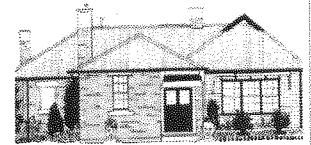




"Oh please be me!"
1990 – 2001



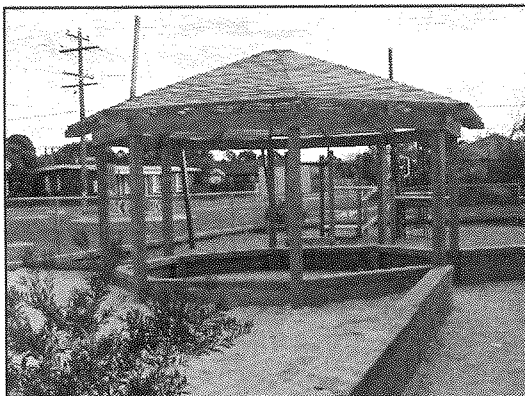
The 1990s were significant years in the history of Carrum Primary School. Changes in government, local demographics, information technology and educational practices all affected school operations.

In 1995/96 an enrolment of 179 raised questions as to the future of Carrum Primary School. Thanks to the commitment and hard work of many members of the school community, it survived and prospered, achieving an enrolment of 229 in the year 2000.

The 1990s was a decade for named schemes: the Major Works Project, Schools of the Future, Program Budgeting, School Equity and Access Learning, Schools of the Third Millennium, Keys to Life, Learning Assessment Program and Early Years.

It was also a time marked by many achievements in terms of curriculum, resources and administration. Computers and other information technology were integrated into the curriculum and a computer lab established. With computerisation came increased documentation and accountability. Curriculum, policy and administration procedures were reviewed and upgraded. The Curriculum and Standards Frameworks were trialled, implemented, reviewed and revised in this decade. Teachers were required to establish long term professional development plans.

An information booklet was published to inform parents and the community of the educational opportunities, procedures and policies at Carrum Primary School.



The gazebo, built in 1996.

Following the consultation of the school community, the new discipline booklet was produced.

The PMP (perceptual motor program) commenced. This was held in room 2, which had been converted into a multi-purpose room. A clubs program run by volunteers also began looking at learning Italian and basic cookery.

The playground area underwent significant change through these years. At various times throughout the decade different aspects were upgraded. The fort was altered and new sand provided. The monkey bars were lowered, as a number of children had fallen and broken their arms. The playground on the perimeter of the oval was built in stages over 1990/91 and the fencing of the bulk bin site and the oval was completed at the same time.

The playground met with the children's approval, even if they were too old to use it:

"...it was for the 3/4s ... We had to make our own fun. The fort next to the canteen was for the younger kids. It had two wooden stable doors and I think a car made out of a log."

(Ryan Parker)

In 1996, the Valetta and Walkers' Road corner playground was revamped with new equipment and a gazebo. A drain near the parents' room was cleared and a grate installed on Valetta Street.

In 1997, the fence around Valetta Street playground was replaced and a section at the sandpit raised. Sails were erected for shade the following year. A playground reward system for encouraging appropriate playground behaviour was also introduced in that year.

Children loved being chosen for this award and being selected as "student of the week".

"(You) used to stand there going "Oh please be me, please be me!"

Members of the school community worked hard at beautifying Carrum Primary over these years. Trees were planted and work done on the gardens surrounding the administration and multi-purpose areas with the assistance of people provided by the Corrective Services Department. In 1996, trees and shrubs were removed from the front of administration building and replaced with a cottage garden which let more light in.

There were numerous structural changes to the school buildings and facilities, beginning with a ramp from the junior building to the administration building in 1990. In the following year, sun awnings were added.

In 1994, rooms one and two in the original Bristol building were demolished and converted to a large multi-purpose room.

During the 1990s, music began to feature more prominently in school life. Children at Carrum learnt recorder in their grades and music lessons were part of the curriculum. However in 1991, a school orchestral band was established as a result of the initiative and hard work of the Watterson family. In 1994, the Carrum Primary School band performed at the Riverina Pre-school fete.

In 1997, an instrumental music program was made available to the students in grades 3-6. Then, in 1998, a full time Arts teacher, was employed and school choirs and whole school concerts became features of the school curriculum and highlights for children at Carrum.

"(a) good memory was the concert. Last year's was the best. They improve every year." (Camille Hanson.)

In 1999, children from a number of grades from Carrum Primary school participated in the Wakakirri dance competition for the first time and choirs sang at open days, fetes and other special school occasions.

