



Centenary Celebrations at Black Forest, clockwise from top left: Mayor Michael Hewitson AM plants a tree with school house captains, students in costume enjoy Centenary Green (photo by Emma Fleetwood), Jayne Stinson MP plants a tree with students, The Hon John Gardner MP addresses the audience, former Deputy Principal Leanne Prior plants a tree.



BLACK FOREST CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS BEGIN! STAFF AND STUDENTS PARTY LIKE IT'S 1919!

Black Forest Primary School marked its first Centenary celebration for the year with a special assembly on Thursday 21 February, 100 years after the school officially opened.

The assembly was attended by a number of special guests, including The Hon John Gardner MP, Minister for Education, The Hon Dr. Susan Close MP, Shadow Minister for Education, Jayne Stinson MP, Member for Badcoe, Michael Hewitson AM, Mayor of Unley, and Don Palmer, Clarence Park Ward Councillor.

They were joined by Education Director Greg Petherick and a number of past leaders of Black Forest Primary School.

The assembly, hosted by the school House Captains, featured speeches reflecting on and celebrating the school's achievements over the last century, together with musical performances from the students. In addition to *Advance Australia Fair*, students also sang *God Save the King*, the anthem at the time of the school's opening, together with *The Song of Australia* and other celebratory numbers.

A special birthday cake was cut by Principal Iain Elliott and Governing Council Chairperson Tamara Agnew, as those assembled sang *Happy Birthday*.

Following the ceremony, special guests and past members of school leadership were invited to plant trees in the newly completed Nature Play area "Centenary Green".

For the remainder of the day, Black Forest's teachers led their students in a program of learning inspired by the early days of the school. Students played historic games such as marbles, Corner Spry, Rounders and elastics, participated in marching, conducted dictation and mental arithmetic tests and explored the poetry of Australian writers from the era such as Dorothea Mackellar and CJ Dennis.

Such a successful community event requires the support and hard work of the whole community. We thank the staff for their enthusiasm and in particular the Centenary Committee for their planning and preparation.

BLACK FOREST HOUSES



House captains with Senior Leader Aaron Bayliss and Jayne Stinson MP, photo by Emma Fleetwood

In the first week of the Black Forest School opening in 1919, over 200 students from the surrounding area enrolled to attend. The first students to enrol were Frederick and Mavis Hogben, of Addison Road, Dorothy Pitman, of South Road, Edwardstown, William and Leslie Cameron, of Capper Road, Black Forest (a street no longer marked on maps) and Elise and Linda Westland, also of Addison Road. These four family names, Hogben, Pitman, Cameron and Westland have become the Black Forest Primary School Houses, and in acknowledgement of this, our Year 7 House Captains were the hosts for our special centenary assembly.

Prior to the current house names, the Black Forest Demonstration School had teams named after significant South Australian colonial explorers such as Charles Sturt, William Light and Edward John Eyre.

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!

SAVE THE DATE!

PUBLIC CENTENARY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2019

CENTENARY COOKBOOK SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

One of the many exciting projects in the works to mark the Black Forest Centenary this year is the production of a high-quality cookbook. This project is coordinated by the enthusiastic parents on our Education and Wellbeing Committee and they're currently seeking recipe submissions from students, staff and families past and present!

