



WARRAWONG

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS

Written by J. Green
May 1987

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“On the side of our hill is a stretch of woodland where the children can wander, discover, explore and have the time to find those banks of velvet moss, the coloured toadstools, pine cones, autumn leaves, a spider’s web twinkling in the sun, an ant’s nest, caterpillars and, in the springtime, the loveliest time, our wood holds a treasure house of wild flowers.

3. Supporters of Warrawong

Each child is eager to take back some little piece of this magic wood to their home — a bunch of wild flowers, a piece of moss or a handful of pine cones.”¹

Parents Association

Silver Door

J.B. Ware

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FOREWORD

This short history of Warrawong was written to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the donation of the property to the Past Students Association of the Kindergarten Training College.

Warrawong is still "on the side of the hill" at East Ringwood, an outer eastern suburb of Melbourne. It remains a tribute to all those dedicated people who had the foresight to commence the project and to carry it through for 50 years.

Many changes have taken place throughout those years, and in the future we will possibly see many more as the Committees of Management of the future keep abreast of the changing times and needs of the community.

Sincere thanks to all those who have made the past 50 years a success and best wishes to those who will continue on into the next 50 years.

Many people have contributed to this history which was researched, written and edited by Judith Green and Roberta Beasley with Lorna Hingston and Jean Hayward who were the sub-committee appointed to produce this book.

Judith Thomson
President
Committee of Management
Warrawong
May 1987

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

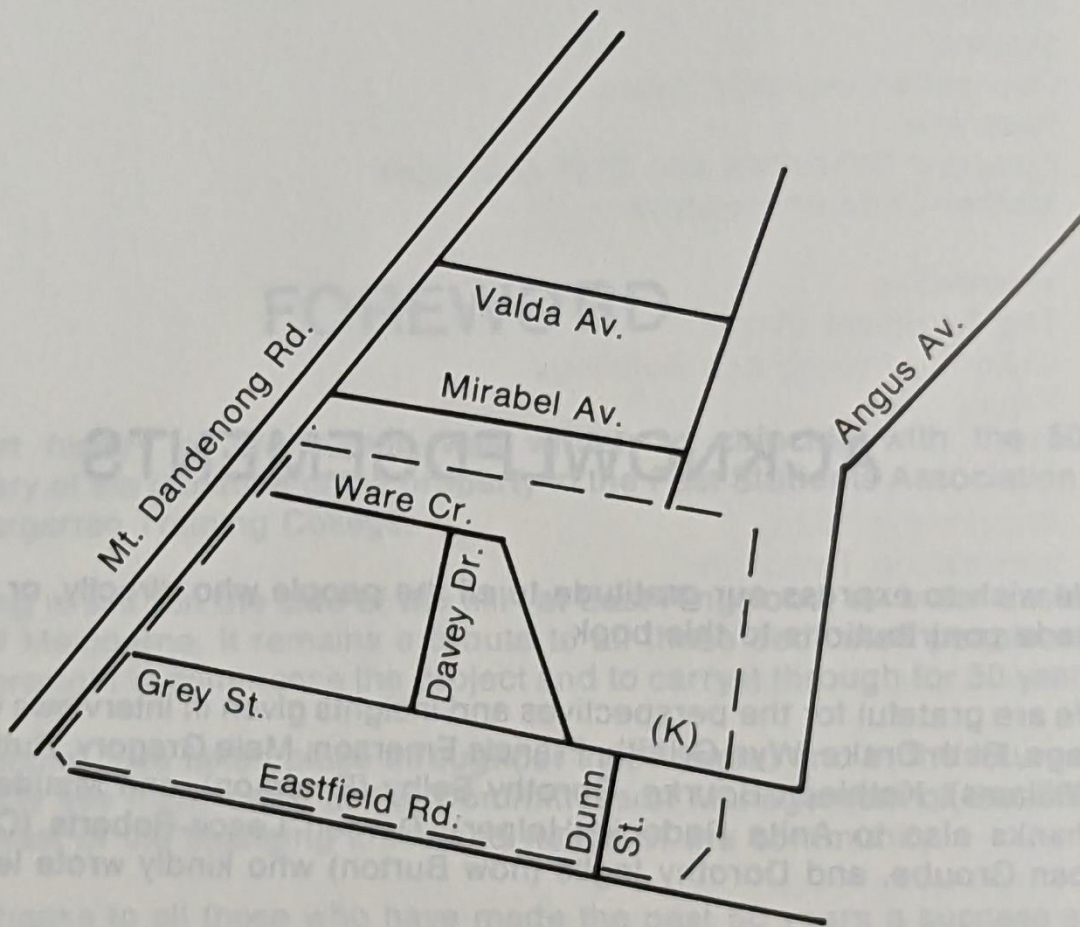
We wish to express our gratitude to all the people who directly, or indirectly, made contributions to this book.

We are grateful for the perspectives and insights given in interviews with Helen Sage, Ruth Drake, Wyn Griffith, Francis Emerson, Maie Gregory, Ruth Albrecht (Williams), Kathleen Bourke, Dorothy Selby (Emerson), and Maude Pearson. Thanks also to Anita Radock (Holper), Doreen Leece-Roberts (Carpenter), Joan Groube, and Dorothy Inglis (now Burton) who kindly wrote letters.

Photographs throughout the book provide an important link with the written material and show clearly the times, conditions, and children of Ware and Warrawong. Some of these were generously loaned by Dorothy Selby, Una Hodgson (Mason), and Dorothy Inglis to supplement Warrawong photographs.

Patsy Walford, Ruth Drake, Esma Kelso read through the 50th birthday history. Their knowledge of Warrawong's past and helpful comments were an invaluable contribution.

Special thanks to Heather Low for assistance with making initial contacts and providing access to Graduate material.



