

# Darlington Primary School

1912-1982

A Short History



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## **Foreword**

I suspect that Darlington people have always regarded themselves as a bit out of the ordinary. A neighbour who remembers the days when the railway used to run here told me of one conductor who particularly despised the airs and graces which, he considered, Darlington folk gave themselves. Whenever his train pulled in to Darlington station he would announce the fact by declaring loudly and sarcastically 'East Boya! East Boya!'

Call it what you will, I think that even the most jaundiced observer would have to admit that our village has a number of attributes which make it unusual, perhaps even unique. Not the least of these is the Darlington Primary School, now just seventy years old. Though that probably seems an unimaginable age to today's ten-year-olds, there are quite a number of people, some still living here, who can remember those first days when both Darlington and the school were a lot smaller than they are now. For them in particular, this charming little book will bring much pleasure, re-awakening a happy past. For those of us whose memories of the school do not go back so far, it will provide a fascinating journey back into a time that is near enough to be real, but distant enough to be intriguing.

It will also help to remind us of our debt to all those teachers, parents and children whose dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm over the last 70 years have helped make Darlington School what it is today. As the old Yorkshire saying goes, 'yer get nowt fer nowt', and the attainment and maintenance of the sort of cultural and educational standards we enjoy require a constant input from all concerned. I hope that whoever does the foreword for the Centennial edition of this history will be able to write as I do, not complacently, but with pride and confidence in the future.

Chris Durrant,  
President, Darlington Parents and Citizens Association, 1982



**LEITHDALE ROAD**

In May of 1912 ten Darlington children gathered in a large stone house which still stands in Leithdale Road.

“Leithdale” had been built in the 1890s when vineyards spread green and gold around it. It boasted marble fireplaces, highly polished wooden floors and a fine ballroom. The latter was to serve as the first schoolroom for the first pupils of Darlington Primary School. At that time not many people lived in Darlington.

The village was really 'born' in the 1880s, when settlers from the Swan River Colony began taking up land on the hillsides of what is now Darlington.

When the government built a railway line to the booming Goldfields, it passed through the middle of the first vineyard established in Darlington. The railway line attracted people to the village that began to grow in the cradle of the hills. They came to admire the wildflowers that carpeted the hillsides, the tumbling winter creeks, and the solitude and songs of forests where magpies carolled endlessly.

Some came for a day's excursion; others came to stay. Soon the train carrying sandalwood, timber and wheat from the interior to Perth, was also carrying the wines and fruits of Darlington's vineyards and orchards.

By the time the school began in 1912, Darlington had a general store (which also served as a post office), a dairy where you could collect your milk in a billy can, and a scattering of weekend cottages and established homesteads.

The families living in Darlington had begun to urge the Education Department to establish a school for their children. The nearest primary school at that time was the state school at Smith's Mill (which later became Glen Forrest)





### **LEITHDALE**

When V.K. Jones of "Leithdale" offered the use of his ballroom for the first schoolroom, the Education Department accepted his offer and the first ten pupils were enrolled.

Twelve-year-old Faith Maslin was one of those early pupils, along with her sister Lorna and brother Leith. They were delighted at the opening of the school-in-the-ballroom for it meant they did not have to walk through thick bush to the school in Glen Forrest.

"It was such a lovely ballroom," recalls Faith Maslin (now in her 80s but retaining vivid memories of those early days). "The house had beautiful high ceilings and was set in a rambling garden, with a verandah on the south side where we had our lunches."

The school at that time was very much a family affair, a feeling that was reinforced by its homely setting. The head teacher was Miss Emma Hogan who, from all accounts, presided over her instant "family" with a stern but kindly gaze, and a daunting "Little Black Book" into which all misdemeanours were entered.

That first year of school life ended with a Christmas picnic party under the trees beside Nyaania Brook. The parents had gathered some prizes so that each child could receive one, and there were cakes and games in the early summer sunshine.

In 1913 the school year opened with 18 pupils gathering at "Leithdale". The winter was very wet, and colds, scarlatina and stormy weather kept many children at home. But by spring attendances were up again, and all the talk was of the new schoolroom that was nearing completion in Glen Road.

Recalls Leith Maslin: "The desks were moved from "Leithdale" by horse and dray and we pupils and the teacher followed behind, each carrying some small article. It was a big event in our lives."



**LEITHDALE MARBLE FIREPLACE IN THE DRAWING ROOM.**  
*The ballroom has been demolished*

On October 28 the new school - a large timber room opened for the first time. By the end of 1915 the pupils numbered 40, and a second room was added.

A verandah, enclosed at each end for cloakrooms, ran along the northern side of the school building. The smaller children sat at low tables, the others at long desks with accompanying forms with no backs. These were later replaced with dual desks, with seats fixed to the desks behind. There were two corner fireplaces which always glowed brightly in winter. Another winter delight was a pair of black wattle trees that formed a golden canopy under which the children assembled each day.

