



Balwyn Historical Society Newsletter

Nov-Dec 2018

Meetings

Thursday 8 November 2018

Speaker: Irene Kearsey

Topic: LaTrobe's First Immigrants: the Voyage of the *David Clark*

Irene Kearsey, a keen member of the C. J. LaTrobe Society, will speak about the voyage and arrival in 1836 of the *David Clark* which brought the very first assisted migrants direct to Melbourne. La Trobe, later Lieutenant Governor, developed and maintained contact with many of these passengers.



**Please stay and join us for a special Christmas supper at
the end of this meeting**

Thursday 14 February 2019

Speaker: Bill Mackie

Topic: Robert Reid and his Family at *Belmont* 1870-1955

**Meetings are held at the Balwyn Evergreen Centre,
45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn**

Email: balwynhistory@gmail.com website: www.vicnet.net.au/~balwynhs

Recent Speaker – Gerry Robinson

Gerry spoke about the poetry and prose of Andrew (Banjo) Paterson and Henry Lawson with his usual verve and enthusiasm. He raised the question of “What is poetry?” before examining some of Paterson’s well-known bush ballads with their emphasis on the outback. The audience joined in with his recitation of *A Bush Christening* and were reacquainted with some of Paterson’s other humorous verse such as *Mulga Bill’s Bicycle*.

Gerry then contrasted Paterson’s works with those of Lawson reminding us again of some of Lawson’s short stories with their plain, spare and understated style. Gerry’s handouts with selected passages of Lawson’s short stories including *The Drover’s Wife*, *The Loaded Dog*, and *the Bush Undertaker* effectively demonstrated Lawson’s use of outback settings and the humour and tragedy underlying many of his works.

The October 2018 AGM – some uncertainty and some good news

The AGM last month was rather more eventful than usual. Although we called for nominations, we found ourselves at the end of the meeting with neither a newsletter editor nor a secretary. The future of BHS looked uncertain and rather bleak at that moment. Too many community organisations fail because no one is willing to become an office bearer or committee member.

As you all know, Pat O’Dwyer has been the BHS newsletter editor and secretary for 10 years. She has worked tirelessly to produce all our newsletters, doing a magnificent job. She has been the backbone of the organisation. Quite rightly, Pat feels like a break although she is happy to remain on the committee and as secretary in a limited capacity. Our grateful thanks go to Pat for all her work for BHS.

We lost another committee member, Judith Cleary, who has found that family commitments have precluded her participation for much of the last year. We thank Judith for her work on the committee and wish she and her family all the best in the future.

However, I have some good news. Matthew ETTY-Leal has stepped in and offered to be newsletter editor from January 2019 onwards while Pat has her well-deserved break. The BHS committee are delighted with Matthew’s offer and welcome him. Matthew has an interesting background ranging from studying economic history at Melbourne University under Geoffrey Blainey to working in, and for, a number of charities. He currently volunteers for a number of organisations and gives a number of Australian history talks each month.

I have to mention we are still short of a committee member. PLEASE consider it.

Marilyn Poole President, BHS

Balwyn Historical Society - Contact details

Balwyn Historical Society is a program of the Balwyn Evergreen Centre. Phone – 9836 9681

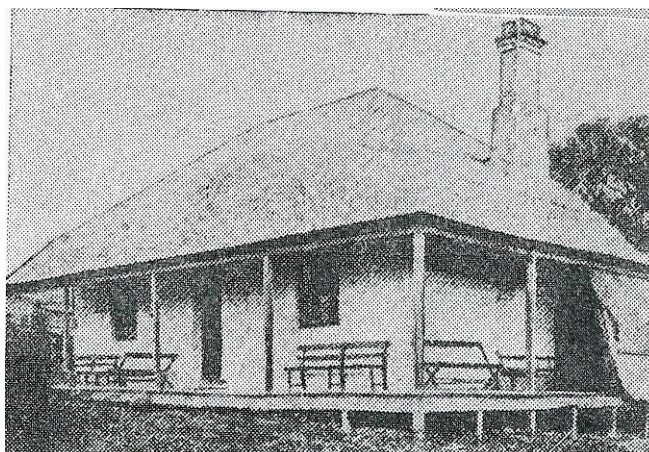
President	Marilyn Poole	9857 7565
Secretary	Pat O’Dwyer	9836-3652
Treasurer/	Barbara Russell/	
Membership		
Archivist	Pam Herrington	
Newsletter	Matthew ETTY-Leal	

Web manager	Sharon Bondy	
Resource Assistants -	Heather Alford	
	Lynette Woolley,	Deidre
	Woolley	