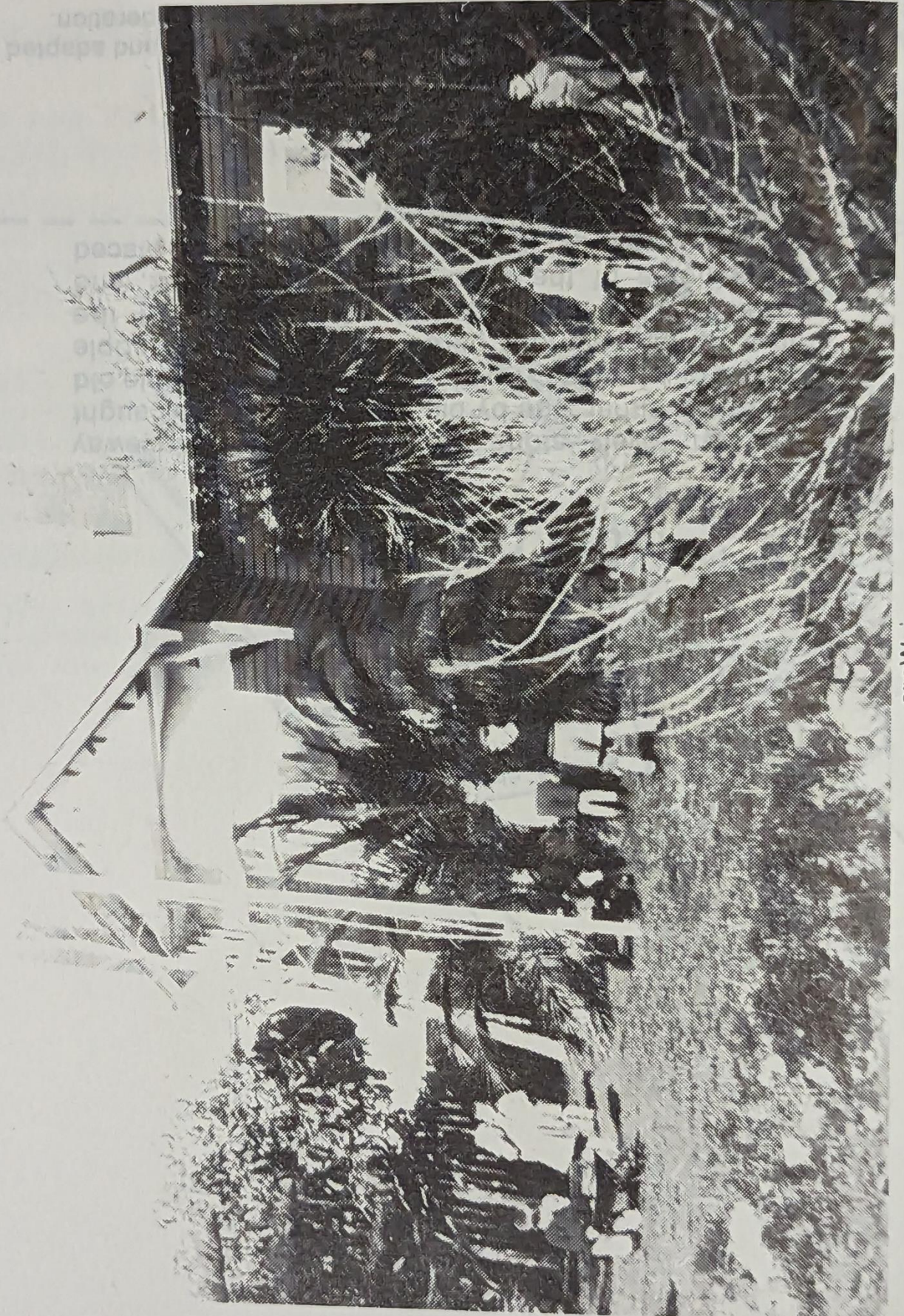
----- Approximate original boundaries of "Ware" 20-25 acres.

(K) "Warrawong"

1. WARE (the beginning)

“Through lovely stone gates, up a long driveway flanked on either side by big old pine trees, we caught our first glimpse of “Ware”. A gracious comfortable old home set in a glorious garden and 20 acres of apple orchard. The building was altered to suit the requirements of the children — clothing, milk, and firewood were provided by Mr Davey and £ 100 placed in the bank for initial expenses.”²

Ware, or as we know it today, Warrawong, has grown, changed and adapted to the needs of the community in the fifty years it has been in operation.



M916

Background

In 1922 the Free Kindergarten Union (FKU) established the Kindergarten Training College (KTC) in Kew, Victoria. Because of the fee structure and standard of education needed to enrol at the College the students generally came from the more "comfortable" class of society. Not necessarily wealthy but parents had to have some means to educate their daughters to an acceptable level and then pay fees at the College.

Students did much of their practical training and experience at FKU affiliated kindergartens and these were predominantly in the inner suburbs. It isn't difficult to imagine the shock and disbelief of these girls when faced with the poverty and filthy living conditions of some of these families. These were the days before child endowment and government assistance for low income families. Little wonder then that in these early years of the kindergarten movement the thrust of the movement was philanthropic.

So much emphasis needed to be placed on the health and welfare of the children and in turn their families, that it is sometimes difficult to find the "educational" role as we know it today of the kindergarten and the teacher.

It is this changing role over the years — the ability to adapt and change with the needs and demands of children and society that has made the kindergarten movement an exciting one in which to be involved.

With the establishment of a College it wasn't long before a group of kindergarten teachers formed the Past Students Association (PSA). The Principal of KTC at the time was Miss Mary Gutteridge, who had had much experience with children in Europe and a great deal of experience in aiding children during war time. At a meeting of the PSA she spoke about a group of London children with whom she had worked. These children had been taken into the English countryside for a holiday and the effects had been most beneficial. Inspired by Miss Gutteridge's enthusiasm, the PSA decided to set up a similar programme for those kindergarten children who lived in the inner city area of Melbourne. In 1926 Forest Hill was purchased as a holiday home, the existing cottage at Forest Hill being used for the next ten years. In May 1937 the Association launched an appeal to raise £ 4,000 for a holiday home to be built at Forest Hill. Miss Helen Sage (a kindergarten teacher) conducted the appeal in the offices of a firm of accountants, of which Mr Fred Davey was a senior Partner.

On May 30th as the appeal drew to a close Mr Davey presented to Miss Sage (representing the PSA) the gift of his home "Ware" for another holiday home. But, Miss Sage was not to tell anyone.

A Living Gift

Not only did Mr Davey give his home and the land so generously — but he also made the necessary alterations equipping Ware throughout and placing £ 100 in the bank.

Over the years Mr Davey continued his interest and financial support "... whenever we are in a desperate financial position all we need do is tell Lieut-Col Davey — like the magician in the fairy story he produces a cheque by return post."³ In line with true business practices money was never handed out but had to be requested when the necessity arose.

The existing PSA Committee was to administer both homes with two auxiliaries being formed one at Ringwood and another at Croydon.

Owing to a severe epidemic of Infantile Paralysis in 1937 Ware was given over to the IP Council as an after care home and it was not until third term 1938 that the kindergarten children began to enjoy and participate in their holidays at Ware.

