RIVERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

140TH ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 22ND 2006

RIVERTON PRIMARY

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT
In the beginning

- Education had first been introduced to Riverton in the early 1850s when Mrs. Beck, the wife of a labourer at Olley’s Farm made her room available for a number of children seeking an education.
- Soon after this, James Masters built a stone room for teaching. A succession of teachers were appointed, and several requests were made to the Central Board of Education seeking assistance for facilities.
- A committee of parents was formed and they investigated the possibility of purchasing land on which to erect a schoolhouse and master’s residence. The new school opened on 25th October 1866. The responsibility for the building and its finance was vested in local trustees. A grant of money had been obtained from the government, but the balance of the cost of the school was raised in Riverton.
- 1871: District Council of Gilbert became trustees of the school and also the local board of education.
- 1874: Enlargements were made to the school.
- 1875: Education Act was passed with compulsory schooling for children aged 7-13.
- 1878: Compulsory education had raised the attendance so that further extensions were necessary.
- 1879: Whilst the extensions were being built, classes were held in the Railway goods shed.

Through the Years

- Enrolments:
  - When the school opened, there were 60 pupils on the roll.
  - In 1878, with compulsory schooling, the average attendance was 105.
  - By 1910, there were 188 students in 3 rooms.
  - Records show the largest enrolment to be in 1912 with 249 students, and five teachers.
  - Since then, numbers have sat consistently in the mid 100s. Our current enrolment is 160.

- Curriculum:
  - In the beginning it was the 3 Rs, strict rules and discipline.
  - In 1921, a new course of instruction introduced. The Inspector of the day explained, “The purpose of the curriculum is not merely to develop the mind of the child, but to provide sound moral, physical and intellectual training so as to lay a foundation
for the function of these habits, ideals and virtues the practice of which will ensure a strong and sane citizen.”

- The Qualifying Certificate was introduced in 1913, and abolished in 1944
- Subjects such as woodwork and gardening for boys and home science and sewing for the girls were introduced
- We have seen a range of curriculum initiatives over the years from Courses of Instruction, New Maths, the whole language approach, Statements and Profiles and now SACSA

- Facilities:
  - Over the years facilities have been continuously improved in line with available budgets to meet the needs of the school community

A History of Achievement:
Riverton Primary School has a proud history of achievement

- District Inspector Plummer wrote the following words in the summary of his report to Parliament for 1900:

  “The results of schools are about the same as last year – the average of the public schools being 81%. Among the schools with 85% or over is Riverton and it is placed in Class A”

- In 2005, our school was rated as a high performing school compared to the other schools in the state and schools similar to ourselves against a range of indicators including literacy, numeracy and parent opinion surveys

- Sir Hugh Cairns is probably our most notable ex scholar, who attended Riverton Primary School from 1904 –1908. He was awarded a Rhodes scholarship, was knighted in 1946 and was recognized as the world’s greatest neurosurgeon in his day.

- In following up on the careers and lives of our school duxes (1931-1969), our school captains (1980-present) and many other old scholars from Riverton, there is indeed a strong and proud history of achievement in many fields and endeavours.

An infamous moment:
- Some may say that our copybook was in fact blotted, by an incident that took place in 1870 when one Mr J Forsyth was appointed as Head Teacher. The incident was reported in this way in the Adelaide Chronicle of 1933:
“I can tell you of the rare old shindy which attended the coming into existence of the Riverton Primary School. The teacher was a man who knew what his rights were and how to stick up for them. He was a big fat fellow who failed to hit it off with the local authorities. There was a good deal of bickering and the Master was invited to retire. He rolled up his sleeves and invited those who favoured his retirement to come along and have it out. The old master was like a giant besieged in his castle. The teacher sent up to oust the irate defier of the world was none other than the late Inspector Mitten.”

- Mr Forsyth held out for over twelve months despite legal proceedings, which it is said cost the District Council over £100. Eventually, in March 1873 Mr Forsyth was capitulated, and Mr O B Whillas was appointed in his stead.

