BORONIA PRIMARY SCHOOL

A brief history

1923 - 2005
This booklet has been produced to coincide with the official opening of new and refurbished buildings at Boronia Primary School. You may be a student, staff member or parent who has enjoyed an association with us – whatever your connection, we hope you enjoy reflecting over your time with us. While we can appreciate the wonderful facilities we now enjoy, it’s timely that we also remember that in order to appreciate our present, none of this has been possible without our past.
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In the beginning ..... 

Prior to 1923, there was no school in the immediate centre of Boronia which was then a small rural community. The children of school age were obliged to attend either the school at The Basin or Bayswater.

The Boronia Progress Association, being a small band of enthusiastic residents anxious to see the area progress, decided to take steps regarding the establishment of a school. A petition was circulated throughout the district and presented at a meeting of the Association on February 26th 1921. At this meeting, the Honorary A. C. Chandler M.L.C. agreed in conjunction with Mr Frank Groves M.L.A. to present the petition to the Minister of Public Instruction.

A census taken at this time revealed that there were forty-four children of school age ready to attend a school in the township. On the 19th March, 1921 a letter was read at the Progress Association meeting, stating the Education Department was considering the petition and required further information regarding the numbers and ages of children likely to attend the proposed school.

This information was forwarded and a reply received on May 28th to the effect that the District Inspector, Mr Burgess, would visit the district and submit a report.

On July 2nd Mr Burgess met some fourteen residents and after a great amount of discussion, intimated that his report would be favourable, subject to suitable land being available. Mr Zeising, a local resident was approached, and agreed to sell three acres of land in Ringwood Road (now Dorset Road) adjoining the railway station on the northern side.

A committee consisting of Mr Chandler, Mr Ward and the secretary Mr Whittle, was formed to conduct negotiations with Mr Zeising. On October 1st the Association reported that negotiations for the sale of the land had progressed satisfactorily and the area was to be pegged out prior to survey and purchase. On November 5th the meeting was informed that the land had been purchased and the erection of a school would follow in due course.

It was on April 5th 1922, (the following year) that the Education Department informed the Association that tenders were being called for the erection of a school building.
A one roomed wooden building was erected on the site fronting Dorset Road and was opened on February 5th, 1923 with Mr Percy Jones as Head Teacher.

The attendance register shows that forty-one children presented themselves for admission ranging from Grade 1 to Grade 7, with many of them having attended schools in The Basin and Bayswater. The first student to be enrolled was Gilbert Elliott, son of a railway employee. Ethel Chandler and Frederick Ward are listed as the following two enrolments. The families of Chandler and Ward are well known in the area and in latter years, were to become the names of two of Boronia Primary School's “Houses.”

The composition of the grades was as follows:

- Grade 7: 1 pupil
- Grade 6: 6 pupils
- Grade 5: 1 pupil
- Grade 4: 10 pupils
- Grade 3: 6 pupils
- Grade 2: 5 pupils
- Grade 1: 12 pupils

This photograph was taken on Opening Day. The Head Teacher was disgusted at the lack of a blackboard and proper seating.

The school continued to grow and in 1924, Miss Caroline Aitken was appointed Junior Teacher, remaining until 1925. Mr Jones remained as Head Teacher until 15th July, 1933. At this stage, enrolment had grown to one hundred and twenty.

The construction of three additional rooms making a total of four, was sufficient for the school population for some years.
Boronia School - Past & Present
The Boronia School is located in Dorset Road, opposite Chandler Road and the Boronia Railway Station.

(Photo: by Chris Boddy)
Taken in the late 1920s.
(KHS Archives- 1296)
Grades 1 - 4, in 1929
Grades 4 - 8, in 1929
(KHS Archives- 2684)
(Photo: by Chris Boddy)
(Photo: by Chris Boddy)

Boronia School
4081
**1940’s – 1960’s**

By 1943, the student enrolment had reached over two hundred.

During 1948 it became evident that the Dorset Road site would not cater for the rise in population following the post-war period. An area of vacant land of twelve acres running from Rangeview Road to Albert Avenue was under discussion as a new site and with the assistance of the local Member of Parliament, Mr G. Chandler M.L.C., this site was purchased.

