

WEST SPREYDON SCHOOL



75TH JUBILEE



CARING SUCCEEDING LEARNING



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on reaching your 75th Anniversary

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WEST SPREYDON SCHOOL

75TH JUBILEE 1926–2001

A MESSAGE FROM THE JUBILEE COMMITTEE

We thank those past and present pupils and staff for the contents of this booklet so willingly given to preserve memories from the past.

The school is an historical part of the suburb, a vital part of the family, an important part of education and an integral part of forming who and what we are and guiding our accomplishments in life.

We would like to express our delight at the huge success of the 75th Jubilee celebrations. It was a real team effort with hard work and contributions from Board of Trustees, P.T.A., current Staff and numerous parent helpers. Thanks also to the many Sponsors who contributed generously in many ways to assist the Jubilee Committee. (*Listed elsewhere.*) The programmed events reflected the community spirit that has always been synonymous with the West Spreydon School and its wider community.

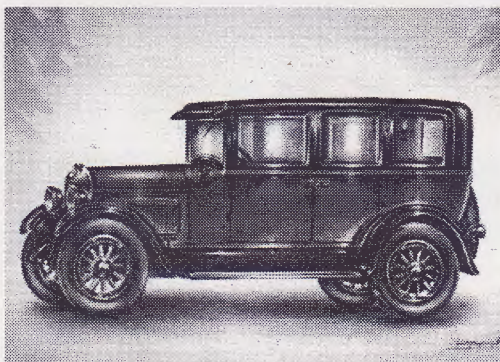
It was a joy to welcome back to the school 29 former pupils from the 1926-1929 era. In this group were no less than ten first-day pupils. Grateful thanks are due to the participants who made our job easier through their nostalgic and jubilant participation in the various functions. No doubt the 100th reunion will be celebrated with even greater enthusiasm.



JUBILEE COMMITTEE

Dave Crossen, Angela Connell, Gordon Scott, Suzanne Williams (Dep. Principal), Noel Scott, Rosemary Rankin.
Judith Davidson, Tui Coleman, Ron Wright (Chairman), Pamela Coote (Secretary), Stewart Cron (Principal),
David Johnson, Denise Walker, B.O.T., John Rowe.

1926-1929



ROARING TWENTIES

- First Radio Station 3YA.
- Telephone cable across Cook Strait.
- Charles Kingsford Smith flight.
- Murchison Earthquake measures 7.5 on the Richter scale.
- Silent movies change to "Talkies".
- Duke & Duchess of York visits N.Z.
- Mickey Mouse appears.

LOOKING BACK

Although the 4-acre 20-perch site was purchased in 1918 for \$1400, the four-roomed school was not completed until 1925 at a cost of \$908. That price included the furniture. On 8th December 1925, the first meeting was called to arrange management for the new school. With a committee of seven under the chairmanship of Mr P. Hennessy, Messrs E. Good, J. Clements, W. C. Craig, R. A. Glover, H. Judkins and Mrs M. Campbell, the school opened in February 1926 with a roll of 96 pupils. These children came from Somerfield (35), Addington (30), Spreydon (23), Others (11), and First admissions (11).

By October the name West Spreydon School was officially accepted by the Education Board. Some confusion was experienced with the name as it was called Spreydon West by some, and the Committee even tried getting Spreydon to change its name.

Surprise, surprise! Did you notice? A lady on the Committee! This was pretty radical for those days, but West Spreydon was fairly progressive and later made up a committee of Ladies called the Social Committee who worked hard to support the school through their efforts both in finance and necessities. Mrs Sloan replaced Mrs Campbell on the School Committee the following year, and Mr Glover started his long Chairmanship.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE 1926 HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

One of the first School Committees elected a woman member. Mrs Margaret Sloan. The men had somewhat of a hostile reaction to this appointment.

"What could a woman do?" they said.

"I'll show them!" said Mrs Sloan.

Together with her sons and daughters, she successfully organised the classrooms for the dances at school on Saturday nights. Out went all the desks from two classrooms, back rolled the dividing partition, and the fundraising successful dance followed. Of course all the furniture had to be returned to its correct place on Sunday, so that classes could resume without disruption on Monday mornings.

Written by Helen Pugh's mother, Mrs Hill nee Sloan.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY ESTABLISH THE SCHOOL

The School Committee had a hard job breaking in the grounds, and supplementing what the Education Board provided.

The double classroom provided ideal premises for fundraising activities and Euchre evenings and Dances were in vogue. This required preparing the room, selling tickets that were widely advertised, arranging Bands (with piano, saxophone, violin and drums), and providing doormen. The following morning a working bee set the classroom furniture to be back in place. These activities gave the School some considerable funds for a piano, a start for the swimming Pool Committee, as well as the usual items such as tea towels, sports jerseys, cricket gear and the like. It also brought some problems like broken windows and Health Dept wrath in providing a "temporary privy" in the Teachers Room! The sewer was connected in 1930. Other organisations hired out the rooms as well, including the Spreydon Tennis Club, the Presbyterian and Baptist Churches for Sunday School, and the Burgesses Club.

The lack of Dental Clinic also caused much consternation and correspondence with Wellington. Nearby clinics such as Somerfield (in 1934) had to be used until the clinic was built on the end of the building nearer the front gate.

The roll rose rapidly from 96 to 247 in June 1930. This brought overcrowding, which was relieved by a temporary classroom behind the main block later in the year. The Education Board was not keen on providing permanent buildings as the Standard Six School was being planned for Selwyn St. The Community however were strongly developing plans for the swimming pool. A shelter shed, inappropriately placed too close to the toilets was shifted to a new position to the riverside area. (This was demolished as late as 1994.)

FRANK LAIRD

... gave a morning talk. "My Dad grows apples as big as dinner plates." The Teacher said: "Now Frank you shouldn't tell lies or exaggerate like that!"

Frank went home and told his Dad what the Teacher had said. Next morning Frank sneaked in before school and put this big apple on the Teacher's table. When she saw it, she said: "Oh I'm sorry Frank. I do apologise."

She cut it into pieces so all could have a piece, and when they had all finished eating, Frank said "...and that was just a little one!"

THOMAS (TOM) EGGLETON

. . . was Headmaster in 1929, and stayed for two years. Most ambitious teachers looked for promotion in those days, and moved on quite quickly. He really enjoyed his time at West Spreydon School and spoke of it in glowing terms long after leaving. He was presented with an attractive chiming clock when he left in 1930. This is still in his son's possession, Gerald Eggleton, who was a pupil in Std.1 & 2 during this time.

Tom moved on to the Fendalton Open-Air School, and later the first teacher at Kaiapoi, then on to Westport (a 900 pupil school) before coming back to Elmwood in 1938. He passed away prematurely in 1946 at the age of 58.

Written by Gerald Eggleton.

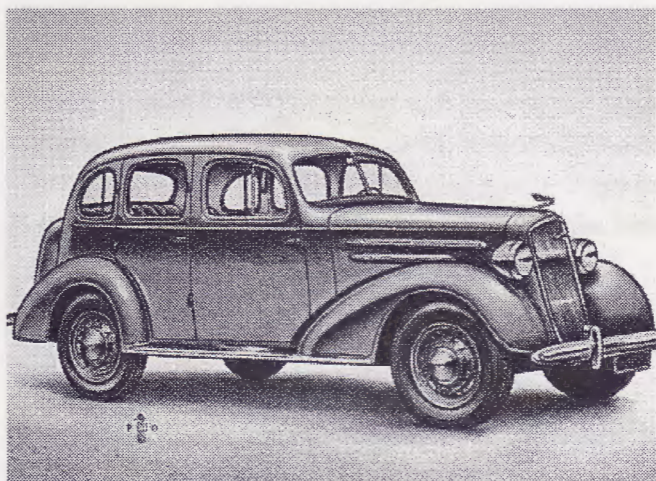


P3 & 4, 1930s



IN FRONT OF THE FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING, THE BASKETBALL TEAM 1930s

1930-1939



- Depression reaches New Zealand.
- Wool price slump.
- Unemployment.
- Napier Earthquake – 265 dead.
- AH & AW Reed publishing Co.
- New Christchurch Art Gallery.
- 30mph limit on the road.
- Rutherford splits atom.
- Forty-hour week.
- George VI King.
- At WAR with Germany.
- Native timber export prohibited.

PUPIL TO PRINCIPAL

I started school in 1932 with Miss Keir as my teacher and I have vivid memories of Mr. Parry to whom “I had to read to” in his office. Miss Irvine taught me in Standard Three and years later was teaching at Christchurch South when I began my teaching career and she took me under her protective wing. I recall Mr. Harrison (incidentally he was not the one in broadcasting who came from Addington School) giving us spelling lessons on the front porch of the school and lecturing us on the evils of alcohol and smoking. Years later there was Mr. Harrison, well installed at the bar drinking!

I remember clearly the vegetable gardens we had on the slopes of the stream at the back of the school. No houses were on the other side then. I recall the day Ken Auld broke his leg playing soccer in the school grounds.

Laurie Jennings taught us in Standard Six and I have a vivid recollection of an incident that had a profound effect on my own teaching. As we all trooped back into his room after break, I was pushed from behind and stumbled into Mr. Jennings’s desk, upsetting a bottle of ink which poured over his carefully kept register. I stood awaiting the heavens to fall preparing to accept whatever should befall, and, he just sent me back to my seat!

Years later, when teaching as a senior teacher at Hoon Hay, Mr Jennings as an Inspector of schools, was very kind and helpful to me. I retold him about the incident and his action that had such a profound effect on me. I also taught the sons and daughters there of my fellow classmates from West Spreydon. I later retired as Principal of Somerfield School in 1986, and was then able to comment on the sort of values learnt at school being the same as when I was at West Spreydon. I did not move far from the roots that nurtured me.

Written by Peter Dunmill.

