



# Dwellingup Primary School Centenary 1911-2011



- 1910** With the construction of a series of timber mills in the district area (including Marrinup, Dwellingup, Holyoake and Jarrahdale), the need for schools became apparent. At Dwellingup the manager of the Government Mill, Mr. W. G. Thomas, placed an application for a school to be constructed near the mill.
- 1911** On 18th February a contract was let to a Mr. H. W. Doubekin to construct a tent school on Lot 108 of the Dwellingup town site at a cost of \$100/-/-. A timber frame was covered with canvas and the roof was constructed of corrugated iron. The building was completed on 14th April and on the 23rd June Miss Mollie Brady opened the school with an enrolment of 14 boys and 17 girls.
- 1912** With school enrolments rising to 55, the need for a new building became urgent. On 22nd February a contract was let to Mr. W. T. Deeble to construct a new school of timber construction to replace the tent school at the cost of \$395/18/7. On 5th August the project was complete and Mr. Stephen Wallace became headmaster.
- 1914** A second classroom was constructed and completed on 21st February.
- 1952** The Hakea Bush Camp School was transported to the Dwellingup site to serve as a third classroom at a cost of \$750. The room was occupied from 28th July and septic tanks were installed by local contractors in September.
- 1961** On 24th January a major bush fire destroyed the principal's quarters along with a 1000 gallon tank, 22 library books and several of the school records. Elsewhere in the town the police station, railway station, station master's residence, hospital, doctor's residence and numerous houses were destroyed. As part of a major rebuilding programme in the town a principal's house was constructed, which was connected to the school as teachers quarters.
- 1964** With the closing of Banksiadale School and relocation of staff and housing to Dwellingup, overcrowding intensified.
- 1966** The first stage of the new school comprising of three classrooms and toilets was opened. A school bus service operated at this time carrying 15 children. The new school was fully opened by the Minister for Education (Mr. E. Lewis) on 5th May at 2.00pm. The old school was dismantled.
- 1978** A new transportable classroom was opened as the pre-primary centre opposite the school. The old centre in Wallace Road was extensively damaged by Cyclone Albie.
- 1979** Enrolment reached 130 students and 6 teachers. The former principal's house was purchased by the P&C. It has been used as a classroom, music room and artroom. The playgroup currently uses it.
- 2011** New Early Childhood Education Centre, comprising of two classrooms, kitchen and toilet opened. Old classroom was transported to Geraldton. Celebrations held to commemorate 50 years since the 1961 Bush fires which destroyed most of the town, and 100 years of the opening of the school.