As the population of the town continued to grow, the primary school in Dorset Road (now the site of McDonald’s Restaurant) was bursting at the seams. In December, 1949 an application was made by the Education Department for use of the Church hall for school purposes.

In January of 1950, approval was given for the main hall to be used for classrooms "providing there was not undue interference with the church’s own work." The suggested rental was two pounds ten shillings ($5) per week!

In 1950, two Bristol units were erected on the site and part of the school was accommodated here. Later one more Hawker unit was brought onto the site.

The new school at Rangeview Road opened in 1951. The original school in Dorset Road continued to operate for some years, catering for children from Prep to Year One.

The school population continued to grow and additional light timber construction buildings were added until the number of classrooms totalled fifteen.

By 1953, the school enrolment was over five hundred.
Parents erected this building of Mount Gambier limestone on Saturdays between 8 am and 5 pm. The building consisted of a main hall, kitchen, entrance and stage. It was to be used for handwork, concerts, folk dancing and film screenings.

During 1954, Mr George Maddocks (our longest serving Principal to date), was Head Teacher. Mr Gilbert Chandler played an important role in the negotiations for new buildings. It was decided to proceed with the erection of a building in Mt Gambier limestone with the estimated cost being £3000.

Under a special grant to the School Committee, an assembly hall and library were erected in 1955 by the residents, mainly by voluntary labour. This was opened in 1956 by the Minister of Education, the Honorary J. Bloomfield. The library was extended in 1964.

Towards the end of 1959 Miss W Waddell (Secretary of the Nature Plants Preservation Society) was referred to, to discuss the possibility of establishing a sanctuary for native flora within the school grounds. An area on the southern side was selected as a possible site as there were already numerous species growing there. It contained a large number of specimens of Heath Milkwort – a plant which was rapidly disappearing in Victoria, and it was also reasonably free from introduced species. Over the ensuing years, a concern was raised about this area being a fire hazard. In 1962, an application was made to the Education Department to have the area proclaimed a sanctuary for native plants.

From 1965 our records show that during this period, all staff members were required to enter the exact time of arrival to, and departure from school each day. This formality continued until 1973. It is interesting to note that during these times, most teachers had vacated school at the end of the day prior to 4.00 pm – something that is rarely seen today!
### Example of 1966 Staff time sheet

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<th>Names</th>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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#### Description:
The table above represents a sample of a 1966 Staff time sheet from Boronia Primary School. It includes the names of staff members, their positions, and their scheduled arrival and departure times for each day of the week ending on March 19, 1966.
In 1972 the enrolment figures had reached six hundred and twenty-seven. All grades had class sizes of less than 38 with the exception of two grade sixes that each had forty-one and forty-two respectively.

During this time the staffroom had become overcrowded and one solution was for the Mens staffroom to be extended, making one large room. This plan was to cost $14,000.

In June 1972, plans were put in place for the following year. Two new Vice Principals were appointed in non-teaching roles which would then lead to obvious alterations. Room 1 was to be divided into two small rooms – a storeroom and double office for the Vice Principals. Room 2 was to become a staffroom. The Ladies staffroom was to remain and the Mens staffroom to be a visiting staffroom. Five new classrooms and an extra room on the infant block with a passage running right through to the other end would now be needed.

A letter was written to the Education Department regarding a gravel footpath to be installed leading to the rear gate in Albert Avenue, stressing that approximately one hundred and fifty children lived east of the school and the present track was often muddy and slippery.

Plans for a canteen were also discussed with the shop opposite the school being informed of the proposed venture.

Boronia East Technical School was to be built in Mount View Road and was to be closely associated with Boronia Primary, combining in fundraising activities.

Marching Girls sought permission to use the assembly hall on rainy Saturdays and the basketball courts were hired at the rate of $10 per court per season per club.

The school canteen opened in August 1972, serving one hundred and two lunches on opening day. $25 was received. A wash basin was installed at a cost of $89. Despite having our own canteen, students were still permitted to leave the grounds during school hours and make purchases from the shop opposite.