HEALTHY VALUES TAUGHT

I attended West Spreydon at the age of 11 and 12 in 1933-34 for my Standard 5 & 6 years, before they called them Form One & Two.

My excellent teacher was Mr. Jennings who taught me so well that being so far from being good at arithmetic (mathematics), he helped me to pass to the top of the class. Also, as the proficiency examination system was still in force, he helped me to come second from top! For a whole term when I was absent through sickness, he delivered all my lessons so I could learn them with my Dad's help and keep up with the class.

In those days, what is now the Pioneer Stadium & Park was a swamp. In the lunch hour the boys would go there to catch frogs. We had assemblies on special occasions when we hoisted the flag and sang the National Anthem.

We were encouraged to clean our shoes, and during the depression time, I recall one boy and girl (twins), who had their shoes tied together with string. Their shoes were the cleanest!

At this time there was only the main building as the area was a growing one. These times were among the happiest of my school days.

Written by Mrs Kathleen Mayhew, nee Olds.



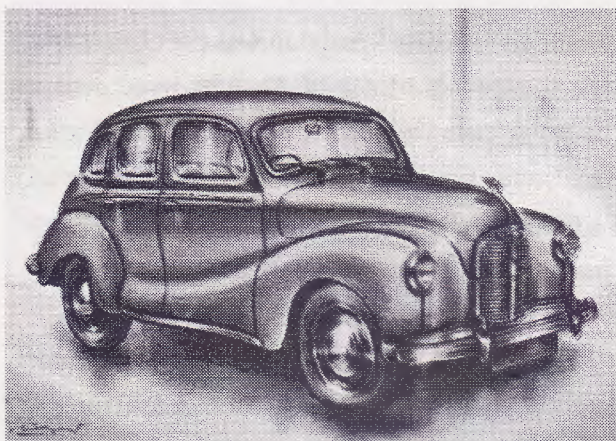
**HEADMASTER MR HARRISON OVERSEES THE GARDENS,
WITH MR LOWERY JENNINGS ABOUT 1938.**

Who peeped up the Teacher's dress when they were supposed to be asleep on the mat?

Who raided the orchard next door to the school?

Who made too many mistakes and got a strong belting?

1940-1949



WAR TO PEACE

- N.Z. Troops to Middle East.
- New Road Rules.
- Wasps arrive here.
- N.Z. National Airways start.
- Jet aircraft visits.
- Ration cards.
- Polio epidemic.
- Pine for housing.
- Trams and Trolley buses.
- Ballantyne's fire tragedy.

NOT ALL OF US WERE HAPPY!

I was ten years old when my parents shifted to the corner of Neville and Lyttelton Streets in May 1940. I started school after the May holidays, and was placed in the Standard Four class. I had attended Amberley School up until this time from the age of six, being unable to start at five due to the depression.

The teacher was a Mr Campbell . . . a thick-set man with dark hair. He wore horn-rimmed glasses and was a serious non-smiling man with a heavy monotonous voice. Within the first two days he ordered a boy to stand in front of the class because of some misdemeanour. He took from a drawer in his desk a heavy leather strap, told the lad to hold out his hand and gave him two heavy blows. What a fearful impression it had on me. Here was I, a simple country boy who had never seen anything like this in my life! I was shocked and fearful, and from May till the end of the year when I had to leave for South Intermediate, I was somewhat terrified whenever in his classroom.

Written by John Martyn, Pupil, 1940.

FROM "G" NIBS TO LAPTOPS

What excitement. It was my turn to fill the inkwells. I carefully held the big bottle and poured the ink out of the little spout. In the other hand I clutched the blotting paper in case the ink overflowed the ink well and spilled into the desk. Children today wouldn't know what an inkwell was and even less about the scratchy "G" nibs we endeavoured to do the beautiful flowing cursive writing with. The fountain pen was a luxury that came much later when I was at South Intermediate School. Miss Mottram who taught me in Standard One used that style when she wrote my sixpence per week pocket money into my School Savings Bank Book. I eventually saved up to £3/4/6 (Three pounds four shillings and sixpence = \$6.45). I don't know how the teachers managed to teach us how to add, subtract, and divide pounds shillings and pence when 12 pence equalled a shilling, twenty shillings equalled a pound, a half crown was two shillings and sixpence, and eight half crowns equalled a pound. Most of us had trouble with the florins (2

shillings) and as for the "Guineas" (Twenty-one shillings) . . . they were always a bit of a mystery, so it was a relief when they changed our currency to the decimal system we have today.

There was some discussion about which school I would go to. West Spreydon was the closest and my brother Graeme was going there, but my pals the Larkins and Brightwells who lived across the road in Domain Terrace went to Spreydon. As I was going to ride my trike to school, the choice was West Spreydon, which did not include the busy Lincoln road traffic. I may have even been run over by a tram! "Us kids" were not taken to school by car in those days, but if you were lucky, a "dub" on the back of Mum's bike, or a "bar" on Dad's bike was a help.

Domain Terrace, which was originally called Mill Road as the flourmill, complete with water wheel, was situated in the Heathcote River near Cobham Street corner (as my Mother told me). A fire engine had tipped over there when it tried to negotiate the corner too quickly.

You may think that there wouldn't be much excitement in those days in the early 1940s, but one of the residents who lived a couple of doors away was attacked and his face was slashed with a knife! We had an outside toilet in those days and I was always terrified of being attacked on my way to and from it at night in the dark!

My great grandparents had come out from England in 1875, settled in the area, as did my Grandparents some years later. They imported a huge white Arab stallion called Hazeldean that pulled the milk carts during the week, and raced at Addington at the weekends. My Grandfather had a team of six huge Clydsedale horses and did contract ploughing in the district.

The value of opportunity and education is shown clearly in my family. My grandfather who received very little schooling could barely write his name, yet my brother went on to become a nuclear physicist.

During the 1930s depression my parents moved in with my grandparents while my father who had been in hospital for nine months with gangrene in a leg, worked on the road gang on the Summit Road on crutches. Thankfully times have not been so tough since. I was two years old when my father went off to war. Four years later when he returned I had no idea who he was. Later I read about the 1939-45 war. The significant things we noticed were the ration books for food and clothes, attempts to build air raid shelters . . . one was in the School grounds down near the river another at home.

School years seemed to pass peacefully enough. My Gamble the Headmaster came into our room and taught us songs. (I recall "Hey little Hen, When, when, when, will you lay me an egg for my tea.") Fond memories of Mr MacFarlane's captivating interest in Nature Study and bugs and butterflies still remain, as does the time when I was sick all over the teacher's table!

Now we are in the technological age. Through the wonders of TV we can see events in the world as they are happening, send messages through e-mail in seconds, order goods through the Internet, and so on. What an amazing change from the 1940s when I put the billy out by the gate for the milkman to fill, when I rode my bicycle to Glover's Bakery in Neville St to get bread, and ate the centre of the loaf out on the way home. Hancock's Grocery came for the order in the morning and delivered in the afternoon. Mr Nuttall the butcher delivered meat in a horse and cart! The word "neat" meant clean and tidy, the word "gay" meant happy and cheerful, no cell phones, No graffiti, No drugs!!! In many ways it was a lot easier growing up half a century ago.

Written by Pam Coote who became a teacher and Senior Lecturer at the College of Education.

THE SCHOOL MOTTO

David J.C. Pringle, Headmaster of West Spreydon School in the fifties found the Motto that Lowery Jennings recalled being in use twenty-five years ago when he taught there. It was **"HONOR VIRTUTIS PRAEMIUM"** – *Honour is the Reward of Virtue.*

The present-day Motto is **"CARING, SUCCEEDING, LEARNING"**. This is detailed in the mission statement of the School, which is:

"To provide a caring environment where children value themselves, and others, and reach their potential."

We believe the children today understand this, and an observer can easily see it is practised by all Staff and Pupils, as well as appreciated by Parents.



THE WEST SPREYDON SCHOOL BATHS COMMITTEE

Ron Wilson's recollections of West Spreydon Days

STARTING SCHOOL DURING THE WAR YEARS

My introduction to formal learning started at West Spreydon School during the latter half of World War II. My comment on these first few years at school will necessarily call for comment on the society of the day.

I started school in 1942, right on my birthday, you might say that I was eager to start school, not that I was anxious to get away from home, though the occasion may have been influenced by the arrival of my younger sister almost three weeks earlier. I'm not sure who took me on that first day but I do know I objected having anyone accompany me. Both my elder sister and brother had attended West Spreydon so I suppose I thought I was big enough to go by myself.

I walked from home as I did every school day for the next 5+ years. It seems odd to me today to see the number of parents with their cars lined up in front of the school ready to take their children to and from school. There were kindergartens available at that time but like many other families, my mother did not work so I did not attend. When I say I attended school every school day for 5+ years, I did just that. It seemed to me that whenever colds, 'flu, chicken pox and the like were about I would invariably catch the bug during the holidays so I never missed a day of school.

John Bisphan's first recollection was being taken to school by his mother and refusing to go in, crying, clinging to her. His brother was already at West Spreydon three years ahead of him and no doubt was embarrassed by his performance. (It is interesting to note John progressed from Junior at W.S.S. to Judge of the district court in Christchurch.)

I think that Miss Bowker was my first teacher in primer one. Our classroom was in the northwest corner of the school, a newer block, constructed on the "open air" concept that is still there. There seemed to be a long walk from the gate. I can remember a sand or dirt area for children to play in out the front of the school. None of the equipment is there today.

TEACHERS AND TIMES I RECALL

I enjoyed school and the first years went quickly and it seemed no time before I was in Standard One in the main school building. Mr Victor John Gamble, commonly referred to as VJ, was the headmaster during our time. He was also the Area Air-raid Warden or the Home Guard or whatever it was. He had a large American car, which was very unusual. I recall he had an operation and was away from the school for some time. He was a much loved headmaster and he

received a rousing reception when he returned from his hospital stay, leaning on a walking stick, no doubt to aid his recovery.

