



Staff and special guests at the opening of Black Forest School, 21 February 1919

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BLACK FOREST! SPECIAL CELEBRATION ON THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY

On Thursday 21 February, a special ceremony will be held at Black Forest Primary School to mark 100 years since the school first opened in 1919.

The ceremony will be held at 9.30am, and include performances by the student choir as well as speeches by Principal Iain Elliott, the Hon John Gardner MP, Minister for Education, the Hon Dr Susan Close MP, Shadow Minister for Education and Jayne Stinson MP, Member for Badcoe.

Staff and students are encouraged to dress in the style of 1910s fashion, and the morning's learning program will include activities from the last century of education in Australia.

Parents and family members are most welcome to attend the ceremony. A larger public celebration will be held in September 2019.

THE PLANS FOR THE YEAR HELP WELCOME!

The Black Forest Primary School community has been planning for the Centenary for some months now, and has a number of exciting projects in the works to mark this important occasion.

The main event for the year will be a special public celebration to be held on Sunday 15 September 2019.

In addition, parents and staff are working on a range of projects. The Grounds and Facilities Committee has been working on concepts for a commemorative garden to be located in the newly renovated play area near the Kertaweeta Building, while the Education and Wellbeing Committee has been considering ideas for a special cookbook. The Fundraising Committee has discussed the commissioning of a special commemorative mural. All committees welcome volunteers from the school community to assist with these projects, so please contact the school if you're interested!

Staff are also incorporating this special year into their classroom learning programs. Deputy Principal Joel Catchlove has been collecting the recollections of past students of Black Forest for inclusion in a resource for classroom use, and over the year the school will develop a museum display for students and the community to share stories and artifacts from the last 100 years at Black Forest.



Students at the opening of Black Forest School, 21 February 1919

SAVE THE DATE!

PUBLIC CENTENARY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2019

HOW DID PEOPLE DRESS IN THE 1910S? FASHION INSPIRATION FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS



Two schoolgirls, 1915, New York

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:New_York_City_school_children_2_girls_with_shining_faces_opening_day.png



Seaside fashion for men, 1915, England

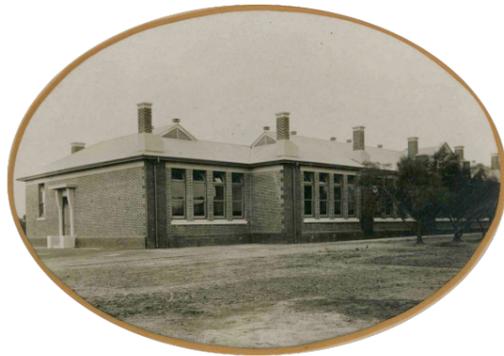
Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Seasidefashionformen1915.jpg>



Irene Castle, in "Summer Afternoon Costume", 1917

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Seasidefashionformen1915.jpg>

BLACK FOREST: A HUNDRED YEARS AGO



The Black Forest area was given that name by the people who came from England to colonise South Australia in 1836. At that time, an “ancient and dense wood” spread from the foothills of the Adelaide Hills from Burnside to Mitcham across as far as Mile End and St. Marys, ending at about the Sturt River in Marion. Some writers from the time describe the densest parts of the forest being around South Plympton, Glandore and Unley Park, and “the forest was so dark that the sun could not be seen at midday”.

The forest extended into the area where the city now stands. One colonist, Nathaniel Hailes wrote in 1839, “It was easy to lose oneself in the sylvan city even in the daytime, and at night it was scarcely possible to avoid doing so. The maze-like character of the spot was much enhanced by a multitude of wattles which occupied spaces intervening between gum or sheoak trees. Many instances occurred of people having to ‘bush it’ as the term was, all night within the limits of the towns, or of going bewildered to their own residences to find the way home.”

In the 1840s, the Black Forest area “a spot at that time densely timbered and overgrown with brush”, became a place for cattle thieves to take stolen cattle to slaughter and butcher them. The mounted police set out to search the scrub and discovered cattle yards with three men busily slaughtering cattle. When they saw the police they tried to escape by running into the bush but two of the men were caught. Around the stockyard was found a quantity of beef ready to be salted and their hides ready to be tanned.

The native vegetation planted at the southern end of the oval gives an idea of what the Black Forest might have been like at this time, while the large gum tree next to the fence near the Kertaweeta playground is an example of a Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*), one of the main trees of the original Black Forest.

Much of the forest had been cut down by the mid-1840s, but some patches still remained at least into the 1860s.

In 1912, the “Black Forest Estate” was subdivided as a new township. One newspaper article describes the new suburb as filling “a long-expressed want comprising country conditions, quick access to the city, the cheapest of fares and a magnificent timetable ... This township combines the advantages of fine alluvial soil, open forest country, and all the conveniences of the quickest access to the city. These allotments are selling rapidly ...”

