

Strathmerton School 2790

A Brief History of the First One Hundred Years.



State School No 2790

- 1886** School opened in a single room in Mrs Ruttle's house in Northill Avenue with ten pupils. The first teacher was Mrs Jane Cope who drove in from Mywee each day in her sulky. Pupils included Elizabeth and Bridget Kenny, Fred and Popsy McGuire, Walter and Ted Callger and Ellen Brannigan.
- 1887** A portable building was supplied by the Education Department.
- c 1888** The building was moved to the second site at the corner of the Murray Valley Hwy and Bouchiers Road.
- 1897** Mr R Farrall was fined one shilling for failing to send his son to school. Mr Farrall stated that cramped conditions at the school, which he had built himself, combined with hot weather made it dangerous for the children. The Bench agreed and instructed the Clerk of the Court to report the inadequate conditions of the school to the Minister for Education.
- 1898** Tender was called for the removal of State School No 2209 Boosey Creek and the re-erection of the same at School No 2790 Strathmerton North.
- 1911** Request for the school name to be changed to Strathmerton .
- 1912** Opening of the new school at the third site. The school building, grounds and residence were bounded by Main Road, Second Street and the Anglican Church.

1914-1918 First World War. Students of the school were involved in various activities to support the war effort.

1931 Sixty students and three teachers. The building was not adequate and school council carried out repairs and additions.

1939-1945 Second World War.

1945 There were twenty-four pupils and one teacher.

1948 The enrolment was twenty pupils.

1950s The consolidation of small rural schools and the beginning of soldier settlement caused a dramatic increase in the school population.

1950 The site on Findlay Street was purchased.



Prep Girls 1952

1951 The school bus service was introduced. As there was not yet a postal run, newspapers and mail were sent home with the children.

1953 The school operated on two sites; the infant department on the Main Road site and senior school on the new site in Findlay Street. Ulupna State School merged with Strathmerton.

1954 The whole school occupied the Findlay Street site. The old building was transferred and one hundred and ninety-eight pupils attended.

1958 Swimming classes commenced in the channel near Yarroweyah.



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- 1959** A tennis court was constructed.
- 1962** The septic system was installed and a new classroom added.
- 1964** Swimming classes were held at the Cobram Swimming Pool.
- 1974** One hundred and twenty-eight pupils were enrolled.
- 1975** One hundred and thirty pupils were enrolled, instructed by seven teachers.
- 1976** One hundred and twenty-two pupils were enrolled. The library won the Fields Award for the best primary school library program in Victoria.
- 1977** One hundred and sixteen pupils were enrolled. The Strathmerton swimming pool was constructed.
- 1981** One hundred and forty-three pupils were enrolled.
- 1982** One hundred and thirty-eight pupils were enrolled. Construction of the current building commenced.
- 1983** The current school building, built at a cost of \$500 000, was opened by Mr K Jasper, Member for Murray Valley. The enrolment was one hundred and thirty-one students.
- 1986** The Centenary of Education in Strathmerton. The Bristol building, so called because it was manufactured in Bristol, England, was converted to a carpeted classroom and kitchen area. The enrolment was one hundred and thirty-eight pupils.



Concert 1910 – “Soot and the Fairies”