Mr Gamble had some interesting ideas about education. I consider he was ahead of his time in fostering a strong interest in sport. However, he was not single minded, as many schools were in those days, that rugby and cricket were the only sports that existed. He had a strong influence introducing swimming at an early age. Swimming classes during school hours and immediately after school was segregated. For many of us boys we would crush outside the pool gate at swimming time. When the gate was unlocked we would rush in to see who could be first into the water, needless to say our clothing dropped on the run- no togs were considered or needed.

The boys' toilets were open-air, and behind them was a toilet for the staff which had a locked door on it. The concrete wall that the boys urinated against was not particularly high and was on the boundary with the Hennessey's market garden property next door. We remember many of the boys were involved, either giving encouragement or as participants, in a competition to see who could pee the highest up and over the wall. Mr Hennessey did not appreciate this and there were some repercussions.

The second-in-command was a Mr MacFarlane who was a nature studies expert. In those years there were many native trees and shrubs in the school grounds especially along the south of the driveway, it's sad to see most of these are gone today. Mr MacFarlane took his classes on a botany class, learning to recognise the plants by their leaves. I believe Mr MacFarlane was also influential in classes having garden allotments on the bank of the Heathcote River at the back of the school. He started the Shield awarded to winning school grounds in Canterbury.



HARD TIMES AND RATIONING

As I said at the beginning I started school during World War II and it dominated our lives during the early years at the school. Times were hard. Fathers of many of our fellow pupils were away at the war. I was fortunate the combination of there being three children and because my father worked at the Addington Railway workshops exempted him from call-up. There was rationing of many of our purchases, petrol, butter, meat and clothing are some that stick in my mind. The Wilsons didn't have to worry about the butter rationing. We had a fairly large property in the back and maintained a couple of cows.

There were few motorcars on the road. Petrol was impossible to acquire without ration coupons. For those who owned a motorcar there was a petrol allocation depending on the size of the engine. We had a Morris 8 but it was hardly used. It was kept under a dustsheet in the garage but that did not inhibit my father from going down to the local garage on his bike with his 3-gallon can whenever the petrol ration was due. The petrol was then stored in a drum in the shed. To make up for the shortage of petrol there were some cars converted to run on coal gas. Some of these were fitted with big gasbags on a roof carrier, or a small gas generator furnace.

Clothing rationing had an impact. This was a time before large-scale synthetic fibre; most of the clothes were cotton or wool. The War restricted the import of cotton and most of the wool was destined for clothing for the Armed Forces. Small boys must have been hard on clothes. Since there was a shortage of new clothes, the ones I wore, as for many other children, were progressively repaired and darned. I was lucky in that I received "hand-me-downs" from my brother. In addition my mother was a great knitter so that all my jerseys were handmade. At times the remains of some of the jerseys were unravelled and the recovered wool re-knitted. John recalls an example of the tough times with kids coming to school with no socks and others coming to school with the toes and heels cut out of socks which had obviously worn out and the parents could not afford to replace them. He also recalls that over the road from the school, north along Lyttelton Street, Mrs Howlett ran what was known as Hopkins' shop where the pies were a great delicacy. He could not afford pies but was treated one on our birthday, i.e. one per year. Sometime towards the end of the war there was a push to improve the health of school children and this was when School Milk was provided, one half pint bottle per pupil. Unfortunately there were times when the crates were left out in the sun and got a bit warm, also because this was before homogenised milk, the cream often settled on top of the milk. Apples were also provided. In our last couple of years at West Spreydon the Parent Teachers' Association provided free cocoa during the winter months.

A regular sight on the local streets, usually early in the morning and late afternoon, we saw farmers driving herds of cattle and flocks of sheep to and from the weekly stock market at Addington. Many of our streets had a strip of long grass between the gutter and the paved road

and it was not unusual to see horses from local racing stables being grazed at the side of the road. Milk and bread was delivered by horse and cart to most of the houses. Horses were very convenient, they knew the route and knew exactly where to stop without command, and this allowed deliveries to be made virtually unattended.

The school had air raid shelters and I think these were down by the river in the area where the vegetables garden allotments were. The shelters consisted of large concrete pipes. I presume there were air raid drills although I cannot remember them but I can remember looking inside the air raid shelters and seeing big black spiders in there. Being so close to Wigram Air Force Base training aircraft were constantly flying over the school. There were many restrictions at this time but as children we had never known anything else and thought most of these were normal. There were regular blackout practices during which heavy curtains were drawn over the windows and Air raid wardens patrolled to be sure that no light showed outside. Streetlights were switched off - the whole city was in darkness.

END OF THE WAR AT LAST

When the war ended, VE day, no teachers turned up to school. A few of us turned up at school and had our own celebration. Later there was an Armed Forces parade held in the city to celebrate the end of the war. Field Marshall Montgomery was the highlight of the parade sitting in an open army car. We were provided with silver or brass lapel pins with either Monty's or Winston Churchill's head on them. We learned that atomic bombs had been dropped on Japan. At about the same time as the bomb had been dropped there had been an earthquake and we wondered whether the two were linked. Not long after this I remember being out in the playground when the first jet aeroplanes flew over. They were two Gloucester meteor fighters.

As I look back now, primary school years ended too quickly. I was off to a new school in 1948 - Christchurch South Intermediate, but there was a hiccup. That was the year of the last major polio epidemic and therefore the beginning of the school year was delayed several weeks.

Written by Ron Wilson who worked in many countries as an Insurance investigator, and was assisted by classmate John Bisphan who is currently a judge in the Christchurch court.

STANDARD 4, 1948

This class was located in the Bible Class Rooms of St James Presbyterian Church in Frankleigh Street. Our teacher, Mr MacFarlane, was a keen outdoorsman and a mountaineer of some note. In the winter to get us cracking, he frequently took us on early morning marches, often out along the shingled Sparks Road, past the Christchurch City Council gravel pit and yards and into the dairy country.

Behind the Bible Class Rooms was a small apple orchard and although declared to be off limits, there was more than the occasional visit made during the season.

Our playground was the large lawn in front of the building and many hours were spent playing cricket, rounders and of course the popular game of "bar-the-door." Those were happy days in our own little world.

Written by Ross Templeton.



CLASS OF STD. 3A AND STD. 4, 1946



VICTORY IN EUROPE

SECOND WORLD WAR

To commemorate the Allies' Victory
in Europe, this memento is presented by the
WEST SPREYDON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

to Henry Alsop

L B Scott

Chairman

V J Gamble

Headmaster

Date 8th May 1945



[E. 6/58.
(M. 62a.)

NEW ZEALAND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

BOYS AND GIRLS' AGRICULTURAL CLUBS

FARM OR GARDEN PROJECT

Certificate of Merit

Awarded to David Brassen of West Spreydon School,
who, having undertaken to carry out a project in the growing of
Vegetables, completed the task to the satisfaction of the Judges.

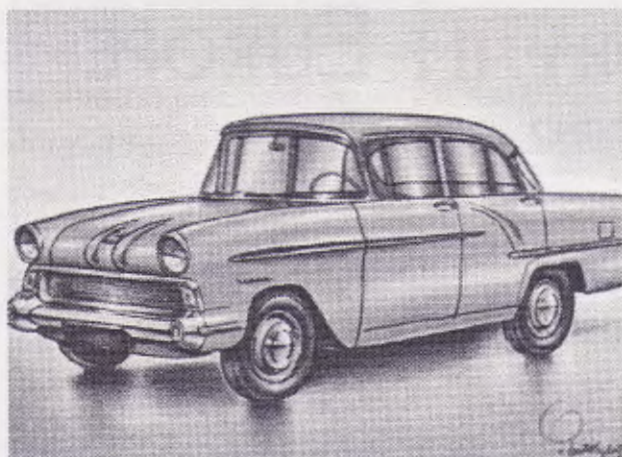
Date: 16th Dec. 1947

Alb. L. T. ..., Judge.

G. Cotton, Chairman.

_____, School Club Leader.

1950 – 1959



THE POST WAR FIFTIES

- British Empire Games at Auckland.
- Sir Edmund Hillary climbed Mt Everest.
- Tangiwai Rail Bridge collapsed with train.
- The coronation of Queen Elizabeth.
- Royal New Zealand tour.
- Hula-hoops were in fashion.
- Sid Holland retires Walter Nash now PM.
- Holden cars popular from Australia.
- Johnny Devlin.
- Diesel trains.

INSPIRING TEACHER . . . DES LAKE

I well remember the year Des Lake came from Addington School to take on the Standard Three class of which I was a member. It consisted of two Std. Two classes from the previous year, who had been taught by Mr Burling and Miss Beck respectively. Mr Lake told us he knew some of us had a woman teacher the year before, but he expected good behaviour and hard work from all. He showed us the strap, which he promised to use if we didn't comply, but we were also shown the "peg-ball" gear that we would get to use if we worked hard.

There were numerous strappings – but it didn't take long before he had the class eating out of his hand. There were much-coveted rides on the back of his motorbike to do the school banking. There were readings from Enid Blyton books, which we then had to re-tell in our own words.

He had us doing quick-fire mental arithmetic first thing every morning, which surely got our brains into gear. We often had comments from the other kids about always being outside playing peg-ball while they were inside working hard. Other rewards were a swim or a story. We learned valuable lessons for life, although at the time, I'm sure it did not dawn on us what we were being taught!

What a great year we had, then how delighted we were when we discovered we were having Mr Lake again the following year. What a bonus! Des Lake was, without doubt, one of the fairest and finest teachers I have ever encountered, and he made those two years the happiest of my school life.

Written by Mrs Ann Gillespie, nee Saint Merat, 1946-1952 at W.S.S.