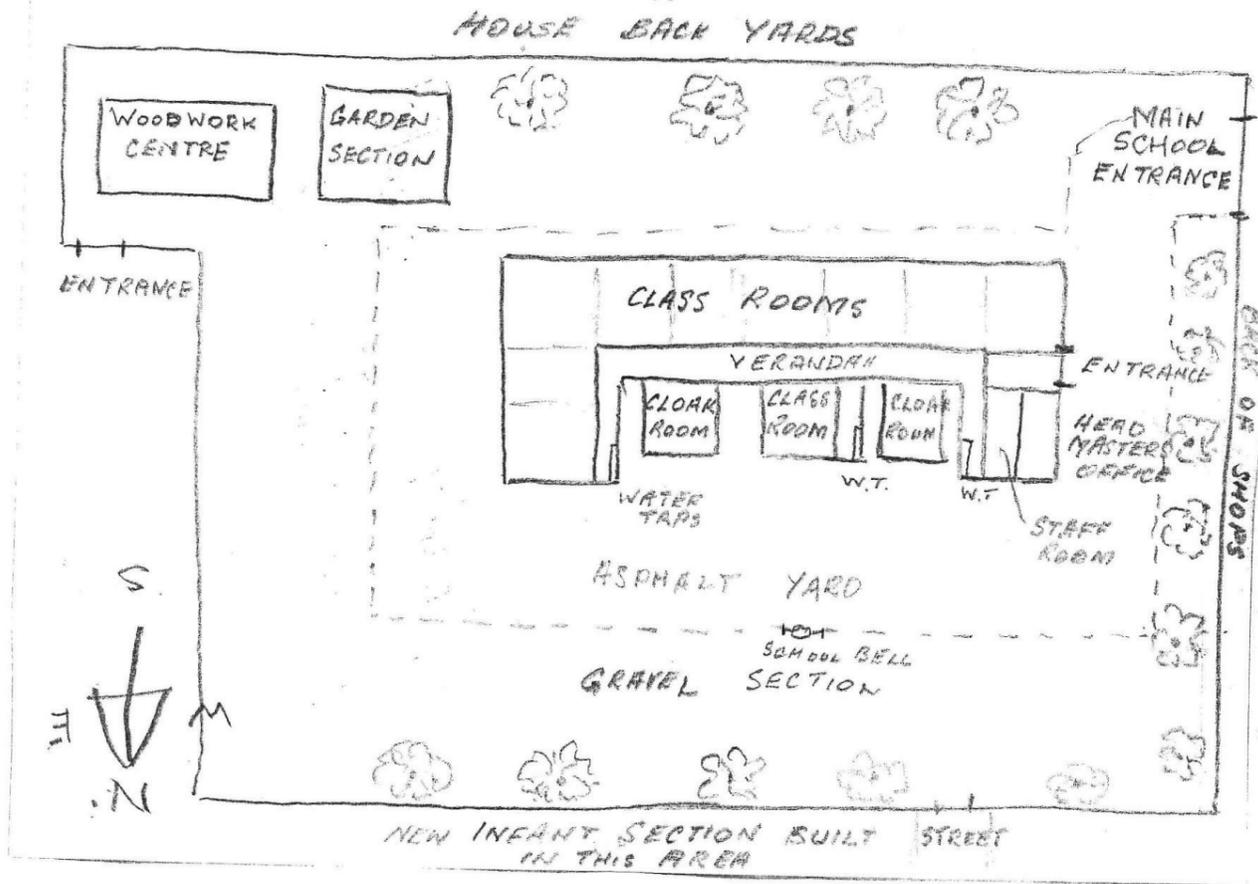
Recipes for meals that are healthy, family-friendly and easy to prepare are currently being accepted. Meals that celebrate the richness and diversity of our community are especially welcome. About 80 recipes will be included in the book, and all will be tested prior to inclusion.

Kitchen hacks, tips and tricks are also being sought, so send them through too! All recipes and hacks must be submitted by Friday 8 March 2019

For more information, or to submit your recipe, email bfpscookbook@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more information on how to get your copy.



BLACK FOREST IN THE ROARING 20S



A student's memory of Black Forest School in the 1920s. What's different? What's the same?

Following the opening of Black Forest School in 1919, a school committee composed of parents became crucial to the development of the school. In 1920, they set to work successfully fundraising for a piano, as well as initiating a program to make Black Forest School the woodwork centre for the district. Families were asked to donate money to the school three times a year, and through the school committee this funded sports equipment for football, cricket and basketball, and playground and fitness equipment such as "see-saws, gymnasium ladders and swings", a "gramophone for eurhythmic classes", books for the school library and "the walls of every room in the school are ornamented with pictures of educational value which have been purchased from time to time."

In 1922, the growing school celebrated a sports day and family picnic with up to 700 parents and students attending "on the beautifully-kept grounds of the Black Forest School." Although there was some rain, "the young folk were kept happy with buns and cake, and they entered with sportsmanlike spirit into the contests." Parents were responsible for catering, and "the generosity of the parents and friends of the children was notable, hundreds of beautifully-cooked cakes were provided."

In 1924, the new woodwork centre opened. Under the teaching of Mr. H. George, 200 boys from Black Forest and the surrounding area attended each year, including completing an examination for their work.

One former resident of the area remembers that during the 1920s Black Forest School was set behind shops on South Road. The brick school building was surrounded by an asphalt and gravel school yard, with a row of trees around the boundary. Shops surrounded the school, including grocers, butcher, fruit and vegetable shop, baker, haberdashery, florist, dentist, delicatessen, a doctor and several other industries.

Bernice Carmen began Reception at Black Forest in 1924. Her family lived on Addison Road, in a house that backed onto the school. During lunchtimes, she and her siblings would swing from the olive trees over the fence into their own backyard. One Saturday, they were all caught by the headmaster Mr. Hitchcox sneaking into the school through a hole in the fence - the boys in the family were made to block up the hole as a consequence.

