. Albans 2969**

Padley Kate	.....	14 yrs 6 months	6th Class	1 Pupil
Padley Amy	.....	12 yrs 6 months	5th Class	4 Pupils
Rodgers Maggie	.....	11 yrs 8 months	5th Class	
Crosbie Jenie	.....	11 yrs 5 months	5th Class	
King Daisy	.....	12 yrs 7 months	5th Class	
Padley Winnie	.....	10 yrs 6 months	4th Class	6 Pupils
Finck Doris	.....	11 yrs 1 month	4th Class	
Crosbie Elsie	.....	9 yrs 0 months	4th Class	
Beattie Mary	.....	11 yrs 6 months	4th Class	
Healey James	.....	10 yrs 9 months	4th Class	
Barry Patricia	.....	11 yrs 10 months	4th Class	
Healey Nellie	.....	9 yrs 0 months	3rd Class	6 Pupils
Padley Queenie	.....	8 yrs 5 months	3rd Class	
Sherlock Josephine	.....	8 yrs 7 months	3rd Class	
Mitchell George	.....	13 yrs 7 months	3rd Class	
King Harold	.....	9 yrs 3 months	3rd Class	
Bedford Luther	.....	11 yrs 4 months	3rd Class	
Sherlock Winnie	.....	6 yrs 8 months	2nd Class	5 Pupils
Servante Victor	.....	7 yrs 7 months	2nd Class	
King Leslie	.....	7 yrs 6 months	2nd Class	
Bedford Ernest	.....	9 yrs 3 months	2nd Class	
Beattie George	.....	9 yrs 1 month	2nd Class	
Servante Abbey	.....	6 yrs 4 months	1st Class	10 Pupils
King Molly	.....	5 yrs 8 months	1st Class	
King Ivy	.....	5 yrs 8 months	1st Class	
Crosbie Fred	.....	6 yrs 11 months	1st Class	
Padley Thomas	.....	6 yrs 1 month	1st Class	
Healey Gerald	.....	6 yrs 7 months	1st Class	
Cleary John	.....	5 yrs 10 months	1st Class	
Sherlock Henry	.....	4 yrs 9 months	1st Class	
Bedford Herbert	.....	7 yrs 1 month	1st Class	
Beattie Alan	.....	5 yrs 2 months	1st Class	
TOTAL No. of Pupils — 32.				

Henry R. Bill was appointed Head Teacher in April 1894 and left in May 1894. Mr. David T. Hamilton was appointed Head Teacher in 1894 and served at the school until 1900.

It is interesting to note that even at this time vandalism was prevalent at the school. Certain children were accused of breaking windows in nearby cottages and the Headmaster was told to have more restraint on his pupils. The problem of overcrowding at the school was brought to the notice of Keilor Council. They wrote to the Education Department and informed them that there were various buildings available of a suitable type and in a central position.

Shire Office, Keilor.  
January 21st, 1899.

Sir,

*I am directed by the Council to urge upon the attention of your Department the great need which exists for increased accommodation for the State School at St. Albans. The smallness of the present school has been referred to in the Council's Annual Report to the Board of Health for the last three years; its unwholesomeness is acknowledged but nothing has been done to provide a remedy.*

*There are one or two houses with six large rooms in each which have been let at a mere nominal rent for sometime past which the Council thinks would be very suitable and could be secured on easy terms by your Department in a more central position.*

*The Council will be glad to learn soon that a move has been made in that direction.*

*I have the honour to be*  
Sir,  
*Your most obedient servant,*  
JOHN L. JENKINS,  
Secretary.

To the Secretary of  
the Education Dept.,  
Melbourne.

*It is worth considering that in the 1890's the Depression of this time forced many Banks and other organisations out of business. The Cosmopolitan Land and Banking Company was no exception in this crisis. They were placed in liquidation in the late 1890's and were placed in the hands of Arthur W. Cleveland, the Liquidator.*

*The end of the era at the old cottage in Adelaide Street came in 1900. It may have held many happy experiences for those who taught and those who were taught. In general it would appear that school at this time was held under very adverse conditions. Overcrowding was the main problem to the detriment of pupils and teachers.*

*A building of this size with its many disadvantages, such as an open fireplace, a partition (later removed), extreme heat in*

summer, and the building many other uses must surely have made it a trying place for the early teachers.

The education at this time was "Payment by Result". The teacher had to get a certain number of children up to a certain level no matter what their ability was. There was no individual teaching of subject matter, as the whole grade were taught the same things together. It was a matter of filling empty vessels with an amount of knowledge.

The course of teaching was set down and the teacher followed this dogmatically, knowledge was the same for all. The abler pupil could reasonably progress but the backward child fell further and further behind. Individual teachers may have tried to overcome this but the majority allowed this state of affairs to exist.

It is possible that many children played the "wag" to escape a rather difficult life at school. Children at this time were not getting the best from their education as it shown by the early years at St. Albans. Teachers who are interested in their children can make the best of a bad job. This must have been the case at St. Albans as the cottage took on the character of a school.

The teachers set out the cottage as best they could and beautified the grounds by planting trees around the boundary, the remains of which can still be seen. This cottage school was the foundation on which our present school was founded, and we can be proud of its early origin.

The plan below shows the lay-out of the original school:—

The year 1900 saw the end of the first St. Albans State School. The cottage which had been rented for one shilling per week and taken on a temporary basis for eleven years was now to be finally closed as a school. It once more became a dwelling-house, and after various owners had lived in it, is now owned by Mrs. McIntyre (1969).

A letter sent to the Secretary of the Education Department on the 4th of April, 1900, brings to an end the use of the Cottage School.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication of 3rd inst. giving the stipulated notice to terminate the agreement made on February 1st, 1892, between the Manager of this Company and Sir Frederick Largood, the Minister of Public Instruction at this date, of the house at St. Albans.