A firm clay playing area to the west of the school became a focus for rounders, cricket, hopscotch and traditional games such as red rover. Pupils at the time remember the school grounds as being attractive, with mauve and white pelargoniums planted by parents along the solid fence that surrounded the school. Miss Pauline Fischer recalls: 'The grounds were carpeted with Guildford grass, and there were many trees and granite outcrops with native plants. It had a wonderful parklike feeling. The area down by the nearby creek was frequently used by the school because it was open and untouched and very beautiful. The first sports day was held there, with races being run along the flat area beside the brook.'

In those days, before motor cars had made an appearance in Darlington, you moved around the village on horseback, in a horse and trap (as did the local grocer, making home-deliveries) or you walked. Darlington's first pupils thought nothing of spending one or two hours walking to school along little bush tracks that criss-crossed the railway line and fanned out from the school in all directions





### **DARLINGTON SCHOOL, LEITHDALE 1913**

It used to take us an hour-and-a-half to walk home" remembers Miss Fischer, "but it was quite a social occasion with three or four of us walking together. We never complained because it was so pretty. This was a green deserted valley apart from the vineyards. The wild-flowers were indescribable. We used to call Greenmount Hill "spider orchid hill" because it was covered in the orchids that are now so rare. From the hill you could look down on acres of vineyards stretching right across the centre of Darlington, with pine trees planted all the way around."

From all accounts the bush that so delighted Miss Fischer held terrors for the city-bred teacher from England, Miss Hogan.

"Our teacher gave the impression of being very nervous on nature study walks through the bush, and appeared very relieved to see us all back in the classroom," Leith Maslin remembers. "Miss Hogan had a great fear of snakes and anything that crawled and once a student brought in a live snake held behind the head, for inspection. We feared our teacher was about to pass out..." It was a case of another misdemeanour entered in the Little Black Book!

Although the bush was alien to her, Miss Hogan took obvious delight in flowers that bloomed as they were told, within the school grounds. There was always much activity in preparing and planting and nurturing flower gardens and Arbor Day trees, and she seldom failed to mention in her journal the winter flowering of the school's wattles - "a mass of beautiful soft yellow blossoms in the bright sunshiney weather."

Miss Hogan was undoubtedly patriotic and established an early tradition in maintaining occasions such as Empire Day with the dignity she felt they deserved. On Empire Day (in May) poems such as *Ye Mariners of England*, would be read beneath the wide Australian skies, the flag would be saluted, there would be three cheers for the Empire - and a few sweets for every child!



***DARLINGTON STATE SCHOOL WITH MISS HOGAN 1918***

When the First World War began, a patriotic concert was held in the village and many recall Miss Hogan's spirited delivery of "Rule Britannia", in a white satin gown with a rose on the shoulder. Undoubtedly she possessed a good singing voice and her obvious interest in music may well have helped to germinate the strong tradition in music that was later to flourish in Darlington.

Because there were few public buildings in the village, the school became an ideal venue for community meetings and church services. The Church of England held their early services in the schoolroom - and the school had the use of the church organ for its singing lessons.

While the gardens were becoming well established, with chrysanthemums making a colourful display in May, the school library was only just beginning. In July 1916 the first books were collected for the library. Many of the children subscribed books and each brought a penny towards the book fund. In the journal Miss Hogan recorded that the library possessed 40 books and just under three shillings to purchase more. (A comparison here is worth making. When the school celebrated its 70th anniversary in 1982 the Resources Centre was the proud possessor of 9,000 books and other resources. Sad to say the book fund's three shillings would scarcely cover the cost of even one book - the average cost of a children's book today being \$7!)



**VINEYARDS DARLINGTON 1908**

Gradually the school was growing, but it had not yet lost its family feeling, nor its strong ties with the small community surrounding it. The 1918 journal gives a fine illustration of this when it recorded the arrival of baskets of oranges, pears and figs for distribution among the children from the Kiplings who then occupied "Leithdale", or the Victors of "The Glen", whose children attended the school - as do later generations of the family today. There was much for the children to learn from the community that was growing around them.

In that same year they visited Mr Victor's 13 acre orchard at "The Glen" to watch the various processes involved in preparing currants for market. Later they explored the stone wine cellars of Darlington Vineyard, with its enormous vats, barrels and grape crusher.

During the war years (1914-18) the sight of soldiers on exercises from the training camp at Blackboy Hill became a familiar sight for the children. The school was active in collecting funds for the soldiers in trenches in far away Europe, and gathered armfuls of wattles to cheer the injured at the Base Hospital.

When peace was signed there was a week of general rejoicing and the school was closed for three days. Miss Fischer recalls: "On Armistice Day a railway engine came up the line from Midland blowing the whistle full steam. We children sat outside on the grass and sang "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." There was a thanksgiving service and a fireworks display was planned but a match dropped into the box and they all went off at once..." No doubt the unscheduled explosion was the talking point around the school for many days.

The following year Miss Hogan left the school on sick leave. She had watched the school grow from 10 to over 50 pupils; from a borrowed ballroom to a lively school that was developing its own distinctive character





***ORIGINAL SCHOOL BUILDING WITH EXTENSIONS***

In 1921 after a parents' meeting addressed by a visiting school inspector - the topic was "Educational Ideals" - it was decided to form a parents' association. The P & C was born and was to prove a valued asset to the school. Darlington parents have always been involved in the development of the school and this has proved a source of strength for most headmasters. However, relationships between the two have not always blossomed.

