



Former students Marj Staggard and her father Vic Meade check out school memorabilia. While Marj attended the school from 1961, Vic was a pupil in the 1930s before leaving school at 13 to go milking on Jim Don's dairy farm.



School business manager Kerry McGlade with Fred Wilson, who was a student in the late 1930s/early 1940s.



Strong family interest and involvement: Current school council member Trevor Clarke (back, left) and sons Matthew, Bailey and Ashley have all enjoyed/are still enjoying the school environment while older members of the Clarke family, Betty Giblett (front, left), Johannah Clarke and Peter Clarke took the opportunity to visit the 150th celebrations and learn more about the school.



150 PRIMARY REASONS TO CELEBRATE OUR SCHOOL

Wayne Robertson was a wonderful choice to speak at Cobden Primary School's recent 150th celebrations. He is just one of many former students to excel in their chosen careers, sports and, even more importantly, in their contribution to family and community.

Recalling his primary school days, Wayne appreciated the opportunity to present to the gathering because it brought back many fond memories.

He reflected on the camps to Sherbrook River (grade 4), Port Fairy (grade 5) and Halls Gap (grade 6), and how important those activities were to the development of young people – back thirty years ago and, still, today.

"The beauty of a primary school in a community like Cobden is that often a parent and one of their children will be taught by the same teacher. This is the case with Henry and me both being taught by Mrs Langley . . . and you, Mrs Langley, haven't aged one bit!" Wayne said, with the trademark grin.

"Your primary school years are the best years of life . . . where lifelong friendships are formed. Some of my current friends were my class mates back then and, now, Henry and Jonty are forming the same friendship groups. As a parent, I'm not sure whether I need to be concerned or not," he joked.

"Remarkably, the schoolyard games of cricket, football, poison ball, downball and chasey have not changed over many generations. Even in this world of continual change . . . some things don't. We can be thankful for that.

"Congratulations to Cobden Primary School on their 150 years celebration. As a former student and, now, a parent I can testify as to what a wonderful school we have in our community, a school that is well-supported by dedicated teachers, a hardworking council and a parent committee."

Did you know?

One of the oldest living former primary school students is Cobden's Sheila Power. Sheila was in the same year level as Joyce Roberts and Marj Rankin but it is believed Kath (Boyle) Trotter of Timboon holds the 'oldest living' honour – at the grand old age of 97.

Former student Owen Chivell (right), was an interested returnee. He attended Cobden for a mere six months after the Jancourt East school closed down. Owen continued his education at Cobden Technical School.



Carmel (Blake) Merrett is pictured, left, with husband Michael who attended the Cobden school from grade 3 in 1957 and taught there between 1976 and 1986. With the Merretts are grandson Oberon Rothman (5) and staff member Cathy Dendle. Carmel actually attended the old Elingamite school but visited Cobden for sport days, and Oberon's mum Sarah was a star Cobden pupil in the 1990s.



Dianne Dove (right) was the only one of Keith and Marg Brittain's family to do all her primary schooling at Cobden. She now lives in Bendigo.

**Winners
are
Grinners**



A very happy Glenda Drewry won a Ritchies IGA hamper on the night of the recent pre-Christmas shopping event. Glenda's purchase in Martin's Home Timber and Hardware earned her the lucky ticket.

COBDEN CALENDAR

Cobden Christmas Church Services:
Christmas Eve: 6pm St Brendan's Catholic Church
 7.30pm Uniting Church
Christmas Day: 9am Uniting Church
 9.30am St Mary's Anglican Church
 10am Christian Reformed Church
New Year's Eve: From 5.30pm at Miniature Railway Park

~ Connecting Cobden ~ A Progressing Cobden Twenty20 Vision Project.
 Websites: cobden.org.au, cobdenbusinessnetwork.org.au,
 cobdenspringfestival.com.au. Facebook: Cobden Community.
 Registered email: community@cobden.org.au.



*Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
to all our readers from the
Connecting Cobden Team*