SIESTA, MILK and VISITS

Does anyone remember having a mat rolled out to have a little siesta in the afternoons in P.1, P.2, and P.3? Or cocoa at lunchtime in the winter for a penny per cup was made with the leftover milk from the morning delivery from a quarter pint bottle!

What about the excursions down to the creek behind the school for Nature Study with the Forest and Bird Society members? Going to see Queen Elizabeth at Hagley Park in 1954 seemed a long journey in those days!

Written by Jill Gee, nee Suttie.

WEST SPREYDON SWIMMING POOL MEMORIES

One of my most vivid memories concerned the cleaning of the old school pool during the 1950s. The pool was always at its warmest when it started going green. There was no filtration system and I guess that any chemical treatment was done manually. The senior boys from Mr. R. D. Lakes's room on a Friday afternoon had the hard task of scrubbing and sweeping the sides that had gone green. The best part was as the pool initially started to fill and the greenish slime was eased down the outlet. It was hard work, wet, but fun! It was always a sought after task that provided a break from the routines that went with the large over 50 classes that I was in at West Spreydon.

Written by Graeme Trist, 1954-55.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The three boys in immaculate white football togs who were seen to plaster themselves with mud? Apparently they wanted to show their parents that they had played a really torrid game. The boy who kicked his shoes up on the veranda roof every time things did not go his way? The Intermediate girls who revisited the infant playground and were heard remarking on how small it now seemed?

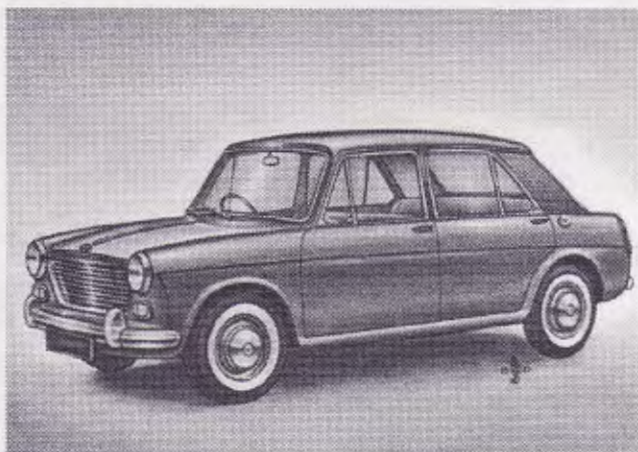
How the outdoor toilet's gutter flooded so that gumboots were needed to keep your feet dry?

Written by Dorothy Billcliff, Teacher.

Who was swimming after hours? Who tried smoking down the bank? Who played marbles? Who sailed boats down the Wychbury St. gutter? Who sneaked a vegetable from the garden? Who broke a window at school? Who got wet nickers in the small pool and was sent home?

Answers at the 100th Jubilee.

1960 – 1969



THE SIXTIES

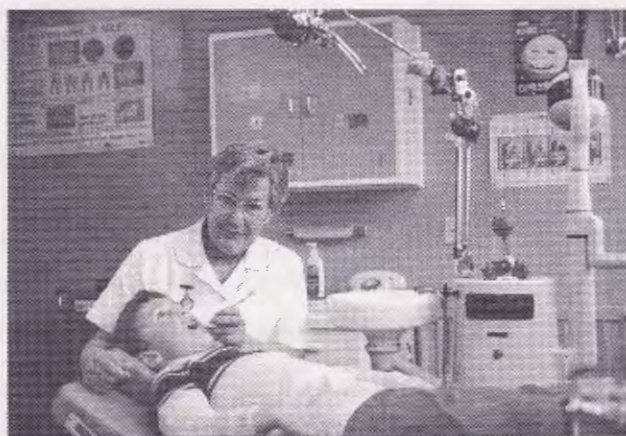
- Keith Holyoak P.M. Queen's visit.
- Peter Snell, Barry Crump success.
- Bob Charles wins British open.
- Don Clarke kicks 65 yd. Goal.
- Black Budget (Arnold Nordmyer).
- Ray Columbus "She's a Mod".
- T.V. reaches half a million in 1967.
- Decimal Currency starts.
- School milk stops. Wahine sinks.
- Kiri Te Kanawa sings to fame.

OPEN WIDER

Ngaire Marsden arrived in 1965. Being an older nurse, Margaret Gainsford, the Head Nurse mistakenly took Ngaire for a parent. She had worked in the North Island dental clinics. She quickly settled in to help.

Ngaire, never short of a word or story, says she has "worked on the mouths of many prominent Christchurch people." She integrated fully with the "friendly supportive teaching staff," and her able command in the classroom with dental health lessons gave both the pupils and teachers a valuable break from routine as well as providing dental health lessons. She stayed at West Spreydon School for twenty-one years, being sole charge for ten of them, leaving in 1986.

Earlier in the school's history a great deal of effort, politicking, correspondence and monetary assistance went into providing the school with a clinic. Initially children were asked to attend Sydenham, Woolston, or Wharenuī clinics. Somerfield clinic was used until the West Spreydon School eventually got its own.



DENTAL NURSE AT WORK ON GIFFORD MACHIRUS

Fay MacPherson – my 35-year affair

When I took our elder daughter to the School Dental Clinic, little did I realise what a long and pleasurable association I was starting with the School – an association in the capacity of Parent, P.T.A. member, helper, child transporter, relief teacher, part time teacher for special needs, or English as a second Language teacher, and I have just completed the 5th term as returning officer for the Board of Trustees Elections. My husband Bill also assisted on the School Committee.

It was through the younger daughter's reply when school needed to contact me "Oh Mum is teaching for Mr Luke today," when I was asked to be the school reliever for many years- years of much pleasure tinged with some sadness. The children throughout the school knew me and this was a great asset, as they knew my boundaries, my expectations and the way I worked. I was in my element with the wonderful combination of children, books and music – together with the great variety of class levels and challenges.

RELIEVING TEACHER

Children are creatures of routine but sometimes this has to be broken if a teacher had taken ill unexpectedly and the workplan is at home – nothing to be told on arrival in the early days. "Just use your initiative." This was a challenge, but after a couple of times I prepared a kit of goodies and activities for all age groups that kept me sane as well as the children busy. Hopefully, learning continued until the usual routine was re-established.

To the cry of "Mr/ Mrs ____ doesn't do it like that!", my reply would be "Well they are away. Change is as good as a holiday, so we are having a slight change." One day I heard the muttered aside "Some ____ holiday!" I must admit my language knowledge broadened over the years. Once whilst relieving in the upper school for a five week spell, the usual comments were heard, but my five weeks were already planned out. At the end of the first day I heard "We've got five more weeks of this!" Next morning, when asked how the day went, I replied, "Let's say one day gone, but five weeks to go!" A few sheepish grins indicated we understood each other and got on with the job in hand.

THE ALUMINIUM BLOCK

The Aluminium Block – who could forget it, and what an experience missed if you never taught there. Going over to Room 11 was quite a trek and I did that for a twelve-month period. It was something quite unique and far away from the Staffroom. You cooked in summer despite having all the doors and windows open. In the winter it was cold and didn't take long to steam up all the windows. With no outside visibility one pouring wet day, a knock at the door was answered "Come in if you are good looking." Imagine my surprise, and the absolute look of horror on the children's faces when in walked the Principal. He said "Well I've come in!" (Relief!) In wet

weather it was a job getting to the building with dry feet so it was no surprise to me to see that one teacher had set herself up with electric jug comforts. This building was put there after the war as a temporary experimental classroom, and finally, was moved after many years, by the Education Board as a workshop. Its departure was tinged with a little sadness, and many memories, but is now graced with a lovely new block with improved drainage.

An experiment that didn't find favour. In 1969 the School Committee wrote to the Education Board saying "it should be condemned as sub-standard." Six years later their grumbling continued. After detailed temperature readings, and the report to the advising the Board to "renovate or replace it." It was another ten years before poor teachers and pupils gained respite from the sodden shoes, the puddled paths and dehydration or hypothermia from the temperatures.

HEADMASTER'S OFFICE

Room R, which was the original Headmaster's office, was used as a Special Needs and E.S.O.L. room. No display area, a public thoroughfare for art supplies, guillotine, limited window view, and usually cold all year round. This didn't seem to matter to the children who arrived with great gusto for whatever was planned for their lesson and were reluctant to leave. I have many fond memories of my time in Room R, with their great attitude to achieve. It also doubled as a sewing room with mother volunteers, handcraft groups, Deputy Principal's office, and next door to the Resource Teacher of Reading for the district.

A LIBRARY

When the roll took a dive, Room 3 was transformed into a library with shelving, book displays, video viewing and Staff courses such as C.P.R. and First Aid, or Teacher development courses. Later the library was used for these tasks, while Room 3 was used for a Staffroom. Later a new administration block was built which was less cramped.

RELIEVING IN THE MUSIC ROOM

Room 6 was also transformed into a Music room, with murals painted by Warner Lamb. Musical instruments were a great temptation for little fingers. The piano remained to give a boost to singing and instrumental renderings every week. This gave me a great incentive to get the next day's preparation done in advance. I spent two happy terms of the three-term year in there with J1, 2, & 3 composite class – a delightful group of children. We had a wonderful Grandparent's morning, which was attended by an overwhelming number of Grans, plus an Aunt much to the delight of the children. It was a sad day when I left, but I was soon to return to the S 2, 3, & 4 classes which gave me a different outlook and approach to children. It was most enjoyable apart from the MICE! I don't mind creatures, but the smell was beyond the call of human endeavour!

The children, when spying me called out "Open the windows and doors. We've got Mrs MacPherson and she can't abide the stink of mice!" My desk was well away, but it never ceased to amaze me how children could sit and work with no apparent concern with their noses practically inside the cage! Room 4 must have had a peculiarity all of its own because I remember just before the fire (1974), I had difficulty sitting at the desk and being unable to put my feet under it. On investigation I found a large newspaper wrapping which I was just about to confine to the rubbish tin. Horrified voices of the children stopped me in my tracks. "Don't throw that out. It's meat and bones for the cats!"

