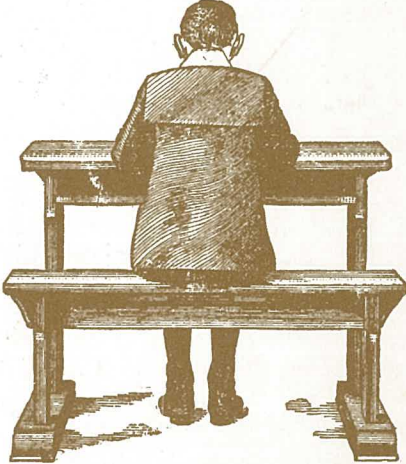


WALES STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL CENTENARY

POSITION FOR WRITING—BACK VIEW.



The characteristic features of the Writing in this series of Copy Books Are as follow:—

1. The slope is 15 degrees from the vertical.
2. The joinings of the letters are made so that the whole word may be written without lifting the pen.
3. The letters are formed in the same way throughout the series in order to obtain uniformity.
4. To secure legibility, the distance between the words is greater than that between the letters.
5. Simplicity has been arrived at by making the loops short, and by avoiding all flourishes.



SCHOOL 3139
Celebrating 100 Years

WALES STREET
CENTENARY
COMMITTEE

Joyce Jones recalls that her "year in 6th grade was the end of the 7th and 8th grades at Wales Street so we had to transfer to other schools to obtain our Merit Certificate."

During the final year of the war, Youth Clubs became very popular in Northcote and one organisation, the Opportunity Club realised that, as the young generation would be relied upon for the future growth and well-being of Australia, certain factors needed attention.

The Club conducted a medical survey of 200 Northcote students and found that 60 children showed symptoms of malnutrition and 100 needed dental attention. The discovery of such an alarming dietary problem in many school children resulted in the Opportunity Club's sponsorship and introduction of "Oslo Lunches" initially to 90 children at Wales Street and later to other schools in the area.

OSLO LUNCH

- Wholemeal Bread
- Cheese
- Mixed Salad
- Apple
- Pint of Milk

In 1945 the school welcomed a new Head Teacher, Norman McNicol and an Opportunity Grade was established to cater for the students who were deemed to be having learning difficulties, this was to operate in the school until the end of 1957. Woodwork and sheet metal classes were also introduced and there were signs of an upward trend in the enrolment.

Across the road from the school, the little shopping centre was a hive of activity during the day. Starting at Clyde Street there was Trewella's Barbershop, Ladies' Hairdresser, Thornycroft's Grocery, William Angliss' Butchers, Mrs Mills' Cakeshop, Welsh's Greengrocers, Cameron's Dairy (who can forget the cream and fruit salad ice blocks), Jimmy Butterfield's Bootshop and school supplies (children watched in sheer

amazement as Jimmy talked to you with a mouthful of tacks). On the corner of Speight Street was McCauley's Dairy, Piggot's Milk Bar and Mrs West's Wool shop.

In August 1945, when the formal armistice was announced, Northcote and the rest of Australia celebrated. The students of Wales Street were given the afternoon off and later each student was presented with a medal.

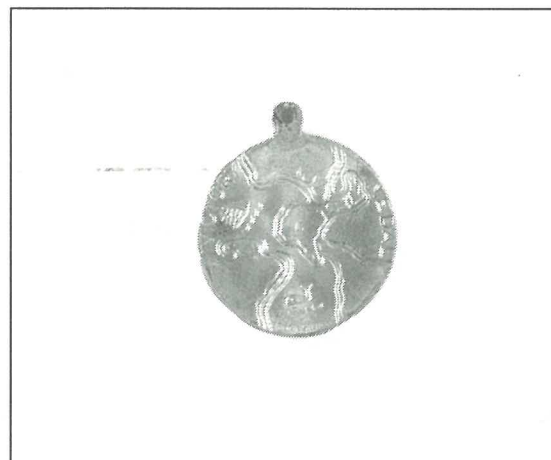
John Seebeck recalls: "The day the war ended, and we had a half day off - marching round the streets yelling 'we won the war.'"