I have the honour to be,  
Yours Obediently,  
E. N. BROWN,  
by his Attorney,  
ARTHUR W. CLEVELAND,  
Liquidator.

The year 1900 was the beginning of the present school at St. Albans. It was no longer housed in temporary premises but was now established as a permanent school. This building can be inspected as it is part of the old rural school building which is situated to the North of the main building. It is the smallest room in this Section and it is possible to envisage its past use as a single room rural school.

March 28th, 1900.

Memo. 9424.

A contract has been let for a new school building (wood) 24 ft. x 18 ft. Accommodation 432 sq. ft. Date of Completion: April 30th, 1900.

It was not until the 25th of June, 1900, that the school was to be occupied.

June 18th, 1900.

Memo. 20758.

The new school building will be occupied from Monday next the 25th.

No sooner had the school been built than it had its problems. Mrs. Mary Delahey wrote to the Secretary of the Education Department stating that the School was built on her land.

The Secretary,  
Education Dept.

Sir,

*Upon measuring my land to fence it, I find that the School is built on my land instead of land sold to the Department. Kindly advise what steps I should take to have the mistake rectified.*

*I am your obedient Servant,*

MARY L. DELAHEY.

The Crown Solicitor then investigated the matter and found that Mrs. Delahey was incorrect and he thus saved the Education Department considerable embarrassment.

Crown Solicitor's Office,

June 19th, 1901.

ST. ALBANS STATE SCHOOL 2969.

*Mary Louisa Delahey to the Minister of Public Instruction.*

*In reply to your letter of the 4th inst., I beg to inform you that Mrs. Delahey is under a misapprehension.*

*On the 29th June, 1887, the Cosmopolitan Land Banking Co. Ltd. became the proprietor of the Lot 88 of Block B and has since remained so. Therefore if Mrs. Delahey ever had a title for Lot 88, it was not during the last fourteen years.*

Sir,

*Your Obedient Servant,*

C. J. D. GUINNESS,

Crown Solicitor.

The Head Teacher Mr. J. Barling complained to the Department on June 21st, 1901, about the smoke from the chimney which when the wind was in a westerly direction caused "the eyes of the little ones to suffer severely" and later Mr. Ben Balmer, Mr. Barling's successor had to report the same trouble, and also the fact that several birds had made the ceiling of the school their home. They soiled the desks and floor and to make matters worse, soiled the water tanks and made the water unfit for drinking purposes.

Another of the early problems was the wanderings of stock about the school yard. The Head Master felt the need for fencing around the school as can be seen by his letter to the Department.

P.O. 28th January, 1902.

Sir,

*I have the honour to report that during the Christmas vacation some person attempted to remove the tap from the school tank. The attempt was not successful but all the water was lost.*

*I have also to state that a length of downpipe has been wrenched from its position. It is possible that it was done by cattle rubbing against the building. This will help show the need for fencing the site, as at present the sheltered side of the building is the favourable camping ground of vagrant stock.*

*I have the Honour,*  
BEN BALMER, Head Teacher.

Again in 1902 Mr. Balmer complained about the water supply at the school. He stated that parents were complaining about the pollution by birds and the discolouration caused by rust. He discontinued the use of the tank water and purchased a supply from a resident. A request was made for a galvanised tank so that constant cleaning could be carried out to ensure a tank of fresh water at all times.

On the 11th February, 1903, Mr. Ben Balmer wrote to the Department asking their wishes about a tank which was waiting at the Railway Station.

St. Albans S.S. No. 2969  
11th February, 1903.

Sir,

*I have the honour to enquire whether I should take steps to have the tank, just supplied, erected at the school.*

*The tank is lying at the Railway Station, and it will save expense if the necessary timber is carted at the same as the tank.*

*I have the honour, etc.,*  
BEN BALMER, H.T.

In 1905 it appears that a move was being made to purchase land adjoining the school in order to extend its area. A letter and a plan sent by Mr. Ben Balmer points to this move.

St. Albans S.S. 2969  
15th August, 1905.

Sir,

*I have the honour to inform you that the vacant land adjoining the school is of the dimensions shown by the sketch in the margin. Its area 1 acre, 2 ro. 10 1/10 per. and the price asked by the vendors is £30 per acre. As the price quoted is above that brought by similar blocks recently sold here. I have pointed out that fact to them and they are prepared to consider an offer at a reduced rate.*

*I have the honour, etc.,*  
BEN BALMER, H.T.

Ben Balmer, H.T.

Information as to allotment of land adjoining school site, and also of other sites in the locality.

To Mr. Larnach, District Inspector. 18/8/1905.

*I recommend purchase, see O.S. 4217.*

*Asking whether portion, marked upon the drawing as the site adjoining the school site, is so low lying as to be undesirable for one extension of the school site.*

On the 4th July, 1905, a letter was sent from Mr. J. H. Parr, Correspondent School District No. 161, Tullamarine, asking that a residence be erected at State School No. 2969 St. Albans. Various moves were made to have one erected but it never materialised.

In 1906 Mr. Ben Balmer wrote to obtain permission to have a cloak-room erected, which would be part of the building, and also a shelter shed erected.

Mr. John G. Ellis wrote to the Hon. A. G. Sachse, Minister of Public Instruction, stating that the attendance at the school had greatly outgrown the accommodation provided and various children had been refused admittance. Other children were working under unhealthy conditions and something should be done about the situation.

In 1907 Mr. A. R. Robertson also wrote about the school accommodation and that a residence for a teacher should be built.

This letter Mr. John G. Ellis, member Board of Advice for the District to Mr. A. R. Robertson shows the problems of the school in 1907.

