



# Collinsvale Primary School

## A Great Little School

# Schooldays way back when

## In brief

COLLINSVALE Primary is a small school of 67 pupils that takes pride in its history, community involvement and many varied achievements.

The school is set high in the foothills of Mt Wellington and enjoys spectacular scenery, including snow at times!

The school opened in 1877 and many generations of Collinsvale children have begun their education here.

One of the first families to settle in Collinsvale, then known as Sorell Creek, were the Appeldorffs. They came from Denmark on a ship called the Eugenie in 1872.

Their youngest granddaughter, Gwendolynne (now Gwen Pridmore), has lived here for most of her life and has written several books on early Collinsvale.

Gwen takes an active interest in the community, including the school. We invited her along and asked her about school life in early Collinsvale.

**How long ago did you go to Collinsvale School?**

Well, I must have started school here in about 1921 or '22 and I went there for quite a long time. Then we went into town where I went to Elizabeth St School for a little while but I didn't like Elizabeth St much [so] I came back here a

couple of years later and I felt as if I was at home again.

**Who was the principal when you were here?**

Oh, the first one would have been Major Anderson. I don't think I went to school with Major Anderson but he came here after the First World War and he was very much liked.

And then after that, there was Mrs Daniels and she was very, very hard on us and she used to give the cane a lot. We didn't like that very much.

**How many children were at the school?**

About 70 I think; 70 or 80. There was quite a few more because all these two rooms were one big room and everybody was in the same room.

**How were the classes arranged?**

Well, it just depended on how many children there were at the school at the time, but there'd be perhaps five or six in a class. Often the little ones would be in a class together for something they could combine the subject in and then there'd be a 3 and 4. Then 5 and 6 would often work together.

**Did you ever go on excursions?**

No, I don't think we ever went on excursions. Because, you see, there was no transport. People didn't have buses and

things like they've got now.

**Were some of the teachers nice?**

Oh yes, we loved some of them very much. They were very strict but we had some very nice teachers.

**How were you punished if you misbehaved?**

Well, I got the cane for just talking. And most of the teachers would keep you in after school and you might have to write out 100 words or something like that or stay in at lunchtime or dinnertime when you wanted to go out and play and just things like that.

But some of the boys used to be pretty naughty and they used to get five or six cuts of the cane, and that really was terrible because their poor hands would swell up.

**What kind of work did you do in school?**

The main things, of course, were reading, writing and arithmetic. But we also had geography and history. It was mostly English history of course in those days; we didn't have the Australian history that we've got now or other countries.

Writing was very important. We had a copybook and you had to do very good copywriting and right from when you were very little you did



**COLLINSVALE KIDS:** Back row, from left, Joshua Olney, Mrs Gwen Pridmore, Emma-Lisa Farrell; at front, Rebecca Direen, Sophie Brennan, Ebonnie Swain.

cursive writing, not printing like you do.

**What did you write with?**

You started with a pencil and then a pen and ink. You had an ink well on the desks and, of course, you'd get blotches on the paper. Also, we'd have to scrub the desks. At the end of the term, you'd take all the desks outside there and scrub them with sandsoap and it was so hard to get the ink

spots off and we'd scrub and scrub to get it off.

**Did you have a school uniform?**

No, we didn't have any school uniforms; we just wore whatever we had. The girls all wore skirts in those days — you never saw girls in trousers. And the boys had short pants too mostly. And they didn't have such good footwear as you have.

# Leeches, water snails and much more

THE Grade 3-6 class went on an excursion late in Term 1 to follow Sorell Creek from its source down to where it empties into the Derwent River.

We wanted to learn about our local creek and the macro-invertebrates that live in it.

Sorell Creek starts high in the Wellington Range above Collinsvale. After catching the bus to the Myrtle Forest we walked up the Wellington Track for half an hour or so.

We found some interesting bugs at the first site which was very close to the source. Some of them included a mountain shrimp (*Anaspides*), a stonefly, a water snail and a leech.

Annie Beecroft and Lisa Scarvellus, who work with Waterwatch, came to help us

with some water testing. We took the temperature of the water there; it was 6.6°.

Our second stop was at the bridge at Collinsvale. We tested the water again. It was a bit warmer because it was further down the mountain.

We also noticed that humans had made an impact on the environment here; blackberries were growing beside the creek and we could see some litter.

Next we went to Molesworth where we again tested the water and looked for bugs. Finally, we went to the Derwent and watched the water slowly flow into it.

Back at school, scientist John Gooderham, co-author of *The Waterbug Book*, visited us and showed us some interesting slides.



**WATER SCIENCE:** Students looking for macroinvertebrates on the Sorell Creek to Derwent excursion.

## On site

COLLINSVALE Primary's website — [www.collinsvale.tased.edu.au](http://www.collinsvale.tased.edu.au) — is filled with fun and facts.

Students use the website to access activities and information about the topics they are studying.

It also has information on the school, about community involvement and also the school's snow policy for when it snows.

There are changing pictures of the three classes, about excursions and children's work.

There is also a section about the library.

● This page was produced by the Grade 3-6 class at Collinsvale Primary School.

**Adopt a Patch**

COLLINSVALE Primary adopted a patch of land on the edge of the bush near the Collinsvale War Memorial Hall in 2001. With the help of Greening Australia we planted many native trees and look after them. It has been hard work because we have been trying to get rid of the blackberries and the Spanish heath.

**Student Council**

THE SRC has been running since 2001 and although we had a few difficulties getting started we have time to do some good things at our school. The council normally helps by representing the students at meetings. The SRC has just organised a Crazy Hair and Face Painting Day and a Jeans For Genes Day, which raised \$53.40.

**Book tokens**

THIS year we are again collecting book tokens from *The Mercury*.

The first week we got 100 tokens and the second week we got 123. Every week we draw some lucky tokens out of the box. Two people from each class get a prize.

The prize is a voucher worth 50 cents to spend at the school canteen. Last year we earned about 60 books as part of the newspaper's Books for Schools promotion.

**Great foyer**

OVER the last year the children at Collinsvale Primary School have been working on hand-painting some ceramic tiles for the school foyer. Many of the tiles depict animals and plants found in the valley. Parent Denise Gardner organised and helped us with this project. The tiles were put down on the floor in the middle of second term and they look fantastic.

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Written and Authorised by Michael Aird MLC, Parliament House, Hobart

**Collinsvale School**

**COLLINSVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

508 COLLINSVALE RD  
COLLINSVALE 7012  
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