WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL
ALTONA PRIMARY SCHOOL
CENTENARY GAZETTE

Altona Primary School is honoured to reach its milestone of one hundred years. This significant milestone will bring our community of the past, present and future together. Recording and preserving the history and story of Altona Primary School and sharing experiences, will enrich the lives of our school community and shape the direction of the school’s future.

**Past** – Learning about our history and what schooling was like through the eyes of the wider community.

**Present** – Showcasing how children learn today, sharing changes to our school through the decades.

**Future** – Bringing the past and the present together to shape our future.

This Gazette will be a key link to the array of celebratory events, history, how you can get involved or be part of the celebrations and key dates that will take place throughout the year to commemorate our 100 years, culminating with a week of celebrations from 19th to 24th October 2015. The Gazette will be published at various times throughout the year via our website [http://altonaps.vic.edu.au](http://altonaps.vic.edu.au) to keep you informed and up to date.

It is an absolute privilege for current staff and students to be a part of this centenary year and we warmly invite past students, families and anyone connected to APS to join us, be part of and share in our celebrations.
In conjunction with celebrating our 100 years we would like to commemorate this auspicious milestone with the building of a brand new customised Centenary Playground for the Altona Primary School students of the present and of the future.

In 2014 an APS staff playground committee was formed whose role was to investigate the possibility of bringing this idea to fruition.

The committee surveyed the students, gathered their thoughts and ideas on what they would love to see in their playground. Taking all these ideas into consideration the committee went about the logistical aspects of bringing their ideas to life. This incorporated key elements such as design, quotes and location of the playground.

After these investigations it became apparent that our idea could become an exciting reality, therefore in collaboration with our wonderful Friends and Family committee and the wider school community all fund raising efforts for this year will go towards making this a dream come true for our children. The proposed time frame is that the playground could be built by term 3 ready for an official opening during our Centenary week in October.

As we did not want to impinge on our beautiful expansive grounds, the playground will be built at the front of the school. It will be positioned in front of the rotunda in current unused space, extending to the front fence line where a new high secure fence will enclose the area.

*It is with delight we present the Altona Primary School Centenary Playground.....*
Thursday 19th March 2015

As part of our Centenary Year Celebrations and to raise funds for our planned New Centenary Playground, Altona Primary School is hosting a sponsored ‘Muddy Madness’ fundraising event to take place Thursday 19th March. Add this date to your calendar as it will be one of the major events of this very special year.

The fundraising event “Altona Muddy Madness” is a ‘Tough Mudder’ style obstacle course set around the school grounds. It will be a fun filled event where the participants are guaranteed to get wet, dirty and have lots of laughs. Students of Altona Primary School will be asked to seek sponsorship for their participation in the event.

The obstacles will be of varying difficulty to meet the needs of all our ages from Prep-6, however it is designed to be challenging and for the students to test themselves.

On the day of the event we will be opening the course to our parents, staff, community members and sponsors to take on the Altona Muddy Madness challenge, so everyone can be involved.
Our journey so far…….

With this significant milestone pending, a Centenary committee and Staff focus groups were formed and so the work began….

**Centenary Afternoon tea.**
On 27th August 2014 we hosted an afternoon tea for the pre-1950s era, which was attended by over 80 past students who came together to relive and share their memories of life Altona Primary school over the decades. Many of these ladies and gentlemen attended the school going back to the 1930’s, 40’s and 50’s. A highlight of the day as we gathered with one of our past students, who is now in her 90’s listening to her re-tell her stories. The feeling on this day is hard to describe, friends reunited and stepped back in time as the stories were retold. Our students recorded many of these wonderful stories to capture the essence of what school was like all these years ago – my how things have changed!
This was a highly successful and uplifting afternoon for all involved.