Despite the addition of extra classrooms the situation had become so acute by 1953 that the daily transfer of children to other schools in the area was undertaken. This necessitated the use of motorbuses to take pupils to Albion, Deer Park and even to Yarraville (Francis Street). The erection of six standard classrooms was scheduled to commence on March 11th, 1953 (1 triple unit with 12 ft. x 10 ft. Teachers' room attached) and it was felt that this would dispense with the leasing of the Shire Hall in 1954.

Mr. W. G. Douglas, the Head Teacher, commenced a plan to improve the grounds by tree planting, small garden plots and the laying of lawns. The yard was still very muddy in wet weather and the fences were in need of repair, and it was felt that the grounds were a poor introduction to Australia for migrant children.

### HEAD TEACHERS OF STATE SCHOOL No. 2969

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Ernest Malcolm	1944 - 1950
Patrick G. Kennedy	1950 - 1953
William G. Douglas	1954 - 1957
Sven Magnusson	1958 - 1961
George H. Howard	1962 - 1966
Andrew F. Blackie	1967 -

St. Albans, 29-7-1907.

Mr. A. R. Robertson.  
Dear Sir,

Referring to our recent conversation on State School matters at St. Albans, the points which I would like you to bring under the notice of the Education Department are these:

The school roll numbers 60 and the average attendance is  $55\frac{1}{2}$ , the size of the school being 24 x 18 which is 8 sq. ft. per child. (The department standard for a crowded area, means accommodation for 54, standard of 12 sq. ft. per child). Over and above this there are 10-12 children waiting to attend the school who have to be refused for want of room. I wrote to the Department a number of months back asking them to provide more accommodation and received a reply that the matter would have attention.

My suggestion now is that a room of the local institute be hired by the Department until such time as permanent accommodation be provided and there are more grounds than conjecture for saying that the number on the roll will continue to steadily increase. I might state that the district has always been keen and enthusiastic in school matters, and has substantially fenced in the school grounds at its own expense, and well planted the same with trees, shrubs and gardens, etc.

The other want is a residence for the teacher who has to travel 16 miles per day for want of nearer accommodation. I understand the Department purchased the land for same about 12 months ago, since when matters have come to a stand still. Hope you will give the matter your best attention.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN G. ELLIS,

Member of Board of Advice  
for district.

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Problems of vandalism must have been just as bad in 1907 as they are at the present time. The Headmaster Mr. Ben Balmer reported that during the Christmas vacation windows had been broken. Mr. Lanarch, the District Inspector, informed him to place the matter in the hands of the police.

In 1908 the Head Teacher wrote to the Department drawing their attention to the increased enrolment at the school and the lack of accommodation. The population of the township had increased and was likely to increase even further. Several children were waiting for admission, and the increased population expected was likely to place a greater strain on the overcrowded



school. Mr. Balmer suggested that the building could easily be extended to provide accommodation for 75 pupils. Mr. Larnach the Inspector, wrote that there was £90 estimated cost of the extension which would add 12 feet to the building, and would be completed in 1908 on the 3rd January.

The St. Albans State School was awarded a First Class Certificate for improvements to the grounds and gardens. This was published in the Education Gazette, in 1910.

Mr. Balmer left St. Albans State School in 1912, and from his record one can assume that he fought for better accommodation and education for the children of St. Albans.

Mr. W. Rankin was appointed Head Teacher in 1912, and the first report which he sent to the department was of cracked and broken window panes. The Inspector of Schools during this time was Mr. J. W. Owen.

In 1914 the School had a need for a new set of school desks as the old ones were too small for the large scholars. There were over 60 scholars in attendance.

### **A DANGEROUS SCHOOL ROOM**

A complaint from St. Albans in a Keilor paper reported about the dangers at the School. There was only one door opening inwards and the windows were 3 feet from the ground. The danger was that the children would panic in the event of a fire. A new door was requested but this was considered unnecessary.

The Head Teacher in 1914 was Mr. David Morgan.

Cattle were still coming into the School ground. There was a further move for a residence so that the teacher could look after the School building. Later in 1915 this was viewed as unnecessary, as Mr. David Morgan was going to build his own house. In 1916 the "Water Committee" said there was the possibility of a local water supply for household and domestic use with limited irrigation, and the school would possibly have it if it was supplied. Previous to this St. Albans residents had to purchase their water from a man with a cart. They used to get various containers and have them filled or used tanks.

Mr. J. W. Owens was the Inspector of Schools for this district in 1916.

Things needed in 1916 by the School were —

Scrapper mats.

Ventilators in ceiling.

Doors were to be left, as they were handy when North winds blew.

An extra water tank.

Blinds.

Painting of the Building.

Wall ventilators needed.

In 1922 a move was made to have seats with backs on them as the seats at present used were most uncomfortable for the children.

On the 1st November, 1922, the School Committee sent a letter requiring —

- 1) A full time assistant teacher.
- 2) Additional accommodation.
- 3) Provision for a teacher's residence.

The year 1922 was an important year for St. Albans, it became the terminus for the Electric train service to Melbourne.

A move was made in 1922 for the building of two rooms for an extra 100 pupils. Remodelling of existing building was to be approximately £1,500. The actual cost was to be £1,480-14-0 and the building would accommodate 130 pupils altogether. On November 1922, a request was sent for additional desks for the school. The number of children on the roll was 91, while the seating accommodation was for only 70 pupils. It was recommended that 6 desks to seat 5 children each be obtained from Altona State School.

A report in the Melbourne "Herald" dated November 23rd, 1922 states that:—

*"There was one room for 98 scholars and the residents complained that all the scholars were taught in the same room. Residents were endeavouring to secure an extension of the present building or the building of a new school. They stated that hygienic principles were unknown and the seating was old-fashioned. It was hoped that dual desks would be provided when the additions were made"*.

On the 30th of January, 1923, Mr. J. H. Sheridan, the Headmaster, reported that accommodation for 80 pupils was inadequate and that the school was overcrowded. Three teachers were working in the one room, and the building was in a bad state of repair.