THE JUBLIEE HALL

The hall was a great achievement for the School and the hard working Hall Committee who raised the money to get this asset. They are to be congratulated for their drive and commitment. It was rostered for Choir, gymnastics, Physical Education, Assemblies, School functions as well as being hired out to the local community. It was well used for the Holiday Programmes and Social Club activities.

In 1966 a committee was formed to fundraise for a much-needed hall as a celebration project for the 50th Anniversary. Mr Gavin Taylor was the Chairperson of this committee for six years, followed by Mrs Enid Bancroft. The \$5000 goal set to build it in 1966 inflated to \$35,000 nine years later, but was accomplished after many mannequin parades, cabaret evenings, sponsored treks, raffles and fairs, plus many minor efforts. What a major but successful undertaking. How satisfying to complete it for the 50th Anniversary, and how well it has benefited so many in the school and community since.

TOMORROW'S SCHOOLS

Variety and change have happened throughout the years so it came as no surprise the Education System was in for a very dramatic shake-up called "Tomorrow's Schools."

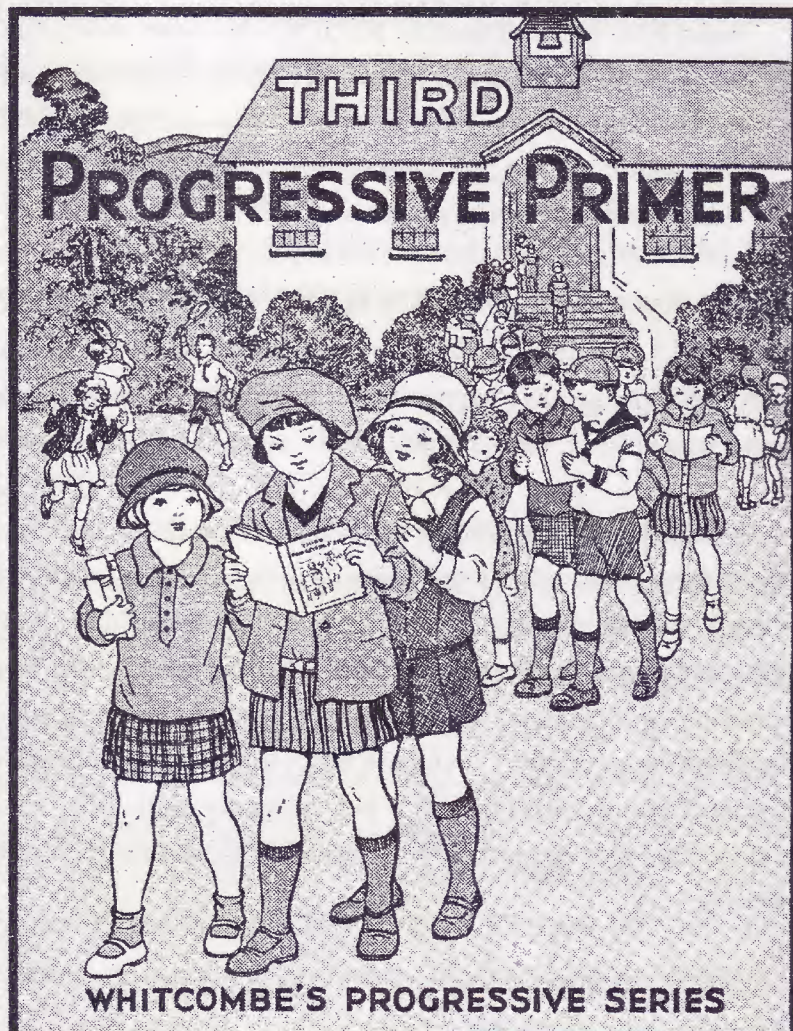
This involved the disbanding of the School Committees and the forming of Boards of Trustees. Initially there was a lot of work devising rolls of people eligible to vote, made very confusing by having it "explained" at "enlightening" meetings and finally going without own gut-feeling and confidence shown in me by Stew Cron who had asked me to be the Returning Officer for West Spreydon. Once the process got under way a pattern evolved which considerably helped with the following five elections. I have been lucky to have been helped by having Margaret Argus as my assistant (School Secretary) with her computer skills. She kept us up to date with the latest changes. This year no election was needed as we had the required number of candidates to fill the positions.

REFLECTIONS!

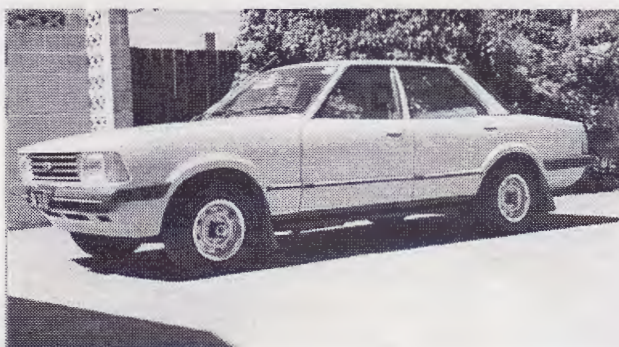
My affair has come to an end, but what a rewarding, challenging and worthwhile time it has been. I have no regrets. A legion of memories that come to me at an unusual time – like the lovable young lad who liked the feeling of jade jewellery. I never smell freesias, but recall the first bunch brought to school by a little dark-haired girl! Trout reminds me of the keen young fisherman who arrived with his catch for me; home-made chocolates remind me of the fabulous mothers who rewarded me for teaching their children; and the little drawings, cards made and given by children as a wee treat. This list is endless, but the friendships that have developed with Staff and children have been a treasure that I truly value. Nowadays I still enjoy a yarn and catch-up with ex pupils and staff.

Life brings its changes, but the days of “Bertie Germ” and his train, “Mr. Twiddle,” “Gumdrop the Vintage Car,” “Budgie the Helicopter,” Paul Jennings Stories, the inevitable Relief Teacher’s joy of Road Patrol, going on School Camps, coaching sports teams, and the 7.00a.m. phone calls to relieve at school have all melded to make my past something I’d never change (well maybe the telephone calls) – and I’d do it all again. Thank you West Spreydon for my great Affair.

Written by Fay MacPherson.



1970-1979



THE SCHOOL TREK

Every year our fundraiser was a school trek. All children who were participating would go around the neighbours and family anxiously gathering sponsors. Some poor neighbours in our street were hit on several times because there were heaps of kids, and we were all like one big family in those days.

On the Saturday morning of the trek everyone would gather at the school and walk down Lyttelton St into Glynne Crescent, then down to Domain Terrace to the park and back again. This went on for a while with our trek card being clicked at each end.

Some eager rivals seemed to think it was a race and went “hell for leather,” while most of us took our time and enjoyed the walk. We could stop at any time and at the end maybe there was an ice-block for all who took part. If anyone had long grass outside their house, it was soon flattened by hundreds of pairs of feet trampling over it.

In those days it was a safe fundraiser because Urella Place wasn't there, so no roads to cross! The Treks were fun, but sadly came to an end just prior to the 1990s.

Written by Anonymous Angel Stroller.

THE SEVENTIES

- N.Z. Rowers do well in Munich
- Seat belts and crash helmets introduced.
- Muldoon PM
- Split Enz.
- A.C.C.
- Commonwealth Games – Q.E.2.
- Mt Erebus crash in Antarctica
- Telephone numbers reach one million.
- Dunedin Landslip.
- N.Z. beats England in cricket.



1980-1989



- G.S.T.
- 'Tomorrow's Schools' introduced.
- Controversial Springbok Tour.
- Rainbow Warrior sinks.
- Gold medal for Ian Ferguson.
- Pope Paul visits N.Z.
- World Cup rugby win.
- Share market crashes.
- Kohanga Reo starts.

FUNDRAISING

Everyone recalls with great delight the West Spreydon School major fundraising efforts, and some with less than delight, because of the sustained effort it required. A mammoth effort really stretched the parents and community every spring for the GALA.

The P.T.A. formed a Gala Committee, which delegated a large group of people to organise and run the various stalls, raffles, entertainment and food sales. The Committee spent many hours at school and in the community canvassing to ensure a successful day. I remember Dot Milne, Stephanie Downs, Sandra Bruce, Barbara Le Grice, & Ann Harris, among those worthy of a medal for their efforts over more than one year. Apart from making a big noise over the public address system on the day, I suggested we have a draw card to get people there. A free car was snorted at, but, surprise, we managed to find one, and the gimmick drew the crowd. Later we were able to enlist the support of a car sales firm to donate one in return for the free advertising.

Realising that many people from school did not have excess cash, the second plan was to sell raffle tickets in other districts. A small group of parents started the major raffle. For this we made or obtained a valuable prize, and printed heaps of tickets with Bob Faichnie's help. Parents were rostered to sell tickets anywhere a crowd gathered. For prizes we made a Wendy House, a garden shed with tools, a trailer, or an outdoor furniture set and a Maui campervan holiday.

The Galas went off with great gusto. Entertainment was tops with the school cultural group, the choir, V.J. Hewson, The Mallards, Hillmorton High and Cashmere High groups performing to a big crowd. Finally, after the clean up was done, and the tents folded away, the windblown, damp or sunburned helpers collapsed into the staffroom. Dave Brockett or others counted up the money, which usually came to about the \$10,000 profit. Well done for the school. Computers, the new library building, playground equipment and environmental plans were all costly, but funds from the galas helped to achieve these purchases and projects.