Holidays

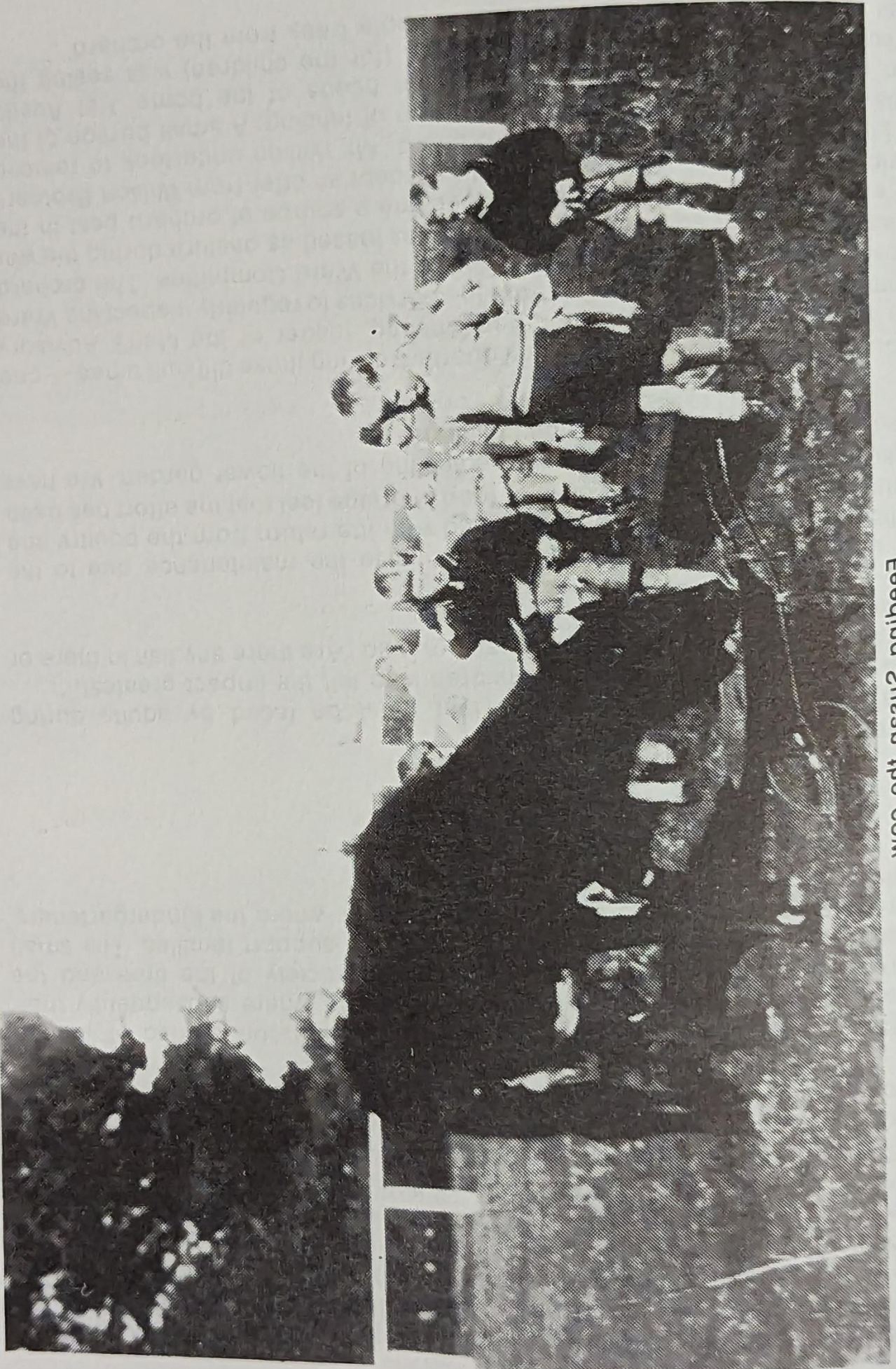
Initially Ware gave groups of 10, later 15, children from the same kindergarten 3 to 6 weeks' holiday. In these early depression years, families were undernourished and could never afford a holiday. Circumstances and times were different. Parents had great faith in the kindergarteners "they were like aunts" — almost a member of the family.

Medical

Children were selected by the medical officer and kindergarten teacher following a medical inspection. The most needy were selected and if possible a brother or sister too. Ware closed for the month of July and opened in January so the children could benefit from the better weather. There being a two week break over Christmas. It must be remembered that that age group being cared for at Ware was the kindergarten age group, therefore much work and constant care was needed to provide a secure environment for these children. Not only were they away from home, but in a physical environment totally different from their own.

Ida Liddle writes⁴ of a holiday at Ware "the mental effect which such surroundings have on the little visitors is outstanding, and they return to the noise and bustle of the city filled with an understanding of beauty and happiness which we hope can never be lost."

We can be excused for wondering what the emphasis was in these early kindergarten years. Average weight gains were always recorded in the annual



Feeding Susan the cow

Ware was indeed a home in the true sense of the word. All staff helped in every capacity however menial — from the cleaning and washing to the garden that provided so much to the home. The memories of Anita Radok (formerly Holper) highlight some of the life at Ware. Anita started work at Ware as an assistant in late 1942. She recalls “The Director was Jane Stillwell, a remarkable, caring, just and fair person who remained my good friend until her sad death. I owe a lot to her; she helped me to sort out my life and look at the world with much more acceptance and understanding. One of her good traits was that she never expected from her assistants anything or any task that she would not do herself.”

As one reads and learns of those involved with Ware it becomes obvious that the Directors of Ware all seemed to have special qualities of caring, understanding and acceptance. Perhaps in their job of being responsible for children of families in such poor conditions, most often through no fault of their own, they learnt to accept much that life has to offer, however unjust, and not to judge those less fortunate than themselves. Whatever the reasons we must be forever grateful that people like Jane and Pat and many others were willing to give so much and then some more to make the dreams of Ware a reality.

Anita continues her story, “Our chores were performed in rotation, everybody taking their turns at cooking, washing (we had a washing machine), ironing, child-minding (day and night duty), and cleaning. The other two assistants were Pat Austin and Mary Butler. I cannot remember us ever arguing about anything, even though sometimes we may have had slight differences of opinion.

We also had a very capable “land girl” called (I think) Helen Good. An elderly neighbour, Ben Cheong, kept a fatherly eye on the five of us and helped us with advice and practical knowledge . . .

The children came from the inner suburbs and nearly stayed three weeks in each case. They used to be brought by teachers or helpers, arriving at Ware around lunch time. After lunch we would put them into the bath, wash their hair (which sometimes harboured live guests) weigh them, and check them for sores such as impetigo. The children would wear clothes that belonged to the home while they were there. We always tried to pick for each child the clothes that would make him or her look best.

At night they slept in two rooms that were connected with one another. One of us would sleep with them. The first few nights there would be a lot of tears and wet beds — no wonder, since these children were aged from three and a half to five. I have often wondered since about the wisdom of removing so young a

child from home and parents. But the children certainly benefitted physically from their stay, they all put on weight due to a well planned diet, rest and fresh air. We took them for lovely walks which was easy as there were only a few houses around us at that time.

Helen the land girl did a marvellous job in her vegetable garden, and we had plenty of fruit and produce. There was a little sunken garden in front of the house which we called the "fairy garden". At Easter my husband-to-be hid a lot of small chocolate eggs there for the children, I am sure they all believed in fairies after that. He was in the army, and for his letters I braved the long walk down to the mail box on the Mt. Dandenong Road, which often involved an encounter with a snake or two. Jane, Pat and Mary refused to take their turn in collecting the mail since they seldom got any . . .

On kitchen duty beheading chickens was part of the job. I even had to put one of them out of its misery because it was sick. Another job that haunted me on kitchen duty was to get the wood stove lit quickly so as to serve breakfast on time; so I was forever collecting dry twigs and kindling.