Following further representations in 1923, action was taken to lease the Mechanics' Institute, and the Junior Department were having to meet in a leased room. When a contractor required the premises for one week, the Headmaster was instructed to dismiss the junior grades from the 14th to the 21st November if he were unable to obtain a building on lease for them.

After additions were made to extend the accommodation of the school in 1924, these were officially opened on May 17th by the Minister of Education. The school buildings now contained three rooms and an office, and provision was made for the erection of a fence to surround the school.

The erection of S.E.C. poles between St. Albans and Sunbury caused some concern as a very fine row of sugar gum trees lay in the path of the poles. These trees had been planted by local residents on Arbor Day some years previously, and to save the trees the S.E.C. very kindly installed poles which were 55 feet long., instead of the customary 45 feet, this meant that the trees could be lopped shorter instead of being destroyed.

A resident block was purchased for £130 in Theodore Street after many representatins had been made over the years.

In 1929 when the Head Teacher was Mr. C. J. D. Furey, the Minister of Education, the Hon. J. Lemmon, attended the Speech Night on December 16th, and again on December 14th, 1931, the school was again honoured on its annual Speech Night by the presence of the Minister.

On the 1st of January, 1932, it was reported that a chimney had collapsed on the previous Wednesday, and had caused considerable damage to the roof and interior.

Unwelcome and unauthorised visitors attended the school on March 13th, 1933, gaining entry by operating a window catch, but fortunately nothing was taken, the exit being made by the main entrance doors. The matter was reported to the Sunshine Police. A cowl had to be fitted to the infant room chimney, as it smoked so badly that it was impossible to light the fire, and after thirty years of the tread of many small and active feet, a new floor was installed in the infant room.

It was reported on March 12th, 1936, that the water supply would be exhausted by the following Monday unless rain were to fall. Permission to purchase a supply at a cost not exceeding £1 was sought. During the Christmas vacation the same year, rats ate their way into the Head Teacher's Office and destroyed some bound volumes, roll covers, and a register, but after the re-opening of the school were not seen again.

On the 28th of September, 1936, during the school vacation, the school was again broken into through an upper window and a number of pens, pencils, rulers, a pencil case and a box of infant room matching cards were stolen.

In 1939 Mr. L. Lamb was the Head Teacher of the school, a year in which the whole world was plunged once again into a war.

Another milestone in the history of St. Albans was reached in 1940, as in August of that year water was laid on to the town, which no doubt was a boon to the school after all the years of a tank supply, and its attendant inconveniences.

In 1945, Mr. E. Malcolm was the Head Teacher, and though the school facilities had improved over the years there was still much needed to be done, as the following letter which was sent to the Department shows.

*"The grounds are low-lying and inadequate asphalt paths are in a very bad state of repair. After rain, even only a slight shower, it is impossible to move out of doors without walking ankle deep in very sticky mud, thus the children are deprived of any out-door sport and physical training. The problem of keeping the inside of the school attractive is a very difficult matter, throwing more work on the Staff and the Caretaker.*

*The School is not connected to the Electricity Scheme. It is necessary to light a fire in the middle of summer for the Staff to have a cup of tea at lunchtime, and in the event of an accident it would take about 20 minutes to get hot water. We are about 10 minutes walk away from the nearest telephone, and about four miles from a Doctor, so a lot of time is lost before a patient is made comfortable.*

*Apart from this, the children are deprived of the educational advantages of a wireless which would be purchased if we had electricity. At the moment arrangements have been made for the senior girls to go to a nearby home to listen to the "Music Sessions" once a fortnight. This is possible only in good weather".*

MRS. A. J. HUGHES,

Hon. Secretary,

St. Albans Mothers' Club.

In addition to all these inconveniences, an adequate storage cupboard was needed, as the chimney was having to be used to store school property.

On the 22nd of June, 1946, a site beautification was begun. Mr. H. Grey, Curator of McKays (Sunshine Harvester Works), kindly offering to take charge of the scheme which affected part of the school grounds.

In 1950 three Keilor Shire Councillors were active on the School Committee namely: Crs. Eddie, Moffat and Easton. They along with the rest of the Committee protested strongly to the Department about the state of the school grounds especially after rain, and Mr. P. G. Kennedy, the Head Master, requested that a school residence be erected at the school as he was having difficulty in obtaining a house in the area and as he had a family of five children he felt that a residence on the site would also help to deter any vandalism.

On June 30th, 1950, a request was made by Keilor Shire Council asking the Education Department to help in the re-construction of West Esplanade at an estimated cost of £4,850, as they felt that it would provide a lasting and beneficial improvement to the school site.

Cr. Easton, Shire President, called for additional accommodation as a number of 5½ yr. old children had been denied admission at the beginning of the school year. Though all the children were enrolled, there were many more children eligible for enrolment in the following July and until the promised pre-fabricated rooms were provided there was no room available. They were on order but no guarantee could be obtained when they would be available, but the Department would agree to leasing the Shire Hall.

In June, 1951, Mr. Kennedy made a request for the provision of kerosene heaters for the use of classes which were being held in the school corridors, and concern was expressed about the toilet provision for the girls, as only three toilets were available for 80 girls, and this was causing inconvenience especially at play-time.

As the promised pre-fabricated classrooms had not arrived, the Shire Hall was leased by the Department and this was occupied on November 1st, 1951. In February, 1952, the enrolment had risen from 214 in the previous December to 250, and this was constantly increasing due to the fact that so many New Settlers were arriving at St. Albans.

These figures show the rapid increase in the enrolment.

March 1951	.....	.....	.....	.....	138	December 1951	.....	.....	.....	216
June 1951	.....	.....	.....	.....	166	February 1952	.....	.....	.....	253
September 1951	.....	.....	.....	.....	186					

In February 1952 only children aged 5½ yrs on January 1st of that year were enrolled. The net total of 253 pupils, of which 80 were in the Hall and 26 in the school corridors caused letters of complaint to be sent to the Department about the conditions. Approximately 82 infants were attending the 2 rooms at the Hall, of which 40 did not have any desks and had to sit on the floor. The addition of a pre-fab. room did little to alleviate the position and further accommodation was required.