Written by David Johnson, Deputy Principal, 1982-1995



TEACHERS AT THE 50TH JUBILEE



STAFF AT THE 75TH JUBILEE



JIM LE GRICE MEMORIAL LIBRARY



BOARD OF TRUSTEES 1992

BACK ROW: Sally Clarke, David Johnson (Teacher Rep), Chris Morrall, Bill Earle, Colin O'Donnell, Vince Nijdam
 FRONT ROW: Betty Monteath, Jim Le Grice (Chairman), Stew Cron (Principal), Jillian Owen

JIM LE GRICE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The need for more classroom space to accommodate an increasing school roll and growing needs for dedicated library space, the Board of Trustees and staff at West Spreydon School saw an opportunity to construct a purpose built library. The Ministry of Education required a significant local community contribution to support this endeavour. To achieve this, fund raising through school fairs and the offer from Christchurch Polytechnic to build this project labour free with the assistance of building industry trainees made this a possibility.

During March 1996 an enthusiastic group of carpentry pre-trade trainees, under the supervision of their tutors commenced work. School pupils observing the excavations for the reading pit conjured up the idea of a potential indoor swimming pool in the library especially when building plans were altered to increase the pit size. While trainees gained hands on experience in building and construction skills some teachers took the opportunity for their classes to observe and learn about the various materials and processes that made up the building. On completion of the framework it was decided that with the addition of an ablution block this facility would also be more versatile to the local community for out of school hours activities.

The Polytechnic trainees studying towards their various careers in carpentry, electrical engineering and painting and decorating, had separate facilities allocated for their use while on site. A very positive relationship developed between construction workers, school staff and students while enabling Polytechnic students to gain experience that benefited the community.

John Lucas, design consultant and project manager provided overall supervision and ensured the inclusion of an electronic communications link to allow the library to go on line to the World Wide Web. Of special assistance and encouragement to the Polytechnic tutors and students was the support and cooperation of Stew Cron the Principal and Bill Earle the school custodian.

To reflect the staff and pupils' commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi and the local Maori community, carvings by Matui Te Huki were commissioned to adorn the library entrance. The building was officially opened on December 8 1995 and named The Jim Le Grice Memorial Library in memory of the late Jim Le Grice who had been the Board of Trustees Chairperson from 1990 to 1992.

Written by John Wise, B.O.T. 1992-96.

OUTDOOR EDUCATIONAL CAMPS

School camps involve rural venues, fundraising, precise organisation, instant decisions, wonderful parent help, sleepless nights, hilarious situations, all of which combine to make a rewarding and memorable personal development week for the pupils.

From 1988 to 1994 W.S.S. camps were based around the rural areas like Ashburton, Wainui, Yaldhurst, Kaiapoi, Woodend, Waipara, and Kaikoura. Visiting local museums, cottage industries, seashores, forests, plus going on treks, allow young children to appreciate that life away from the city can be productive as well as fun.

One memorable situation occurred in 1988 when two classes were evacuated from the Woodend Camp site around 9.00pm. A fire was spreading along the plantation from Waikuku to Woodend. The children were hurried out of bed, made to dress quickly, and were then taken by buses to the Woodend Community Hall. The Civil Emergency headquarters had been set up there by the Army and Police.

Everyone was finally released after a couple of hours, and spent the night at Kaiapoi Blue Skies Camp, being returned to Woodend the following afternoon. One boy, however, for reasons unknown, was not wearing his day clothes, and had to endure running around all day in his pyjamas!

There were many anecdotes the teachers and parents shared during and after the camp, the memories of which will last a long time. In spite of all the hard work and planning, school camps are a great way for children to learn more about themselves and others in a safe and neutral environment.

Written by Judy Davidson, Senior Teacher, 1981 – 1996.



AT ASHBURTON STATION AND IN THE HILLS



**‘ON PATROL’
‘SIGNS OUT’
‘CHECK!’
‘CROSS NO-O-OW’**

- Inflation slows.
- Billy T. James dies.
- Hospitals now charge.
- 1992 snow storms.
- Jane Campion, ‘The Piano’ & Anna Pacquin.
- America’s Cup now N.Z.’s Cup.
- Aramoana shootings.
- Treaty claims realised.
- Millenium celebrations.
- Hijackers crashed into the Towers New York.

With these words our 9 and 10-year-old pupils steadfastly carry out the daily task that has become an important tradition for the pupils of West Spreydon School. As a duty teacher over the years I have been proud of the way all the boys and girls have bravely battled all sorts of crazy weather conditions and tribulations to man the School Crossing safely.

The fashion in signs have changed over the years from the small hard-to-see cherry coloured signs on impossibly long poles of the 1960s through to the new fluorescent orange signs anchored on ground poles of the 1990s. Where wind conditions once dictated near miss guillotining of waiting pupils, hang-gliding skills are now tested during strong Nor’westers as young hands and bodies strain to keep the signs in place. One afternoon a particularly lightly built monitor found herself swept off her feet as the sign snapped back violently.

I will never forget being called to the Magistrate’s court as a witness lugging one of the old cherry-red signs as evidence for the prosecution against a driver who had dangerously run through the extended signs. Passers-by directed many strange glances through central Christchurch as I clutched the Stop sign on my way to the courtroom!

Over the years there have been many close calls with cars running illegally through. Back in the 1970s there was a pair of feisty Patrol Monitors who decided to mete out a little rough justice to a driver who edged up while children were on the crossing. When the driver returned after most children had crossed safely, the young stalwarts organised a quick STOP, making the car screech to a halt just in time!

West Spreydon School was the first school in Christchurch to be equipped with the new large swinging signs. The Ministry of Transport was anxious to promote these new signs and the television crew filmed the afternoon Patrol on duty. Staff members drew straws in order to avoid

being on Nation-wide television. Was it modesty or cowardice? Guess who drew the short straw. The film was also later used for research and teaching points.

Winter duty, blue nose, red cheeks, numb fingers and toe for duty teacher and pupil alike. Hot cocoa is still brewed to assist the thaw out. Children clutch the warm mugs and craftily stretch out the time to miss schoolwork. "But it's too hot to drink fast, Miss."

Parents accompanying pupils good-naturedly wait patiently for the "Cross-Now" call, appreciative of the need to time the gaps in the high-density traffic, and the task required by the youthful and responsible helpers. Some impatient parent defaulters are unaware of the shaking fists, facial expressions, or walking styles being mimicked behind them!

In recent years we have had a steady flow of adult volunteers who have helped supervise the crossing, continuing the marvellous community support the School has always enjoyed.

Now as the year nears an end, a fresh batch of Patrol Monitors will eagerly begin their training under the guidance of a Police Trainer. They will freely give of their best to maintain the great safety record, and in years to come will proudly remember how they were once a Road Patrol Monitor.

'SIGNS IN' – 'OFF PATROL'

Written by Elfrida Donaggio, Teacher.



ELFRIDA DONAGGIO AND PATROL MONITORS 1980s

SPECIAL NEEDS AND ABILITIES PROGRAMME

With the advent of Tomorrow's Schools in 1989, schools were asked to elect a Board of Trustees, decide on a Mission Statement and set a Charter. This brought about each school developing in a way that suited its local community.

Under the leadership of Principal, Stewart Cron, West Spreydon followed its motto of "Caring, Succeeding and Learning" and built into its programme an undertaking to provide for the needs of all children across the continuum. This included those children with Special Needs or Special Abilities. Over the last eleven years the Special Needs and Abilities programmes have been a feature of West Spreydon School, providing both remedial and extension programmes in Reading, Language, Maths, and Social Skills.

Tomorrow's Schools also meant the integration of special needs children into the mainstream, with many "special classes" and special schools closing. 1990 saw the first "mainstreamed" pupil into West Spreydon. Since then, West Spreydon has provided a caring environment for a number of these children who qualify for ORS (Ongoing Resource funding) and teacher-aide hours. Their varying needs and disabilities have allowed the other pupils the opportunity to become aware of them, develop an understanding of their needs and become their friends.

In recent years the influx of new migrants to New Zealand has meant that West Spreydon has had a number of non English-speaking pupils from such diverse backgrounds as, Vietnam, Taiwan, Somalia, China, Russia and now Afghanistan and Korea.

West Spreydon has provided a welcoming environment for all its pupils and lived up to its motto of "Caring, Succeeding and Learning." (It has been my pleasure and privilege to be associated with so many of the pupils, parents, teacher-aides, teachers and specialists during my time as Special Needs teacher at West Spreydon School.)

Written by Mary Clark



TOMORROW'S SCHOOL & THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(A new ball game)

The turn of the decade brought in a change from the old School Committee to the Board of Trustees. No longer were finances, projects, and needs arranged through the defunct Education Board. Each School had an autonomous responsibility to run the school within the guidelines as set by the Ministry of Education. The Board of Trustees role was one of governance, the Principal being the Manager for day to day running, and despite the Manuals and courses provided, everyone had quite a task to adjust.

The first elected Board was Graham Jones (Chairperson), Jillian Owen (Treasurer), Betty Monteath (Secretary), Chris Morrall, Sally Clark, Jim Le Grice (became Chairperson after three months), David Johnson (Teacher Representative), and Stewart Cron (Principal).

Meetings often went far into the night, even though large volumes of correspondence or reports were read beforehand. The bulk funding of money forced astute budgeting for all curriculum areas, building maintenance, office supplies, communications, power, project developments and so on, so it was not surprising the Board avoided the bulk funding of teachers' and staff pay for as long as possible. Setting up of numerous sub-committees greatly assisted their necessary endeavours by breaking down the tasks and involving extra people with expertise. It was still the function of the Board to approve, modify and formalise the many Policies that epitomised the direction and goals of the school. Adopting a Mission Statement was another new experience that took some time to get our heads around!

West Spreydon, however, being very progressive with an open team approach quickly adopted both best practice and invented practice. High standards are achieved when audited by the Ministry of Education. They pioneered their way to the new millennium setting up a system that would efficiently provide the best possible opportunities for every pupil in the school. Congratulations to those who take on this responsibility, for very little remuneration (enough to pay the baby-sitter). Grateful thanks to all those who have served, and are appointed in the future.



