The decision that brought the Green Vale School into existence was made in 1867 amid outcry from the residents of Euroke and Oaklands Junction schools, both of which would have government aid withdrawn if a new school were to be established in the district.

Bulla school No. 42 at Oaklands Junction and School No. 230 at Euroke, although small regarding enrolment numbers, served the farming families in the vicinity. In fact enrolment at Bulla 42 stood at 37 children and at Euroke approximately 40 in 1867. However, in both cases children were travelling longer distances than would be necessary if a school had been situated at Greenvale. The previous year John McKerchar had written to the Board of Education on behalf of a local committee following an initial approach for a decision to be made…… “I now beg to request that you will endeavour to push the matter forward with the Board as the want of the school is much felt in the neighbourhood.” The letter also informs the Board that earlier that year money had been credited to the Education Board – monies “principally collected from person of the labouring class who can ill afford it and who feel it to be a great hardship that while endeavouring to obtain means to educated their children so little has been done to forward the business. If the erection of the school is postponed much longer the farmers around will be unable to render the assistance they now can by lending drays as they will be busy with harvest. I have the honour to be Your Most Obedient Servant” signed John McKerchar.

That same year the Department of Lands and Survey had informed the Board of temporary reservation of one acre as a site for a Common School, however, movement regarding the school building was frustratingly slow and many letters from McKerchar were written complaining of delay and requesting the Board’s early decision. In the meantime the residents and parents of children at No 42 and 230 were becoming agitated as word passed around that there would soon be another school located in the area and with only so many children in the district to go round this school would draw numbers away from their enrolments hence meaning the end of government aid.

In March 1867 Alfred White of Euroke wrote to the Board enclosing a Memorial signed by inhabitants of Euroke and adjacent districts voicing “alarm and regret” that the Board should be considering aid to a “new school to the detriment of another already established.” He also claimed that two thousand pounds had been given by residents to erect the schoolhouse and adjoining teachers residence on the 20 acre site, “land “which was bequeathed to the inhabitants of Euroke as a special grant for educational purposes in all time coming” and states that the population was steadily growing in Euroke with a real need for the retention of School 230.

Inspector General Budd was sent to spend a day touring the area from Mount Ridley through Euroke and over to Bulla so that a decision could be made one way or the other. A meeting was held with interested parties – although Budd makes mention that the representatives from Euroke were not in attendance – and in his report the Inspector writes that the only obstacle in his own mind regarding the decision is the knowledge that at one time £2,000 had been given by residents for the setting up of this particular school. This is overcome by the realisation that of the signatures on the Memorial, probably none in fact had actually been connected with the giving as he doubts whether back in 1854 any of these present day residents would have been even living in the area at that time. Budd also suggests that to support the argument for continuing to maintain Euroke that roll numbers were somewhat inflated and even misconstrued and of the children attending the school ten in fact lived nearer to the Mickleham school and one even to Somerton School, and also noted that four were the teacher’s children and one, a child boarding at the schoolhouse. It seems that false representations were made by promoters of the new school and also those defending the existence of the established schools regarding number of children, the suggestion being put forward that numbers would be depleted within a short time due to the Euroke area being turned into a ‘Sheepwalk’. The Inspector seems to feel also that this will be the situation ‘as the richer soils to the northern borders are drawing people away from cultivating the poorer soils around Euroke and turning the land over to grazing.”

Of the Bulla school 42 Budd writes “I have in vain endeavoured to find a site to which the school might be moved further from Green Vale. There is no population or scarcely any to the north and west.”
On July 1st 1867 the Board advised that a salary had been granted for the teacher appointed to the school and £155 towards the erection of a brick building – to meet a like sum to be locally contributed. The school No 890 was also recorded.

It appears as though the foundation of a school depended on locally contributed finance and from “Vision and Realisation” Volume 1, George William Rusden, who had been appointed Southern Agent in 1848 to represent the Board of National Schools, travelled thousands of miles in the Port Phillips District organising “public meetings of those possibly interested in the establishment of a school” and “the general instructions that Rusden carried enabled him to be quite specific when he met groups of local residents” that the residents pay one-third of the building costs for a school, erected usually on a Crown grant.

Although residents could recommend teachers for employment, the Board controlled the appointments and in those times a teacher’s minimum wage of £40 could be supplemented by fees decided upon by the patrons and varying between a penny and a shilling weekly. “As the schoolhouse normally contained accommodation for the master, the occupant had permission to take child-boarders and thus add a little more to his minute income.”

Plans and specifications were drawn up allowing room for 60 pupils to be housed at School 890 and the estimates for building costs amounted to £379. As the sum of £102.15.0d had already been collected locally with a guarantee to raise additional money, work commenced and the school was officially opened in March 1868. The appointment of Mr George R Hancock as first Head Teacher at the Green Vale School (which took its name from the McKerchar property opposite) had also been made.

Almost immediately Hancock makes application to the Board for an additional grant of 3 acres “as he must necessarily keep a horse due to distance from Melbourne, the local township and the Church as the land is poor owing to the smallness of salary caused by the poverty of the district (the highest fee being nine pence) I am unable to purchase fodder. Also that several farmers living at a distance have said they would be glad to send their children to the school if their horses could be accommodated in a small paddock during school hours.”

Whatever costs were associated with materials purchased for the school and the residence, it appears that throughout money had to be raised locally and would be matched pound for pound after application to the Board per regulations. The Head Teacher undertook to cover expenses for additions made on the residence – building in section of the verandah to provide extra bedrooms for his family and adding a kitchen at the rear of the building.

Reported to the Board in 1872 were the results of examinations held at the school conducted by Inspector Sasse, whereby the children had “gained over 95 per cent” and the intentions of the teacher to “lay out the grounds (now bare soil) with trees, grass and flower beds allotting one bed to the older scholars to cultivate for themselves.”