Patricia Lack Bernard also remembers "lining up to receive our medal and a bag of lollies at the end of World War 2."

In 1948 Thomas Redding took up the position of Head Teacher and remained until the end of 1952.

During his management the surface of the playgrounds was updated, as recalled by Brian Lynch: "Boys and girls playing areas were strictly segregated... when the original dirt and stone was replaced the gravel area was for boys only and the asphalt was the girls playing area."

The Annual Inspectors' reports make mention of electric light being installed in the hall and the formation of a percussion band made up of grade 2 students.



Victory Medal 1945.

1950 - 1959

In 1952 Wales Street hosted Grade Four students from Heidelberg West to relieve overcrowding there. These children were conveyed to the school by bus each day.

Edward Feder became the next Head Teacher in 1953 and, as there was still plenty of room to spare in 1954, a class from Reservoir West attended the school along with a sewing class of post primary girls from Westgarth Central.

Students were presented with medals commemorating the coronation of the Queen in 1953 and the first Royal Visit to Australia in 1954. Many students of Wales Street lined High Street that year to catch a glimpse of royalty.

In 1956 power points were installed in all classrooms and Melbourne hosted the Olympic Games.

Edward Feder left at the end of 1956 and Richard Dunstan was the next Head Teacher. A school choir was formed while he was there.

When Ernest Risk arrived as Head Teacher in 1958 the enrolment had dropped to 520. Three classes from the overcrowded Preston North-East school started attending the school and one room continued to be used for needlework classes by Westgarth Central.

Gas heating was installed and in 1959 the Mothers' Club was formed with an initial membership of seventy mothers. This was the beginning of a new era at Wales Street.

During the late 50's and continuing throughout the next two decades, a new growth in the enrolment and a considerable change in the character of students attending Wales Street occurred.

Some of the teachers in the 1940's and 1950's, as remembered by past students.

Misses Perch, Rose, Campbell, Brunton, Goodnough, Scott, Bearpark and Tait. Mrs Robertson, Roberts and Smith. Mr Curtain, Stokes, Wilson, Lux, Little, Doyle, Ellis and Roscollar.



5th Grade, 1953.

As the Northcote and Preston areas were highly industrialised, one other feature of Wales Street, which is rarely mentioned was the aroma. There were good smells like the Grocer's shop with sawdust on the floor and everything in tins and hessian bags, freshly baked cakes from Mrs Mills' and the milk-shed

smell of McCauley's dairy. The foreign smells came with the wind; from the Hutton's abbatoirs in Dundas Street, the tanneries and leather works in High Street, the Tile Factory in Clyde Street and the Brick Factory in Dennis Street.



Coronation and Royal Visit Medals presented to students.



1st Grade, 1957.

1960 - 1969

The average age of Northcote's population was increasing and, as older residents passed on and others moved away from the district, their places were taken by migrant families who had moved to Australia as part of the Federal Government's post-war immigration policy.

When Roy McKenna came to the school as Principal in 1963, 30% of the school's enrolment was of migrant origin with the largest group being Italian. For Roy and his staff, the trend required a total review of the school's policy. With the increasing numbers of migrant children enrolling, the school had an obligation to cater for their needs and help them cope with a totally new environment.

Prior to the opening of Thornbury High School in 1963, Wales Street hosted some of its classes. In July of that year the entire asphalt area was resurfaced. In 1966 three classrooms were used by the Northcote Technical School which opened later that year.

In 1967 the Annual Inspector's report stated that, "over the past five years the nature of

the population has undergone a change due to the influx of migrants...because of the number of New Australian pupils in attendance, 54% of the school population, and to a lesser extent in the number of Australian children not enjoying a good home environment...the long term policy of this school must necessarily be the improvement of oral and written English expression of the pupils."

By 1969 attendance had grown to 622 with 65% of the students having their origins in other countries. Of these the two biggest groups were Italian (46%) and Greek (38%). During this decade an Art room was set up and the school received its first specialist Art teacher. The use of cuisenaire became popular with the introduction of the new maths course.

The enrolments continued to climb as more and more people moved into the flats and units that began to replace many of the old homes sadly demolished during the 60's and early 70's.



6th Grade, 1963.