In 1922 the school journal erupts with the aggressively bold handwriting and the troubled times of a head teacher named J. Ulbrick, who spent three unhappy months at the school. Mr Ulbrick found the children's tables "deplorable"; their handwriting "unsatisfactory and irritably slow"; and the summer heat "dreadful". He spent his three months waiting, like some academic General Gordon, to be relieved of his post. He kept children in late because they would not attend to their compound division, and was accused by some parents of terrifying the children. His own opinion of the children was that they were "backward, extremely idle and lethargic".

In 1924 the building of a new classroom next to the existing two rooms began, and in the following year a head teacher's house was completed at the end of May. The small timber house was finally demolished in 1973 - and the materials helped raise funds for the reticulation of the school oval.

In 1928 school swimming classes commenced, with the children being taken down to Crawley Baths by charabanc on Friday afternoons. Later the lessons were held at Lake Leschenault and the Helena River. The Bilgomen Pool was not built until 1969.



***DARLINGTON SCHOOL CHOIR, WINNERS OF PERTH MUSIC FESTIVAL 1954***

In 1931 the school reopened with some 85 children on the roll. The P & C were active with their fund-raising - a favoured method being bridge evenings - and organised the cocoa and hot soup that was served to the children during winter months.

School sports days were still held at the brook, with red and gold factions competing for sporting honours. Interschool football and netball matches with schools at Sawyers Valley and Greenmount were also a feature of the school year.

While some were proving their prowess on the sports field, others exhibited talents in the arts. In the 1932 Hills Musical and Elocutionary Competition, the school collected most of the prizes in the elocutionary items. By all accounts Darlington was a very musical village in the 1930s. Author Paul Buddee (whose books stand on the Resource Centre's shelves today) attended the school briefly in the early 1920s and returned as a monitor during 1933 and 1934. (A monitor was a student teacher about to embark on training.)

"We had a very good school choir," Mr Buddee remembers. I used to conduct while Dallas Mofflin, a fine pianist accompanied us." Mr Buddee also recalls many musical evenings at people's homes and a fine ladies' choir.

Mr Buddee paints a vivid picture of a lively community in which there were many well-to-do professional people and senior government officials . . . and a carefully nurtured brand of village snobbery! He wrote many of his early poems and songs while in Darlington (they were later broadcast over the ABC) including "It Was Just A Sweet Rose" - which he wrote after being presented with a rose, complete with dew drop, by one of the school's teachers!

"It was a close community, very busy in terms of its cultural life," recalls Mr Buddee, "and the parents were very jealous of their children's education, well-being, manners and morals."



***THE OLD RAILWAY STATION DARLINGTON***

In 1935 diphtheria (which was acutely infectious) broke out in the district. The school was disinfected and health inspectors took swabs to try to identify the carriers of the disease. Those found to be carriers were kept at home, and as the cases mounted the school's attendances fell drastically - to as low as 23 before Easter.

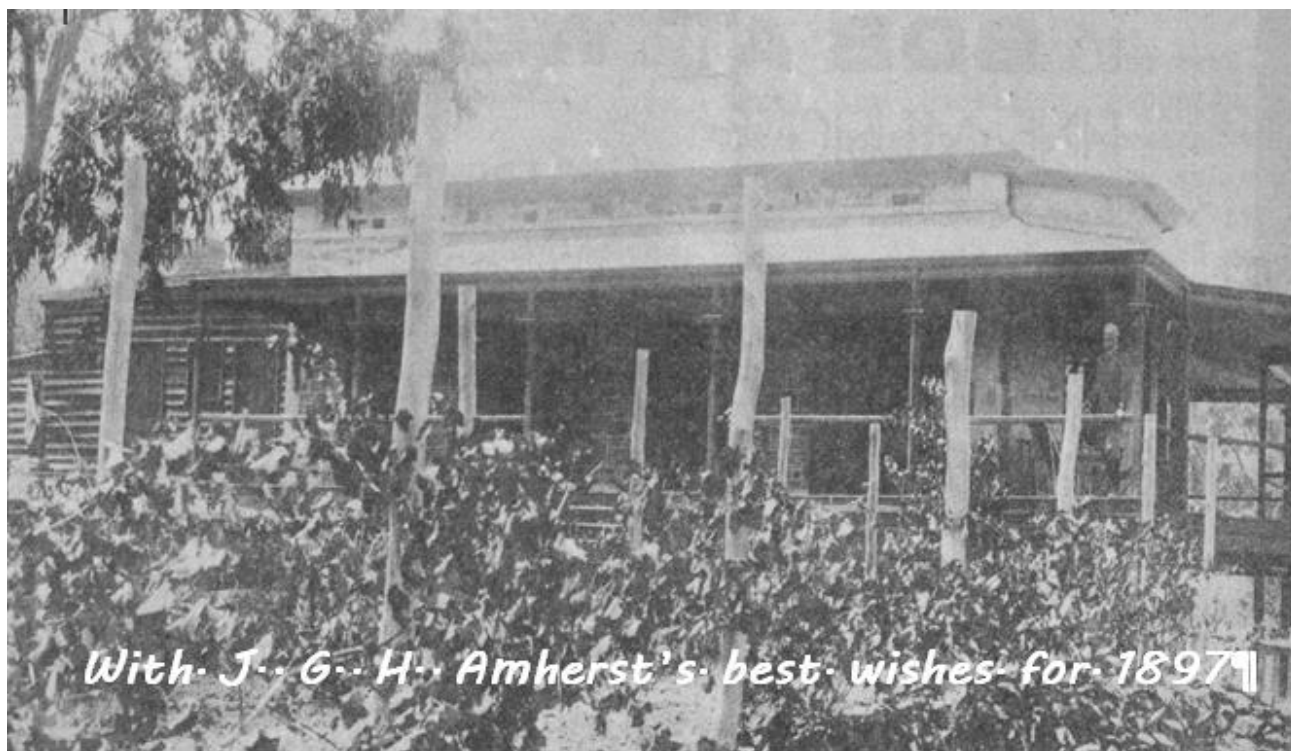
The following year whooping cough reached epidemic proportions and again cut attendances by half. Later vaccinations against both these diseases began to be given to W.A. school children and dramatically reduced the incidence of these diseases.