**ROSEMARY RANKIN,
CHAIRPERSON, 1992-2001**



**MICHAEL RODGERS
CHAIRPERSON, 2001**

SCHOOL DAZE

In 1989 I began my first year as a New Entrant at West Spreydon School. Mrs Drake made me feel at home – she looked after us all like her own children. Within days of starting my new school I thought I was doomed; I hated the place and some girl had already broken all my crayons my mum had bought me for my birthday.

A week passed, and I got very sick. The chicken pox, oh the joys of being a schoolgirl! After a week at home I was finally well enough to return to school. I moved up in life. I was now a 3-o'clocker. My new class was even scarier than the first but I soon seemed to blend in and finally make friends. I was in room eight for three years and during this time made a best friend, a few enemies and a bit of a reputation around the school with students and teachers. All good!!

Soon enough it was time to move on to the seniors. What a thought. This meant more homework, bigger kids, going on camp and things like that. To top it all off I was put into Mr Doig's class. He was so big, not to mention the only male teacher I could have ended up with. As it turned out these were the three most interesting years of my life, senior school.

In standard two, which is now called year four I think, we did lots of exciting things, which at times could be a bit of a drag. Mr Doig had a policy . . . if it was summer we went swimming, no matter what the weather, and no matter what you wore in the water. If you forgot your togs for no good reason, you went in your "T-shirt" and shorts. This was a laugh when he made one male in our class swim in his boxers.

Then came camp. We went to Purau this year that was the most interesting camp I went on throughout my whole school life. The teachers and parents who came on camp with us were wonderful, and one, who will remain nameless, made the world's best Spaghetti Bolognaise.

I had Mr Doig as a teacher for two years, which meant two years of the same rules, and two camps, although we all loved the rules, even if we didn't admit it at the time, I did a lot of growing up these two years, through this time. I lost my best friend, who I had been with since I started school. She moved away. I made new friends, but a lot of them left a year before me because they were all older. Now it was the beginning of my last year at school and no one to share it with. Even my favourite teacher had left. It was the start of 1995 when I started Standard Four, the end of my time as a West Spreydon pupil. I made the most of this year by making an impression on the school. I tried hard to be the best at everything I attempted, because my mum always told me "they only remember the good ones and the bad ones, so make sure they remember you for the right reasons." I feel I succeeded at this as at the end of the year. A close friend of mine and shared with me the honour of receiving the Probus Citizenship award, which was given at our final assembly.

During my six years at West Spreydon I became involved in as many things as possible. I took Guitar lessons, Ukulele lessons, Recorder lessons, I was in choir, gymnastics, netball, and there was a point where I had an extra curricular activity everyday of the week after school. My morn started to miss me. No matter what I wanted to do at West Spreydon there was always the opportunity for me to do it, and because of this, I treasure my days at West Spreydon. Without the opportunities I had there, I wouldn't be the person I am today. For this I will always remember the school, and the staff within it, and I hope that most of them remember me.

Written by Amanda Baldwin, pupil 1988-1995.

FROM TINY TOT TO TEACHER

I started at West Spreydon School in 1983 as a 5-year-old in Room 8 with Mrs Drake and it's now 2001 and I'm back again this time as a teacher with my own class in Room 2, one of the only rooms I was never in as a pupil.

I remember when I was 9 and 10 years old and in Room 4 with Mrs Allen and being allowed to do staffroom duty, in the old staffroom and feeling very grown up. We were allowed to eat some of the left over cookies while we cleaned up the dirty cups and tidied the room. I recall the zip blowing its top on a number of occasions and I'm sure that the teachers felt the same at times. Coming back into the staffroom, even though it is somewhat changed, for the first time since I attended the school was little bit strange and made me really realise just how my role had changed over the years.

Other events that I remember was a Japanese green tea party and dressing up as geisha girls, "kiss and catch" on the old fort, making paper maché Viking helmets, reading the little red reading books, playing the recorder in the hall, spying on the teachers who had "absolutely" no idea of what we were doing!!! Flower Day and making sand saucers and vegetable creations, and camp to Woodend where I am taking my class this year on a weeklong adventure. I'll be able to appreciate how tired and how much fun my teachers had when they took me!!!

Throughout my three years at Teachers' College I helped out in a number of classrooms doing all sorts of things from perceptual motor programme to individualised reading and accompanying teachers on outings. After applying for quite a few jobs I was very excited to see a position here at West Spreydon School. I am extremely pleased to have this opportunity to work alongside such a fantastic, fine and supportive staff (some of whom were here and some who taught me when I was little, all friendly and welcoming faces from all those years ago – Helen Pugh, Elfrida Donaggio, Margaret Argus, and of course Stew Cron!!! Smiles.

Written by Denali Monteath, Teacher at the school 2001.



STEWART CRON

S. E. G. CRON, PRINCIPAL, 1988+

I first met Stew in 1988. It was a meeting I had looked forward to for his reputation preceded him. I knew him as a firebrand open-side flanker whose aerobic fitness and hard mental approach had terrorised first fives the world over. These attributes helped him to play many years of senior rugby for Suburbs, over one hundred games for Canterbury and achieve a milestone all rugby players dream about, to play for your country and wear the treasured black jersey with the silver fern on your chest.

Now, thirteen years on, it is not rugby I remember Stew for. It is in the field of education where I believe Stew's greatest triumph belongs.

In 1988 S.E.G. Cron was appointed Principal of West Spreydon School. Spreydon's favourite son had come home. Stew's positive, consensus style of leadership, which, while more time consuming, had an immediate effect of bringing staff and community together. The change, in 1989, to self-governing schools, saw the benefits of officially involving parents in school policies, which further reinforced this style of leadership.

Over the past decade West Spreydon has been a school where learning has been well planned and child-centred. The child has always come first. The school motto of Caring, Succeeding, Learning is reflected in all aspects of school life.

Parent involvement and support has been a hallmark of the Cron era. All parents, the Parent Teacher Assn., Board of Trustees and Staff worked together to meet pupil needs. This has created more work for Stew and his staff, but the benefits have greatly enhanced the focus and desired

outcomes for all. No stone is left unturned in providing the best resources possible. The physical environment has also changed considerably. New play equipment, a library, and the extension of the administration block have further enhanced this well-resourced school.

It is fitting that at this 75th Jubilee, we can say that West Spreydon is a school well equipped to cater for the needs of its students and face the future with real optimism.

Stew once said that whatever the student has done, they must be treated with respect. Respect is a word used a lot at West Spreydon. I think we all know why.

Written by Duncan Doig, Staff 1989-1994.

THE MODERN SCHOOL

Today, schools are governed by a Board of Trustees that has responsibility for the financial, personnel and property management of the school. The Trustees are usually elected every three years and work in partnership with the school community and the school management.

The Board fulfils the following functions:

- it employs all staff in the school
- it defines the school's purpose by overseeing the development of the Charter
- it sets policies within the school after consultation, where appropriate, with the community and staff
- it supports the principal in managing the school correctly, and
- it ensures the school and the Board are communicating effectively with the community.

Parents are encouraged to be part of their child's school and West Spreydon enjoys the support of parents who help in the classroom and in the playground, supporting classroom programmes, helping with sports coaching, mending resources and providing transport for school trips. Some parents are involved as members of the Parent/Teacher Association or the Board of Trustees.

Classrooms, too, have changed. Whiteboards have replaced blackboards, children working in groups have replaced children working in rows. Computers, videos and digital cameras have replaced radio broadcasts. School milk and rompers have gone but playgrounds and grassy fields remain and the children still run, kick balls, read, write and play in the sand.

SCHOOLS ARE STILL FOR CHILDREN!

Written by Rosemary Rankin, Chairperson, B.O.T., 1992-2001.



CURRENT PUPILS WORK ON THE RIVER WALK

HEATHCOTE RIVER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.

Officially opened 19 October 2001.

Official Party:

Mike Rodgers	B.O.T. Chairperson
Rosemary Rankin	Past B.O.T. Chairperson
Martin Lukes	Agenda 21
Christine Heremaia	C.C.C. Waterworks
Paul Dixon	C.C.C. Major Projects
Graham Inglis	C.C.C. Project Management
Stewart Cron	Principal
Bill Earle	Caretaker

Apologies:

Mike Thomas and Leighton Pace, Landscape Architects – Studio 33.

Development History:

Our first Board of Trustees, 1990, together with the staff, embraced a vision and plan to enhance the school environment. The major influence and drive behind this vision was Board Member Colin O'Donnell who was ably supported by Jim LeGrice, Betty Monteath, Jillian Owen, Chris Morrell, Bill Earle, Vincent Nijdam, Sally Clark and David Johnson.

However, previous to this vision, former Principal Ross Rodgers and Deputy Principal David Johnson together with the School Committee Chairperson Christine Nijdam, had initially developed a long-term plan to develop the environment at West Spreydon School. Although their plans didn't involve the Heathcote River area and a move towards the planting of native shrubs and trees etc, a number of their ideas were adopted such as the development behind the front block and the outdoor stage.

The Heathcote River Project came about when Martin Lukes (Agenda 21), Bill Earle, John Lucas (Property Consultant) and myself met around 1995 to view West Spreydon School with the aim of enhancing the environment. Martin Lukes was enthused with the possibility of enhancing the waterways and lower bank either side of the fence. In particular, Christine Heremaia, Waterworks C.C.C, obviously saw the huge potential and the project advanced quickly.

Landscape Architects Mike Thomas and Leighton Pace drew up tentative plans for the Heathcote River Project that were trimmed back considerably by the Council before approval. Local residents on the other side of the Heathcote were divided about the enhancement project and delayed progress for the next couple of years.

Although we had these setbacks further progress was being made in enhancing the school environment awaiting movement with the Heathcote Project.