Steele Cathcart from 1913 described Black Forest as “replete with charms for the Nature-lover. Taking the North Terrace tram for Plympton, a different type of suburban scenery is noticed than seen in other directions. There is quite a rural aspect about the land. In the wayside ditches huge sappy docks are growing lush and rank. From Plympton, with the sound of a pistol shot is the Black Forest.”

“Native cypress pines are the principal trees in the forest. ... How they tower upward, pointing as a gigantic finger to the purity of the infinite sky ... The golden, or tanner’s wattle, finds congenial soil in the sands, and hosts of these and honeysuckle trees are scattered promiscuously throughout the forest. ... A wind from the sea is rustling the native pines. Listen to its song as it laughingly shakes the branches, then it is soft and low as if a cat were purring with pleasure...”

“The magpies, Australia’s favourite birds, cry out as we leave their forest, as if glad that we are going. The singing honeyeater’s plaintive note is heard softer and softer as we leave the pine forest, until at last we reach the main road all sounds of the forest are lost.”

By July 1914, local residents of Black Forest were requesting a school for the area. By 1919, the new school was built, as the “residents of the district have felt the need of the school for a long time, as the children had to traverse long distances to the neighbouring schools ... The district is growing rapidly, and it will not be long before the school carries its full complement.”

In 1919, the community was growing, *The Register* newspaper wrote, “To the early settler what exciting memories are conjured up by the mention of the Black Forest. In the early days this part of the Adelaide plains was covered with dense scrub and heavy timber, and many an outlaw seeking cover from his pursuers took advantage of its natural conditions for the purposes of concealment. Now it poses under the picturesque name of “Forest Gardens”, and its homely aspect is attracting considerable attention for residential purposes, particularly among returned soldiers. This new suburb is only two miles south of the GPO, and is in proximity to the Forestville, Goodwood, and Keswick Railway Stations, also the new Agricultural Showgrounds. Electric cars now run to the Military Headquarters at Keswick, which is only 10 minutes walk from Forest Gardens. Several houses have recently been erected, and more are in the course of construction...”

“The new school at Black Forest, which was erected at a cost of about £6,900 was officially opened by the Minister of Education (Mr. W. H. Harvey), in the presence of a large gathering of residents and children, on Friday afternoon. The school is of attractive appearance and of a different design from that of most State schools. It has 10 classrooms, with a total capacity of 600 children, and there are retiring rooms for the headmaster and teachers. Ample shelter verandahs have been provided. The school is substantially built, having a base of Littlehampton blue brick, with red brick facades and cement dressings. Modern teaching equipment has been installed throughout, and some of the rooms are furnished with special chairs and tables, the others having been fitted out with dual desks. There is also a fine assembly and playground area. The headmaster is Mr. F. J. Gartrell, who has 280 pupils at the school, 213 of whom were enrolled during the first week.”

Other features of the school included “lofty and well-ventilated” rooms, and “hat and cloak accommodation is not lacking.” “A playground has not been overlooked and, although there was difficulty in giving proper treatment to the area, a most successful result has been obtained by means of “filling in”, and the ground has been graded and surfaced with asphalt.”

Following an official opening ceremony, the Minister of Education declared that “he was pleased to know the children of Black Forest has such a fine school, and they had a good teaching staff it behoved the parents to make the school one of the best in the State. He advised them to appoint a “live” school committee to look after the interests of the children... Bouquets were presented to the Minister ... and the children rendered patriotic songs.”

With the school opened, a “school committee” composed of parents was formed. “The committee promptly set to work to provide recreation for the children, members being firm believers in the adage that ‘All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.’” The committee collected donations from around the district, and were able to purchase equipment for a school band, as well as “swings and other paraphernalia for the playground” together with a collection of books to start the school library.

We Acknowledge that the land Black Forest Primary School is on are the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their Country. We also acknowledge the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.



Summer day dresses from *Vogue* magazine, 1919
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1910s_in_Western_fashion

SHARE YOUR STORY

ARE YOU A PAST STUDENT, STAFF MEMBER OR A HAVE A FAMILY CONNECTION WITH BLACK FOREST?

We are seeking stories, recollections and memories of Black Forest Primary School and the surrounding community to be incorporated into our classroom learning programs as well as shared as part of Centenary events and celebrations.

Please get in touch, or email your stories to centenary@blforest.net for inclusion.

We also have classrooms that would welcome past students to come and talk about their memories of the school and the surrounding area. Please get in touch if you are interested!



Men’s fashion suits, 1916-1918
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1910s_in_Western_fashion

CONTACT US!

For more information about the Black Forest Primary School Centenary, contact us on 08 8293 1204, email centenary@blforest.net or find the Black Forest Centenary page on Facebook

<https://blackforestps.sa.edu.au>