Letters from the Department and City of Knox stated that trees were available free to schools, to beautify their grounds. It was agreed that twelve large trees would be preferable to one hundred and twenty small ones.

Staff meetings were held fortnightly during lunch time recess.
In May 1973, staff members formed a committee to plan an adventure playground.

In August, Council stated that it was prepared to install a school crossing in Rangeview Road provided an undertaking was made to man the flags. Grade 6 children were given this responsibility. In latter years, Mrs Wendy Thomas supervised the crossing for many years, and still does so today.

From 1974, a full time secretary was to be employed. Mrs Marie Deason was to enjoy a long 20 years plus association with the school. A Remington typewriter was purchased in June at a cost of $65, and was upgraded in December with an electric typewriter costing $747. The canteen made a clear profit of $400.

At the beginning of 1975, enrolment was six hundred and twenty-two. Boronia had eighteen class teachers, a librarian, an assistant librarian, two part time study leave teachers and two graduates from State Colleges.

A proposed re-organisation of School Council was introduced to include a Grounds Committee, Finance Committee and an Education Committee.

Concern about the need for additional sporting and recreational facilities in the Boronia area prompted the School Committee to approach the Education Department in October 1975, for permission to develop 2.5 hectares of unused area of grounds for community/school use. Before any concrete proposals were formulated, the plan was to seek the views of local sporting bodies, schools and the community at large to determine more specific needs for the district. The School Committee initiated a survey and from this, found there was a demand for a heated indoor pool, tennis courts, barbeque areas, jogging tracks, soccer pitch and cricket pitch. This list was somewhat reduced, with the following facilities being in use by 1979: tennis courts, a soccer pitch and a cricket pitch/football oval.

A school crossing in Albert Avenue was in place by mid 1977 followed shortly afterwards, by a fitness trail on the lower eastern area of the school. Barbecues were also installed.

In November 1977 the school (under the leadership of Mr Myles Gillson) sought financial assistance from the Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation for the construction of this twelve station fitness trail. It would be for school and community use with an approximate cost of $650. Council did not expect a contribution for labour as this would be donated by interested parents, but suggested that any support for materials would be most welcome. The Minister approved a grant of $490.
1980’s

The pavilion that you see near the tennis courts off Albert Avenue was built in 1981 to be used by soccer clubs and tennis clubs. In latter years it was used by the local Auskick club, and is still used by them today.

In June 1982, the subject of a Safety House scheme was raised. A brief report was presented on requirements, e.g., number of people needed, insurance, size of committee etc. Following a questionnaire, thirty-five people responded offering their home as a Safety House.

Unfortunately, this program did not get off the ground until 1984 when Principal, Mr Vernon Wilkinson made a new and successful bid, ensuring that children could travel to and from school in relative safety. This vital program is still in existence today.

In 1983, a music room was erected in the form of a pine log cabin. To mark the occasion, each grade planted a tree in the surrounding area. A feature of the opening ceremony (September 27th) was the burying of a time capsule (to be raised 25 years later). This facility, together with its stage and amphitheatre has proved to be a valuable asset, being the focal point for many school functions.

Boronia Bright Lights originated from a suggestion by the then Principal, Mr Harold Bird, who thought that Monday assemblies should be seen to be more positive, meaningful and enjoyable than might otherwise be the case.

Aside from a few initial hiccups where too much was left to too few and not enough children were being involved, it was decided that all staff members should share in its operation and all children be actively involved in its presentation whether it be a dance or song, a poem, a short story or simply recognising a child’s achievements in maths or spelling. The staff responded magnificently and the evolution of Boronia Bright Lights became a reality. (Mr Bird was to receive an ‘Order of Australia’ in 1994 for services to the Youth of Australia).

By 1984, an automatic sprinkler system had been installed on the sporting ovals.

The Equal Opportunity Committee was formed in 1986 at the request of the Parent Club where its aims were to assist the wider school community recognize discrimination in its many forms and to establish in children, an awareness of non-sexist ideas during their early years of education.