We had lots of happy times, like birthday parties and picnics. We also had a few scary experiences when the bush fire season was on. But most of the time it was lovely to sit on the tennis court and watch the trains go by, listen to the birds and to come to peace with the world."

And perhaps in their own childlike way Ware helped those children who attended to come to their own peace in the world that hadn't always been kind to them.

Post War

The firm of J.B. Were and Son became interested in the activities of the PSA and contributed towards the proposed erection of a new kindergarten building on the property at East Ringwood as a memorial to the members of their staff who died in the Second World War. By the 21st Annual Meeting of the Association the building fund stood at £ 16,000 (due to a gift of £ 7,000 from the Silver Door and £ 1,000 from the Miss Australia Quest).

Despite the total of £ 16,000 it was not possible to obtain a building permit, and so further alterations were made to the existing building so that five more children could be accommodated. J.B. Were contributed to this.

In the following years it is difficult for us to imagine the dreams and visions held by the PSA and the cold hard facts and frustrations experienced by the workers and committee members. These two extracts from Annual Reports will help to draw a picture of what it must have been like.



Restime at Ware

In 1947-48 plans were drawn up for the extensions. Pat writes "Unfortunately it is only a comparatively small number of children that can visit Ware each year and the erection of the new holiday home to accommodate twenty children is still, through present day building conditions, a vision of the future."⁸

In the year 1951 the extensions were completed. Unfortunately the extensions were unable to be fully utilized owing to lack of trained staff. Miss Ruth Williams (Albrecht) became Director in 1950. Ruth relates: "while the extensions were in progress the building was open to the weather; at night the possums played chase up and down the corridors. One night the possums got into where the children slept — we covered the children with blankets and took to removing the possums with the aid of a broom".

The home was closed quite a bit of the year, but Ruth went every day and did preparation and was there while the tradesman worked.

Financial Difficulties and Staff Shortages

With the improvement in living standards and wages in the early 1950's there was a greater drain on the finances on places such as Ware. Salaries and wages rose enormously as did overhead expenses and the financial situation was of grave concern. They "... continue to be the big difficulty and we are unable to see any relief in the near future."⁹

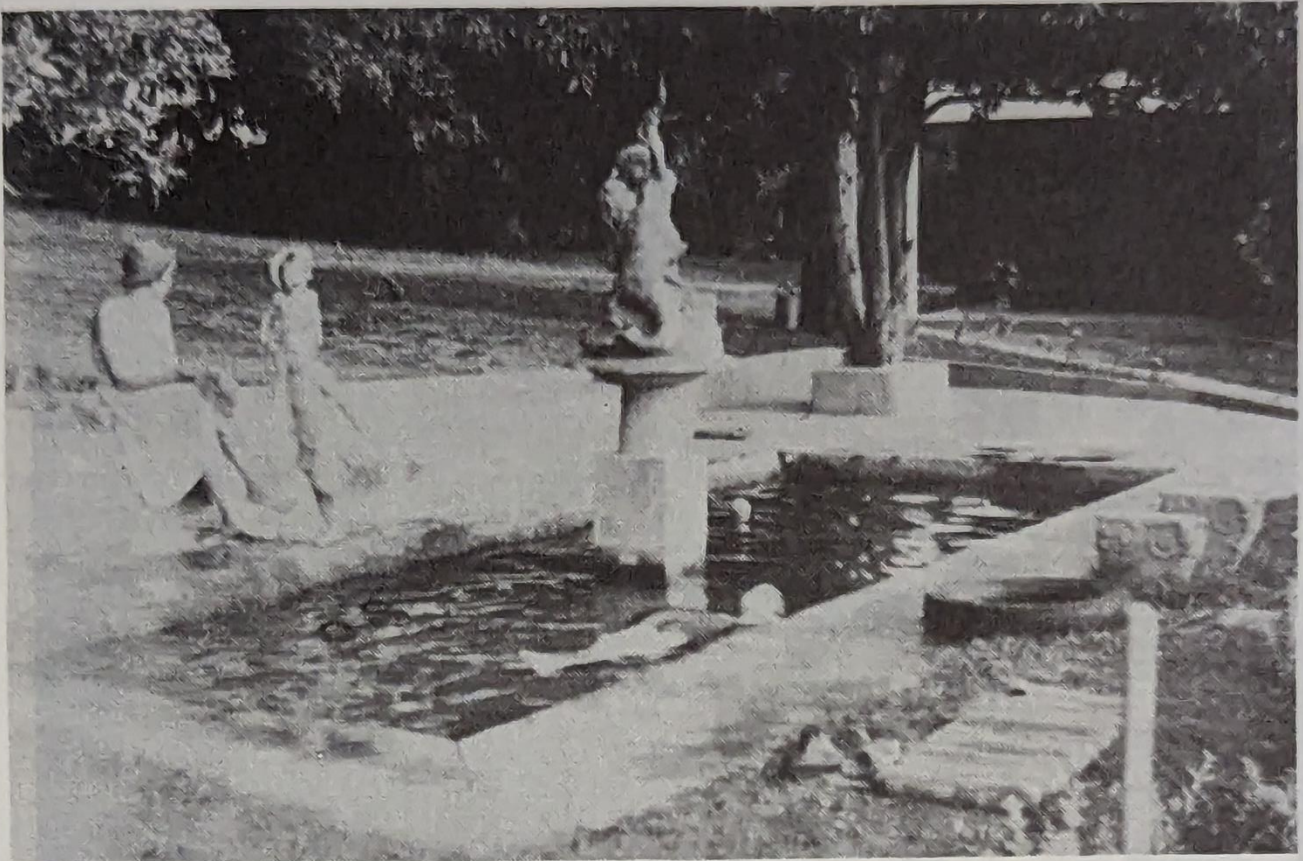
Along with financial difficulties there was also much concern about staff shortages. In 1953 the number of children accommodated was limited to 10 instead of 15 because of staff shortages and the home was actually closed during December 1953 to April 1954 as no Director could be found.

Mother-Children Holidays

Since its inception in 1938 Ware had operated as a holiday home for children from disadvantaged areas in the inner city area. The belief being that a holiday away from home, despite the trauma of separation was of immense benefit to the child physically, and all records point to the improvement in the children's health after a visit to the country as Ringwood was then.

However, like all thinking, times change — and it was at this time that there was great change in thinking and psychological belief about the separation of kindergarten children from their parents for a lengthy period. It was time for a change at Ware.

It was decided to experiment with providing holidays for mothers and children together.



In the gardens at Ware.

In mid 1954 Mrs Una Hodgson and her family were appointed as housekeepers. Four mothers and their children came for one to two weeks (sometimes 3) holiday. Every morning there was a kindergarten session held with a qualified kindergarten teacher. Mothers contributed to the housekeeping costs.