During World War II (1939-45) enrolment at the school climbed steadily as people moved up to the hills in the belief that it was safer. In 1942 enrolment reached 111 and the Congregational Hall had to be hired and used as an extra classroom. However, by 1948 the school population was back to 75.

In the late 40s swimming lessons were sometimes held in the Helena River. With a lengthy walk there and back, it was great exercise. At least one Darlington mother remembers the lessons vividly. "What with slippery rocks and leeches, it's no wonder I never learnt to swim!" says Audrey Ford.

During the 1940s many P & C bridge evenings and dress-up fund raising parties were held at "Holmesdale", Darlington's first home, built in the 1890s. (It still stands in Darlington Road and has been classified by the National Trust.)





*With J. G. H. Amherst's best wishes for 1897*

**HOLMESDALE 1897**

Recalls Elsie Gare, who lived in this picturesque stone home during the 1940s: "The huge lounge-dining room with its two open fireplaces was the venue for many community functions - P & C bridge parties, Red Cross concerts for invalid soldiers and many musical evenings." Mrs Gare recalls that Oslo lunches first appeared in the 40s when the P & C organised an Oslo lunch room in the old shop that had once existed next to the Post Office in Brook Road.

"Three mothers each day prepared the lunches for up to 90 children", she remembers. "We shopped at the markets each day so that everything would be fresh."

Mrs Gare's little girl became such a familiar sight chewing on a piece of celery or carrot in her pram, that she was called "Oslo Gare" by rostered helpers. In winter this forerunner of the canteen produced vegetable soup and cocoa, which became firm favourites with the children.

Open-air picture shows beside the village hall also proved a successful fund-raiser for the P & C. Apparently the Saturday night screenings proved very popular with the audience seated either in cars or on deck chairs . . . and all the neighbourhood dogs in attendance, howling their approval!



***THE DUTCH SHOE 1950'S – courtesy Hetty Van Kooten***

During the 1940s needlework was still an important subject for the girls at Darlington Primary and periodically a needlework inspector would visit the school. With a practised eye she would examine the pupils' handiwork, noting the quality of hemming and topstitching, and the completed garments presented for inspection. Sewing classes had been part of the school curriculum since its early days. One resident recalls "sitting beneath the big wattle trees working on our samples. We had to "gather and stroke" and every fold had to be absolutely even. It was always impossible to see my stitching because my sample was always covered with pin-pricks of blood."

However the majority of work was obviously pleasing to the inspector who noted in 1941: "Articles were well presented for inspection. They are very neat and clean, very carefully sewn and nicely ornamented."

By the time the school entered the 1950s, its enrolment was well over one hundred. Basketball, Softball, football and cricket were being played on a regular basis and the P & C was busy once again improving the grounds. There were plans to level a considerable area to make additional playgrounds.

The school journal of 1953 indicates that the headmaster's duties extended far beyond teaching and counselling. Prior to the opening of the school year, the head teacher Mr R. Hardwick noted that he had spent two weeks with the cleaner painting, cleaning, scrubbing, hosing, washing and polishing to "brighten up the school." When term began there was the equally challenging task of teaching English to a family of Dutch children straight from Holland.

In the 1950s, with traffic to and through the village increasing, the police began their road safety talks which continue today. Tennis coaching at the Darlington Tennis Club's three new courts in the village also began



***ALBERT NAMATJIRA WITH TEACHERS AND CHILDREN***

In 1955 a new classroom was built and the following year the P & C granted £120 to bulldoze a play area. Two hundred tons of sand were spread and levelled. In 1957 the highlight of the sporting year was the staging of the Eastern Hills Interschool Sports at Darlington on October 5. The weather was perfect for this event which attracted some 600 adults and 1,000 children. Olympic runners were on hand to give sprinting demonstrations.