1986 also saw the Finance Committee consider the formation of a co-operative or an extension of existing loan facilities in order to raise $20,000 for the purchase and introduction of computers into the school curriculum.
It was also suggested to School Council that it provide the fullest support for the Family Day with the objective of making this an annual event. Since that time, the event has grown from being a ‘one day’ occurrence to a weekly calendar of activities. Today it is known as ‘Circle of Friends’, where children are grouped together from all grade levels and share activities throughout the year. It is unique to Boronia Primary School.

Songs composed by Music teacher, Ross Paterson, helped raise funds which led to the completion of the amphitheatre in 1986.

He also produced a new arrangement of Advance Australia Fair to give new meaning to our school’s patriotic ceremony on Monday mornings. “I believed that there was an urgent need to make available to schools throughout Australia an adaptation of our National Anthem which gave children the opportunity to demonstrate their love of Australia by being involved in the ceremony by either singing or playing or both.”

This new arrangement (in conjunction with teachers Lynne Holland and Jan Donnelly) included a cassette and book of twelve specially arranged singing and instrumental parts, particularly suitable for primary school children. It was pitched in a key which could be sung comfortably and which used instruments that were readily available in many primary schools. Kits received endorsement from Yamaha and Rose Music and were promoted as part of the bicentennial celebrations, with many of these kits being packaged and promoted around Australia.

During 1987 the Boronia Primary School Building Fund was introduced for the purposes of improving the building and facilities.

A suggestion was also made to introduce information technology to the library, however it was not until the early 1990’s that librarians, Mrs Joan Christians and Mrs Judy Nash had the whole school’s resources fully automated through a computerized library.

At the beginning of 1988, the Outside School Hours Program was inaugurated at Boronia Primary.

The bike compound was also relocated to an area adjacent to rooms 1 and 2 during this year. The following year our school was supplied with a new storage shed together with concrete floor.
1990’s

In 1991, during the leadership of Mrs Jan Campbell, Boronia Primary received approval to install ramps to accommodate integration students at a cost of $3300.

The LOTE (Language other than English) Program was integrated into the classroom during 1991.

1992 saw the inauguration of the ‘Rotary Citizenship’ Award, an annual award presented to a Year 6 student who has displayed exemplary behaviour throughout his/her school life and who has been a role model and participant in the local community.

The ‘Schools of the Future’ Program was officially launched on July 27th 1993.

In 1995 a Marketing Plan was developed to enable Boronia Primary to communicate more effectively with the wider school community. A Publicity Officer was appointed, pamphlets were distributed to local shops and real estate agents, and the school adopted an ‘open approach’ where parents were regularly invited to events such as Education Week, Family Week and Bright Lights etc. Students also visited Glengollan Nursing Home and performed at the Boronia Mall. The increase in the Prep intake the following year (1996) was attributed largely to this Marketing Plan.

The Music room stage was extended in 1996 with cobblestones being relaid and railway sleepers replaced.

The school received a grant for $500 to erect a fence around the sanctuary. In 1997 a new ‘Maintenance Plan’ covering the next three years was created to ensure that regular checks were carried out on all facilities.

After school uniforms were made compulsory in the early 1990’s, annual surveys were conducted, indicating very pleasing results. They showed a high percentage of students (usually 96% +) were dressed in school uniform.

Taking pride in our school uniform. The wearing of school hats in Terms 1 and 4 was made compulsory in 1996.
An initiative of the Knox Historical Society Board was to relocate the original wooden section of the old Boronia Primary School in Dorset Road (now McDonald’s site), to an area near Ambleside, probably at the back of the No 1 Olivebank Road property. Although Mr Hurtle Lupton had been approached for his help, the project was still in its infancy. It was thought that the 1920’s era building would enhance the heritage image of the area. This building would be a better location than 1 Olivebank Road in the long term to conduct meetings and to hold small or temporary exhibitions. The school building would also be a great asset as an extra storage facility.

Unfortunately, the Board had to inform Mr Lupton and the Education Department that the Knox Historical Society would be unable to raise the $50,000 required to move the old wooden Boronia Primary School building to an area next to Ambleside Homestead. It was hoped that it would be located either in the visitor's car park or at the end of the main drive-way.