During the next twelve months the numbers increased quite rapidly with attendances rising to 70 children, due it seems to sale of subdivided land both on the adjoining section and a private large acreage having also been sold. Enrolment numbers continued to rise and reached over 80 pupils in the school during May 1874, necessitating classes being taken in the open air and with Greenvale’s keen and cold winds at that time of year, I can imagine why an urgent request for extensions, along with a request for a floor to laid in the kitchen of the residence to replace “earth which is continually working up during wet and windy weather” was made.

Approval was given for an enlargement of the existing schoolroom and construction began immediately. The school was closed from June until August while this new section was being built.

Also causing many periods of closure of the school were the outbreaks of measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough and typhoid fever – sicknesses we hardly hear of these days due to vaccination programs carried out throughout our communities. However, in October 1874 more than half the children were absent on account of scarlet fever and Hancock writes to the Board of Education informing them of the situation. “Sir, I have the honour to state the scarlet fever is raging very severely
in our immediate neighbourhood, in the two houses nearest the school besides other cases a little farther off ….. We fumigate the house and school daily with sulphur, cloves, etc as a preventative.”

There was always one thing or another necessitating correspondence with the Board and Hancock dutifully informs them of various matters troubling him at School 890 – that a square yard of plaster fell from the ceiling on the heads of a class of children – that old iron desks are so loose that the children cannot do their work properly because of the shaking – that the school is without a master’s desk, cupboard or chair and that books and slates are piled on the mantelpiece and window sills and that a fire broke through the wall from the school into the house parlour; that the fire was put out before other than slight damage had occurred and three pieces of sheet iron at the back of the 3 fireplaces would prevent the flame again working through – that due to heavy rain the spouting would not carry all the water resulting in flooding of the rooms.

By the time letters reached the Board, were noted and directives sent back to the Head Teacher – one would imagine that these rather many inconveniences would have to be endured – especially so as many of the letters seemed to travel to such places as Greendale, Glendale and other spots around the State before eventually reaching their proper destination. John McKerchar as first correspondent and subsequent head teachers never seemed to get the message across that Green Vale via Broadmeadows was a sure way for prompt delivery.

In 1876, with his family now increased to eight, Hancock writes to the Board requesting extensive additions of 5 rooms to school residence. This was to include servant bedroom, plus a post office “the extensions to be along the style of the present building which is brick plastered with slate roof.”

Together with his application Hancock mentioned that if he gets sufficient house accommodation that “we have decided to remain in the district …. as our school is well-up – 91% in last examination results …… with landed interests adjacent to the school and also a short distance away.” With no response on his request and in the interim the death of his wife, in 1878 Hancock sails for England on 12 months leave without pay in order for his children to claim property inheritance.

The appointment of Robert Watts for a term of 10 years followed by Clare Sargeant, Alfred Lewis and George Watkins sees us through to the turn of the century. The wives of several of the Head Teachers were employed as Sewing Mistress for periods when enrolment was in excess of 30 children.

---

**GREENVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL – ROLL CALL 1933**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GAMBLE</th>
<th>Edward</th>
<th>LLOYD</th>
<th>Richard</th>
<th>HUTT</th>
<th>Lindsay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHEEHAN</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>CHAMBERS</td>
<td>Marjorie</td>
<td>WALTERS</td>
<td>Ivy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLOYD</td>
<td>William</td>
<td>HATTY</td>
<td>Betty</td>
<td>WELSH</td>
<td>Arthur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUTH</td>
<td>Nancy Margaret</td>
<td>EXELL</td>
<td>Hilda</td>
<td>WELSH</td>
<td>James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUTH</td>
<td>Veronica Joan</td>
<td>BROCKHOLT</td>
<td>Brockholt</td>
<td>WILLIAMSON</td>
<td>Jean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HATTY</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>TILLEY</td>
<td>Kenneth</td>
<td>LYON</td>
<td>Frank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GILLIES</td>
<td>Donald Cameron</td>
<td>LLOYD</td>
<td>Bruce</td>
<td>LYON</td>
<td>Betty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILLAR</td>
<td>Mavis</td>
<td>LLOYD</td>
<td>Allan</td>
<td>MOFFAT</td>
<td>Douglas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAMBLE</td>
<td>Jean</td>
<td>WILLS</td>
<td>Edna</td>
<td>MOFFAT</td>
<td>Frederick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HATTY</td>
<td>Muriel</td>
<td>MILLAR</td>
<td>Joan</td>
<td>SOUTAR</td>
<td>Ian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILLIAMSON</td>
<td>Olive</td>
<td>MASHITER</td>
<td>Walter</td>
<td>CHAMBERS</td>
<td>Douglas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHANKLAND</td>
<td>Jessie</td>
<td>EXELL</td>
<td>Alan</td>
<td>HOLOWELL</td>
<td>Stella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHANKLAND</td>
<td>Dorothy</td>
<td>BENSTEAD</td>
<td>Reginald</td>
<td>WORTHAM</td>
<td>Lena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILLIAMSON</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>BENSTEAD</td>
<td>Leonard</td>
<td>THRELFALL</td>
<td>Kevin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TILLEY</td>
<td>Charles William</td>
<td>YOUNG</td>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>RUTH</td>
<td>Rita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUTH</td>
<td>Gwendoline</td>
<td>WILLIAMSON</td>
<td>Marjory</td>
<td>PICK</td>
<td>Edna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHANKLAND</td>
<td>Marjorie</td>
<td>WILSON</td>
<td>Jack</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr Lloyd moved and Mr Hatty seconded – that in view of the fact that the money which had been collected for breakup day was destroyed when the school was burned, the Committee agrees to make a further effort to arrange for a function to celebrate the opening of the new school when completed (the building having been removed from Sunshine and re-erected at Greenvale).
While the new school is in course of erection, the children are being taught in the Methodist Church, Greenvale, which was rented by the Department for the sum of 15/-d. per week. Mrs Walters moved Mr Williamson seconded that the Department be asked to inspect and repair the roof of the Church which allowed the rain to drip through in wet weather, also to ask the Department to provide heating during cold weather. Members of the Committee expressed regret that Mr and Mrs Millar were shortly to leave the district. Mr Millar had held office on the school committee for over 20 years and the Committee felt that they could ill afford to lose him as Chairman. He was therefore asked to retain office as Chairman of the committee although being resident in Moonee Ponds. Mr Millar in replying expressed appreciation of the committee’s request and stated his willingness to help the Committee and to continue his connection with the school. The meeting then closed.