This programme had a relatively short life span. Its principle was sound but it was very difficult to obtain sufficient applications to keep the home running to full capacity as many mothers could not leave other children at home while they came away with their pre-school child. As the government subsidy had been withdrawn mid-1954 the home needed to be kept to full capacity to justify overhead expenses. Sadly in mid-1956 the programme was abandoned.

As one aspect of Ware was forced to close a new and exciting role opened up as the firm of J.B. Were decided to finance a brand new home WARRAWONG beside the old Ware building — the only stipulation being that it was to be for children only. And so a new chapter began.

However, a new building does not suddenly appear in place overnight and there was the intervening time between the old and the new. It would have been so easy to pour all the energies of the committees into planning and building the new building. But well aware that the needs of the children existed still in the local community the committee followed up a suggestion that a play group be established for the local children. A pre-school play leader ran two groups of 15 children each for 4 sessions a week. A government subsidy was received and parents gave financial assistance. This continued in 1956-57 as Warrawong was being built.



Warrawong

2. WARRAWONG

It must have been with excitement and possibly some trepidation that this new venture was entered into. In 1957 the foundation stone was laid by Mrs F.J. Davey whose husband, Col. F.J. Davey, gave the valuable property to the PSA (now the Graduates Association) in 1937. One wonders if, back in 1937, even Col. Davey could have envisaged the changes that his home of Ware would see and the dreams that the Graduates would have, and the dedication and sheer hard work they were willing to put into their dreams to make them a reality for the benefit of so many children. It was indeed fitting that Mrs Davey lay the foundation stone as the link between the foresight and generosity of her husband, and the needs and dreams of the Graduates in 1957.

To mention specific Graduates in the work of planning and developing Warrawong is to risk missing out some who put in many hours of work. It must be remembered that the committee were all volunteers, many of whom were graduates from KTC, and put in enormous numbers of hours apart from their paid employment and the time that their families took.

Different Graduates worked on various sub-committees so that the final decisions had been made by groups of people concerned with different sections of the work. These sub-committees dealt with the building plans and general layout of the grounds, built in cupboards, and furniture, paintwork and furnishings.

Warrawong was to continue as a residential holiday home as there was still felt to be a great need for this in the community. Naturally staff appointed to fulfil the various roles needed to have very special qualities to give the children warmth, security, love and caring as well as creating an environment perceptive to learning. To find experienced teachers to staff the new holiday kindergarten the position was advertised overseas and in Australia. A detailed description of the building and its functions along with its surroundings was published in an issue of the magazine for the Froebel Institute in London. So every attempt was made to obtain the most suitable staff.

1958 — *"The year is to culminate in the official opening by Lady Brooks on Saturday 27th September — when the home will be fully equipped and furnished and the garden beginning to develop in the capable hands of the garden committee."*¹⁰

The first Director was a South Australian graduate — a Miss Nardra Bowker. There were six children in that first little group which later increased to 8 children and then to 13 — although finally one group of 15 children shared a holiday at Warrawong. 101 children spent time at Warrawong in that first year. Five little girls who lived locally met at the kindergarten each morning and shared play experiences with their holiday friends.

The children who attended Warrawong for a holiday were recommended for reasons of health, convalescence, emotional and social instability, and financial reasons from a variety of kindergartens.

The rural atmosphere of Warrawong was still a natural habitat for animals and birds and proved a never ending source of delight and wonderment to the city children.

Warrawong was not an isolated little community. There was much liaison with KTC — with teachers and students bringing in new ideas and methods as well as giving practical assistance. It was in 1958 that television cameras came into Warrawong and a short segment appeared on Channel 2.

With improved living conditions in general, the changing emphasis within the kindergarten field from the philanthropic approach to the educational, plus the tremendous financial stress placed on the two holiday homes — Forest Hill and Warrawong — there was much discussions between the graduates at meetings as to the value of the holiday homes, and what the Graduates wanted people to think of kindergartens. It was not a happy time for the management committees and graduates as debate continued as to the fate of the holiday homes. The issues faced at the time were no minor issues, nor just a clash of personalities, but real and major issues as the changing needs of society kindergartens were

considered. It was finally decided to continue with the two holiday homes. This quote from 1959 Report shows the depth of feeling of the need for Warrawong within the community. "During the year, in addition to providing happy holidays for many children we have also been able to help many families in distressed circumstances, proving to ourselves and others that there is a real need for Warrawong in the community." During 1959, 207 children spent happy holidays at Warrawong.

It was time for change though. Miss Kathleen Fargher was now the Director with Mrs Agnes Farrance assisting. It was found that there were many disadvantages in the existing system — the length of stay was too long. There was very little contact with parents, and there was not enough information given from kindergarten Directors about the children that were attending. If the value of the time spent at Warrawong was to continue in the child's life once he or she was back in the family, there must be contact between all parties. The following changes were made:

1. Length of holiday to be 10 days.
2. Staff works for 10 days with children so that children have consistent pattern.
3. Preparation for holiday has been emphasised — parents and teachers visit Warrawong and Warrawong Director visits kindergarten and day nurseries to see children and parents in their own environment and discuss the children with the kindergarten Director.
4. Parents encouraged to telephone Warrawong each evening and visit the children during the holidays.
5. Ten day-children enrolled as better to carry out consistent programme than with the previous five. Ten residential children enrolled preferably from only one or two kindergartens.
6. Two new holiday forms introduced to provide more information about the children to be filled in by parents and kindergarten Director.
7. Parents encouraged to bring/settle/collect children.
8. Direct contact between Warrawong and day nurseries and kindergartens much more satisfactory.

The improved relationships between all parties concerned was of greater benefit to the children. It was found that many parents were seeking advice on particular problems with their own children and were willing to find out more about Warrawong's methods. These visits between the parties concerned was of vital importance to the whole programme.

The Turbulent Sixties

The sixties was a time of constant review, struggle, and planning to cope with and even to establish the needs of the community with regards to Warrawong. The sixties, as a time to live, was one of constant change and indeed questioning of lifestyles and so it was with Warrawong.

It isn't possible to give in this history every detail of every change, but this gives a picture of the general changes that took place in the sixties.

One section of the 1960-61 Annual Report reads "The maintaining of the two houses at Forest Hill and East Ringwood is the social service work of our Association (meaning the Graduates Association). The overall administration is carried out by the Council with day-to-day maintenance in the hands of individual committees of each Home. Until 1959 these homes were open for holiday placement of preschool children only, but during that year an experiment was begun by taking a few children for temporary emergency care at Warrawong and later Forest Hill. The Association had, through a survey and discussion with community workers, adapted the homes to the changing needs of the community. Warrawong continued to give holiday placement, as well as providing day kindergarten for 20 local children.

By 1962 there were 6 groups of 10 children participating in a holiday at Warrawong per term. In conjunction with the holiday programmes there continued to run a day-programme with 25 children enrolled.

In 1963 the programme was again under review — the need for holiday placement being doubted in present society, but a definite need felt for full time emergency care. Following a special survey it was decided, however, to continue the same programme.