It was in the 1950s that Darlington began to acquire a reputation as "an artists' colony" in the hills. The late Guy Grey-Smith was the first local artist to achieve wide recognition. In 1957 he came down to the school from his studio in Stone Crescent to give the boys a lesson in clay modelling. The results were later fired in his studio kiln.

During the same year Aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira visited the school. He saw the juniors at work during a drawing class, and the seniors sang "My Country" for him. He posed for photographs and signed autographs before leaving.

Mrs Pat Coxon, a professional broadcaster, was glad to assist another area of the arts in the 1950s. She helped with drama activities and remembers: "Each class put on their own plays, but once a year I organized a play, usually at Christmas, where everyone got on stage. We put on things like "Robin Hood and his Merry Men" or the court scene from "The Wind in the Willows". All sorts of things were used to construct makeshift stages on the village oval and everyone turned up to see the show."

Mrs Coxon lived just opposite the school and the children would rehearse at her house. "The object was to get everyone on stage", she says. So when a family of Italians arrived just before the staging of the court scene from "The Wind in the Willows" the jury was instantly enlarged to accommodate them!



The Wattle trees in the school garden have been very beautiful with blossom for several weeks. The blossoms are now falling and Tr: has sawn off the lower branches which were too near the ground.

August 14<sup>th</sup> Took the school to Mr. Geyer's orchard to observe the pruning of fruit-trees. Mr. Geyer gave the children some loquats. Mr. Victor sent a basket of oranges to be distributed among the children.

August 17<sup>th</sup> Some children still absent through mumps being in the home.

Average Attendance for week = 26

Aug: 24<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day. Tr: talked with children about trees and tree-planting - in particular the pine and wattle. A good many visitors came and saw children planting pines and lucerne trees. Mrs. Kipling of "Leithdale" sent oranges for the children.

**EXTRACT FROM SCHOOL JOURNAL, AUGUST 1917**

The 1960s saw more expansion at Darlington Primary and the school began to take shape as we know it today. With enrolment at 155, additions to the school became necessary. When it was found that the site was too small to meet Education Department requirements, the possibility of moving the school was considered.

Alternative sites considered included the western end of the recreation ground, land near the present kindergarten and an area of crown land near the old state quarry. None of these were found suitable, and it was decided to enlarge the existing site by purchasing the adjoining properties.

The oval and the parking area in Amherst Avenue were once private properties. The house that existed on what is now the oval was a fine old stone house with almond trees around it and loquat trees and a chook yard in the area that is now the amphitheatre. This house and the one on Amherst Avenue next to the old house were demolished when the Education Department acquired the extra land for playing fields.

In 1963 extensions to the school, estimated to cost £20,000 were begun. They comprised two classrooms, a cloakroom, a principal's office, staff room and utility room. In December 250 tons of concrete were poured on the floor foundations of the new wing.

When the school opened again in 1964 this wing was occupied for the first time. The new wing was officially opened by the Minister of Education. With the pupils accommodated in the new wing, the old classroom became the library.



**DARLINGTON SCHOOL PARLIAMENT.** *This photo appeared in the West Australian on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, 1963; photo courtesy of the WA Newspaper*

In the late 1960s the canteen began in a small way, with horseshoe, polony, vegemite and peanut-butter rolls (at 12 cents and 8 cents) being offered on Mondays - which became known as “Bun Day”. Orders were taken by teachers the previous Friday so that the necessary ingredients could be purchased, as there was no fridge. By 1968, further extensions were under way, and the school soon boasted two new classrooms and a toilet block. By the following year enrolment was over the 200 mark.

Pupils who attended the school during the early 1960s recall the stimulating debates that took place in the school parliament organized by the headmaster Mr Anthony Barker. The year seven children were elected to ministerial posts and Lee Daughtrey, a pupil at that time remembers: “There was a minister for almost everything. The Minister for the Exterior was in charge of grounds and after the passing of certain bills the school was put to work clearing a huge expanse of watsonias that grew prolifically along the Amherst Avenue edge of the small oval. We missed the watsonias once they were gone because we used to weave them into mats for our cubby houses.”

Cubbies . . . its fun to wonder just how many have been laboriously and lovingly constructed beneath the overhanging boughs of trees or amongst the rocky outcrops of the school grounds. “The Rocks”, as the area beside the staff car park was known, was always a favourite place for creating miniature homes with stones, bricks, bits of timber, and a lot of imagination. And the cubbies still thrive today.

The headmaster's house, set amongst fruit trees and rose bushes, no doubt served as an inspiration to the cubby-builders. It stood where the staff car park is situated today - but a lemon tree and small rose bush are all that are left to remind us of it, for the house was demolished in 1973. Proceeds from the demolition and a walkathon were used to install a reticulation system on the school oval.





***FOLK DANCING IN THE PLAYGROUND IN THE 1950'S***

In 1970 the Public Works Department bulldozed the playing field forming a reasonably sized area for organized games. The P & C provided finance for the sanding and grading of the oval and in November of that year the field was planted with couch seed and runners. Parents volunteered to water the oval during the holidays. In October of the following year an informal sports day, involving parents and children, marked the official opening of the oval.