It appears as though the school residence was no great loss as in 1930 it was moved that the correspondent write to the Department in regard to the dilapidated state of the old residence and ask that the same be removed and again in 1931 asking for an inspection of the residence at an early date. In November 1932 “As the Department had made no reply to a letter of 12 months ago in which the committee drew attention to the unsafe condition of the residence” it was suggested that the correspondent write again bringing this fact to their notice. However, three weeks later all their problems were over as the entire building was gutted by fire.

According to the Minute books meetings were again taking place at the school in August 1933 and the decision to give the children a holiday for the Annual Hunt Club’s Point to Point Picnic was agreed to by the committee.

Class of 1911

Back row: E. Papworth, R. Anderson, Roy Shankland, J. Kyne, Dick Shankland
                Jack Kyne, ......... Frank Hanigan
                .............. ............ Papworth ........ Tom Daniel, Harry Daniel

Sitting: Tilly Hatty, Rose Hanigan, Kath Bourke, Ellie Kyne, Margaret Millar
                Francis Taylor

Kneeling: Jack Hanigan, Roy Richards, ....... Etty Ryan, Grace Daniel, Dorothea Hanigan
                Mary Hanigan, Lennie Musgrove ..............
Extract from meeting April 1934:
Mr Williamston moved and Mr Shankland seconded that the correspondent write to Mr Borrack regarding the horses of children running loose in the school grounds and ascertain if horse yards are in order.

“The Head Teacher’s request for the supply of firewood for the winter months was left in the hands of Mr Williamson”.

Extract from meeting December 1943:
“Praise was given to School 890 for gathering the most eggs for any school in the Shire for Hospital appeal – 77 dozen”.

Extract from meeting August 1947:
Mr Williamson moved and Mr Gillon seconded that the Education Department be approached with a view to permission being given to install electric light in the school when available.
Mr Attwood moved and Mr Gillon seconded that a dance be held on October 9th in aid of electric light installation and electric wireless set. Donation 2/6d.

“The presentation of a bell to the school by Mr Bert Shankland was discussed and the meeting decided to place on record his kind thought”. (May 1952)

“The continual change of teachers was discussed and the meeting suggested that the erection of a Teacher’s residence be again brought before the notice of the Department”. (October 1953)

“The matter of the low credit balance of £2.12.3d shown in the Treasurer’s Report was discussed and the meeting decided that a circular be sent to the parents suggesting that a weekly payment of 6d. or more per family be made in order to increase the funds”. (February 1954)

The installation of electric light was discussed and the Secretary reported that the Public Works Department hoped that the work would be completed by the winter months. (February 1955)
SCHOOL NO 890

LIST OF HEAD TEACHERS / PRINCIPALS

George H Hancock 1868 – 1878 Left to return overseas
Robert W Watts 1878 – 1889
Clara H Sargeant (Mrs Nielsen) 1889 – 1890
Alfred A Lewis 1891 – 1895
E. Waters 1895 – 1896 1st May until George Watkins took over 1896
George H Watkins 1896 – 1901
John E Hanigan 1901 – 1912 Retired to Wonthaggi - Died June 1914
William Ruth 1913 – 1914 Retired 1950
Alice A Worboise 1915 – 1921 Csd 1922
Alexander C Mills 1922 Retired 1927
Ernest R Malcolm 1923 – 1925 Csd 1951
Ellen J Boyes 1926 – 1929 Retired 1960
Kevin J Borrack & (Caroline Hocking S M) 1929 – 1934 Died 1958
Mary C Fahey (T.H.T) S M 1934 Resigned 1948
Percy Hurren 1936 – 1938
Maxwell R Sprake 1939 – 1942 No further record available
William C Hunt (T.H.T.) 1949 – 1950 No further record available
Leslie O Saunders 1950 – 1952 Retired 1952
William E McNaughton (T.H.T.) 1952 – 1953 S.S. 4864 Fawkner East Lorne Street, Fawkner East
Barry J O’Brien 1953 Resigned 1953
Michael L Breen 1955 Retired 1972
Donald M Pollock (T.H.T.) 1955 – 1956 S.S. 4961 Donvale P O Box 33, East Doncaster
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas M Curran</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsay G. Glenn</td>
<td>1956 – 1958</td>
<td>Retired 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creighton J Kaye (T.H.T.)</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Resigned 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald N Raynor (T.H.T.)</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>S.S.649 Werribee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deutgam Street Werribee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis J Corr</td>
<td>1961 – 62</td>
<td>S.S.5121 Kalinda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kalinda Road Ringwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George W Kelly</td>
<td>1963 – 65</td>
<td>S.S. 1401 Northcote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Helen Street Northcote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George T Richards</td>
<td>1965 – 67</td>
<td>Died 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward J Dumaresq</td>
<td>1968 – 69</td>
<td>S.S.4025 Ascot Vale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Langs Road Ascot Vale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael C Church</td>
<td>1969 – 71</td>
<td>S.S. 4821 Strathmore Nth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mascoma St. Strathmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John H Duggan</td>
<td>1971 – 79</td>
<td>Retired 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan M Purdie (Acting.)</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julian A Neesham</td>
<td>1980 – 82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_Due to the growth of the school the position became that of “Principal” in 1989_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd B Mitchell - Acting Principal</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Acting Assist Principal in 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trevor Chapman - Acting Principal</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Assistant Principal 1991 - 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Retired November 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Died 14th October, 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Liddle – Acting Principal</td>
<td>Sept 2007 - Dec 2007</td>
<td>Principal Colac St West PS 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Payne</td>
<td>2008 -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Greenvale Primary School is fortunate to possess the original Minute Book, Education Department, Greenvale No. 890 with entries dating back to May 14th 1914. This provides a rich source of information that has allowed much of this history to be authenticated. It is displayed in the school’s trophy cabinet near the conference room.