Towards the end of 1964 however, it was decided to incorporate temporary emergency care with the 10-day holiday programme for pre-school children and until June 1963 13 children were cared for on this basis.

From 1966 it was decided to provide emergency care. Physically there were changes to Warrawong — the old pines which lined the street and the two huge trees that flanked the entrance were removed and quite a busy road ran past the front boundary. The official title of Warrawong became "Warrawong Residential Kindergarten for Emergency Care." It was by now total emergency care with a programme for day kindergarten continuing as previously. As this change in programme became better known as the year progressed it was always fully booked and staff were unable to take last minute emergency children.

By 1967 Warrawong's reputation was firmly established. Length of stay for individual children varying from 1 to 3 weeks. The staff were acutely aware of the needs of the community. The majority of children were from whole as against single-parent families. Care was offered on a temporary emergency nature and by so doing was able to assist the family over its crisis.

This memory of Doreen Leece-Roberts (Carpenter) of one family assisted while 24 hour care was provided indicates so vividly the need that was evident within the community. "In particular I remember one family who benefitted greatly from this support. The mother, who had five children, was diagnosed as having terminal cancer, and had to make daily visits to the hospital; we had her two youngest for nearly two years, they were visited at week-ends and later were able to have some time at home. The determination of this mother to fight this prognosis and to stay alive to enjoy her children was inspiring to us all who worked at Warrawong during that time. How we all rejoiced with her when she was given a clean bill of health and was able to have all her family together again."

It is understandable then that despite rising costs and wages, and the necessity to maintain high standards, the Graduates fought to continue to keep Warrawong operational. Stories like this and others are why Warrawong was in existence — it was needed. There was at this time extreme financial problems.

During 1967 it was finally decided that the need for the holiday home had decreased, but the need for emergency care for pre-schoolers had increased. It wasn't easy to finally abandon the idea of the holiday home. That was what Warrawong was known as, and for, and it wouldn't be easy to change the public's perception of Warrawong. There was also another practical consideration concerning the grants that Warrawong had received, and how a change of programme would affect these.

While a need may be decreasing, it does not mean it is non-existent, simply that the most viable form of care had to be decided upon. The following example given of 24 hour care must have weighed heavily on the hearts and minds of the decision makers.

Admitted by a social worker at St Vincents Hospital were (A) 4 years old and (D) 3 years old (brothers) whose mother was seriously ill with a blood disease. From time to time the children would go home but were soon returned to Warrawong by a very tired mother. When mother commenced treatment, she had 93% of the disease in her blood, tests showed that after a period of time it was only 7% and she was allowed to have the children home. Every night during the "bad" times, the children, during their prayers would pray for "God to make mummy better." (A), who could be most emphatic, would say "God doesn't make sick

mummies better." When it came time for him to return home he asked the Director if mummy was "all better." "Almost all better" was the reply, followed by "you see God does make mummies better." He gave thoughtful little nods which were a delight to see.¹¹

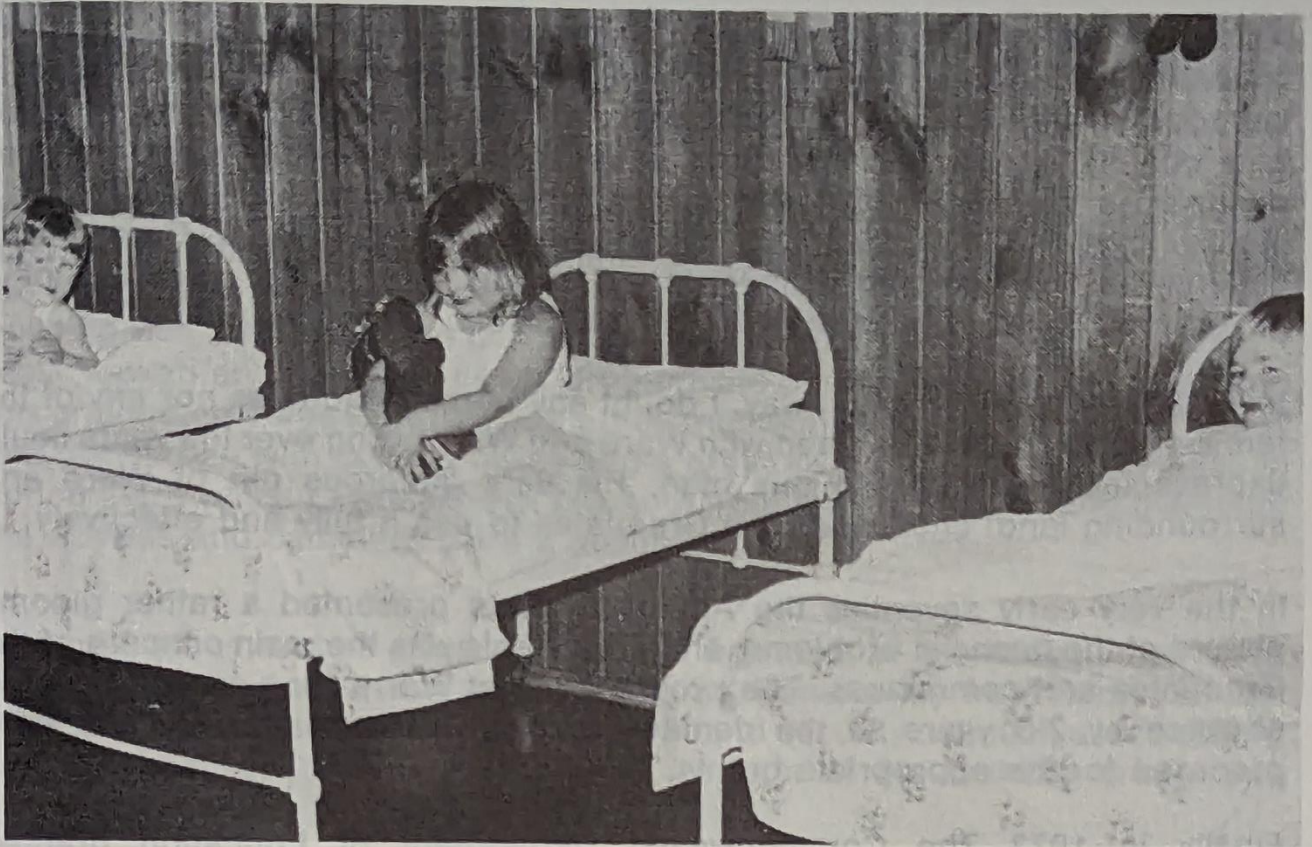
Nevertheless 1968 began with two half-day groups of local children (10 in each session) and a plan to commence a full day-care programme for children from one-parent families and of families experiencing other types of difficulties. A good deal of publicity was needed before the public became aware of the change to the programme and it was several months before the group was completely filled. Temporary emergency care children were taken in the mean time to fill spaces. The Centre opened from 7 am to 6 pm including holidays. The children joined the morning kindergarten session and enjoyed a hot midday meal and afternoon sleep.

