

Korong Vale 3520
June 23rd 1969,

I started school in 1895 at Rheola State School No 1059.
Miss Chappel was the teacher when she left Miss Irvine came she was there for about 2 years & was then taken over by Miss Margaret Lyell she stayed there about 6 or 7 years.
Miss Lyell turned out some very clever pupils.

Mr John Gunn of William Gunn family he was Premier of South Australia. He then came back to Victoria & was Director of Development in Victoria. There was 60 children attending school in those days Miss Ruby Gatto was monitorress & assisted by Victor Jorath. The McDonald, Collins, and Shanassy families had to walk to school from Jericho & Jordan & be there in time for school. Kerrisel family had the same distance. In my days Mr Stevens Miss Ryan Miss Stapleton & John Jeardale came as teachers. Mr. C. Lyle came after him I left school in

Mr Teasdale's time I still have my standard certificate & several prizes I got in Miss Lyell term & Mr Thomas Botherowd was the Inspector.

The Boer War was in Miss Lyell time. They made the children march to welcome home from the South African war two of the Rheola Soldiers Arthur Tonility and John Greives.

When it was the relief of Mafeking in that war we built a big bon fire on the top of Tyers hill & we had to march at night with torches a long stick with long wrapped around top end & dipped in cold tar each child carried a torch up the hill at night & we set fire to the big heap of bushes & we had a made up man called the ^{Pau Berger} Koster & he was burnt up. There were fire works too it was a great show.

A pepper tree in south corner of school ground was planted in memory of Constable G. Hornibrook who was killed over a fence on side track coming from duty at Logan one dark night horse jumped the fence & threw him he never regained consciousness some of his family

live at Casterton Western district

Mrs Tomlin was school cleaner for many years, her house was burnt down while she was at church one Sunday night.

There was a .44 oz nugget of gold found when block holes were being dug for the shelter shed, much of the school yard was turned over but no more gold was found. Four or five big boys got leave for six weeks to cut grapes & make wine each year at Mr Lewellyn Goraths vine yard 12 acres.

We had many concerts in the school at Xmas & a Xmas tree & dances in aid of school funds.

Mr John Teasdale made the chronicle of Rheola.

Mrs Jonathan Leach had a private school in Rheola before the state school opened 1/- each child per week. was charge she was a teacher in Scotland before she came to Rheola Her husband was a policeman in Adelaide before coming to Victoria

Written by

William John Leach

79 years of age left Rheola 1923

now. Korong Vale Victoria

The school picnic was held at Melville's Gaves or in the corner of the station paddock opposite Albert Sibbles' house. William Leach Senr used to convey them in a waggon which is still on the old station. He also used to take the school boys in a spring dray to play football at Kingower & twice at Molagul. Miss M. Lyell being at the head of all events.

They also had children march to funerals & sing a hymn at the grave side. For anyone closely connected with the district. The female teachers used to board with Mrs Sanderson opposite the old butcher's shop.

Mrs M. Grieves was house maid for Mrs Sanderson until she married the butcher Mr Robt Grieves.

Mr Bernachi was a teacher at the school before any time until he had a nervous trouble & terminated the teaching. Being a weather forecaster it started when I was going to school, the old globe maps of the world gave me many ideas.

My forecasts go all over the world & into every state in Australia. ^{my education at R. Keefe's school}

Korong Vale
14th July 1969

Dear Mary Anne

I made a mistake
in the name of the one they burnt
in the bon fire it was Paul Kruger
he was the head of the Boers in South
Africa. General Smuts took his place.
The British Generals were Lord Roberts
General Buller & Lieutenant Pitcher
Gen Baden Powell in those days.
The infants used to sit in a gallery
in the west end of the school & there
was a black hole underneath & the naughty
boys got put in there for half hour.
The teacher had a cane about 2 ft 6 in long
& they used to use it too. it was mostly
on the fingers on a frosty morning &
some of them got their names put in
the black book to show their characters
to other teachers
Well I should close & not tell tales
out of school so all the best to
Teacher & children. Be good.

W. J. Leach.