

AVONDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A. SCHOOL NUMBER, NAME, DATE OF OFFICAL OPENING

State School Number 4812. Avondale Heights.
Officially opened Friday, 4th October, 1963 at 2.00pm by the Hon J.S. Bloomfield M.L.A., Minister of Education.

B. PEOPLE BEHIND THE MOVE

In 1956 a Miss McKenna advised Mrs M.J. Carter of 21 Robson Avenue, Avondale Heights to contact Mr A.E. Shepherd M.L.A. for advice and assistance in the matter of establishing a school in the area.

In April 1956, Mrs Carter supplied Mr A. E. Shepherd with the names of 23 children who lived in the district.

Mr Shepherd wrote to Mrs Carter on 11th April 1956, advising that land had been reserved for a school and that the name Avondale had been decided upon.

On 7th May 1956, the Hon. Minister of Education John Bloomfield wrote to the Hon A.E. Shepherd advising that a site for the establishment of a school had been reserved in the Planning Scheme of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and that the District Inspector asked to furnish a report and recommendation as to when the school buildings are likely to be necessary. The District Inspector was Mr H. Burley.

The Secretary of the Education Department (Mr W.T. Place) wrote to the Hon A.E. Shepherd on the 15th August 1956, advising that the site had been reserved for the Avondale School but that the school was not required immediately and consideration would be given to the erection of a 4 classroom unit when the building program for the next financial year is being considered.

In 1959 the present 5 acre site was acquired by the education Department and in July 1960 the contract was let for an eight classroom building of concrete veneer on a timber frame.

The cost of the building was to be £27,900.0.0 with extras blinds, heating, furniture etc. the total cost would be £45,000.0.0.

C. OWNERS OF ORIGINAL SITE

Avondale Heights area was originally know as Maribyrnong West. It was part of the Avondale Estate which was subdivided in the late 1920's by the Avondale Estate Company.

The school site was always Crown Land, being part of Crown Allotment 1., Section 10., Parish of Doutta Galla, Country of Burke.

The land opposite the school was purchased from Reid Murray – Land Transfer dated, April, 1961.

D. DATE OF OPENING

The first pupils were received on the 7th February, 1961. These were mainly pupils who had previously been attending Maribyrnong State School.

E. ORIGINAL HEAD TEACHER AND STAFF

William C.V. Bennett – Head Teacher

F.T. Kane

A.A. Burgess

G.F. Nixon

J. Gordon.

Miss J. Addison

M.S. Mercer

Miss R. Sheather

Miss M. Mercer

Miss B. Hudson

F. ORIGINAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

Cr D.W. Wilson

SECRETARY

Mr C.J. Mutton

TREASURER

Mr C. Braithwaite

Mrs O'Hagon

Mrs F. Carter

Mrs Bos

Mr F. Carter

Mr Kerr

Mr Scott

Mr Neild

G. STAGES OF BUILDERS

- i. First 8 classrooms, office, staffrooms, sick bay, commenced late 1960. Tender let to Mr J.J. Marr & Sons, South Street, Glenroy is July 1960.
- ii. Six additional classrooms built in early 1963. A.W. Jennings Construction Co Pty Ltd received the tender. School enrolment 460 pupils with a staff of 14 teachers.
- iii. Three portable classrooms from site of Milleara State School plus one science room erected to accommodate Keilor Heights High School from February 1968 to December 1968.
- iv. Eight new classrooms commenced August 1968, builders, Consolidated Home Industries Ltd. Cost.

H. ESTABLISHMENT OF CANTEEN

Canteen started with Capital of £5.0.0. Mrs Davis and Mrs Kaufmann aided by voluntary helpers started outing lunches for children on Mondays and Friday in April, 1961 in the Men's' Staffroom.

Chips and drinks were sold from the storeroom, between the toilets during lunch hour on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Mrs Gillespie was asked to take charge in November 1961.

Canteen building was built in 1964 and a paid Manageress was employed. Mrs Williams took over the management in 1966.

In February 1969, Mr R. Kenyon became Canteen Manager.

I. MOTHERS CLUB

Mrs Guy, President of Avondale Heights Progress Association chaired a meeting to form a Mothers Club for the school on the 6th April, 1959.

Elected were:	PRESIDENT	<i>Mrs O'Brien</i>
	TREASURER	<i>Mrs Smith</i>
	SECRETARY	<i>Mrs Lyons</i>
	ASSITANT SECRETARY	<i>Mrs Bedalla</i>

Members were: Mesdames – Bos, Rush, Neil, Hinely, Hillabrand, Kelly, Pollock, Carter, Riddley, Maris, Dawson, O'Hagen.

The Mothers Club was active in highlighting the need for a school in the area, and in raising money to have in hand when the school would be established. Bank balance on the 20th February, 1961 - £221.15.8.

The most notable feature of the school has been the rapid rise in enrolments. In 1967 the enrolments rose to approximately 900 pupils. Some 250 of these were transferred to S. S. Milleara when it was opened in 1968. Present enrolment (1969) is 760 pupils.

J. PRINCIPALS APPOINTMENTS

February 1961	Mr William Charles Bennett
February 1966	Mr Walter Robert Deakin
February 1968	Mr John Patrick Lorenz.
February 1979	Mr John Frederick Isles
February 1985	Ms Nola Therese Kennett
January 1993	Ms Kathleen St Clair Chapman
September 1996	Mrs Margaret Bailey
January 2001	Mr Paul Malcolm Mulroyan

Enrolments by Year

Year	February Enrolment
1961	343
1962	362
1963	367
1964	560
1965	637
1966	761
1967	890
1968	650
1969	756
1970	795
1971	848
1972	915
1973	935
1974	968
1975	947
1976	856
1977	816
1978	721
1979	627
1980	556
1981	519
1982	459
1983	415
1984	372
1985	319
1986	293
1987	244
1988	214
1989	194
1990	186
1991	174
1992	184
1993	162
1994	179
1995	170
1996	157
1997	143
1998	156
1999	173
2000	178
2001	206
2002	212
2003	226
2004	234
2005	252
2006	261
2007	289