In 1976 the school took over the small house and orchard in Amherst Avenue which is known today as "the old house". Pupils of the 60s used to feed left-over lunches to the friendly horse that once occupied the paddock on this property. Once he escaped his paddock and created a lively diversion at recess, sending wide-eyed children scattering across the oval!

Once the property belonged to the school, parents banded together with characteristic energy to restore the house to usefulness. Walls were knocked out to enlarge the size of rooms, new wiring was installed, and the overgrown tangle of greenery surrounding the house was cut back to an orderly garden.

The old house added another dimension to learning. Tantalising smells wafted out of its windows as cookery groups measured, mixed and baked. Plays were performed; clay was moulded; paint was applied; prints were produced - all in an atmosphere of fun, informality and discovery.





***EDDIE ROBERTS WITH HIS MUSIC STUDENTS***

Today the old house is still the venue for a variety of activities, including music lessons. In 1976 the Education Department began conducting music lessons in primary schools - and violins, classical guitars, cellos and flutes were soon much in evidence around the school. It wasn't long before ensemble groups were being formed.

Mr Eddie Roberts formed his Darlington Guitar Ensemble with 38 children in 1978, playing music that ranged from Joplin's "The Entertainer" to Vivaldi concertos. Now called The Darlington and Combined Schools Classical Guitar Ensemble (to encompass children who have moved on to secondary schools), the group performs in venues that range from the Perth Concert Hall to Princess Margaret Hospital. Next year may even see the group spreading its wings for an interstate tour! Other smaller ensemble groups - guitar and flute, and cello and violin - have also blossomed with the school's growing involvement in music. Those who learn, and those who listen from nearby classrooms, soon appreciate the hard work involved in mastering any musical instrument. But the impressive performances produced by Darlington's young musicians make it all worth while



***THE AMPHITHEATRE***

In 1975 the late Graeme Devitt joined the school as deputy headmaster. With his distinctive red beard and boundless energy he soon became a well-loved figure and one whose memory abides in the amphitheatre named after him. It took more than a year of hard work-dragging rocks, shifting sand, chain sawing, surveying and planning - before the rocky shoulder of hilly land had been transformed into an open air theatre.

Its design borrowed from the classical theatres of ancient Greece, the building of the amphitheatre became, for the children, another learning experience. They measured, surveyed and planned the terraced seating along with professional architects and surveyors and landscape architects who had volunteered their help. They also joined their parents in the back-breaking tasks of shifting sand, and shaping and filling in the railway sleeper seats. Finally the children visited a nursery to select and later plant some 52 native trees and shrubs around the amphitheatre.

A special projects grant of \$2,800 financed the building of the amphitheatre, but it was community effort rather than finance that created the amphitheatre. When it was officially opened - on October 15, 1979 - a poem penned by the children recognized the special efforts of people such as Ulick Gage, Mike Tooby, Peter Byrne and Dr Kevin Carthew whose special skills, enthusiasm or organizational ability had proved vital to the project.

In the late 70s, fund-raising for a new canteen and library had proved successful. Wine bottling, paper, glass and bottle drives and film nights helped generate the necessary funds. At one stage the P & C acquired a reputation as the "ecology and recycling centre of Darlington"!





***THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS***

In December of 1977 the resource centre was officially opened. Mrs Barbara Wilson, who has been associated with the school library for a decade, recalls how every child in the school was involved in the move to the new building. "Each child carried some books - the grade ones just a few, the bigger children more - so the whole move was rather fun. We had the mothers waiting in the centre to receive the books."

In its new spacious premises the library became a resources centre with slides, cassettes, models, educational games and other equipment designed to make learning an adventure. Says Ginny James, "The aim is to expand opportunities for a child to learn independently. The licensing system encourages children to acquire the skills to use the various resources available - such as film strips and slides."

Undoubtedly the books and other resources are well utilized. The library is always filled with a busy, but respectfully subdued hum of activity. No wonder - the turnover of resources is estimated at 45,000 a year!

The library and canteen had been housed in what is now the music room - the library occupying the large room, the canteen being somehow contained in the adjoining store room. It says much for the organizing ability of Wendy Castlehow that the plastic lunch baskets were filled with a variety of fare during the four years she supervised canteen in those cramped conditions. The last four years in the spacious new canteen have proved easier for Mrs Castlehow and her rostered helpers. These



days they prepare on average 200 lunches a day - which helps to raise about \$1,000 a year for the P & C.

Today the pupils of Darlington Primary enjoy enviable facilities - both educational and sporting - and a lot more besides. However everyone knows that facilities count for little unless they are backed by a well-qualified and caring staff. The teachers are one of the school's major assets - setting high standards and extending the varied talents of their pupils. Some attended the school themselves; others have seen their own children pass through it. Even those whose associations with the school has been brief, comment on its happy blend of enthusiastic staff and involved community.

Every headmaster makes his mark on the school and Mr Donald Bell, who arrived in 1980, is no exception. With his arrival the children learnt about "warm fuzzies"; came to anticipate Christopher Robin at assemblies; and tried to earn his ready approval for individual effort-academic, artistic or sporting.