In 1867, the decision to establish a “common” school in Greenvale brought much outcry from residents who had their children enrolled at Bulla School number 42 at Oaklands Junction and Euroke School number 230 as these schools were to close.

A prominent local, Mr John McKerchar, managed to gain the approval from the Board of Education to establish a Greenvale school on a one acre site. The Board granted 155 pounds towards the erection of a brick building with a similar amount being contributed to by locals.

Greenvale Primary School was officially opened on 23rd March 1868 with Mr George Hancock appointed as the first Head Teacher. An enrolment of sixty students had been planned and by 1874 this had risen to over eighty. Extensions were planned and provided.

Copies of original plans for the stone building are archived at the school. This building provided for the needs of the staff and students until 1932.

The school building was deliberately destroyed by fire on December 9th 1932 with the offender being sentenced to 12 months imprisonment. The official Minute Book, Education Department, Greenvale No. 890 has the following entry with respect to this event; “It was agreed to place on record the fact that the school was destroyed by fire on December 9th 1932. A local employee of Communistic turn of mind set the fire going and was later brought before the court & sentenced to twelve months imprisonment.”

The timber building, still standing on Somerton Road, was built to meet the needs of the time. While the new school was being constructed, the children were taught in the Methodist Church Greenvale which was rented by the Department for the sum of 15 shillings per week.

Many children rode their horses to school in 1934, creating some issues. It was interesting to note from the Committee minutes of 19th April 1934, that “Mr Williamson moved and Mr Shankland seconded that the correspondent write to Mr Borrack regarding the horses of children running loose in the school ground and ascertain if horse yards are in order and also ask if there are any other small repairs requiring attention during his financial year.”

In November 1954 the mothers club raised funds to support the school board to have electric light installed at the school. At this meeting, the school committee decided to seek the appointment of a resident head teacher and to this end they agreed to write “… to the Board of Classifiers asking that the Board select a teacher who would be prepared to remain for a considerable time.”

In February 1955 the Public Works Department informed the committee that the electric light would be installed before the winter months.

The school continued to grow and with the development of the housing estate to the east of Mickleham Road in the early 1980s, the Education Department decided to build a new school on the Bradford Avenue site. On 10 April 1988 Greenvale Primary School officially relocated to the new site, retaining the original number of 890. Mr Eric Potter was the head teacher and Mr Malcolm Share was the School Council president.

In 1989 the School Council president, Mr Malcolm Share, paid particular attention in his Annual Report to thank the Secretary, Kathy Fewchuk and Mr David Richards along with all members of council for their contribution through the pressures of an extremely eventful and stressful year in 1988. The school worked to achieve the successful building of and relocation to its new school and the appointment of an interim Principal.
The school’s enrolment in 1988 was 178 and grew to 228 the following year. In 1989 there were thirteen staff at the school.

In January 1989 the school’s playground equipment was installed. This was the only area for the children to play apart from the two asphalt basketball courts and the grounds that had yet to be adequately landscaped. Greenvale Primary School first participated in interschool sport in this year.

In 1990 Mrs Joy Godden was elected as School Council President. Mr Trevor Chapman was appointed as acting Principal. Through the local selection process, Mr Lloyd Mitchell was appointed as Principal for 1991.

In 1991 the first portable classrooms, a double 5 mod building, were installed. The school’s major focus for 1991 was a major grounds development project. This included regrading of the oval area, establishment of a plan for future placement of relocatable classrooms, asphalting, seating and planting. The school’s first administrative computer was installed. The school’s enrolment was 330 students with 18 teaching staff and 13 classes. The school developed the first five year plan for facilities development.

In 1992 Mark Speck was elected as School Council President
The school introduced a compulsory school uniform policy and the school’s camping program was extended to include grades four to six. The school’s canteen was leased rather than operated by volunteers from the school and the library became computerised.
Junior School Council was introduced and the school’s *Jump Rope for Heart* skipping team was established.

In 1993 the school’s enrolment grew to 400 students.
The Liberal Party was in office introducing a far-reaching change to all aspects of school operation and administration under the ‘Schools of the Future’ program. Greenvale Primary School opted not to participate in its first year. The school celebrated its 125th Anniversary by inviting back to the school many elderly people who had attended the school as students.

The school held a working bee to install the grades Prep – 2 playground equipment.
The scope of the school’s camping program was completed with the introduction of the Grade 3 Sleepover. Greenvale Primary School’s Integrated Curriculum Policy and Program was developed along with three manuals to support school-based administration; Finance, Job Involvement & Description and Policies.
Under the school’s five year plan, another major grounds project, the minor games / assembly asphalt area and associated landscaping, was completed at a cost of approximately $40,000.

The school’s enrolment rapidly expanded to 604 students in 1994 with the enrolment of 120 prep students. This stretched the school’s resources to its maximum. 30.3 teaching and 3.9 non-teaching staff were employed and 19 classes operated.

The school entered the ‘Schools of the Future’ program in July with its focus on self-management. The school’s *Jump Rope for Heart* team participated in the Moomba parade along with a group of staff and students under the *Myths & Legends of the Sea* theme.

The *Skills for Growing* program was introduced to address student resilience and drug education issues. This had a major impact in the ensuing years. Greenvale became a *Sunsmart School* in 1994.

Marie Brown was elected as School Council President in 1995 as the school’s enrolment reached 600 with 37 staff.
Assistant Principal, Mr Trevor Chapman, flew to South Australia as a member of a team to investigate the computer technology programs in their *Schools of the Futures Technology Centre*. A report into future directions for technology at Greenvale Primary School was the major outcome. An enormous expenditure on technology infrastructure followed with the whole school being networked. The school also created a computer/technology centre.