**Collective memories:**
- In looking through records held here at the school and at the Local history centre, and in the conversations and writings of those who have been involved with Riverton Primary School, there is a wealth of information, and with it some common threads. These include:
  - A great sense of having had an enriching, memorable and enjoyable time being educated here, even those who were under the tutelage of some very strict masters
  - A strong sense of community involvement and support
  - It being a small and friendly school
  - Having very fond memories

- Specific things that old scholars have recalled include:
  - Coming to school on a pony
  - Saluting the flag
  - Collecting metal for the school patriotic fund
  - Eating monkey nuts
  - The smell of the pepper tree at the front of the school
  - School milk
  - Concerts
  - Camps, especially the Kangaroo Island Camp that was first introduced in 1972
  - Music
  - Particular headmasters and teachers rated mention, for various reasons
  - Mrs Duldig featured in many people’s memories
  - The fife band
Recent times:
• Over the years, there have been many improvements to education, and, at times, some may say, some steps backwards.
• The staffing of schools has improved dramatically, with smaller class sizes, and many more support hours available.
• Special programmes have been introduced to cater for the diverse needs of our students
• Local management of schools was introduced in 2000, which has enabled us to develop programmes and facilities to meet our needs, assisted by greater autonomy over our finances
• OHS&W has become an everyday consideration
• Information and Communication Technology is integral to the work of staff and students
• We have policies for everything
• Mr Quentin Hornhardt was principal from 1975 –1999. He recalls:
  o Many improvements to facilities including the procurement and locating of the activity room, staff room, Japanese Room and the purchase of the now vacant block at 23 Swinden Street
  o The increase of student voice through the SRC
  o The introduction of the Ticket of Leave programme, and also the Interstate Mate competition

The present:
• 2006 has indeed been a busy year in terms of facilities. We have taken delivery of a new dual classroom, and had what was once the library demolished. The storm water, plumbing and drainage have all been fixed (no more flooding) and new asphalt and paving laid. The entire school will be recarpeted, repainted and new pinup boards have been installed in every classroom. The school presents very nicely.
• Our students continue to have success in many ways, such as:
  o Sport: winning the SAPSASA swimming
o Winning the state ANZAC Day award in 2004 and 2006 and coming 2nd in 2005
o Students gaining individual recognition in a variety of competitions such as the Max Fatchen poetry competition and the MFS fire safety poster competition
o Student leadership is promoted through SRC, Magazine Committee, CUTE (Clean Up The Environment)

- Our school priorities are in the areas of literacy and numeracy, but also in well being and engagement. The Fit2Play is one example of our commitment to engagement and well being
- Camps, excursions and sport are an important part of our curriculum
- We continue to be strongly supported by our community. Our Governing Council and P&F are active participants in school activities and decision making
- We have 160 students, 7 classes, and 25 staff working full and part time in both teaching and non-teaching roles. Our staff are committed, enthusiastic and professional and work in the best interests of the children
- Our school value is respect, and this is reflected in all that we do.

**STAFF 2006**

Principal: Mrs Jackie Cox
Teaching Staff: Mrs Corinna Wilson Reception
Mrs Margery Robertson Year 1
Mrs Jacqui Schulz Year 1
Mrs Jane Klaebe Year 2
Mrs Kathy Cluse Year 2
Mrs Sarah Bastian Year 3
Mr Andrew Ireland Year 4/5
Mrs Kaye McInerney Year 5/6
Mr Gary Wilson Year 6/7
Mrs Bev Hannaford Librarian
Mrs Cath Greenslade NIT
Mrs Jan Kuhlmann Japanese
Mrs Sue Puccetti Music
Mrs Nola Branson Music
Mrs Jeannette Graham TRT
Non-Teaching Staff  Mrs Mandy Clark   Finance
Mrs Juliane Schiller   SSO
Mrs Lesley Allen   SSO
Mrs Therese Busch   SSO
Mr Andrew Mickan   Groundsman
Mr Jim Outram    ICT Support

Cleaner   Ms Anne Betts

GOVERNING COUNCIL 2006

Chairperson  Mrs Helen Day
Vice Chairperson  Mr Richard Jordan
Secretary  Mrs Jenni Redden
Treasurer  Mrs Sue Tucker
Committee  Mr Terry McKeough
           Mr Alan Hartwell
           Mrs Michelle Kernich
           Mr John Rohde
Staff Representative  Mrs Kaye McInerney
Principal  Mrs Jackie Cox

PARENTS AND FRIENDS 2006

President  Ms Karen Michalanney
Vice President  Mrs Michelle Kernich
Secretary  Mrs Kristen Griffiths
Treasurer  Mrs Lizzie Wigney
Governing Council Rep  Mrs Michelle Kernich
Grounds Committee Rep  Mrs Leanne Griffiths
Uniform Coordinator  Mrs Susan Fuss