Bernice remembered that families that could afford it would buy lunch from Mrs. Vincent's Tuckshop, a little lean-to on the bakery shop at the edge of the school yard. Mrs Vincent sold pies, pasties and sausage rolls. One of Bernice's favourite times was Easter. "The kids made Easter 'ice cream' cones by rolling paper into a cone, putting lollies in and covering the top with an egg shell. The egg shell was painted to look like the Easter Bunny's head and the cones were hidden around the school for the kids to find."

"Discipline was strict," remembered Bernice, "and parents taught right and wrong from an early age. If kids got into trouble at school, they would be in trouble at home as well. The cane was used to punish boys and girls. Students were caned in front of other kids who had to put their heads on the desks when it was happening."

In 1926, the *News* published an article about the Black Forest headmaster Mr. Richmond Thomas Hitchcox and his work at the school. It noted that when the school opened, "many believed that the magnificent new building with its fruitful grove of olive trees was too large for the needs of the district," however as the area became more developed it reached almost 800 students by 1926. The article describes the importance of parents funding the purchase of teaching equipment at the school, and "in return, every effort is being made by the capable staff of teachers to present the lessons of the children in an interesting and attractive manner." Report cards were introduced so that parents could have a written description of their child's achievement. Sports were a big focus for the school, with a "sports afternoon" held every year at the Goodwood Recreation Ground. The school basketball and athletics teams were successful in the district, and school football, soccer and cricket teams regularly played against other schools around Adelaide.

The *News* continued in its description of the school at the time, "Mr. Hitchcox said that the children were trained from earliest years to respond to their higher impulses, and a visit to the lower grades at morning prayer time would leave one with a feeling of awed responsibility. The possibilities for good in the wealth of young life gathered together at any large school seemed to him to be immeasurable. If it were true that "useful service is the rent we are asked to pay for room on earth," then he wishes to pay his rent by rendering the young folk at Black Forest some helpful guidance during their primary school training." Fittingly, the school motto at this time was: "Not for school but for life we learn."

A former resident of the area remembered Hitchcox as "an upright, well-dressed, disciplinarian, very conscious of nature and its environs, physical culture and citizenship, with high morals. He was very innovated [sic], got cooperation of the baker who agreed to serve children over the school fence to keep them off the South Road, which even in those days was busy. Each year he organised a school concert, each class doing an item, used to bolster school funds. Gardening lessons for older classes on flowers and vegetables. He personally conducted physical exercises for the whole school assembly every morning, first thing - weather permitting - the classes were given nature lessons on trees, plants, insects, birds, etc before going to classrooms for the curriculum."

Having grown beyond its capacity of 600 students, Black Forest School was overcrowded and two local churches were hired as classrooms. The Grade 1 students were schooled in a Church of England hall opposite the school on South Road, while the Grade 2 students were in a nearby Methodist Church. The state government approved the purchase of land on the northern end of the school (where the Kertaweeta building and grassed area is) for the construction of a new six room "infant school", but by 1928 still no construction had begun. One parent wrote in a letter to the *News*, that the churches were "unsuitable for school purposes." The parent also noted that when it rained, students often had to stay in the church halls all day as "the yard was a quagmire ... I should think that the teachers are working under great difficulties. They are to be commended for the way in which they look after the children". When the infant school finally opened, it lifted student numbers to over 1000 students. According to one former resident, the school "also became a Teacher Training School lifting the standard of teaching and bringing in new ideas, methods and subjects. Grade 7 students did a Qualifying Examination ... to enable a high standard to be established to satisfy some High School requirements. Also Technical High School education was available for students entering or thinking of taking up a trade."

Subjects taught during this time were English, Composition, Spelling, Handwriting, Arithmetic, History, Geography, Art (drawing), Mental Arithmetic and Swimming. One student remembers boys playing marbles, hop, skip and jump, tag, cricket, football and soccer. Girls were able to play basketball.

The school had no uniform at this time, but students were expected to be neatly dressed with clean polished boots, shorts and long socks for the boys, shirts and woollen jumpers in cold weather. Not all families could afford shoes however. During the Depression era in the late 1920s and 1930s, money became scarce resulting in a change in the standard of clothing. During this period, rubber sandshoes also become common instead of boots.

Up until the late 1920s, the school and the surrounding neighbourhood were not connected to the general sewerage system. Instead they used what was politely called a "pan closet system". This meant that the toilets were essentially buckets with the waste being collected weekly by a "nightman". Local residents met and "bemoaned the fact they were suffering the lack of sanitary conveniences," and noted that Unley City Council has "done everything possible to remedy the evil", but the government still had not connected the area to "deep drainage" as promised.

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>