The mothers of the half-day children formed an active group holding many social functions and thus contributing in a positive way. Although there was some talk of discontinuing the half-day groups once the Day-Care numbers increased it was felt that these mothers had given such tremendous support to Warrawong that it was important to continue with these groups.

With the subsequent increase of full day-care numbers it was important to separate 3 and 4 year-olds for activities and the night nursery was used for this purpose.

By 1969 the Annual Report could state that over the past 12 months 40 children were catered for in the Full Day emergency programme.

The sixties had indeed been a very traumatic time for the Graduates in the running of Warrawong. These memories of Joan Groube explain some of the background to this era. "My first experience at Warrawong was as a relief or emergency teacher in 1969. Having been away from the kindergarten world for twenty years I was diffident to say the least. Barbara Bunn was the Director. She had been at Warrawong by then about three years, and had been appointed at the period of change from Residential to Emergency Care. This change, I believe, was quite a traumatic decision for the Graduates to make for many reasons. I gathered there had already been talk of closing the Centre since the numbers were low. The Holiday Home idea was no longer a need in the community and the Graduate fraternity frowned on children being separated from parents unless there was no other way. Warrawong was well set up for residential care. There were shelves of pyjamas, thick cotton dressing gowns, sunhats, smocks specially to wear while waiting for parents to come and collect the children, all beautifully hand made . . ."



Afternoon Rest



Mealtime

As the sixties ended and the seventies began the financial worries did not cease nor diminish. By 1971 the Day Care and kindergarten were used to capacity, with the afternoon kindergarten group attending 4 sessions per week and observing normal term dates and holidays. The Day Care children observed a normal kindergarten programme in the morning, followed by a midday meal and afternoon rest. Twenty was the maximum in Day Care, and 20 children in the afternoon kindergarten group due to the granting of a government subsidy allowing a full time teacher.

In 1970 Col. Davey passed away. I doubt any of the Graduates nor any of the families that had been involved with Ware and Warrawong over the years could express their gratitude to this man. His very generous gift of Ware and surrounding land, challenged the Graduates to use it fully and effectively.

In the very early seventies the Annual Reports presented a rather gloomy picture of the financial problems, and indeed this was the main concern of the Graduates and committees. The programmes at Warrawong were booked in advance by 2-3 years so the demand was evident and submissions were prepared for the appropriate grants.

Finally in 1973 The Commonwealth Department of Education granted Warrawong a Day Care subsidy, one of the conditions being that the Committee must be comprised mainly of local people and meet at Warrawong. This reorganisation took place at an Annual Meeting in 1973. Prior to this the meetings had taken place at private homes, especially when many of the graduates lived some distance from Warrawong, and public transport was not particularly accessible to Warrawong itself at night. It was decided that graduates would form the nucleus, filling all executive positions on the new committee, and new members included people from other professions whose contributions were proving invaluable to the running of the committee and to the teaching staff, eg. social worker, psychologists, representatives from mothers' committee, etc.

By 1974-75 the financial problems had eased a little but still caused some concern. After much discussion and research between the Graduates Council and Warrawong, their submission to the Graduates Council asking for autonomy was granted and took effect 1st October 1975.

Children, People and Buildings

Warrawong is many things — it is a building, the children, the staff, parents and committee. All must have the same aim to operate for the benefit of the children they serve but their mode of approach is so different.

Ware, the original building with its modifications, still stands today as a private home and is occupied and owned by a graduate of KTC — a teacher who has been involved with Warrawong over a number of years.

It must have been difficult to face up to a new building after the gracious home of Ware. Yet there seems to have been much planning and thought gone into the selection of an architect to design Warrawong. Joan Groube recalls, "The building was built low to the ground and was amazingly modern for its time. It really looked and felt more like a large private home than a kindergarten and this undoubtedly was Horace Tribe's (the architect) intention. It was set in a well laid out garden with curving lawns and a great variety of trees and shrubs. In spring there was an avalanche of blossom from the crab apple, and then later the azaleas and camellias were a delight."

Ware was a home when given as a gift and was ideal as a holiday home. When Warrawong was built it was built as a home, home away from home, for the children. It was designed to exude warmth and security as much as a building can. It is difficult to pick exactly what aspects of the building create this atmosphere.

Is it the open fireplace, mentioned in many reports? "I think everyone who has worked at Warrawong will never forget the open fire place. Lovely to be used as a meeting place in the cold winter months, for stories on the rugs and playing games." (Doreen Leece-Roberts).

The author was present one afternoon as the children woke from an afternoon sleep — a staff member was seated in front of the open fire and welcomed the children as they tiptoed down sleepily, clutching their clothes. The fire exuded the warmth, but the touch, cuddles, smiles and tenderness of the staff was a joy to experience.

The staff have been remarkably stable, many of the staff members staying a number of years. Perhaps it was this "homelike" building and atmosphere that made the staff feel as wanted as the children did. Recall the words of Anita Radok who began work at Ware in 1942 "it was lovely to sit on the tennis court and watch the trains go by, to listen to the birds and to come to peace with the world," and Doreen Leece-Roberts as well remembers her time — "I was immediately impressed with the atmosphere of the place, not only because of the beautiful rural nature of the grounds and bushland, but something one feels about the place — I will never forget that haven on the hill or the wonderful people with whom I was associated during that time."



A walk on the hill



The open fireplace

In later times Joan Groube recalls the companionship with some humor, "I remember feeling how lucky we were in the summer when the children were resting, and you weren't involved there, the staff would gather on the front terrace in the shade with their cups of tea. We had our favourite deck chairs and were always careful not to use ones that were the favourites of others. One chair in particular was always avoided as it couldn't be quite trusted not to collapse. We had witnessed the occasional accident with some mirth of course, but the chair was never put away, and someone usually had to have it . . . It was these lunch time periods in summer out on the terrace, or in the winter in the kitchen, warm by the Aga stove that we enjoyed each other's company."

The staff in these reminiscences are real, real people with a genuine love for children. There must have been differences of opinion and times of tension between the staff but these obviously pass quickly. As Dorothy Selby (Emerson) recalls "there were small irritations but they passed quickly."

It seems a sense of humor, if not a requirement of the position, came with those who accepted the position. The laughter in Dorothy Selby's voice as she recalls anecdotes of her time — but don't record them she emphasises — conjures a picture of a very happy family together. How quick the "funny" situations spring to mind before any of the problems and traumas faced.

"I remember an assistant helper who came running down from the hill one day who anxiously told me that there was a huge snake hiding in the grass. On inspecting this huge snake it was found to be a large blue-tongued lizard, only the head was visible, what a relief! Tree climbing was very much enjoyed, especially by some of the boys. I remember one incident when an aspiring Edmund Hilary climbed almost to the top of the huge pine tree near the sandpit; how he got up there we will never know because we tried to climb up to get him down and there just was not anywhere to get a foot hold. What did we do? Well, we just had to leave him until he decided to get down himself. Actually I think his desire for food when it was time for lunch was more appealing than staying in the tree." (Doreen Leece-Roberts).