1996 Enrolment 682 student’s 39 staff
An $80,000 oval upgrade was undertaken. This included installation of drainage, a reticulated irrigation system and levelling, topsoiling and planting of grass. 1997 saw the final major asphalt project completed, linking all existing areas and considerably extending the playing surface for the students. This was critical in planning for the ever-increasing enrolments. The school commenced planning and budgeting for the systematic cooling of all classrooms with the portables being targeted first. This continued until the final rooms were cooled in 1999.

In 2000 the school’s enrolment peaked with 779 students commencing the year and more coming as the year continued. An enrolment ceiling was placed on the school to limit further intake from outside the area.

63 staff members were employed in this year as Mrs Adrienne Haysom became School Council President. Final planning was undertaken for a major building upgrade with building commencing late in the year. The school administrative staff battled to function effectively in a mod 5 relocatable office to accommodate all administrative offices and a staffroom.

2001 saw major celebrations as the substantial building upgrade, at a cost of $1,300,000, was completed providing five additional classrooms, a vastly expanded library and a suite of administrative and staff facilities. School Council directed considerable locally raised funds ($233,000) to enhance the upgrade to the highest standard.

In 2002, Mr Glen Moore was elected as School Council President and in this year the school launched the Greenvale Primary School website at www.greenvaleps.vic.edu.au The Key Education Group was established to oversee curriculum and the inaugural Lyon Memorial Award was presented. This included an engraved medallion and a cheque for $250. Earlier this year Mr Raymond Lyon contacted the school to present an original historical photograph of the school in 1900. In the photograph was a grade six student, Thomas Lyon, who attended Greenvale Primary School in the late 1890s and into 1900. He was twelve years old at the time. The Lyon family kindly decided to make this an annual award to commemorate the family’s ties with the school and to promote academic and social values that were recognised as being important to both the school and the Lyon family.

The school developed its Mission, Vision and Values statements in 2004 after extensive community consultation. The school’s enrolment was managed to see a minor but systematic reduction which resulted in better facilities and resources for the students.

2007 was a major year of development as the school achieved a long-term project to facilitate an Out of School Hour Care program. In excess of $130,000 was budgeted for a community/multi-purpose room to house the program. The building was finalised in term four and the School Council appointed Quality Junior Programs to administer the program which commenced in 2008. 2007 marked the retirement of long-serving Principal, Mr Lloyd Mitchell, after serving the school since 1989. Ms Sharon Liddle was appointed as Acting Principal for term four pending the outcome of the local selection process for the next Principal.
This section on the History of Greenvale Primary School was written by Mr Glenn Payne who was appointed Principle to the school in 2008.

Mr Glenn Payne was selected as Principal of the Greenvale Primary School in September 2007 and commenced in term 1 2008. Mr John Zourbanos was elected School Council President in this year. The extension of the school’s hall, following a Federal Government ‘Investing in Schools’ grant of $150,000, was officially opened in 2008. The hall was formally named as the ‘Lloyd Mitchell Physical Education and Performing Arts Centre’ in recognition of his outstanding service to the school as Principal for 19 years.

In 2009 the school was successful in obtaining a first round grant of $3,000,000 from the Federal Government under the ‘Building the Education Revolution’ (BER) program for a Library / Six Classroom Facility. This money was also accompanied with a further $200,000 ‘National Schools Pride’ funding for refurbishment and maintenance works throughout the school. The BER building works commenced in late 2009 with the relocation of several portables to make space for an open plan library and extensive classroom facility. This major project is now complete with the official opening on Tuesday 30th November, 2010.

2010 Enrolments 679  Staff 54

The school proudly continues its tradition of “Serving the Community since 1868”.
THE LYON MEMORIAL AWARD

Established by Mr Raymond Lyon in 2002

Mr Raymond Lyon made contact with Greenvale Primary School midyear in 2002 to present an original historic photograph of the school in the year 1900. In this photo is a grade six student, Thomas Lyon, who attended the school in the late 1800s and into 1900. He was twelve years old at the time of the photograph. Standing to the right of Thomas is his brother, James Lyon.

The photograph is now proudly displayed near the General Office.

Mr Thomas Lyon was Raymond Lyon’s father and James Lyon was William’s father. Mr Raymond Lyon discussed with the Principal Lloyd Mitchell the concept of establishing a perpetual award to commemorate the family’s link with the school.

This is now established as the “Lyon Memorial Award” and this constitutes a beautifully engraved medallion and a cheque for $250.

This is to be presented to a grade six student each year at the final Monday morning assembly of the year.

The winner should take immense pride in being the recipient but also for being part of this historic link with the school’s past. This award is something that students can each strive to achieve in their final year at Greenvale Primary School.

Mr Raymond Lyon passed away on the 9th November, 2008 he was 85 years old but he legacy will continue into the future.
Interviews from Past and Present Residences of Greenvale

These interviews were conducted by Mr Glen Moore in 2009 – 2010.

Plus excerpts from official documents and letters held at the Public Records Office

The essay “History of Greenvale” was written by Rose Hanigan, age 11 years and 2 months for a competition at the Bulla Horticultural Show, April 25th 1910. Prizes were presented by Mr Melbourne Dean and judged by the Editor of the “Essendon Gazette”. Rose was awarded First Prize.

“HISTORY OF GREENVALE”

Greenvale is an agricultural district situated 14 miles northeast of Melbourne. It was originally called Yuroke, but the name was changed to Greenvale in 1868. It is one of the earliest settled districts of the State.

The pioneers of the district were: Mr D Cameron who settled at “Gellibrand”; Mr Coghill at “Cumberland” and Captain Greene of “Woodlands”.

The northeast portion of the district was owned by Captain Person of “Wheatlands”.

These pioneers settled in the early forties. Mr J Coghill, the son of the owner of “Cumberland”, established a “boiling down” works at “Glenara”, now owned by Mr V Clark.