"Darlington children have always exhibited the potential to achieve the very best in all fields and today's pupils are no exception", says Mr Bell. "The challenge for the future is to realise that potential and strive for excellence." Striving for excellence, making a good start in life, is obviously easier in a happy environment.

When Mrs Shirley McDonald's children first came to Darlington Primary in the early 60s it had only four classrooms and less than 200 pupils. "It was a lovely little school, just like a large family", she says, "and even today, with some 450 students, I still think it has that nice, friendly family feeling about it."

Darlington's earliest pupils described their school in much the same way. Obviously "the family" has grown, but "the feeling" has remained constant over seventy years. And that is what makes it a very special school.

### SCHOOL PUNISHMENT BOOK 1915

| PUNISHMENT                   |                        |                 |                  |  | BOOK   |                     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| <i>Darlington</i>            |                        |                 |                  |  | GOVERNMENT SCHOOL                            |                     |
| Date.                        | NAME AND AGE OF CHILD. |                 |                  | Offence.   | Amount and Instrument of Punishment.         | By whom inflicted.  |
| Age.                         | Surname.               | Christian.      |                  |  |  |                     |
| <i>1915</i><br><i>May 6</i>  | <i>10½</i>             | <i>Taplin</i>   | <i>Douglas</i>   | <i>Improved with his pencil a picture in one of the Departmental Books, thereby affording unlawful amusement to other children. Had been inattentive and careless with his lessons</i> | <i>Four strokes with cane</i>                | <i>Head Teacher</i> |
| <i>August 5<sup>th</sup></i> | <i>11</i>              | <i>Bandwell</i> | <i>Millicent</i> | <i>Obstinate and Argumentative</i>   | <i>One light stroke and kept in one hour</i> | <i>Head Teacher</i> |

## Adequacy of Accommodation and Condition of Buildings

Accommodation is adequate.

School Buildings. The Interior of the building is due for renovation. Two washborels leak and one out of action and also two taps.

Two panes of glass have been broken by hookaburras

Quarters. Water from roof runs into the bathroom instead of into the drain pipe at the other end of the building. This needs attention

## Regulations, Etc.

1. Time Tables Drawn
2. Wall Documents
3. Playground Clean and attractive
4. Punctuality Very Good
5. Programmes Drawn up.
6. Terminal Exams Held and recorded
7. Averages Satisfactory

**SCHOOL CONDITION REPORT- early 1900's**

## Historical Summary

**1912 --** A small Government school was opened on 28th May in rented premises at “Leithdale” by Miss Emma Hogan. The enrolment was ten boys and six girls.

**1913---** An area of four acres was resumed for a school site and a new school was erected comprising one classroom.

**1916---** Due to the enrolment increasing to 31, it was necessary to build an additional room.

**1924---** With the enrolment at 94, it was necessary to let a contract for an additional room. The classroom was completed in April.

**1942---** Because of overcrowding, the Congregational Hall had to be hired and used as a classroom.

**1956---** An additional classroom was completed for the beginning of the school year. Enrolment 134.

**1964---** Two classrooms and an administration block were completed. This formed the nucleus of a proposed new school to replace existing substandard accommodation.

**1976** A cottage and land, on Lot 12, Amherst Avenue, was handed to the school. The Parents and Citizens' Association undertook to repair and maintain it.

**1977** The Resource Centre was opened by Councillor T. Broz, Mundaring Shire, December 6th.

**1979---** \$6,490 was paid out of the Special Projects (Innovations) Programme under the State's Grants Act of 1977 for the restoration of the old cottage for school purposes and the construction of an amphitheatre. An administration area upgrade and further additions completed the school in a manner envisaged in 1964.



## ***DARLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL SONG***

Darlington! Darlington! Playground of our youth,  
Through the pain and the fun, help us love the truth,  
When we go on our way, leaving as we must,  
We will still remember tolerance and trust,  
Initiative you taught us tolerance and trust.

In the hills above the city, cradled in the trees,  
With the scent of eucalypts sweet upon the breeze,  
May we learn to play with joy and do our work with pride,  
Take this lesson with us to the world outside.

Darlington! etc.

Through the freedom and the laughter, discipline and tears,  
Building minds and building hearts, growing with the years,  
Memories may fade away but one thing will be clear,  
We will still remember we were happy here.

Darlington! etc.