The Changing face of Balwyn State School 1868- 2018

Balwyn Primary School – 150th Anniversary

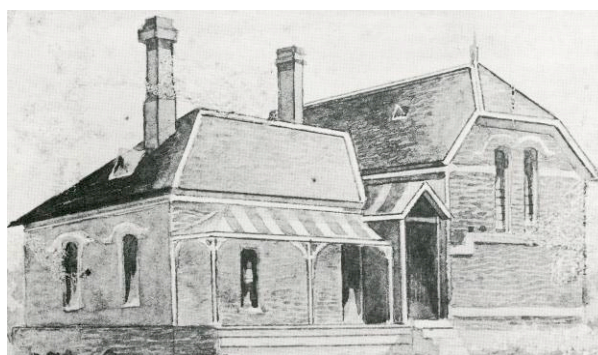
Balwyn State School opened in April 1868 to provide an education for the children of the area. The school, built on land donated by Thomas Power, was situated on the north-west corner of the Whitehorse Road and Balwyn Road intersection. The single-roomed, mud-brick building was largely built by volunteers under the supervision of Mr. J. B. Maling who provided the stone for the foundations and the shingles for the roof. The student population numbered 22 when the school opened.



The original school

Enrolments escalated quickly – 69 by 1877, 120 by 1880. While enrolment and actual attendance figures often differed as children were frequently needed to help with harvesting or other farm or domestic work, it was obvious that this single-roomed building was far too small.

In 1880 a tender was accepted for construction of a brick building 50 feet by 20 feet with four additional rooms for a teacher's residence. This building was on a new site south of Whitehorse Road on the same spot where the school is today.



Balwyn State School 1885

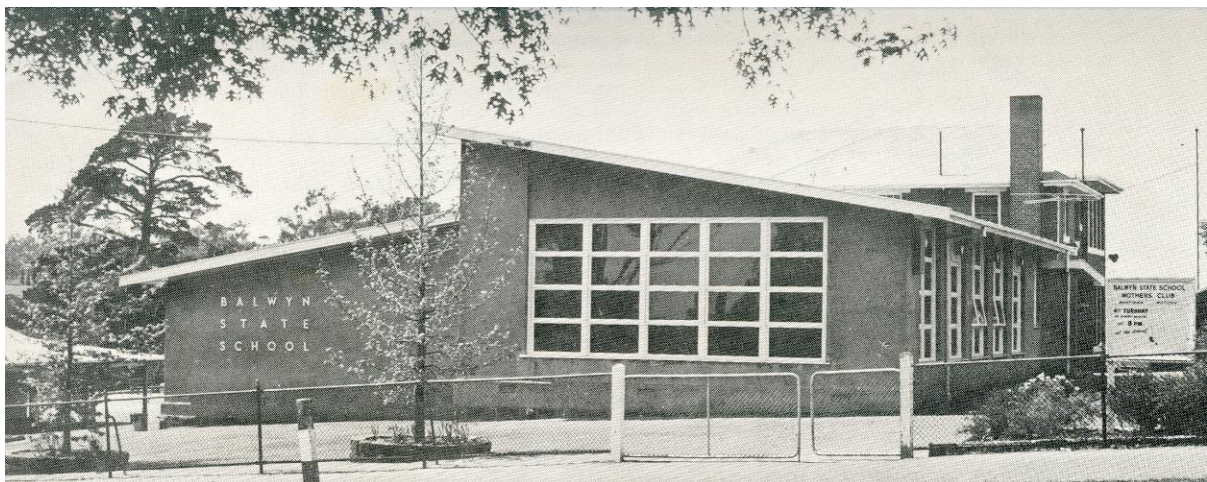
By 1880, enrolments had grown to 180 and an additional two rooms were planned and completed in 1889. As the school continued to grow an adjoining parish hall was leased.

The 1920s saw the school population grow to over 600 students and a two-storey section was completed.



Balwyn State School – the older section of the school after the fire 1951

Tragedy struck in 1951 when a fierce fire broke out in the early hours of 2 August which destroyed the older part of the school. Unfortunately, it also destroyed all of the school's records from its early years. While the school was being rebuilt students attended classes at Auburn and Camberwell schools as well as the Methodist church hall in Canterbury. Rebuilding was complete by June 1956



Balwyn State School 1968

This year Balwyn State School, now Balwyn Primary School, celebrates its 150th anniversary. The school has undergone many changes in the years from 1868 to the present and thousands of local children have passed through its ranks. Our congratulations to all associated with the school. A flyer giving details about the 150th Anniversary Celebrations accompanies this newsletter.

Source: MacInnes, Alan F. Balwyn State School 1868-1968