“Woodlands” after the death of Captain Greene, was carried on under management of his son Mr Rawdon Greene, and was a model farm. The first reaping machine and the first mechanical conveyance for loading hay in the field were employed on this property.

For many years, Church of England service was held at “Woodlands” and the first Sunday School was held there, the teachers being Mr Stawell and Miss Greene who were afterwards Sir William and Lady Stawell.

On the discovery of gold, there was increase demand for farm produce induced many people to settle on the land.

Captain Pearson of “Wheatlands”, cut up part of his estate into farms which soon found purchasers and all the unoccupied Crown Land was soon settled upon. The price obtained for hay in those times (1852-1858) was up to 15 pound a ton.

Among the other early settlers were Messrs J and D McKercher, Mr G McLean, Mrs J Lavars, Messrs D and P McArthur (who resided at “Glenarthur”), Mr R Shankland, Mr G S Brodie (of “Dunhelen”), Messrs C and D Bradshaw, Mr Musgrove (father of Mr J Musgrove, of the implement works), Mrs Mary Daniel of “Narbonne” (grandmother of Mr F and Mr H H Daniel), and many others.

Of these early settlers very few remain, but we still have with us Mesdames J and D McKercher, Mrs Michie and Mrs Lavars. The latter lady is indeed the oldest identity of the district. She was tenant of “Gellibrand” in 1848 and in 1856 leased the farm, now occupied by Mr Trotman, from Captain Pearson. On sale of this farm, she went to live at her present property and has resided there ever since.

In the year 1868, a school was erected by public subscription and the school and post office were opened in March of that year. The name “Green Vale” was given to the school and post office by the first teacher who called it after Mr J McKercher’s farm which was also “Green Vale”. In 1872 the late Mr J Lavars erected the hotel which is currently being carried on by his widow.

Except for the removal of old settlers by death and migration, the district has changed little. Hay mowing and dairying are still the principal industries.

The beautiful timber reserve known as the Back Section famous as a picnic reserve has been removed by the Government and a portion of it is now a Consumptive Sanatorium where about 100 people are being treated for this dreadful disease.
Mr John Hanigan Head Teacher by his Granddaughter Rosemary Bowen

Mr John Hanigan, Head Teacher Greenvale 1901-1912 obtained a scholarship to Teacher’s Training College in Carlton and won the top “Gladman” prize and qualified as head teacher in 1884.

His movements were unknown between 1884-1887. On the 17th October 1887 Haunted Stream (No 2845) opened with John Hanigan as Head Teacher, in 1889 it changed its name to Stirling.

When he married in 1896 he was living in Moonee Ponds. After he left Greenvale he taught at Dudley, a suburb of Wonthaggi from 1913-1914. He died on the 14th June 1914 age 53. He had 7 children. His 5 school age children appear in the 1911 school photo.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The McKerchar Family and their ties to Greenvale Primary School compiled by Glen Moore

John McKerchar was born in 1815 at Perthshire, Scotland, and was the first of four sons who left for a new life in Australia and arrived in the Colonies in 1840 to take up a position as a shepherd. Looking around the country surrounding Melbourne he selected a holding which he subsequently purchased from the department of land. He named his selection “Green Vale” to remind him of his native Green Vale district in Scotland.

Breeding of Aryshire cattle and general farming was carried out on this property of 365 acres, although for a period he was in partnership with his brothers operating the Crown hotel which was located on the corner of Queen and Lonsdale streets Melbourne.

The earliest records show that on 17th September 1866, John McKerchar solicits the prompt assistance of the board in furnishing aid to this school as cost of erection will be increased if deferred. The plan of the proposed school site was forwarded at this time to the board of education. The site was in the north east corner of portion b, section 1, parish of Euroke in County Bourke.

Later that month John McKerchar asks the board to proceed with the establishment of the school as soon as possible. He points out that the money which has been contributed locally for the school had been given by working class people who could ill afford it, and also if matters were delayed much longer, the farmers in the area would be unable to assist with theirs drays etc on account of harvesting.

In October the board requested District Inspector Joseph Geary to report on the application. The request was some what premature, for as the report notes: “The school applied for is not absolutely necessary, but its establishment would be of great convenience. I am satisfied that the existence of Bulla school No 42 and the Euroke No 230 school will be seriously endangered. (Euroke was finding it difficult to maintain its average attendance, whilst the population in Bulla area was decreasing on account of newly opened areas up country). Geary's report continued “ In my opinion the proper course in the present case would be to affect a transfer of the grant from either Euroke or Bulla to the present applicants. I could not recommend the grant in the present case unless one of the existing schools ceased to exist” When the board received Geary’s report it decided aid should not be given at that time because of the small number of children not catered for under existing arrangements.

Such a decision was not popular with the inhabitants of the area, the Greenvale applicants maintaining that many of their children could not attend existing schools because of the distance from their homes, while the Bulla and Euroke residents reasoned that their schools would be adversely affected if Greenvale were given the go ahead. On the 5th of March 1867, G. White of Euroke 230 forwards a memorial from inhabitants of Euroke appealing against establishment of another school in the neighbourhood. Attached to this letter was a petition signed by persons representing 28 families of the district, having 95 children of school age and under, 46 of these children being at school 230.

With persistence from John McKerchar and the local community, the board, asked the inspector General R.H Budd to report on the case in March 1867.
Budd stated in his report of 13 pages that “the board will agree with me that but for five or six families depending on Bulla 42 school, the interests of the locality and of education generally would be best served by closing both the Euroke and Bulla schools and establishing a good school at Greenvale. I have no hesitation in backing Mr Geary’s recommendation that the grant should be transferred from the Euroke School to Greenvale.

It would be a better arrangement to withdraw the grant from the Euroke school altogether and establish a new school with a new number at Greenvale. But I have doubts as to the best course to pursue as to number 42”.