![Centenary Afternoon tea](image1.jpg)

**ANZAC Centenary Local Grant**
A member of our school community, Kathie Karapaladis, applied for and secured a substantive grant for the production of a DVD which will encapsulate our connection to the ANZACs and our year of Centenary celebrations. Joanne Mathrick, a teacher for many years at Altona Primary School, has collated a comprehensive history of our connections to the ANZACS and the history of Altona Primary School.
Images, memorabilia and stories are being collected from people whose families have been part of the school for generations. These will be compiled and presented in the DVD and as a written history for students to use during the Centennial year.
Centenary Launch Assembly

On Monday 9th of February the whole school community gathered to mark the launch of the Centenary celebrations. Coincidently in 2015 we have exactly 100 Prep students who together with 5/6 students simultaneously released 100 purple and yellow balloons to begin the celebrations. All grades across the school took a step back in time to visualise and record what school may have been like 100 years ago. Students from each year level shared some of their thoughts and it was a delight to see several students dressed in period clothing.

Watch this space......
Before your eyes the front of our school is currently being transformed to incorporate a magnificent mural of our specially designed Centenary Logo.
## Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Muddy Madness 1:00pm – 3:15pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September | Centenary Concert  
Melbourne Exhibition Centre 7:00pm |

## CENTENARY WEEK

*Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015*  
Everyone is Welcome to join us

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October | **Official Opening Ceremony**  
Display areas will be open throughout the school 1:30pm-3:30pm |
| Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October   | **Celebrating the lives of past students**  
"Where are they now"  
Display areas will be open throughout the school 1:30pm-3:30pm |
| Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October | **Back in Time**  
Staff and students will dress in old school costumes and experience “going back in time”.  
Whole school Assembly  
Display areas will be open throughout the school 1:30pm-3:30pm |
| Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October | **Rotational Activities**  
Reunion afternoon / evening  
Under 18s  
Adults  
More details to follow  
Display areas will be open throughout the school 1:30pm-3:30pm |
| Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October | **Closing Ceremony**  
Including burial Time capsule  
Display areas will be open throughout the school 1:30pm-3:30pm |
| Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October | **Open day 10am – 1pm**  
Display areas will be open throughout the school 1:30pm-3:30pm |
Dates to remember

SAVE THE DATE

REUNION 2015
OCTOBER 22nd

UNDER 18’S 5:30-7:00PM  ADULTS 7:30-9:30PM

SCHOOL UNIFORMS 1915

As part of our centenary celebrations in Term 3, we will be having a ‘Back in Time’ day. On this day, we are encouraging all current students and staff to wear something that would have been worn to school at APS in 1915.

2015 PLANNED EVENTS

Muddy Madness
Centenary Playground
Creation and Burial of Time Capsule
Creation of named brick Centenary path
Centenary whole school photo — Students and staff in a 100 formation this will be for sale
A full Centenary Week of Celebrations
Production of ANZAC & Centenary DVD
Creation of Centenary Mosaic Wall
Creation of a historical Time-line Mural
Centenary Concert – 17th September 2015
Altona is a quiet bayside suburb of Melbourne, that until fairly recently has been a quiet little seaside town, hidden from the hustle and bustle of everyday life of the surrounding and ever expanding suburbs. Throughout its history Altona has been the home to the clans of the Bunurong people and after the arrival of Europeans as early as the 1830’s, stock graziers, hay growers, dairy farmers and even miners searching for brown coal.

In 1914, two weeks before the first World War was declared, Ann Fleming, an experienced kindergarten and Church of England Sunday school teacher from Williamstown and her husband, Lawrence Fleming moved to Altona, with their four children, aged seven years to six months, (another two were born in Altona), taking up residence in their Blyth Street home, built by a fisherman in 1895. In 1914, Altona consisted of 11 houses and a population of 20.

After the Flemings had been in Altona for seven months other families began moving into the area.

Prior to 1914 any children living in the Altona area would have had to either attend the Laverton School or North Williamstown State School No. 1409. The oldest school in the Altona area is the Laverton Primary School (No. 2857) which at the request of the residents of that township was opened on 4/10/1887 in a church hall, with Elizabeth Strahan in charge of 46 pupils.