The Board could not see how it could raise the required money and were worried about upsetting the neighbours and how the City of Knox would view the idea. Although other ideas for relocating the building were forwarded, the initiative was finally scrapped.

Boronia Primary received the very welcome addition of an Information Technology Laboratory in the late ‘90’s, thanks in particular to the ‘ground work’ of Mr Clive Pontin (P.E. teacher/Computers) and the then Principal, Mr Keith Rae. This air conditioned computer room housed thirty-one computers and came complete with an instruction computer and projector screen. This facility was to play a major role in the school’s curriculum and is used by all children from Years Prep to Six.

In 1999, a Year 5 student submitted an online project on Sir Douglas Mawson and won a trip to Antarctica. As well as it being a ‘fully’ timetabled classroom, this facility is used as a training centre for parents, teachers and others in the wider community.
2000’s

In March 2001, the school expressed interest in becoming involved with the Work For The Dole Scheme. A young man worked for thirty hours per fortnight over a six month period, hopefully gaining the confidence to become a fully employed member of society.

The school community was devastated in 2002 when a fire destroyed many of its buildings, including seven vehicles. This led to the establishment of a ‘Working for the Future’ Committee, a band of enthusiastic and dedicated staff and parents, led by Assistant Principal Robert Bates. For the next three years, they worked tirelessly to fundraise for equipment that had been lost in the fire. Special days were organized including Extreme Machine Shows and Golf Days.

Throughout the years, school funds have also been raised by many hard working committees consisting of parents and staff. eg. fetes, drive-in, disco, trivia nights, car boot stalls, chocolate/pie drives, ‘a-thons,’ etc. Extra funds are also donated to the school budget by other committees such as Parent Club, Canteen, Uniform and Outside School Hours.

The builders working on the Boronia Primary extensions prior to the fire, joined their union, The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union to raise $8000 for the school. This was just one example of the community coming together in a time of need.

In 2003, the Bracks Government announced that Boronia Primary would receive $1.769 million to rebuild the facilities it lost in a fire the previous year. The money was to be used to rebuild the art room and refurbish five classrooms, staffroom, administration area, student toilets and Outside School Hours building.

2005 has seen the much anticipated completion of all building works. The construction of a basketball sized stadium is a major highlight and is a facility enjoyed not only by staff and students at Boronia Primary, but by the community at large.
School promotion has played a major role in all schools over recent years and Boronia Primary has been no exception. Whether it’s been through the school newsletter, website, assemblies, local media or in the school community, Boronia has diligently made a concerted effort to spread goodwill and promote its curriculum and facilities. eg. choir performing at K-mart, Art displays at local library and businesses, entry into the Knox Pride Awards and upcoming items advertised in local newspapers.

As you will notice from the “Significant Events” page, Performing Arts has played a major role in the school’s curriculum for many years, as highlighted by the many productions that have been organised.

A great incentive for those involved in the performance of Jack and the Beanstalk in 2002 was the acceptance of a ‘Youth Encouragement Award.’

As you near the end of this booklet, we trust you have found it informative, and hope that it has ‘sparkled’ some memories of your association with Boronia Primary School.

“Put your best foot forward, success will come your way.”
Some of what we offer our students ...
Look at us now .....
..... in 2005!

New classrooms

Automated library

Expansive asphalt area
Chandler House is named after the Chandler family who moved into our area in 1873, long before Boronia was born. The late William Chandler, father of the Chandler name in the district, was a foundation member of the old Shire of Ferntree Gully.

He was a market gardener and the first in the area to crossbreed seeds to produce exceptional flowers and vegetables. Two sons of Mr Chandler established plant nurseries in the area.

There was a member of the Chandler family in the Council from its inception in 1889 up until 1957. Those to serve on the Council were William, Alfred, Gilbert and Allan – three generations. Alfred served the area not only as a Councillor, but as a Parliamentarian and a Minister of the Crown. He was regarded as being the Father of Boronia, as it was he who named the district. During his term as a Councillor, Council requested he name the area and from a panel of three names – Chandler, Chandella and Boronia, he chose Boronia. Boronia is a sweet smelling flower which was widely cultivated at that time by his family. It was largely through his efforts that the land for the original school was secured. His activities with the school were helped by his wife Marie, who for some time was President of the Mothers’ Club.