Budd concluded, “It seems to me,
1. That a school is needed at Greenvale.
2. That if one was placed there the Euroke School would not be needed.
3. That a school at Greenvale will eventually close that at Bulla 42 and it is for the board to consider whether they will if they establish a school at Greenvale, withdraw the grant from Bulla 42 at once”.

The board accepted the recommendations of the Inspector General and on the 15th May 1867 informed the committee for Greenvale School of its decision.

As expected, the local committees on the Euroke and Bulla schools protested the board’s decision, but the Inspector General, investigating the protests, found nothing to validate the data upon which the decision had been made.

John McKerchar was asked to name the common school 890 and called it “Green Vale” after the name of his property situated opposite the school. Greenvale Primary School was officially opened on 23rd of March 1868.

Extracts of “Going to school yester year” by Gordon Williamson.

The Williamson family represented 3 generations or 50 years connection with the school. I spent 18 years as a committee member, my father spent 29 years. I remember starting school in 1936 by walking to school 1 mile with my brother and sister, rain, hail or shine. Some families walked up to 5 miles “as the crow flies” to get to school. When I started school there were horse yards to tether horses while at school. The older boys at school were let out 5 minutes before so they could saddle up the horses for the children.

My teachers were Mr Sprake and Mr Swan who used to push a bike from Broadmeadows railway station everyday, morning and night, 7 mile each way. At school there were 24 students from grade 1 to grade 8, one teacher, and a sewing mistress just in the afternoons.

In those days at school we had no electricity or telephone, but we did have open fires to warm the school. For lighting arrangements we had kerosene lamps to see when it was a little dark. The school had board floors, no carpets.

School was used as a social meeting place such as dances, concerts, card nights, kitchen teas, and farewell parties because there were no other halls or buildings to have these functions in. Next door to the school there was a post office, store and a telephone exchange.

We started the week at school with the flag raising, saluting the flag and singing “God save the Queen”. Each morning following we would do the “weather chart”. Some of our classes consisted of arithmetic, tables off by heart, spelling, reading, writing plus geography, history, nature study (walks) composition. If we were naughty we were either given the strap or lines to write at home, same in small grade 1 where I sat in the corner when naughty. Some of our sporting material was a football stuffed with paper, cricket was with an old tennis ball with a bat made out of a piece of wood by one of the children’s dad. As it was war time and it was hard to buy any sporting equipment.

Our roads to the school were gravel and muddy in the winter time. Mickleham road was cobblestone. Mickleham road was known then as Old Sydney road. 2 mile north was stop 1 for Cobb & Co coaches, for the changing of horses and drivers. The Blue stone stable house is still there today (1993).
In 1956 Mickleham Road, Somerton Road and Pascoe Vale Roads were used as the Olympic bike track. The roads were sealed as bitumen roads for that event. Before this they were very rough dirt roads.

It was a long way to go shopping as people went by horse and buggy to North Essendon or Puckle Street once a fortnight or month. Men folk would drop families to shop and they would travel on to Newmarket yards to see and buy stock (cattle, sheep, and horses).

Newmarket saleyards were one of the largest cattle markets in the world. Greenvale area was farming, dairy, sheep, pigs and beef. I myself came off a dairy farm on which this school is now situated (current Greenvale primary school in Bradford Avenue). We milked cows, grew crops etc. The farm was worked with draught horses. I left school in grade 8 and went home to work on the farm with my dad. I draw a 6 horse team ploughing paddocks to grow crops to feed the stock. As time went on we had the power (electricity) put on in Greenvale plus telephones to homes. This all happened around 1950. Instead of manual, the Telephone Exchange became automatic.

As the years went by the school bus started to take children into Essendon to high school and tech school. Then there were buses to take workers into Melbourne. Prior to this people worked at home or boarded in Melbourne. I then married and lived in Greenvale and my children started to go to Greenvale State School. 2 members were dux of the school. That was Gayle in 1970 and Lynda in 1976. My son Craig holds records in the combined school sports for running and jumping. These sports were held once a year at different locations.

The last member of the Williamson family left Greenvale School in 1976.

---

Extract of Greenvale State School No 890, 1942-1948 by Nannette Stewart (nee Shankland)

I grew up on my dad’s farm “Waltham” in Somerton Rd Greenvale which is now beneath the Greenvale reservoir. My dad and my uncle, William Shankland share farmed, mixed farming fat lambs, cattle, cropping and milking cows (by hand). All the machinery was worked by draught horses bred on the property. We didn’t get electricity until 1949 and had to rely on tank water. My dad, Dick Shankland and his 9 siblings all attended Greenvale School in the early 1900’s and dad was on the school committee when I and my sisters, Barbara and Heather attended school.

I started school at five and a half in 1942 and went straight into grade 1 (no preps then). The school was then a rural school with 8 grades, merit certificate was grade 8. There were approximately 24 children on the roll. I remember being terrified of some the big grade 7 and 8 boys who would terrorise me in the first year. There was a well out by the old shelter sheds, they took the lid off the well, took my shoulders and feet and swung me back and forwards chanting “put you in the well”. Of course in those days nothing was done, no yard duty, no counselling etc. So between those experiences and Mr Swan trying to force me to become right handed (unsuccessfully) the first year was quite a trauma for a little kid.

After I put all that behind me I began to enjoy my school days. After riding my bike or walking or getting a ride for two and half miles along Somerton Lane as it was known I then had to walk up Bond Hill, (too steep to ride) on an unmade road and it was seriously rough! School would start between 9:00am and 9:15am.

We would line up near the flagpole on the north side of the school with boys in one line and girls in another with big children in front and littlies at the back. We would stand at ease, attention, and then announcements and Mondays would be the declaration of loyalty, salute the flag and sing God save the King, then 10 minutes of exercises, then march into school. No bell in my days, we were summoned to class by the H.T (Head Teacher) blowing a whistle several times.

