



Photo courtesy Roger Smith

GALA DAY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

On Sunday 15 September, Black Forest Primary School held a Gala Day as the culminating event of its Centenary Celebrations. Attended by over 3000 people, the event offered past and present staff, students and community members the opportunity to reminisce over their time at Black Forest Primary School with historical displays, guided tours, performances from past and present students, an open garden, rides, sideshows, food and much more.

An event of this scale has many parts and we are deeply appreciative to the many individuals who contributed to the success of this event, including:

- Past staff and students who contributed stories and photographs for display and publication,
- The parents of the Fundraising, Education and Wellbeing and Grounds and Facilities Committees who organised catering and merchandise, led the Centenary Cookbook project, and oversaw the design and development of the Centenary Garden,
- The many parents and staff who supported the event by volunteering on the day
- Garden and Grounds staff Heather Gurney and David Moore for their work

- The City of Unley for its generous sponsorship of the event to celebrate and share the stories of the Black Forest community
- FX-HZ Holden Car Club of SA for generously donating their time to participate in the day with a classic car display
- Past and present students and their families for participating in the performance program so enthusiastically
- Student leaders for their work hosting the performance program and guiding tours
- Bone Timber Industries and The Shed at Clarence Park Community Centre for their donation of timber and time to rebuild the school bell tower
- Artist Vans the Omega for his work producing the spectacular Centenary mural celebrating the stories of students over the past 100 years and beyond.
- Our front office staff for their work managing the finances for the day and fundraising initiatives.
- The dedicated staff committee for their organisation and coordination of the event, including Penny Baker, Liz Galloway, Cassy Beames, Heather McAllan, Corina Rowen-Styles, Marc Zinndorf, Pam Stavropoulos, Iain Elliott and Joel Catchlove.

While the Gala Day concludes the formal celebrations of the Black Forest Centenary, and this will be final centenary newsletter for 2019, there are opportunities to continue to explore the history of Black Forest. The *Black Forest Century* newsletters will continue to be available online at blackforestps.sa.edu.au/centenary, together with a collection of historical photographs from the school archives. We will endeavour to continue adding to these photographs over time.

Likewise, the special 16-page printed edition of the *Black Forest Century* newspaper is still available from the Black Forest Primary School front office, at a bargain price of \$5.00 for 3 copies! Perfect for sharing with any friends or relatives who were unable to attend the celebrations.

In the lead-up to Christmas, copies of the Centenary cookbook *Feast in the Forest* are also available from the school at a cost of \$35.00 each. These cookbooks have proven very popular with the recipes included highly acclaimed as excellent family fare!

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

MEMORIES OF THE 1970S and 1980S

When I started school in 1974, my name was Despina Kotatis. This was considered too hard to pronounce, so I became known as Debbie Kotatis. With English as a second language I had to repeat Year 1. My teachers were (Prep) Miss Suter, Yr 1 Mrs Lomas, Yr 2 Miss Farghar, Yr 3 Mrs Foster nee Farghar, Yr 4 Mr Dumbreck, Yr5 Mr Chappel, Yr 6 Miss McMichael and Yr 7 Mrs Holland.

In Year 6 and 7 I remember being in a classroom near the end of School Avenue, and we had a manual bell to send us to class. Our Year 7 camp was held at Tatchilla and I also remember going to Oaklands to earn our bike license.

One of the fundraising efforts during my time at the school was selling raffle tickets to fund the building of the oval toilet block and shelter shed. There was also a gym or school hall at the end of Kertaweeta Avenue, near where the cricket nets used to be, but that got burnt down. Every week we did health hustle, and moved to *Popcorn*. At that time, the school logo was a pinwheel symbol, designed by my neighbour.

- *Despina Scragg*

RECOLLECTIONS FROM THE 1930S

In 1930 I started school at the age of 5 years. The kindergarten building was not complete so we attended lessons in a church in what was called Avenue Road in those days, a road opposite the western entrance of the school.