## ***HEADMASTERS/PRINCIPALS LIST***

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Headmaster/Principal</i>                                       |
|-------------|---|
| 1912 - 1921 | Emma Hogan  |
| 1922        | Kate Lander<br>Lilian Sivyver                                     |
| 1923 - 1925 | James George Moore<br>Johann(John) Frederick Hermann Ulbrick R/HM |
| 1925 - 1931 | Hugh Hamilton King<br>Llewellyn Benjamin Humphrey R/HM            |
| 1932 - 1939 | Llewellyn Benjamin Humphrey                                       |
| 1940 - 1945 | George Edward McKenna   |
| 1946 - 1954 | Richard Phillip Hardwick  |
| 1955 - 1957 | Rex Harrison Coyle  |
| 1958 - 1962 | Robert Charles Jennings   |
| 1963 - 1965 | Anthony Harold Barker   |
| 1966 - 1970 | John Smith  |
| 1971 - 1973 | Brian Anthony Hassell B.A.<br>Neville Taylor R/HM                 |
| 1974 - 1975 | Kenneth Norman Leahy  |
| 1976 - 1980 | Gordon Sydney Hey   |
| 1981        | Donald Bell B.A.  |

## **SOME FAMILY NAMES— 1913-1940**

**(In approximate chronological order: read down the columns left side first)**

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| HASSELL, Dorothy    | FARRIS, Douglas    |
| VICTOR, Marjorie    | NEILLINGS, Jack    |
| MARTIN, Nancy       | LEAKE, Eleanor     |
| FISCHER, Pauline    | PALMER, Grant      |
| MASLIN, Faith       | THURSTON, Dorothy  |
| JOAN, Nora          | LEAKE, Kathleen    |
| FISCHER, Millie     | LESCHEN, Pauline   |
| VICTOR, Dorothy     | EDWARD, Marjorie   |
| GIRDLESTONE, Edgar  | BOVELL, Eileen     |
| RANGER, Robert      | EDWARD, Gwentyth   |
| LINDSA Y, Joan      | EVANS, Colleen     |
| MONGER, Jack        | BISHOP, George     |
| CHRISTOPHER, Thomas | CHAPMAN, Eva       |
| PRICE, Marjorie     | COWPER, Joy        |
| PRICE, Alex         | COWPER, Barbara    |
| PRICE, Jean         | ABBOTT, Keith      |
| BRENNAND, Harold    | ABBOTT, Eric       |
| BRENNAND, Betty     | NEVILLE, Anne      |
| ARKELL, Faith       | PHILLIPS, E        |
| WALTON, Arthur      | CHRISTIE, Sheila   |
| ARKELL, Bert        | PELL, Pat          |
| ARKELL, Tom         | BISHOP, Daphne     |
| ARKELL, David       | BURNS, Basil       |
| EAGLETON, Vernon    | FISCHER, Peter     |
| ROSS, Margaret      | OWEN, John         |
| PRATER, Rita        | THYER, Helen       |
| PALMER, Valery      | PRATER, Kelvin     |
| BUNGE, Marjorie     | LENEGAN, Ann       |
| WARBERTON, Cecily   | BOYD, Garry        |
| BOYD, Catherine     | COOKE, Albert      |
| STOKES, Sue         | WHEELER, Geoff     |
| ARKELL, Win         | LYONS, Vicky       |
| HALL, Joyce         | LEYLAND, Margaret  |
| BISHOP, Nam         | LEYLAND, Evelyn    |
| BISHOP, Bill        | BISHOP, Marilyn    |
| ROSS, Betty         | NOBLE, Valda       |
| PRATER, Laurel      | NOBLE, Jim         |
| LEAKE, Joan         | ADDERLEY, Margaret |
| DAVIDSON, Muriel    | MASLIN, Richard    |



**SOME FAMILY NAMES— 1913-1940 (In approximate chronological order)**

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>LYONS, Bernice</i>     | <i>INGRAM, Allan</i>        |
| <i>LEE, Mavis</i>         | <i>INGRAM, Brian</i>        |
| <i>NEWMAN, Norm</i>       | <i>CLANCY, Derral</i>       |
| <i>ABBOTT, Rod</i>        | <i>CALLOW, Mervyn</i>       |
| <i>BYRNE, Joan</i>        | <i>RIDLEY, Barbara</i>      |
| <i>ROBINSON, Margaret</i> | <i>COXON, Barbara</i>       |
| <i>BIRCH, Trevor</i>      | <i>MASLIN, James</i>        |
| <i>RUSSELL, Betty</i>     | <i>SMITH, Dorothy</i>       |
| <i>ABBOTT, Jack</i>       | <i>LYONS, Roger</i>         |
| <i>PARK, Tom</i>          | <i>GARE, Anne</i>           |
| <i>MILLS, Rose</i>        | <i>FISCHER, Anne</i>        |
| <i>BUDDEE, Paul</i>       | <i>LUBBE, Barbara</i>       |
| <i>ABBOTT, Betty</i>      | <i>WALKER, Adrian</i>       |
| <i>LOWE, June</i>         | <i>PRIESTNER, Philippa</i>  |
| <i>NAPIER, Cecily</i>     | <i>PRIESTNER, Helen</i>     |
| <i>PHILLIPS, Dolly</i>    | <i>SHORT, Val</i>           |
| <i>FISCHER, Helen</i>     | <i>WILLIAMS, Stan</i>       |
| <i>LITTLE, Win</i>        | <i>WILLOUGHBY, Lynley</i>   |
| <i>BEDFORD, Bert</i>      | <i>VAN KOOTEN, Marianne</i> |
| <i>GARE, Cyril</i>        | <i>BEDFORD, Edith</i>       |
| <i>BARNETT, Rex</i>       | <i>TRAINE, Audrey</i>       |