On Alfred’s death, the late Gilbert Chandler followed his father into the Council and politics, where he had an outstanding record of public service. During his time of public office he was twice honoured by the Queen. On his retirement in 1973, he had represented this area in the Victorian Parliament for over thirty-nine years. He has the distinction of being the longest serving Minister of the Crown in the history of the State of Victoria.

Thus the Chandler name has been represented in the public life of this area for a period approaching ninety years. Many generations of the Chandler family have attended Boronia Primary School.
Knox House is named after Sir George Knox who lived in Ferntree Gully from 1919 to 1960.

He frequently visited the school.

Sir George lived on a small farm in Scoresby Road and represented the electorate of Scoresby in the Parliament of Victoria for over thirty years.

He served in both World War 1 and World War 2. In the First World War Captain George Knox first became second in command of the 23rd battalion of the Australian Imperial Forces and later served as Commander of the battalion during the campaign at Gallipoli. One of the last to leave Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion saw action again in France where Knox was wounded and declared unfit for active duty.

At the close of hostilities, he was decorated with the C.M.G. by the Queen for his leadership. He was always very good to his troops, and the men who served with him always spoke of him with affection.

Back in Australia, Knox settled again in Ferntree Gully and became involved in local politics. In 1923 he decided to stand for the Ferntree Shire Council, and served as a councillor until 1928. In 1927 he advanced in politics and became a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly. A speaker of the Legislative Assembly between 1942 and 1947, he was knighted in 1945.

The City of Knox is named after him as a memorial for all the interest and work he put into the district for the good of the people.

There is a portrait of him in the Civic Centre, painted by John Frawley of Ferntree Gully.

The Knox family can trace their family tree back to John Knox, the great reformer. Their family motto is “Moveo et Proficium” meaning to move and prosper.

After Sir George died in 1960, Lady Knox came to the sports at Boronia Primary School to cheer Knox House on its way and to present the cups and trophies.
Page House is named after Vere W. Page who was a resident of Boronia for fifty years, having come to reside in 1924, and who was joined by Mrs Page in 1925. He pioneered a hire car service run between Scoresby and Boronia Station and The Basin/Boronia car service. Headquarters were at a garage in Ringwood Road, now known as Dorset Road. Mr Page opened an estate agency in 1925 which later transferred to Boronia Road. This business is now conducted by his son, Harold.

Mr Page was associated with the Bayswater/Boronia and Boronia Football Clubs, Boronia Progress Association, Horticultural Society and Bush Fire Brigade – holding office of Secretary or President of each. He was also co-founder of the Bush Nursing Hospital, Ferntree Gully in 1939 and was Senior Vice President.

Mr Page was correspondent and Chairman of the Boronia State School Committee and member of the Upwey High School Council for ten years. He was also President of the Ferntree Gully State Schools Conference for approximately ten years.

Mr Page was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1936 – the youngest man to be elected to that position in Victoria, and was Acting Coroner during the war years.

He was Councillor of the Ferntree Gully Shire Council from 1938 to 1948, and Shire President in 1942.

The five Page children attended both the Boronia State School and High School.

In 1970 Mr Page was honoured by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II when appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in recognition of outstanding community service over a period of years in the Ferntree Gully and surrounding district – with particular mention of the Ferntree Gully National Park of which he was President over a long period.

Some families attending Boronia Primary School still have connections to the “Page” family.
**Ward House** at Boronia Primary School is named after the Ward family.

The site of the first Boronia Primary School in Dorset Road (called Ringwood Road in those days), was made available to the Education Department by the Zeising Family who had a dairy farm and firewood business where Boronia Village Shopping Centre now stands. Mr Albert Zeising became a very active member of the School Committee.

George Ward was the first Chairman of the School Committee.

His son, Fred was one of the first pupils enrolled. Mr Percy Jones was the teacher.