Eventually we transferred to the big school. In my mind, the infant school was a red brick building on the northern side of the "big school", with entry via Oban Avenue. At 5 years, I walked 1.5 miles to school over a 50 acre paddock and many other vacant blocks. In winter I wore a black shiny raincoat and similar sou'wester hat.

Mr Hand was the headmaster and Miss McKenzie, "Spud" Murphy and Miss Cochrane were some of my teachers. In Grade IV I won a cup, saucer and plate for collecting the most money for a raffle. I still have them today!

We attended assembly on some mornings to salute the flag, sing the National Anthem and have our fingernails and shoes inspected. If you were good in class, you were made "tea monitor", and took a cup of tea across the yard to a building down where the garden is now to the woodwork teacher. We were taught to hold the handle of the cup as we walked, so as not to drop the cup on the way, a habit I still have today.

One of my friends, Margaret Guy, was the Queen in the Coronation Celebrations and she gave me the diamante necklet that she wore that day. Sadly, she died three years ago, but I still have the pendant.

Along the southern side of the classrooms was a row of olive trees under which we sat to eat our lunch. Across from the school on South Road was a fruit and veg shop called "Erry's". They made the best iceblocks ever, choc and cream, strawberry and lime, fruit and milk and more. Pies, pasties and other lunch essentials were bought from a shop on the corner of the lane.

I have happy memories of my time at Black Forest School, nearly 90 years ago.



Joy Commans

THE POOL

In 1964 a teacher by the name of Keith Lomax instigated a plan for the school students to fund a school pool without the funding of the Government. The funding was centred around newspaper, rag and scrap metal collections.

The incentive for the students was to raise at least 10 pounds in collectable items and you would then get a tile on the pool side with your name on it. It was a combined effort for families, although some students were extra good at their fund-raising skills and were acknowledged with individual tiles on the poolside. The value of the tiles started from black being 10 pounds through to yellow and red for the top amounts collected.

It was a mammoth task for all students that slogged hard to raise the funds, but also for the boys of Grade 7 under the supervision of Keith Lomax to pack away the newspapers in a shed and to also be there when the truck came to unload the shed. The shed was in the area which is now a carpark on the southern side of the school office.

Rags were bagged up and sent to Inverarity's who in turn either shredded them as cotton waste or bagged them as cleaning rags. The scrap metal which was mainly lead, copper, bronze and brass was sorted and sent to the scrap metal merchant.

In 1965 the pool was opened for school use although many that had slogged hard for it never got a chance to use it. Black Forest Demonstration School received no Government funding for the building of the pool, but the school was offered Government support for maintenance.

With the new pool, students no longer had to walk or catch the tram to the Unley pool. The school pool was well used and I believe the legacy the students of the 1960s who contributed to its establishment was valued. We feel great sorrow to hear it must be demolished but understand the circumstances.

As one of those children I don't believe many students and parents and understand the hard slogging it took to achieve this goal. Needless to say there were students that wore thin the parent/child relationship. I do know of one child who got the strap for being out late collecting for the school pool. Some parents probably had a gutful after so long.

Keith Lomax was a stalwart who influenced many lives at Black Forest. He had the utmost support from parents and although firm, he was a very fair man. I owe him huge gratitude for what I have achieved in my life.

The students who contributed to the construction of the pool believe for the heritage of the school that utmost care needs to be taken in the removal of the tiles and their preservation. I believe in the new placing of the tiles that Keith Lomax's name should be acknowledged as the pool wouldn't have existed if it weren't for him.

- **Mal Rogers**

While the pool has been decommissioned and is awaiting demolition, it is the intention of the school to remove the tiles and incorporate them into the school landscaping where possible to continue to acknowledge the legacy of these students.



FOND MEMORIES

My sisters, Beverly, Judith (Judy) and I all attended Black Forest School. Judith and I were enrolled from infant school to grade seven and Beverly completed primary school there. Our cousins Helen, John and David Candlett and Greg Weaver also attended BFPS. I only have a couple of postcard-size class photos, but many fond memories of my days at Black Forest School.