Parents and members of the community also enjoyed the developing arts skills of the students. School Council member and former president Debbie Jacoby lists "the emphasis on the Arts and the employment of an Arts teacher and the first whole school concert" as some of her significant memories.



School uniforms became a topical issue throughout the 1990s. Parents were surveyed to determine their views and in 1997, the green and gold Carrum uniform became compulsory. Camille Hansen liked the uniform "because we could advertise our school more. I also liked it because it was casual and not really strict like a tie".

Children still played many of the games their parents and grandparents had enjoyed. At playtime they "played watch the boys do what they do" (Elise Jacoby), "or human pyramids, or bat tennis or 4 square, sardines, hide and seek" (Camille Hansen).

"We played Rugby and we weren't suppose to (or) Red rover - a game where we would hold hands and move them up and down and people would try to run through us" (Callum Foley). Being House captain was a popular memory, particularly when it involved supervising your peers rubbish collection

"Each house has a specific day. Mitchell's day was Thursday. And 15 minutes before the bell we have to pick up papers and come and show us and the teacher marks the yard for its cleanness ... we also organised sport days and cross countries." (Andrew de Groot)

Inter-school sport continued to be a popular opportunity to develop skills and make friends in preparation for high school. In 1991 it was decided that social matches would be played with neighbouring schools instead of taking part in the Association Summer Sport Competition. Sports included softball, tee-ball, newcombe, bat tennis, football, soccer, cricket, hockey, swimming sports, athletic carnivals and cross country.

"We met a lot of the people at interschool sports that we go to school with now", recalls Elise Jacoby. Tennis was also a popular sport for Carrum students, who were motivated by a range of factors.

I used to like going to tennis because it was a break from class!" (Ryan Parker)

In 1991, Ken Dixon, a professional tennis coach, voluntarily coached CPS students on Saturday mornings.

With the changes to the economic and political landscape of Victoria, schools such as Carrum faced challenges in terms of obtaining resources and maintaining enrolments. In 1992, school budgets were significantly reduced and major maintenance programs were put on hold for Carrum.

Fund-raising became increasingly important during these years. In 1990, Carrum was taken off the Disadvantaged Schools Program and there was discussion about what to do to fill the funding gap. Parents and staff worked hard to run school fetes, organise social nights and fund raising drives of various descriptions. In 1993, a collection of supermarket docket equalling \$243,000, resulted in money for the purchase of a colour TV and video player. A school recipe book was also produced. In 1996, National Dairies funded Carrum Primary School \$1000 for 2 years for assisting the local community through schools.

The decade was a significant one for parents and friends. In 1991, the Parents and Friends' club became a legally constituted body with the Ministry of Education. In 1994, work began on converting the shelter shed beside the canteen into a parents' room. This facility was officially opened on November 28, 1996 by Karyn Feaver and Allwyn Romeo.

In 1995, the results of the Schools of the Future parent survey showed that a large majority of the parents favoured their children wearing uniforms. 100% of respondents favoured keeping the farm, 91% were satisfied with the school. Parents requested more support for children with learning difficulties and indicated that they saw children showing respect for other children as a priority. Ongoing curriculum reviews continued throughout the 1990s. At the beginning of the decade, the time management policy was considered, with discussion surrounding curriculum expectations and whether subjects such as maths, language and science were neglected in order to run

Bike Ed, excursions, Book Week, Children's Week and clubs. Carrum Primary was also selected by the Ministry of Education to pilot the Literacy Profiles. Reading Recovery was introduced in 1996 and revamped in 1998.

Investigations began as to establishing a Language Other Than English program in 1992. Three years later, Carrum Primary School entered a research program with Monash University which saw Esperanto being introduced to children in grades 5 & 6. In 1997, senior students accompanied Miss Alana O'Neil on a highly successful trip to Adelaide for an Esperanto conference.

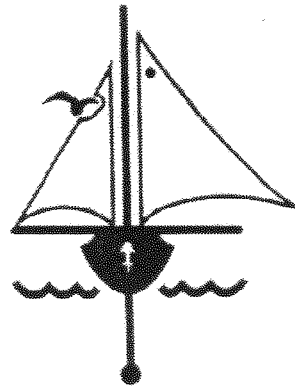
In 1992, the school time-table changed. Afternoon recess was abolished and morning recess shifted from 10.30 to 11 and was for half an hour. Lunch changed from 12-15 - 1-15 to 12.50- 1.50. The Dollarmite banking system was also introduced in this year. This involved student accounts like school banking but children got a moneybox shaped like a "dollarmite" creature and a yellow coupon book.

There were a number of school programs and events that occurred throughout these years.