Pearlie Ward, a daughter of George Ward, was a teacher at the school for some years after 1924.

Fred Ward’s children, Patricia, Margaret and Alan attended the school in the 1940’s.

Mrs George Ward was in the Mothers’ Club.

Fred Ward was Chairman of the School Committee for some years.

Significant Events

1923  Opening of school in Dorset Road
1951  Opening of new school at current site (Rangeview Rd)
1956  Opening of Assembly Hall and Library
1964  Library extended
1972  Opening of School Canteen
1977  Official opening of Library extension
1983  Official opening of Music room
1983  ‘The Piperman’ Major Production
1984  Implementation of Safety House Scheme
1988  Inauguration of Outside School Hours Program
1989  ‘Cosmic Capers’ Major Production
1992  School uniform becomes compulsory
1992  Inauguration of Rotary Citizenship Award
1993  Boronia P.S. becomes part of the ‘Schools of the Future’ Program
Significant Events cont’

1994  “Scrooge” Major Production
1996  School hats become compulsory in Terms 1 & 4
1996  ‘Wizard of Oz’ Major Production
1997  Information Technology Centre opens
1998  ‘Cinderella’ Major Production
1999  Implementation of Reading Recovery Program
2001  ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’ Major Production
2002  New Library in operation
2002  Fire destroys hall, other classrooms and vehicles
2003  New canteen in operation
2003  Stage 1 of Building Program completed
2004  ‘A Kidsummer Night’s Dream’ Production
2005  Major building works completed
2005  Official opening of new and refurbished buildings
'BORONIA' SCHOOL SONG

There's a great deal more to this school,
   Than really meets the eye.
There are days when you could give it up,
   There are days when you could cry.

   So put your best foot forward,
   Success will come your way.
   When class is in, remember this,
   Enjoy another day......at

   BORONIA, BORONIA,
   Best school of them all, we stand up tall.....at
   BORONIA, BORONIA,
   Best school of them all for one and all.

   Work together, play together,
   United are we,
   Working for a future, we're a happy family.
   Through good times and hard times,
   We pledge to give our best,
   Friendliness and courtesy,
   We offer with zest.....at

   BORONIA, BORONIA,
   Best school of them all, we stand up tall.....at
   BORONIA, BORONIA,
   Best school of them all for one and all.
   One more time!

   BORONIA, BORONIA,
   Best school of them all, we stand up tall.....at
   BORONIA, BORONIA,
   Best school of them all for one and all.
   You'd better believe it, yeah!

(This song was composed by Music teacher, Ross Paterson in 1980, in conjunction with Lynne Holland, Jan Donnelly and the school choir. It is unique to Boronia Primary and is proudly sung at school assemblies and other school functions.)
ANY PERSON COULD BE BAD

(SAFETY HOUSE SONG)

You may see a Safety House sign today,
   A smiling triangle on display,
On a letterbox? Yes! Then it’s safe!
   You may ring the bell.

There are many people bad and good,
But the bad ones, let’s make it understood,
   Men or women, boys or girls,
In fact, any person could be bad.

Chorus

Look for a Safety House, get to know its sign,
The friendly face inside a triangle,
If anyone should frighten you then here’s what you should do,
Just walk up to the front door of a Safety House near you.

If you feel unsafe or frightened,
   Your Safety House is there,
Whenever you feel danger,
   There is someone there to care,
   It may be a stranger,
Or someone that you know,
   Bad people tell you lies,
If what they do could make you cry, then

Chorus

Get to know your Safety House sign today,
   ‘Cause any person could be bad.

(This song was composed by Music Teacher, Ross Paterson in 1989, in conjunction with Lynne Holland, Jan Donnelly and the school choir. This song has been heard over the years and in more recent times, during our annual Safety House Awareness Day. This song supersedes the 1981 version of ‘Any Stranger Could Be Bad.’)
TRIBUTE TO BORONIA

(Farewell to Year 6)

The time has come, the lessons end,
The chapter has now been told.
The year is gone, the race is run,
Tomorrow is now to unfold.