1. The South Christchurch Rotary Club designed and constructed the 'Growing Unit.'
2. Mike Peters 'Addington Bush Society,' provided the seedlings and potting mix for the 'Growing Unit'.
3. Oderings Nursery supplied native plants around the Jim LeGrice Memorial Library in 1995.
4. Bill Earle (Caretaker) developed "native pockets" around the school and has been vital in achieving the "vision." Bill's work is quite unique with the "railway sleepers" and native plants.
5. Rosemary Rankin, Chairperson of B.O.T. 1992-2001, was constantly working to obtain grants and funding to ensure the environment at West Spreydon was enhanced. Other members on the B.O.T. at the time, not already mentioned above, supporting Rosemary were John Wise, Sandra Bruce, Christine Burrows, Janice Krammer, Anne Harris, Maree Hoare, Jane Mountier, Mike Rodgers, Theresa Dyer, Tony Rimell, and TeWera Tuhou.
6. Tables and Seating under the shade of the trees next to Room 11 were made by Bill Earle.
7. Development of the "Northern Boundary Fenceline" – like the Heathcote River Project, the children, Bill Earle, staff and Work and Income people, parents, P.T.A. Committee, all contributed.

The Heathcote River Enhancement Project was eventually given the green light and work commenced in three stages from 1998 until 2001. Many people not mentioned above also contributed to this unique project that provides a pleasing aesthetic place for pupils, and Community.

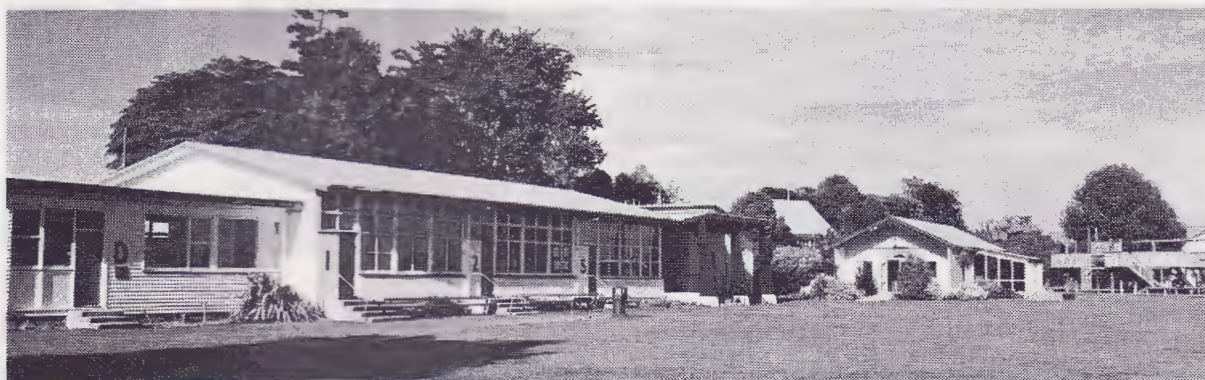
Written by Stewart Cron, Principal



BILL EARLE HAS HELP OPENING THE NEW WALKWAY.



MONA HILL (NEE SLOAN) PLANTS A SHRUB.



WEST SPREYDON SCHOOL, 2001

75th JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS PROGRAMME 2001

FRIDAY	19th October	View School and Opening of the Walkway.	
SATURDAY	20th October	Parade from Barrington Park	11.00 am
		Official Opening	12.00 noon
		<i>by Dep. Prime Minister, Jim Anderton</i>	
		<i>(Venue changed to Riccarton Club)</i>	
		Conversazione	7.30 pm
SUNDAY	21 October	Viewing photographs at school	1.00 pm
		Commemorative Church Service	3.00 pm
		Celebration Dinner	7.30 pm

Orders for Photographs and the Jubilee Booklet were taken.



MONTAGE OF THE PARADE

Bottom-Left: Jim Anderton, Dep PM, speaks at the Cake Cutting (Top-Left) by first-day pupils.

Bottom-Right: Present-day pupils wearing old uniforms.

HEADMASTERS & PRINCIPALS OF WEST SPREYDON SCHOOL

1926	Mr W. Parsonage	1948	Mr. G. W. Cotton
1927	Mr S. Baird	1952	Mr W. H. Cartwright
1928	Mr. T. E. Eggleton	1954	Mr D. J. C. Pringle
1930	Mr C. F. Arnold	1959	Mr E J. Edwards
1932	Mr H. L. Jennings	1964	Mr R. A. Evans
1933	Mr J. J. Parry	1970	Mr O. E. Michel
1937	Mr R. Harrison	1982	Mr C. P. Carter
1941	Mr V. J. Gamble	1985	Mr. R Rogers
		1988	Mr .S. E. G. Cron

SCHOOL COMMITTEE & BOARD OF TRUSTEE CHAIRPERSONS

1925	Mr P. Hennessy	1971	Mr R. L. Hembrow
1926	Mr R. A. Glover	1973	Mr O. A. Odering
1932	Mr Philpot	1973	Mr P. Buist
1933	Mr R. A. Glover	1985	Mr J. Buchan
1934	Mr G. Birss	1987	Mrs C. Nijdam
1940	Mr L B. Scott	1990-2	Mr J. Le Grice
1969	Mr .N. Lyall	1992	Mrs R. Rankin
		2000	Mr M. Rodgers

LONG SERVING STAFF MEMBERS

(For some it just seemed longer! Most pupils did not exceed the ten-year mark!)

Mrs M. Drake

Miss E. Donaggio

Mrs E. Murdoch

Mrs D. Billcliff

Miss J. Davidson

Mrs H. Pugh, nee Hill

Mrs L Duncraft

Mrs B. Beresford

Mrs Carol Allen *(Passed away suddenly at a School
Outdoor Education camp in 1996 at Kaikoura.)*

Mr S. E. G. Cron

Mrs N. Marsden

Mrs J. Waller

Mr D. W. Johnson

Mrs S. Williams

Mrs M. Argus

Mrs J. Waller

HONOURS BOARD OF A FEW NOTEWORTHY PUPILS & STAFF

BISPAN	John	Lawyer and District Court Judge
BRIGGS	Barry	M.B.E, World Champion Speedway rider.
CAMPBELL	Keith	Supreme Court Judge (England).
CLOUGH	Walter	Junior Track Cycling Champion, 1957.
COOTE	Graeme	Ph D in Nuclear Physics.
COOTE	Pam	Senior Lecturer at College of Education.
CRON	Stewart	All Black, 1976.
DAVIDSON	Judy	N.Z. Tennis Representative, 1956, 1962.
ENGLISH	Gladys	Canterbury Basketball Representative.
ERICKSON	John	Canterbury Swimming Champion, 1940 and World Masters.
ERICKSON	Owen	Canterbury Junior Swimming Champion, 1940.
FORBES	Austin	Queen's Council.
FRASER	Ron	Canterbury Cricket representative.
GEMMELL	Janine	Australia & Queensland Trampoline representative, 1981-82.
HARTLAND	Ian	Canterbury Cricket representative.
HAWES	Dorothy	Canterbury Hockey Representative.
HAWES	Patricia	Canterbury Netball representative.
HILL	Don	Canterbury & Auckland Cricket representative.
HOLMES	Freeman	Trotting Commentator and Trainer.
HOLMES	Graham	Trotting Driver and Trainer.
LEE	Dinah	Singer and Entertainer.
MORISSEY	John	All Black, 1962.
NICHOLS	Leslie	Miss Canterbury, 1963.
ODERING	FAMILY	enrolled at school since 1926. Successful nursery business.
ORMANDY	Alex	N.Z. Open T.T. Champion, 1957.
PETERSON	Beverley	N.Z. Athletics representative, 1989-1993. World Veteran rep.
PETERSON	Evan	N.Z. Athletic representative.
PETERSON	Sandra	N.Z. and Canterbury Age Group Sprint Champion.
POLLOCK	Graeme	N.Z. representative at Christian & Service Organisations.
RHODES	Gavin	N.Z. Team Speedway representative.
SMITH	Brun	N.Z. Cricket representative, 1949.
WAKEHAM	Ross	Canterbury Junior Badminton Team, 1961.
WRIGHT	Ron	Christchurch City Councillor.

NOTES: Please send any corrections, additions, or amendments found in this booklet for future records to: The Archives, West Spreydon School, 147 Lyttelton Street, Christchurch.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Photographer was Gordon Heyward, Function & Event Specialist, P.O. Box 24-035, CHRISTCHURCH, and kindly provided many of the photographs of the Celebrations for this booklet. He is able to send you any decade photographs or others taken over the weekend.

We acknowledge the artwork on the covers by present day pupils:

Monica Wigley and John Fraser, which depict the internal learning and socialising within the school and the looking outwards to their future community and world.

We acknowledge the work put into researching, collating, proofreading and writing the booklet by David Johnson, Pam Coote, and Judy Davidson.

Our appreciation is passed on to John Williams of Publications Productions, P.O. Box 12-291, Christchurch for the technical expertise in putting our efforts in order.

SUPPORTERS OF THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Hoyts 8 Cinema

Hannafins Camera & Video

Brumby's

Park Royal Christchurch

School Supplies

Cox's Begonia World

Lollipop's Playland

Drury Cranes

Oderings Nurseries

N.Z. Lotteries Commission

Orana Park Wildlife Trust

Garden City Bowl

Pioneer Leisure Centre

Unichem Barrington

Barrington Paper Plus

Beaton Real Estate

Christchurch Casino

Christchurch City Council

Gordon Heyward Photography

Blenheim Road Lodge and Tavern.





WINNING RUGBY TEAM, 2001



SCHOOL CHOIR, ABOUT 1990





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Looking out over the river from the school grounds gave the pupils a sense of adventure, because future community and world lay out there . . . waiting for them to grow skills that would provide foundations necessary for success.