



Year 4/5 Artwork, 1981

The 1981 MDCS school year started with 63 children (prep to Year 8), and a new classroom. Mr. John Maguire joined Hilary Roath and Ian Ridgeway as a class teacher. In 1982, the school population rose to 95, and Mr. Terry Hunter joined the staff as the Year 5/6 teacher. The school also enjoyed the help of Mrs. Elizabeth Ridgway, Mrs.

Heather Gannon and Mr. Alan McIntosh in various specialist areas. Mrs. Ruth McIntosh continued to volunteer countless hours of work as a classroom helper.

Reading through the newsletters of 1981 and 1982, it becomes abundantly clear that the MDCS parents and association members played a vital role in the life of the school. Before school began in 1981, parents helped with the building, cleaning, painting and furnishing of the new year 6-8 classroom (yes, the same one that fell off the back of the truck at the end of 1980).

Almost every week, the newsletter included expressions of thanks to the many parents who continued to donate services and items to the school. The following are a few excerpts:

- "The staff has been encouraged by many words of encouragement and acts of kindness from various parents during our first two weeks..."
- "Thank you to the those mums who have volunteered as Yard Duty attendants"
- "We would like to thank the O'Hagan family for the excellent curtains that have been made and fitted to the years 6-8 room."
- "Our thanks go to Edward Halse for his extensive planting tree work and his mowing of our lawn."
- "Our thanks go to Peter Wong for our appearance in the Melways No.14 road map (see map 123: H,8)".



In 1982, Shirley Faravoni, Nell Caldwell, Liz Ridgway, Annette Stone and Carole Darby, headed up an extremely active year of "Mothers and Others". The team of parents raised \$2708.11 for the school, which was used to purchase needed items such as an incinerator, fordigraph, wall unit, dresser, hand dryers, photocopier and school badges amongst other items.

While there were no building works in 1981, two new classrooms were constructed over the Christmas and New Year break. These are the current VCE classrooms. John Kulk, Alan McIntosh and Alex Hedderwick, all parents from the school, made significant contributions to this project. By the end of 1982, there was more building news, with the announcement of a federal grant for two more classrooms (currently rooms 1 & 2) to be built in 1983.



Staff/Parent vs Pupil's cricket match, 1982