Conversely, the only 'not so fond memory' was when, as a Grade 2 pupil in the infant school, I fell off the slippery dip and broke my right arm. The headmistress, Miss McCaffrey, drove me to the doctor to have the arm set, which was fortunate for me, as my parents didn't own a car.

There was a teacher shortage when I was due to begin school in 1947 and I wasn't enrolled therefore until the middle of that year intake. I remember the parents and children gathering in the Infant School Hall, only to be told that we had to go home and come back midyear!

Memories of my years at Black Forest:

Miss McCaffrey was headmistress of Infant School
My teachers in Grade 1 and 2, were Miss McMurtie and Mrs Grindlay, Grade 3 teacher was Mr Geddie, Grades 4 and 5 was Miss Tymons, Grade 6 was Miss McKechnie (who taught our all girls class Scottish Dancing), Grade 7 was Miss Eastwood and Mr Sard was the Headmaster (Principal) during my time at Black Forest School. I am extremely grateful for my schooling at Black Forest School, during the time that it had the largest number of pupils in the state.

Every Friday the primary school classes marched around outside, to the lively music of the BFS drum and fife band. We always looked forward to that. I particularly remember the School Library opening when I was in Grade 6 or 7 and I soon became a Library Monitor. My love of reading was broadened as I borrowed books several times a week.

When the Royal visit occurred in 1954, I was in Grade 7 and I remember that I was chosen as the girl representative for our school, as a member of the Guard of Honour for the Queen and Prince Phillip at Wayville Showgrounds.

Aldridge's Bakery provided an over the back fence Tuck Shop for recess times at school. If we had the good fortune to have some money to spend; chester squares and finger buns were very Popular.

During Grade 7, I do remember Mrs Nation visiting and giving us instructional talks about Red Cross first aid and I still have my Red Cross badge. We also had Religious Instruction, with guest presenters and this was always interesting.

In Grade 3, our class (Mr Geddie's) was housed in one of the portable rooms at the south eastern corner of the school grounds, but from then on my classes were in the brick buildings of the main school.

In Grade 7, I remember another friend and I were accidentally locked in the cinema room on a Friday afternoon. We had been putting equipment away, but were horrified to realise we couldn't get out! Fortunately, the Headmaster, Mr Sard, was still around and he eventually heard our calls and let us out. Back then our parents didn't own a vehicle and my sisters and I walked to school from Wellington Street, Glandore (near the Anzac Highway end), to school, crossing the tramline, the creek and South Road.

In Grade 6 and 7 the girls visited Goodwood Primary School for cooking classes each week, taking along a covered cane basket that held our 'cooking uniform', and pencil and notebook and sometimes we took home food that we had prepared. I remember catching the tram from Black Forest to Goodwood, then we walked to the street behind the Goodwood school and made our way to the classroom. We had 'laundry' hints one week and 'cooking' classes the other week.

- **Elaine Candlett**

MORE MEMORIES

I did all my infant and primary schooling at Black Forest, catching the tram or riding my bike. We didn't have a school oval then, but had a large asphalt yard for recess times and also a large lawn with olive trees around the seats where we ate lunch. Every year people used to come and knock the olives down onto tarpaulins.

At this time, migrant children began slowly enrolling and classes were up to fifty students at times. I was also in a 'mixed' class, the only one then, our teacher was Mr. Neilson. We had him for Grades 4, 5 and 6 and thought he was great. We thought the girls' Grade 5 teacher had a crush on him!

We used to have saluting the flag and class marching competitions to the tunes of the school fife band ("spit and dribble"). There were some tuckshops adjacent on South Road where every kid bought an army surplus gas mask. After that, the American influence came in and we all bought bubble gum from the same shop. It tasted like putty and stuck all over one's face.

- **Lyn Lamont (Lenelle "Moorsie" Moors)**

Photos show more scenes from the Black Forest Centenary Gala Day, including the launch of "Feast in the Forest", classic cars, performances and the historical display.

Photo courtesy Roger Smith

