

Williamstown Primary School

Celebrating 140 years

What a year it has been, culminating in a wonderful week of celebrations early November.

To share some of the fun with you we have included photographs from each of the main activities and events as we kick up our heels and sing,

“Happy Birthday Willy Primary”



The Vintage Classroom



“Good morning, Ma’am”

During the week of celebrations one of our mum’s, actor Caroline Wilson, ‘hosted’ the children in a vintage classroom replete with the old wooden desks, a blackboard and photos of royalty on the wall.

Not surprisingly some of the kids were a little wary initially – it was lot tougher back in the day – but they certainly warmed to the tasks, many even suggesting they prefer to learn like this. So much for the iPads!



Gee – hope he knows his four times tables



Vintage Games

On the Thursday the kids had a ball taking part in a Vintage Games Day where we revived some of the activities that kept the old South State kids busy and amused all those years ago.

Some of ye olde games included;

- The three legged race
- A sack race
- Egg and spoon race
- Elastics
- Toss the boot
- Tunnel Ball

Ahh they were the days....not an X-Box in sight!



Elastics – not as easy as it looks



The sack race



Quoits



The three-legged race

Back to Willy Primary

On Sunday November 10th the school hosted a “Back-to-Day” and was overwhelmed with the response. Hundreds of ex-pupils, families, teachers and principals turned up to celebrate the day and peruse the wonderful collection of photos and memorabilia on display.



Ken Speakman cutting the school's 140th birthday cake

The day opened with a welcome from the current principal Andrea Duxson, who was joined by former Hobsons Bay mayor, and ex-Willy parent, Angela Altair and local MP Tim Watts. A highlight of the opening ceremony was a speech from Ken Speakman. Ken, now 95, attended Willy in the early 1920s and graduated with the Merit Certificate in 1929. Ken's two grandchildren, Martha and Huw, former Willy kids themselves, accompanied Ken on the day.

Three past principals and a number of former teachers joined current staff and community on the day. Gary Rogers (1981-1984), Margaret Wilson (1992-1997) and immediate past principal Tilly Barger (1997-2009) were along to relive memories and see first hand the many changes the school has undergone since their time at the top.

Back to Willy Sunday Nov 10 2013



Former principal Tilly Barger with son James who is now teaching Gr5\6 at the school.



Former teacher Carol Walker (McGuire) with some of the old photos on display



Another former teacher, one of our longest serving, Shayne Valdemarin.



Friends of Willy did an amazing job putting on display our photos and memorabilia from the back in the day.