In 1991, the inaugural Carrum Grand Prix was held, with laps of the oval done in cardboard cars. In 1994, the Hon. Sue Wilding presented the school with a Victorian flag. 1995 was the year that the buddies system, whereby senior students were paired with a junior student, was introduced. 1996 saw the introduction of the Sun Smart policy, involving the wearing of hats in terms one and four. Camille Hansen was in the Junior School Council and remembers meetings "where you would discuss problems in the school like the locks not working in the girls toilet, the boys toilet and (needing) the bike shed roof. We would raise money by cake stalls and other things".

Senior students went on a tour of the Swan Hill region on alternate years and, from 1998, to a base camp. A camping program for children in grade 3/4 was introduced in 1999. Andrew de Groot remembers camping as one of his best experiences "because of the canoeing and bike riding".

Children also loved art, excursions, cooking, story writing and their graduation because "we all got dressed up and it ran really smoothly." (Elise Jacoby).

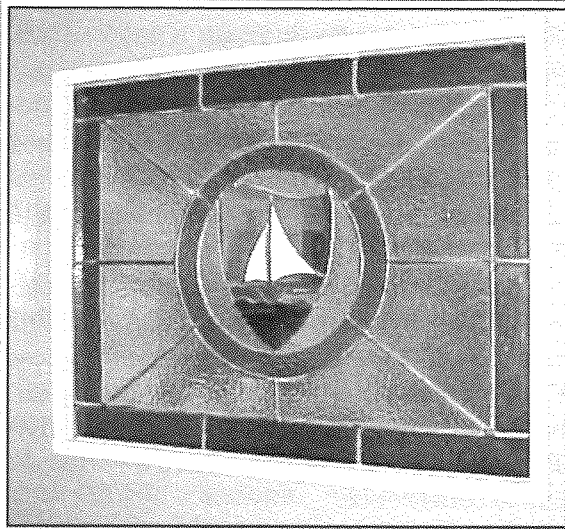


The Carrum Pledge

I am standing with people
I care for and respect.

The flag reminds me that

Australia is my home. I will do what I can
to make Carrum Primary School
a fair and
peaceful place for everyone.



Leadlight installed in the principal's door in 1994.

There were changes in staffing requirements and employment methods in these years. In 1996, the school applied for staffing flexibility in order to personally employ two teachers for the junior school instead of being allocated over-entitlement teachers. An extension and enrichment program commenced.

There were many structural improvements. These included new carpet and cupboards installed in the parent's room to house uniforms, the rubberising of ramp surfaces, replacement of furniture and equipment in the administration building and gradual replacement of classroom desks with tables. The lead-light provided by "Windows of the Forest" was installed in the principal's door in 1994. Blinds and new carpet were put in the multi-purpose room and the process of installing air-conditioning in all classrooms began in 2000.

An intercom system was installed throughout the school, a mobile phone, digital camera and video camera were purchased.

An on-going program for providing computers to all classrooms began in 1997. In 1998, the school computers were networked and a section of the library converted into a computer lab.

In 1994, the School Council decided to look into introducing an updated and more meaningful school declaration. The result was the school pledge, which was recited at Monday morning assembly along with the national anthem from 1994.

From July 1993, schools were responsible for additional tasks such as the hiring of emergency teachers, administration of tax, super, workcare entitlements and planning, prioritising and carrying out minor maintenance up to \$30,000.

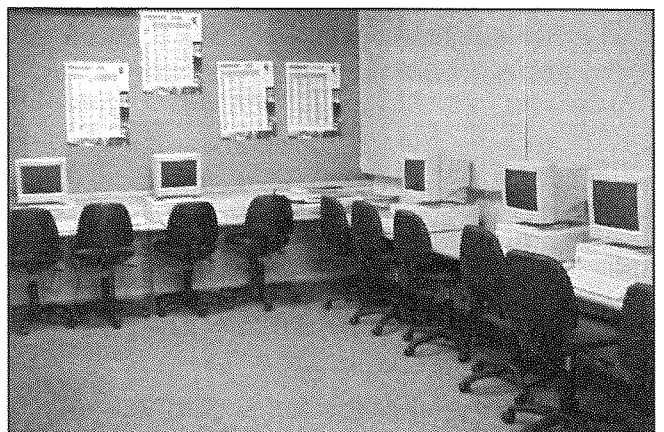
The school council had an increased responsibility and work load. All schools were asked to develop school charters. Task Force recommendations to reduce number of schools prompted discussions about Bonbeach and Carrum Primary School merging on the Carrum site. A new Board of Studies was set up in the same year.

On October 23, 1996 a letter from Peter Allen, Director of Schools, indicating that Carrum Primary School needed to review and develop plans for the next three to four years with the view to a possible restructure or merge.