Boronia as we leave adieu,
Good friends we’ve made, good times quite a few.
And from our hearts we wish to thank you,
With you we shared as we grew.

Memories like shadows fade,
Of good times we’ve been through.
But at some time recall we will,
The sun reveals the view.

Boronia as we leave adieu,
Good friends we’ve made, good times quite a few.
And from our hearts we wish to thank you,
With you we shared as we grew.

(This heartfelt song was composed by Music Teacher, Ross Paterson in 1981, in conjunction with Lynne Holland, Jan Donnelly and the school choir. Our Year Six students perform this song at the conclusion of each year as they farewell their primary years.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Principal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Percy C. JONES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>John A. DOWER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Percy LLOYD~SMITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>George W. BATY</td>
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<td>1944</td>
<td>Henry B. GALLAGHER</td>
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<td>1949</td>
<td>Roy FINK</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>George MADDOCKS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Seddon M. KERR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Frank M. HARRIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Joseph Myles GILLSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Harold E. BIRD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Vernon WILKINSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Janice CAMPBELL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Bruce K. RAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Els VAN DEN BERGHE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Colin W. DAVIES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Staff: 15 years service

Margaret ALLEN
Marge BATES
Robert BATES
Sandy BLACK
Carol CHAI
Doreen DAVIES
Marie DEASON
Rosemary DENMAN
Helen DUNBAR
Lynne HOLLAND
Carole KNIGHT
Betsy MADDOCK
Cheryl MARTIN
Jenni MICHELL
Judy NASH
Leone O’CONNOR
Beth OSWALD
Clive PONTIN
Marion ROWLERSON
Jennie WALL
Leanne WALLACE
Ray WEAVER
Linda ZAMMIT (LEGGETT)

“Working For The Future” Committee

Robert Bates
Tim Burgess
Les Dalton
Sue Djohan
Mandy Etherington
Lyn Hansch
Andrew McKernan
Denise O’Halloran
David Salomons
Sue Williams
Recollections

Our Friday afternoon staff social club was a very happy function held in the staff room after school had finished for the week. It helped greatly with team spirit and cohesiveness. During our staff breakfast club, many teachers enjoyed having breakfast together on a daily basis in the staffroom before the children arrived for the day.

Harold Bird, former Principal

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I recall:
 great children
 supportive parents
 hard working Mrs Deason in the office - who hated me getting involved in keeping the accounts
 the building of the tennis court, library extension and the saga of the covered walkways!
 great young teachers - many ex college

Myles Gillson, former Principal

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As a past treasurer and president I have some great memories. My three children - Sharyn, Evan and Meagan all attended. My wife Anita (maiden name Smith), attended the original school in Dorset Road, Boronia along with her older siblings (Margaret, Martin and Wilma). My wife’s mother, Nina (maiden name Belton) attended Boronia Primary along with her brother, Walter Belton when classes first began. So you can see that we as a family, had a long and happy association with the school.

Graham Plumridge, former School Council President
Recollections cont’

After fifty years some of my memories are:

- being provided with a $\frac{1}{4}$ pint of milk each day. Unfortunately the milk would be delivered and stacked in crates outside each classroom but so often, by the time we actually received our bottle, it was very warm from the sun and quite unpalatable.

- Mr Jenkins (teacher) who would read a chapter on the Spanish Armada each day. We could hardly wait to hear the next installment. He taught us about many different countries and cultures. He also taught us folk songs from the British Isles and made learning the three R’s interesting.

- a school production of ‘Toad of Toad Hall’ at the Progress Hall and the lead role of Toad was played with great enthusiasm by Ian Turpie (now of TV fame). I played the minor role of a field mouse!!

  Denise Douglas (nee Vallack), former student

◆◆◆◆◆

My late father, David McInnes was involved in getting the hall off the ground. He was President of the School Council for a very long time. Don Pittard and Mr Milburn were also involved. Dad used to hold Saturday night dances in the hall and supplied all the music and would act as Master of Ceremonies. There were many school concerts and film nights held in the hall.

  Robyn Fellows (nee McInnes), former student

◆◆◆◆◆

“Thanks for the memories.”