The migrant children outnumbered the Australians by 3 to 1 and were represented by Ukrainians, Germans, Maltese, Latvians, Poles and Czechs.

The use of the accommodation from April 16th, 1952:

<i>Room Dimensions</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Number of Pupils</i>
1. 26 x 24 ft.	2	56
2. 26 x 24 ft.	1B	39
3. 24 x 18 ft.	1A	43
<i>Pre-fab.</i>		
1. 24 x 24 ft.	5A, 6, 7	43
2. 24 x 24 ft.	5B, 4	40
Hall: 18 x 16½ ft.	3	34

#### INTERVIEWS:

During the term parents are invited to meet the child's teacher. This enables parents to obtain a clear picture of the child's progress, his strength and his weaknesses, also how parents can help at home.

#### SCHOOL HEALTH:

During the period when the drought was with us this article appeared in the school news:

"Due to the poor quality of the water from our taps at present and because of the increasing incidence of various illnesses we are encouraging the children who attend this school to bring along a plastic container of boiled water each. Please co-operate."

#### FAMILY CARDS:

Last year we introduced a system of Family Cards, one per family. Information on these cards are strictly confidential. This enables us to know important Medical and Health details. We need to know if your child has a serious disability and the treatment necessary.

#### STOP PRESS:

This year 28 children have obtained their Herald Certificates and 28 children their Junior Certificates. (Swimming).

#### SCHOOL CAPTAINS:

Brian Lee and Susanne Ladewig.

#### HOUSE CAPTAINS:

Blue. — Colin Johanson, Mario Blaze.

Green. — William Bauer, Mario Holmes.

Red. — Ian Millardship, Sharron Meissener.

Gold. — Raymond Beller, Maria Svent.

#### STAFF v. STUDENTS:

On Friday, April 5, the School Staff had a thrilling match of softball against the students (first softball team). Even though the staff won by 6 runs the girls tried hard. The match raised \$10 for the Children's Hospital.

#### SCHOOL REPORT BOOKS:

This year the Upper School will be using our new report books.

#### AUGUST 1968:

Language classes.

Miss Cleary (Upper School) teaches English to a group of New Australian children in Grades 3-6. She also has several Remedial Reading Classes. Mrs. Campbell (Infant School) teaches English to six groups of New Australian children.

#### CHILDREN'S SCHOOL CAMP (SOMERS):

Mr. I. Thompson and a number of boys from St. Albans attended a camp at Somers and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Despite the addition of extra classrooms the situation had become so acute by 1953 that the daily transfer of children to other schools in the area was undertaken. This necessitated the use of motorbuses to take pupils to Albion, Deer Park and even to Yarraville (Francis Street). The erection of six standard classrooms was scheduled to commence on March 11th, 1953 (1 triple unit with 12 ft. x 10 ft. Teachers' room attached) and it was felt that this would dispense with the leasing of the Shire Hall in 1954.

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The following are articles of interest which have been taken from the Sunshine Advocate.

ADVOCATE DATED MARCH 22, 1924:

*A meeting of the local Progress Association. The names of 70 residents willing to take electric lights were submitted and it was decided to arrange a deputation to elect a Committee regarding electricity supply for the district. It was decided to combine with the School Committee regarding arrangements for the official opening of the new school building which is now close to completion.*

APRIL 26, 1924:

*A Concert was held by the Scholars of the Local State School on a recent afternoon in the presence of numerous parents and over £2 was raised for ornaments and pictures for the new school.*

*Mr. W. Mc. Stewart has been transferred from St. Albans State School to Victoria Park. He was held in high esteem by parents and scholars.*

MAY 17, 1924:

*The St. Albans State School is to be officially opened next Saturday afternoon.*

MAY 24, 1924:

*The new State School at St. Albans was officially opened last Saturday afternoon by Mr. A. Toucher, M.L.A., Minister of Education, in the presence of a large gathering of parents, visitors and scholars. Mr. Everard, M.L.A., represented Mr. Robertson, the member for the district, who was indisposed. Addresses were given by Messrs. Toucher and Everard also by Mr. F. C. Stenson, Chairman of the School Committee, who commented on the dangerous railway crossing.*

*After the opening ceremony the children were given a bag of sweets and cakes, and the visitors were entertained at refreshments by the School Committee.*

JUNE 7, 1924:

*The St. Albans Schoolboys played the Sunshine Schoolboys football at St. Albans last Saturday, the final scores after a hard game being St. Albans 13 goals 5 behinds, Sunshine 7 goals 2 behinds.*

JULY 12, 1924:

*A branch of the Junior Red Cross has been formed at the State School. A gift day for the Children's Hospital was held and the total amount raised was £4-10-5½ which was very creditable.*



AUGUST 30, 1924:

Children in the area were not attending school owing to the bad roads and footpaths.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1924:

A village fair was held last Wednesday night. Junior Fancy Dress Ball results —

Persian Princess ..... Miss Vera Thompson

Herald ..... Master J. O. Reilly's

Most original characters —

The Old Woman in a shoe ..... Miss McRae

The Three Bears ..... The McRae boys

Most sustained characters —

Witch Soap ..... Miss Marjorie Griffiths

Johnnie Walker ..... Master Finlay McDonald

The Village Fair was held in aid of improvements to the State School.

JANUARY 10, 1925:

Hume and Hovell centenary memorial unveiling was performed by Ellen McDonald, the youngest pupil of St. Albans State School and Master Hume a descendant of the explorer.

MARCH 20, 1926:

A Picnic was held at Williamstown on Saturday, 20th March, 1926, which was an annual event.