David Lean, local parliamentary member, indicated that the implications for schools closing and merging did not apply to schools whose enrolments were above 175 and whose projected enrolments will be in excess of 175. The enrolment at that time was 179. The decision from School Council was clear.

"CPS is providing excellent educational opportunities for the children. The eight key learning areas are covered, Department priorities are met and the school makes the best use of staff, buildings and other educational resources to meet the curriculum needs of all students. There is no need to consider closure or merger options, however the sharing of resources with other schools in the area should be looked at in detail."

A demographic study of enrolments by Steve Jacoby tabled at School Council supported what had been established almost 100 years previously: that the Carrum community has an environmental barrier to cross to the nearest alternate school.



The School Restructure Planning Process Report was submitted, with a recommendation that Carrum Primary School remains as a single identity and that a Joint Planning Group focussing on educational needs from Kinder to year 12 within the local area be set up.

In 1998, there was much discussion surrounding the concept of Self-Governing Schools/Schools of the Third Millennium. The School Council decided that "The School Council is not interested in the Schools of the Third Millennium at this stage". This decision was reached after consideration of a number of factors, including the length and involvement of the process required to prove self-governing ability, the consequent increased responsibility and workload of councillors and moveable parent body with varying skills, and the inability to revert once a school began this process.

Rum-B-Run continued to be a significant part of Carrum Primary School over these years. For Camille Hanson, the best memories of Carrum Primary are of "going to school with the animals in Rum-B-Run." An official opening of Rum-B-Run by local parliamentary member and Labor Minister for Education Mal Sandon occurred in 1992.

Rum-B-Run came under some criticism the following year, with neighbours pressuring the Health Department to have the farmlet relocated due to the stench and suggesting the number of stock be reduced.

On August 13, 1996, the Minister for Education, Phil Gude, visited the school and donated 17 birds from his own aviary.

Principal Neil Cunningham, recognised marketing potential:

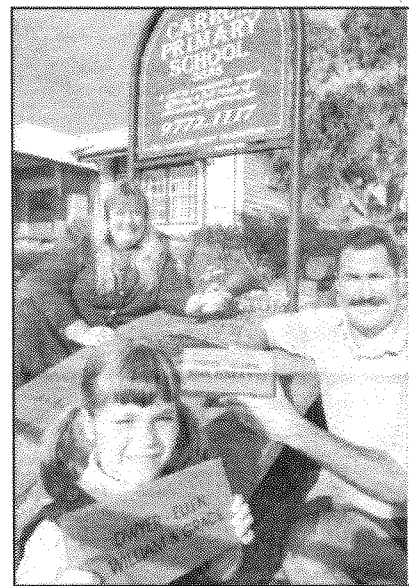
"What a selling point: The Minister trusts us with his birds so you can trust us with your children!"

This wasn't chosen to feature on the sign promoting enrolments erected on the corner of Valetta Street in 1997.

In 1997 there were issues for Rum-B-Run relating to breaches of the Health Act. Livestock pens were required to have a solid or concrete base which is graded and drained for easy cleaning. The concept of a barn was discussed, as was the possibility of a revamp of the farm. A school celebration of Rum-B-Run's 21st anniversary called "Farm Week" was held later that year. The Minister Phil Gude

and the Mayor of Chelsea attended. In this year, a company established by two full-time TAFE students, Echo-View, conducted a review of Rum-B-Run and constructed plans for upgrading it. The following year, ECHO's plan for Rum-B-Run was costed at approx \$150,000, so plans for a barn were shelved. In 1999, the west pen of Rum-B-Run (Ho Town) was revamped and connected to grazing areas.

The years surrounding the 20th century were years of consolidation and steady progress at Carrum. Enrolment numbers increased, information technology facilities were upgraded, classrooms recarpeted and classroom equipment upgraded. Carrum staff began a tradition of demonstrating their talents at the annual school concerts and Carrum students continued to learn, play, make friends and work together as they had for one hundred years.



Principal Alana O'Neil and Ellen and Peter Dwyer with Carrum Centenary pavers, May, 2001.

At the time...

- * The Australian Government stopped making 1 and 2 cent pieces and the first plastic \$5 note was introduced
- * The wearing of bicycle helmets became compulsory
- * All new cars designed to run on unleaded petrol in order to cut down pollution
- * 1996 Grand Prix was moved from Adelaide to Melbourne
- * By 1997, one in three Australian homes had a computer



Aerial photograph of Carrum in 1991

Carrum Primary School in 1991. There has been no change to the exterior of school buildings over the past 10 years. However, the shed near the playground area on the oval has been moved and the Rum-B-Run structures at the south end of the oval have been demolished. The Junior School playground has also been re-designed.