Welcome to our first edition

Hello and welcome to the first edition of the Heidelberg Primary School 150th Celebration Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you of the many events planned to commemorate our school’s 150th year. Currently a team of people is working very hard to ensure our 150th year celebrations truly reflect the importance of this magnificent milestone. You can read about these activities elsewhere in this newsletter.

You have received this newsletter because you have expressed an interest in these celebrations. This newsletter will now be produced monthly and distributed by email to update you as we count down to Heidelberg Primary School’s birthday on 8th August 2004. Please feel free to forward it on to others who may be interested in these activities, or ask them to contact me for their own copy.

I would love to share your memories of Heidelberg Primary School, perhaps a favourite photo or details of a special friend, teacher or event.

If you would like to make a contribution to this newsletter, or would like to be added to the mailing list, please email me at webmaster@hps150.org.au

Enjoy
Graham Jackson -Editor

Family Picnic and Bike Ride 2nd May 2004

The first major event for this year will be a Family Picnic and Bike Ride at Sill’s Bend Reserve, Heidelberg on Sunday 2nd May 2004 commencing at 10.30am.

Join us with a picnic lunch. Bring your own food, or enjoy one of our BBQ sausages or hamburgers, which will be for sale. Bring your bike to join our informal tour of the area. Relax later while you catch up with your old mates from Heidelberg Primary School

All in all it promises to be a very enjoyable day, weather permitting.
150th Anniversary Supper Dance

One of the great events we have planned for our celebrations this year will be the 150th Anniversary Supper Dance, to be held in The Streeton Room, The Centre, Ivanhoe on Saturday 7th August 2004. The Centre was previously known as Heidelberg Town Hall.

The Streeton Room is a beautifully appointed room in Art Deco style, with wonderfully tall ceilings and a large parquetry dance floor.

Live music to get you dancing on the night will be provided by Dream Café. Dream Café play an extensive repertoire of music from the ‘50s through to the latest top 40 that will ensure an enjoyable evening of entertainment for everyone.

Finger food and drinks (beer, wine and soft drink) will be provided.

Tickets for this exciting event will go on sale from the school soon at $50.00 per person, and we expect they will sell very quickly. So get together with a few friends and organise your group now.

You would be very disappointed if you missed out, because an even like this only comes around once every 150 years.

“Back to Heidelberg” 8th August 2004

Mark Sunday 8th August 2004 in your diary now as the one day you just can’t miss. This day is Heidelberg Primary School’s official 150th Birthday. On this day in 1854 the first classes were held at the school site in Cape St.

On 8th August 2004 we will commemorate that occasion with a very special Open Day at school. On this day we will have lots of displays of photos and school artefacts from yesterday and today. There will be activities for the kids, while you catch up with your old classmates and teachers.

Proposed program for the day:
12.00pm Start- Bands, displays, buskers, activities for the kids. BBQ food, Devonshire tea, coffee, ice cream and memorabilia available
2.00pm Official opening.
2.30pm Official photos
4.00pm Close

Tell all your friends and please come along on the day to make it one that will be truly memorable.

Anniversary Book

Currently a team of volunteers have begun work on the “Heidelberg Primary School 150th Anniversary Book.”

This book will contain an updated history of Heidelberg Primary School, as well as a snapshot of the school today. We are planning to also include the name of every student who has ever attended Heidelberg Primary School.

Newly sourced material, including photos and stories by past and present pupils will ensure this book will be a fabulous keepsake.

Prepaid orders for this full colour book will be taken soon, with the book expected to be available for delivery around December 2004. Expected price including postage will be about $20.00.
Dear Mr. Jackson,

Just a few reminiscences re my time at your school.

I was born in Heidelberg on 27-8-22 and attended this school from 1927-1933. I am not claiming to be the oldest pupil. I was then Kathleen Hooppell and my brother Rex Hooppell followed three years later.

It was the depression during all those years and I have always wondered how we got the swimming pool when no one had surplus money. Did John May finance it? It was our highlight.

Two things that wouldn’t happen now—

1. I got diphtheria in the 2nd grade and I had my 7th birthday in Fairfield Hospital. Because my name began with “H” I was sitting next to another beginning with “H”, who was a carrier- didn’t get it herself.

2. In the 6th grade we had 71 pupils. After the first term a junior teacher appeared and he took 2 double rows of the better pupils while the main teacher,

Miss Gellie, taught the rest of the class all in one room and teaching different things at the same time!

All the teachers were female except for the headmaster, Mr. Calder and Mr. Wright who took the 7th and 8th. I learned later that men teachers earned £4 per week, whereas female teachers earned £2 per week for doing the same work! No wonder the strap and ruler were much used because all the classes were large, in the fifties.

We never the less enjoyed our time at the school perhaps because I always enjoyed games of all sorts.

Yours Sincerely,

Kathleen Johnson

P.S.

Another difference was that we all walked to school- ourselves from Eaglemont and others from Rosanna as that school came later- no being driven to school- very few people had cars.

Kathleen Johnson (nee Hooppell) Remembers

Visit by Famous ex-pupil

Ben Mendelson and Pia Miranda, who are currently starring in Tennessee Williams play “The Glass Menagerie” will visit Heidelberg Primary School at 9.00am on Monday 15th March to address the school assembly and present House Captain and Junior School Council badges.

Ben is an ex student of Heidelberg Primary, and is visiting the school at the request of his favourite grade 3 teacher, Miss Eleanor Murphy. Ben said he was delighted to talk with the students, and is looking forward to discussing his memories of the school, how he went from primary school to acting and the movies he has been in.

Following the assembly, Ben and Miranda are intending to talk to the grade 5/6 students about the “Foundations of Success” (confidence, getting along, organization and persistence), and will conduct an interview, with students asking the guests questions and videoing the responses.
A special event like a 150th anniversary deserves a special celebration. But celebrations don't just happen; they are the result of the efforts of lots of people. You could be one of those people, as there are lots of ways that you can help.

Currently we are seeking photographs, reminiscences and mementoes from days gone by at Heidelberg. We are currently also seeking assistance with the preparations for our big day in August.

There are many ways you could help. You might be available to help with typing archive materials, organising or setting up displays before the day, or supervising classrooms on the day. You may be able to help distribute advertising materials, finding sponsors or selling raffle tickets.

If you have something you would like to share, or if you are willing to help in any way whatsoever, please contact Graham Jackson at school.

At the very least, tell everyone you know: “Heidelberg Primary School is 150 years old on August 8th 2004!!”

As part of Education Week, which is a Victoria wide celebration of state education, Heidelberg Primary School will open to the public on Tuesday May 18th from 9.30am – 12.30pm and again from 6pm until 8pm.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the school between these times, to view classes in operation and get a feel of school life today.