NOVEMBER 26, 1927:

Mr. Sheridan, Head Teacher, received his transfer to Doncaster.

MARCH 10, 1928:

The Annual Picnic for the State School at St. Albans was held at Mordialloc to-day. The children will be conveyed thither by a fleet of motor trucks. Meals, refreshments and prizes for sports for the children have all been made possible by a series of entertainments held during the last few months.

The approximate number of houses in St. Albans in 1928 were 150.

FEBRUARY 13, 1931:

A letter from the Victorian Teachers Association requesting the Committee to enter a protest against the proposed new regulations whereby the teaching staff are to be determined on the average instead of the nett attendance.

The following Exam Results was published in the Sunshine Advocate for the St. Albans State School year ending 1938:

Grade 8	— Percy Harrison Dux of School	
	Gwen Cunningham	2
	John Roberts	3
Grade 7	— Stanley Gilham	1
	Dudley Self	2
	Marion McAuley	3
Grade 6	— Desmond Hutson	1
	Leslie Harrison	2
	Keith Richards	3
Grade 5	— Francis McLeod	1
	Jean Teagle	2
	Raymon Roberts	3
Grade 4	— Kingsford Teagle	1
	George Powes	2
	Kenneth Winter	3
Grade 3	— Lance Self	1
	Hazel Ankers	2
	Ernest Gregory	3
Grade 2	— Maureen Turner	1
	Muriel Newman	2
	Dawn Wilson	3
Grade 1	— Josephine Hale	1
	Doreen Sinclair	2
	Jean Anderson	3

Attendance Prizes 100% for 1938. — D. Self, L. Self, S. Webb, K. Webb, Joy Webb, B. Ankers, M. Turner, S. Gilham, B. Gilham.

Sewing Prizes. — V. Fitzgibbon (Grade 8), Betty Knight (Grade 7), B. Smith (Grade 6), J. Teagle (Grade 5), S. Webb (Grade 4), Alma Sinclair (Grade 2).

Sloyd Prizes. — Percy Harrison and John Robertson (equal first).

Merit Certificate. — P. Harrison, G. Cunningham, J. Roberts, V. Carr, E. Pearson, B. King, B. Goddard, V. Fitzgibbon, B. Andrews.

On Friday, December 15, 1939, the St. Albans State School Orchestral Association held an inaugural concert at the Melbourne Town Hall and St. Albans was represented by Misses Shirley Redford, Beryl King and Betty O'Hare, Betty Gilham and Master Des. Hutson all playing violins. The children have been taught by Mr. Tasher who visits to give lessons. The children gave an excellent concert which was worthy of great praise, 250 from all schools taking part. The conductor was Mr. S. Wilkie.

**MARCH 1, 1939:**

*A successful afternoon was held at the school on Wednesday, March 1, when a number of mothers welcomed the new Headmaster, Mr. Lamb. The election of office-bearers: President, Mrs. Stevens; Vice-President, Mrs. Blair; Secretary, Mrs. Hutson; Treasurer, Mrs. McIntyre. The speaker was Mrs. McColl, Secretary of the Victorian Federation Mothers Clubs, who spoke on the value of Mothers Clubs. The meeting was followed by afternoon tea.*

**MARCH 29, 1940:**

*A Penny Concert was held at the State School on Wednesday, March 20, to aid the School funds. The function proved most successful. The children gave their own items which were much appreciated.*

**APRIL 19, 1940:**

*For the purpose of raising funds towards the new piano a very successful concert was held at the State school. Master John Perrett was the highlight of the concert. John sang "Daisy Daisy" and richly deserved the applause he received, Miss B. Self played a pianoforte solo and Mrs. Stevens and Mr. Lamb accompanied the children's songs.*

**APRIL 26, 1940:**

*A Fancy Dress Ball and Euchre Party was held at the Mechanics Institute and was a scene of a colorful juvenile fancy dress ball. The evening was arranged by the St. Albans Mother's Club in aid of the piano fund.*

By 1954 there were over 750 children enrolled at the school of which 622 were attending the State School, 48 were attending Deer Park, and 94 were attending the Shire Hall. It will be seen how the population explosion had so increased the number of pupils at the school, yet the accommodation was still only limited to 524 pupils. This must have been a very trying time for the Staff and much credit must go to them.

By September 21, 1954, there were 764 children enrolled, and this figure was likely to be exceeded again in 1955. On May 10, 1955, two new rooms were commenced by extension to the Bristol Building. A temporary partition was provided but was not adequate as teachers and pupils were interrupted by each other, and to add to the many problems, it was decided to demolish the Shire Hall which meant that alternative accommodation had to be found for the children who were attending there.

On February 6, 1956, the school was again broken into by children and considerable damage was done to the school property. Almost every cupboard and other containers were emptied of their contents which were scattered around the floors, mud was thrown about and some windows were broken. In addition,

entry was made into a shelter shed and a great many glass doors and windows stored there were broken.

The flagpole, which had been guyed previously to buildings, had been removed during building extensions, developed a serious lean, and fears were expressed for the serious consequences which could arise in the event of it falling, as it was a heavy pole of some 30-ft. in length.

The school Rounders Team were successful in winning the Sunshine and District Premiership. The members of the successful team were: Jean Price, Claudine Momster, Christine Maier, Evie Kolin, Anna Kaksa, Androuella Ionnou, Monica Probic, Demetria Kastumoti, Joyce Gilham.

November, 1959, saw the end of the old "Rotunda" shelter shed which had heard the voices of so many of the school pupils over the years.

In 1958 a further addition to the school's equipment was the acquisition of a slide projector and portable screen.

The football team of 1960 had a distinguished record — they completed the season without a defeat.

In 1962 Mr. S. Magnusson ceased his duties as Head Teacher at the school. Mr. G. H. Howard took over as Head Master in 1962. One could usually find Mr. Howard working on some odd job in the school year.