The Flemings were civic minded leaders who established much needed community services in the young settlement. Ann and Lawrence saw the need for a school in Altona, as the children would have to travel miles for their education. Mr. Fleming approached the Education Department with a request for an Altona school. He was advised that if there were 1 4 school age children and a suitable building available a school would be opened. A census of the children revealed 13 of school age. Mr. and Mrs. Fleming decided to erect a building suitable for a school. They built a 30' x 1 1'6" weatherboard building in their backyard to the Education Department's specifications and after some adaptations, it was approved by the Education Department inspector in October.

The Flemings came to an agreement with the State government for the large shed to be used as Altona's first primary school and the contract was signed on 27/10/1915. The first teacher, a young lady, was Miss Christina Bavington who boarded at the Fleming’s home. Classes began under Miss Christina Bavington in November 1915 with just eleven children. They included John Fleming, who was not yet four but was required to make up numbers. In 2015 we have our own Miss Christina who looks after 25 of our wonderful Prep children.
We had a see-saw under a big gum tree and we could jump out of the tree and send someone high into the air that was sitting on the see-saw! We would get ½ pint of milk everyday but it was always left outside so was usually warm when we got to drink it at playtime.

Preps were called “Bubs”.

In grade 6 we used to write with ink and a nib or a fountain pen. Before that in earlier grades you used a black pencil.

We learnt to swim at the end of the Altona Pier; A leather belt was put around our waist and which was held by a rope by the teacher, we had to swim 25 yards to get our “Herald” certificates.

Ron 1955-1960

One of the main things I remember was the Headmaster calling us into the Assembly in the morning and getting us to sing “God Save the King” then telling us that the War was over, and we could go home for the day. We all cheered and raced out of school not realising the significance of the occasion.

I loved having lunch nearly every day with Nan (Norah Twentyman) who was the caretaker of the original “homestead” in the park opposite the pier.

My favourite games were marbles, Tunnel ball, cricket and a game called Branders (Dodging a ball).
If we did anything wrong our punishment was either the leather strap or a ruler

Roger Blair – 1940’s

Teachers she remembers fondly are Mrs. Logan, Mrs Ryan and Mrs Ferrant who she had for 2 or 3 years and who spoilt her. One of Lynette’s jobs was to collect flowers that the Mothers Club brought in and she would choose a friend to head down to the local hospital in Queens Street to deliver to mothers of new born babies. Another of Lynette’s jobs was to make the morning and afternoon teas for teachers she would lay out the cups and saucers, fill the sugar bowls and milk jugs.
Lynette also remembers that it snowed in Altona one year.

Lynette 1950’s
We need support with a whole variety of tasks and would love your help:

- We are seeking any members of the community that can assist us in **sewing** a number of full length A-line, adult size vintage skirts for female staff to wear on the dress up day. The school will provide the fabric if you can donate your time.
- We need help to **scan, file and organise** boxes of photographs we have in storage, so that we can display and carefully archive all of our precious history.
- We need “**handy-people**” who can help us make some “olde” toys, and or games.
- **Carpenters** who can help us with creating portable display boards.
- **Honour Board** – we are missing information on who was Principal between 1924-1930 can you help?
- **Security** - We need experienced security personal for the upcoming reunions. If you, or someone you know is in the security industry, and are available to work on October 22nd 2015 please contact us.
- **Photos** – If you attend any of the events during the year we would really appreciate a copy (on a USB) of photos you take for us to use in our various displays.

*If you can help us with any of these requests please contact the school as soon as possible – thank you*
Acknowledgements

We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the following people:

Peter Weaver, Jim Hervey and Ann Cassar – Altona Historical Society

Peter Weaver – Barlow McEwan Tribe, advertising boards and historical knowledge.

John Butler – Historical time-line mural.

Kathie Karapalidis – ANZAC Centenary Local Grant and Hobson’s Bay Community Grant

Greg Milne – Research and linking local history

Rod Verwoert – design of all Centenary artwork

Hobson’s Bay City Council – Hobson’s Bay Community Grant

Daniel Bonnici – for his on-going carpentry contributions

Centenary Committee & Altona Primary School Staff