In winter the H.T, Mr Swan who presided for 6 years would have a lovely open fire and often a large container of cocoa which would be available for us to drink at morning play. Then the fire would go out and therefore there was no heating after morning recess. Of course there was no such thing as fans or air-conditioning in hot weather either.
On a typical school day we’d start with morning talk, followed by writing lessons. Grade 1 would use small slates or blackboards and chalk to learn letter formation. Next we would graduate to red and blue lined exercise books and HB pencils. We learned to write straight away but not joining letters. In grade 3 we graduated to blue lined exercise books, pens with nibs and much needed blotting paper and at last we could join our letters and do real writing! Next we would be spelling (5 words per day) and the big test on Friday of the 20 words for the week.

Each class had an appropriate spelling list and were required to work through that in the year. Then we would chant tables and learn arithmetic. Recess was about 10.30 to 10.45. When we came in we’d probably do oral reading from the grade readers. No comprehension exercises were done, we also received our school papers each month, these were also used for reading and dictation exercises. They cost 1 penny each! Lunch would be eaten outside at 12.15 or in the shelter shed, then we would play games like skippy, marbles, hoppy, chasey, brandy, hidey and anything with tennis balls, e.g. callings. After lunch at 1.15 we would have composition where we’d endeavour to write a story on some dreary given topic. 1.45 to 2.15, possibly a speech lesson, nature study, geography, history (later social studies) or health lessons. 2.15 to 2.30 afternoon play. 2.30 to 3.30 twice a week we’d hear the ABC music broadcast then maybe art which consisted of pastel drawings or learning to draw “still life” ellipses or geometric shapes using square sets or compass or making mosaic vases with bottles and cut out coloured shapes glued onto said jars and varnished over which made wonderful Christmas gifts for mum. Also making woven mats with strips of coloured paper. Sometimes this session was used to teach sewing or knitting for girls and woodwork for the boys. Friday lunch time “Swannie” as we kids disrespectfully called him would pay someone 4d to sweep the school room. Monitors would empty and wash ink wells, mix up the ink (ghastly blue powder and water) for the next week and also clean the blackboard and dusters for the next week. I remember getting the four pence once and racing down to the store/Post Office which was next to the school in Section Road (there was a turnstile enabling us to go through easily). I spent the 4d on liquorice blocks and peppermints for 1 penny. Must mention the toilets, they were pan type with the boys down at Section road fence and the girls on the south fence. H.T had the unenviable job of digging holes and emptying and burying pan contents each week. I also vaguely remember a small fenced paddock in the south east corner for children who rode their ponies to school; they could leave them there for the day.

We sat in desks with lift up lids with 2 children to a desk. We always stood up to speak to the teacher or any other adult for that matter.

There was a porch adjacent to the school room where there were pegs to hang our school bags, hats, coats etc, also a wash basin and drinking taps. There was a back room/store room where children would be sent in small groups with monitors from the higher grades who would help them with their reading, tables and spelling.

The strap was used with gay abandon as was the yard ruler (blackboard ruler). We mustn’t forget the dreaded district inspector, the well known Mr Pitcher. One memorable day we were playing “callings” with a tin tied with a string tossed in the air and it sadly went through one of the high windows and hit him on the head. That was a dreadful day; it must have been because I still clearly remember the incident even though 63 years have elapsed.

Overall I have very happy memories of my years at SS890 and I am sure that inspired me to become a primary teacher for 40 odd years, a career that I enjoyed immensely and I trust that this gives you an overview of rural school life in the 1940’s
Extracts of “My Dad” by Harold C Richards about his father Herbert Musgrove Richards.

Herbert Musgrove Richards was born at Greenvale on the 23rd of June 1888. He was a past pupil of the Greenvale Primary School from 1893 to 1905. His dad was Joseph George Richards, born 13 April 1867, his mother was Elizabeth Musgrove.

His mum and dad lived in “Acacia” in Greenvale Road, which is now called Somerton Road; they were farmers. He started school around 1893 at the Greenvale State School.

He learnt to write on a slate with slate pencils. He learnt to spell and was good at arithmetic. His handwriting was copper plate using steel nibs and blue and black ink.

He was good at school and won book prizes. He played cricket, hopscotch and marbles. His Aunts lived up the road and he would take them a billy of milk every morning before going school. When he was 12 years old he left school and went to work.

Memories of Greenvale Primary School by Valma Bowra nee Brooker

I started at Greenvale State School in Grade 3 in 1945. I remember it being a one teacher school and Mr Swan was our teacher till Grade 6, then Mr Hunt took over, I remember our free milk being made into cocoa in the winter, and that we had open fires. We used to get quite severe frosts and I remember having very bad chilblains.

Playtimes were spent playing hopscotch, pretending to be horses, running around the yard jumping over a series of jumps, playing with swap cards, marbles and toy cars. Later as we got older we spent quite a bit of time playing cricket.

In the classroom as we reached Grade 6 we spent quite a bit of our time helping the younger children. When we finished our primary education we all went to various schools in Essendon. As this part of my life went back 64 years my memories are fairly skimpy. However there were about 25 children attending the school at this time and I remember that when I started at Greenvale I was the first new student in many years.
Document dated 17th June, 1893
It was written by the Head Teacher Mr Alfred A Lewis to the Secretary of the Department of Education re the closing of the school for one week due to outbreak of Measles.

Document dated 5th February, 1896
This letter is from the Public Service Board. It states that Fanny Jane Watkins be exempted from the disqualification contained in Section 43 of Act No. 1133.
Document dated 7th May, 1906
It is from Lucy Frances Hanigan who was applying for the Sewing Mistress position.

Document dated 5th July, 1889
It is from Mabel Ross who took over as Head Teacher on the 6th June, 1889.
Document dated 2nd May 1895
This letter addressed to the Education Department was written by Mr E Waters who took over as head teacher from Mr Lewis on the 1st July, 1895.

Document dated 1st April, 1897
This letter is addressed to The Secretary, Education Department Melbourne. It was written by Mr Henry S O’Neill requesting travel expenses.
School Photo 1954 or 1955

Students Joanne Cahir and Doris Campbell
Greenvale and District Schools' Sports 1965