1967 saw the appointment of Mr. A. F. Blackie as Head Teacher. His first year was spent in a major re-organisation of the school. New schemes were introduced and many changes were made.

A system of yard cleanliness was introduced and this was put on a competitive basis. A House system was introduced and this has been responsible in promoting a healthy spirit of striving for achievement amongst the children. They are encouraged by their teachers and are reinforced by words of advice in helping them to give of their best at all times. Throughout the school there is a sense of responsibility for the well-being of the individual.

Pieces taken from Primary School News, March 1968 —

#### PARENTS, TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING:

*Each term a Parent-Teacher meeting is held to foster co-operation between the parent and the teacher. During these meetings information is given of school plans, policy and needs to give an insight into some of the newer methods of teaching various subjects at the present time.*

#### INTERVIEWS:

During the term parents are invited to meet the child's teacher. This enables parents to obtain a clear picture of the child's progress, his strength and his weaknesses, also how parents can help at home.

#### SCHOOL HEALTH:

During the period when the drought was with us this article appeared in the school news:

"Due to the poor quality of the water from our taps at present and because of the increasing incidence of various illnesses we are encouraging the children who attend this school to bring along a plastic container of boiled water each. Please co-operate."

#### FAMILY CARDS:

Last year we introduced a system of Family Cards, one per family. Information on these cards are strictly confidential. This enables us to know important Medical and Health details. We need to know if your child has a serious disability and the treatment necessary.

#### STOP PRESS:

This year 28 children have obtained their Herald Certificates and 28 children their Junior Certificates. (Swimming).

#### SCHOOL CAPTAINS:

Brian Lee and Susanne Ladewig.

#### HOUSE CAPTAINS:

Blue. — Colin Johanson, Mario Blaze.

Green. — William Bauer, Mario Holmes.

Red. — Ian Millardship, Sharron Meissener.

Gold. — Raymond Beller, Maria Svnt.

#### STAFF v. STUDENTS:

On Friday, April 5, the School Staff had a thrilling match of softball against the students (first softball team). Even though the staff won by 6 runs the girls tried hard. The match raised \$10 for the Children's Hospital.

#### SCHOOL REPORT BOOKS:

This year the Upper School will be using our new report books.

#### AUGUST 1968:

Language classes.

Miss Cleary (Upper School) teaches English to a group of New Australian children in Grades 3-6. She also has several Remedial Reading Classes. Mrs. Campbell (Infant School) teaches English to six groups of New Australian children.

#### CHILDREN'S SCHOOL CAMP (SOMERS):

Mr. I. Thompson and a number of boys from St. Albans attended a camp at Somers and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

## STAFF v. STUDENTS:

*On Friday, May 31, the school watched an exciting basketball match between the staff and the girls. The girls were the first to score. Although the girls tried hard they were defeated by ten goals. The goalers for the staff were Mrs. Whelan and Miss Connellan. Total amount raised for Footscray and District Hospital was \$12.85.*

## WHY HAVE A LIBRARY ?:

*Mrs. Z. Y. Koopu, the School Librarian said that the Library was essential. It encourages the children to become independent learners and to improve reading. We have 700 fiction books and 1,000 reference. We hope to build our book stock to 4,000, a recommended minimum for a school of this size.*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

*Religious instruction has been given to grades 5 and 6 only, because of shortage of instructors. Seven groups were held on Wednesdays. The visiting instructors were: Rev. D. A. Radford, Rev. L. Gorfine, Sister Rita, Sister Hilda, Sister Averil, Miss J. Woodman, Mrs. McMenamse and Mrs. Hilson.*

## SCHOOL OPENING, 1969:

*On the first day of school 1969 only teachers are to attend. Children will start the next day. Teachers to plan and prepare for the new year.*

## MARCH 1969:

*School Captains. — Ronald McKinnon and Glenda Ankravs.*

## HOUSE CAPTAINS:

*Blue. — Arthur Vassilou, Cheryl Chatterton.*

*Red. — Dale Smith, Sirpa Tammilehto.*

*Green. — Niki Milovanovic, Elizabeth Pumple.*

*Gold. — Lynton Stretton, Filanthy Bandios.*

## VICE-CAPTAINS:

*Blue. — Peter Korzeniewski, Patricia Bertani.*

*Red. — Jim Kiatos, Mary Papastratis.*

*Green. — Ray Frazer, Sonya Kolendowski.*

*Gold. — George Boulanikis, Janice Gangur.*

## ENROLMENT FOR 1969:

*107 children began their school life at St. Albans this year. In the breakdown of school enrolment we find: Upper School 370, Infant School 321 — Total 691.*

## SPORT:

*Swimming.* — At the Sunshine District Sports at the Sunshine Pool on March 7 our swimmers performed very creditably. In fact, it was our best team effort for many years.

*Placegetters were:*

*Sonya Kolendowski.* — 1st, Under 12 Diving.

*Alex Markovic.* — 1st, Under 12 Freestyle.

*Pierre Bennett.* — 2nd, 12-14 Freestyle.

*Janet Dealy.* — 3rd, Under 11 Diving.

*Gary Hanson.* — 3rd, Under 12 Diving.

## CRICKET:

*March 6:*

*St. Albans Firsts, 3-45, defeated Deer Park Firsts, 6-40.*

*St. Albans Seconds, 9-46, defeated Deer Park Seconds, 10-37.*

## SOFTBALL:

*March 6:*

*St. Albans No. 1, 38, defeated Deer Park No. 1, 20.*

*St. Albans No. 2, 11, lost to Deer Park No. 2, 36.*

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE:

*On Friday, April 18, all State Primary Schools in the Sunshine Inspectorate were closed to enable all teachers to attend a District Conference.*

*Methods of teaching English, Art and Craft, Physical Education and the proposed new course in Primary School Science were listed for discussion.*

## WORKING BEE:

*The thanks of the children and staff go to Foreman Ron Jones and his band of enthusiastic workers for carrying out "Operation Clean Up" so well on March 2. A special mention to the ladies who provided the refreshments and found time to tidy up the woodshed, and also to Jim Humphrey and Tom Lang, who lopped the dead trees.*

## SCHOOL SONG:

*The School Song was composed and arranged by Mr. A. F. Blackie. It is sung on special occasions, and has given the children added pride in their school.*

## SCHOOL GARDENS:

*To Mr. C. Earnshaw must go the credit for the maintenance of the school gardens. He has served for many years on the Staff, and is held in high esteem by the pupils whom he has taught. The Upper School children and their teachers deserve mention for their organisation of the Friday "Gardening Hour."*

#### VICE-CAPTAINS:

*Blue.* — Peter Korzeniewski and Nina Bosnic.

*Green.* — Dale Smith and Maria Alonso.

*Red.* — Dirk Smith and Elizabeth Pumple.

*Gold.* — John Lawson and Roslyn Svent.

#### WORKING BEE:

On Saturday, February 17, our long-awaited cricket pitch was put down. Our skilled foreman, Mr. Tom Sinclair, supported by parents and teachers.

#### LITTLE ATHLETICS:

St. Albans Primary School was one of the first district schools to form and enter a team in the Sunshine District Little Athletics Association. Mr. G. Goode was the leader of this group.

#### GIRLS' SPORTS UNIFORM:

It has been decided to introduce a sports uniform for girls in the Senior School. It is hoped that by 1969 all girls in Grade 5 and 6 will be suitably dressed for sport.

#### STOP PRESS:

The Education Department has just approved the contract for internal and external renovations and the painting of the school. This work is to begin shortly and asphaltting will be completed to the building line fronting the football ground.

#### ENROLMENT FIGURES, 1968:

This year we had a total of 111 new children in the Prep. Grades. Upper School 376, Infant School 326 — Total 702.

An article appeared in the "Bendigo Advertiser" recently in which Miss Cramer, one of our teaches, was interviewed. She stated "that St. Albans is a 'Little United Nations'."

#### JUNE 1968:

This term Mr. George Goode, the Deputy Headmaster, is away on long service leave. Mr. Goode is on his way around Australia via the Nullarbor Plain, Perth, Darwin and Alice Springs.

#### SCHOOL BADGES:

At last we have our new School Badge on sale. The design was developed from information supplied by Mr. G. Lambert, our School Historian. The badge was developed from the old badge of John of Welthamstede, abbot of St. Albans (d.1465) from his tomb in the abbey church and the present City Coat of Arm (England). The words Strive, Seek and Serve were suggested by a pupil from one of the grades.



## SCHOOL CHOIR:

*The school choir, under Mr. Blackie's direction, has resumed again. Miss Connellan, our pianist, is delighted with our new piano which Mr. and Mrs. Hills presented to the school.*

## RECORDER BANDS:

*This year, under the direction of Mrs. Whelan and Miss Connellan, Grades 5 and 6, and Miss McClure and Mr. Lambert, Grades 3 and 4, are teaching the children to play the recorder.*

One cannot conclude the history of St. Albans State School without praising the unselfish and untiring service which has been given over so many years by the Mother's Club and the School Committee.

Their efforts in raising finance to help the School with equipment, improvements, etc., have helped greatly in raising the standard of education in the school.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 1969:

*Messrs. Johansen (Chairman), Haynes (Secretary), Tusek (Treasurer), Jones, Hall, Humphrey, Lang, Millardship, Unger, Karbanenko; Mesdames Christiansen, Robinson, McCairney, Burrows.*

## MOTHER'S CLUB, 1969:

*Mrs. McCairney (President), Mrs. Johns (Secretary), Mrs. Baum (Treasurer), Mrs. Haymes (Asst. Secretary), Mrs. Coulson (Canteen Manageress).*

Mr. A. F. Blackie and Miss M. J. Reid cannot go unmentioned as the guiding influence behind the many improvements taking place at the school in recent times.

The Teachers and Staff deserve praise for their readiness at all times to cater for the children's needs.

To our District Inspector, Mr. B. O'Neill, our thanks for his guidance and encouragement since taking over the Inspectorate.

To all those who, over the years, have given some part of their time or talents to the School and its children, we dedicate these few words —

*"Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time."*

## TEACHING STAFF —“BACK TO ST. ALBANS”

80th Anniversary. 1969.

<i>Principal</i>	—	Mr. A. F. BLACKIE
<i>Infant Mistress and Deputy Principal</i>	—	Miss M. J. REID
<i>School Co-ordinator</i>	—	Mr. G. P. GOODE
<b>SENIOR SCHOOL</b>		
<i>Head of Department</i>	—	Mr. R. D. WHELAN Mr. G. P. GOODE Mr. M. J. CLANCY Mrs. L. M. WHELAN Mr. C. EARNSHAW
<b>JUNIOR SCHOOL</b>		
<i>Head of Department</i>	—	Mr. J. G. CAMPBELL Mr. I. D. THOMPSON Mr. G. D. LAMBERT Miss M. JACIOW Mr. D. TEMISANOVIC
<b>INFANT SCHOOL</b>		
<i>Heads of Department</i>	—	Mrs. K. BAJZIK Mrs. D. PICKETT  Mrs. P. A. VOJTEK Miss G. A. ROGERSON Miss G. M. WILKS Mrs. V. BOGNAR Miss F. OBRONCZKA Miss J. A. HESLOP Miss M. M. GRACE
<i>Librarian</i>	—	Mrs. Z. Y. KOOPU
<i>Special English Classes</i>	—	Mrs. P. HAMMER Miss L. TALBOT Mrs. M. CAMPBELL