And concerning food, "Talking about meal times, one well remembers that standard reply of a particular Director when an occasional small voice, relating to the midday meal, would say, "Miss, I don't like this." She would reply, 'You don't have to like it, you only have to eat it.' A bewildered small person would then continue the action of spoon to mouth, not knowing how to react."

Working at Warrawong was no "cushy" job. It may have been challenging, demanding, exciting and very rewarding but definitely not cushy. Listen to this from Joan Groube — "The programme in this era (approximately 1968) was thus: The Day Care Group opened at 7.00 am and finished at 6.00 pm. Staff

hours had to be arranged in shifts to cope with this long day. Because numbers at this time were unpredictable and local children were brought in to share the programme in the morning. As Day Care became more in demand, these local children became a separate group and operated as a group of ten, and attended in the afternoon. This was then known as the Afternoon Group and Doreen Leece-Roberts was the teacher. At this stage I was asked to come as a part-time teacher on a regular basis — to have lunch with the children and then take them to the bedroom for their afternoon sleep . . .

In fact, it was not an easy task. These children were often disturbed and quite difficult to manage, and particularly prone to trying out new teachers. Settling them into bed, at first, was quite a feat. Jean Clydesale helped me to undress the children, put on pyjamas and they would climb up into the little high beds between proper sheets and blankets. (At first some of these children must have felt that this was a permanent stopover). If I was not careful to be the first one into the bedroom, I would find the more adventurous ones hiding under the beds. For them it added fun to the rather dreary prospect of an afternoon sleep in this dim room. Eventually all would be quiet and still, with me settled into a comfortable chair. If I dared shut my eyes for a moment I would find one or two daring ones sitting bolt upright looking at me with gleams of mischief. And, of course, the restless ones needed trips to the toilet and drinks of water. While I was supervising sleeptime Barbara would go off duty and come back about 4.30 p.m. By this time the children would be up and dressed and partaken of afternoon tea. As the playroom was occupied by the afternoon group till 3.30pm we were dependent on fine weather and children were left asleep as long as possible. Three o'clock was their usual rising time and this was often too long, though many children were very tired with an early morning start."

When the Committee decided to increase the Afternoon Group to 20 Joan Groube was appointed as teacher.

In 1973 Barbara Bunn finished her time at Warrawong and resigned through ill health. Although Joan Groube did not apply for personal reasons for the position as Director she was eventually asked to take on this position on a 12 month trial basis — as many applicants dropped out on learning of the difficult working conditions and the long hours.

It was in 1973 that many Committee changes took place. To recap — Warrawong was officially separated from Forest Hill and were managing their own finances. Although for some years previously they had been meeting separately. Alison Ingemells was President of the Committee and Ken Clarke was brought in as Treasurer. Ken was a professional accountant and brought to the Committee a new understanding of their financial situation. How excited all

must have been to discover at this time that instead of being poor and struggling there was in fact money to spend. Once again it was time for change to the building and surrounds.

Exciting, frustrating, exhausting are all words that could be used to describe the months ahead for the staff and Committee of Warrawong. As the Director at the time, Joan Groube recalls the plans and outcome of the changes to the building, "we felt first of all we needed to build a fence around the property so that the front garden area could be used with the children. Then the sliding glass door could be opened and the children could have access from the playroom, straight out on to the terrace and lawns beyond.

With the larger numbers of children this seemed logical and certainly very pleasant. Supervision did pose extra problems in the end — but it was still a good move. The cost of the fence around this large area was enormous, since it had to encompass not only the front, but up both sides, as far as the building on the driveway side, up to the top of the bank on the other side, and across the top of the bank at the back. This back fence separated the kindergarten grounds below from the hillside area and the bush.

The Health Department was obliged to subsidise this since there was no existing fence that could be remotely considered childproof. Then we had the difficult task to choose a fence that did not aesthetically spoil the lovely rural feeling of the place. A high swimming pool type fence was chosen, and we rapidly organised working bees to plant creepers and native shrubs to soften and disguise it . . . The building needed to be altered because we were conscious of two major things. First, the Day Care childrens' sleep time was not ideal. Because their playroom was occupied by the Afternoon Group till 3.30 pm, there was no place for them to play if they needed only a rest and the weather was cold or wet. Secondly, the Director's residential area was no longer used and lay empty. The logical move was to shift the childrens' beds down to these rooms and create a second playroom. This could be used for extra children in the morning and by the Afternoon Group in the afternoon. The individual rooms for the childrens' rest were ideal. It took away the institutional feel of a large dormitory.

To make the bedroom into a proper play room we would have to put in more windows and remove the partition down the centre. It was also extraordinarily badly ventilated making it almost unbearably hot in summer. We knew these alterations would take much time, so we experimented with moving the beds to start with. We put in some fluorescent light and used the bedroom as a play room taking some of the morning children to play in quieter groups. The Afternoon Group used this room then too . . . We also needed to appoint another teacher to assist me. We began the year with Maria Papadakis and

then later Willaree Weymouth replaced her when Maria and her husband moved interstate. Willaree threw herself wholeheartedly into these new changes and the new playroom became her area of special interest." After a few hiccups with ideas and plans, Robert McLaughlan (a building consultant) started work with the Committee. Joan continues, "He seemed to fit in with us and our ideas so well that over the next few years he became a true friend and mentor. He attended many committee meetings and was as enthusiastic as we were.

In the meantime, while all this was getting underway, we had the childrens' bedrooms repainted and carpeted. We kept most of the little iron ended beds (like tiny hospital beds which Forest Hill has too), but we painted them all different colours. We no longer used the pretty Sanderson linen bed covers since this meant doing away with much washing, starching and ironing. Instead the parents, grandparents and staff, made bright crocheted quilts which were only washed annually or if a child left and another took his or her place. New rubber mattresses were also purchased and also new fitted sheets. With the carpeted floor it was cosy enough to have mattresses also just on the floor and these were easily stacked away. By that time we were also using the two rooms originally used for students who came to Warrawong as part of their training.

In 1978 I was able to report that the major building alterations were underway. The builders had moved in, and we began a period of enormous difficulty. We kept the Centre open in spite of noise and dirt and great inconvenience. We had hoped to see the worst of the disruption over by the beginning of 1979, but of course this was not so . . . The alterations by this time also included the enlargement of the Director's office, renovating and updating the kitchen, moving the laundry from the far end of the building into the pantry, and making the two tiny student bedrooms into one, with a folding door to be pulled across if division was needed.

So, if one can imagine all this taking place and running the programme as normally as possible, the strains put on the staff, parents, children and committee were quite great. A weight was lifted from the Director's shoulders when the Committee decided to appoint June Waites. She came on a part-time basis to do the bookkeeping . . . She (June) was a very efficient, methodical lady who brought law and order into a rather haphazard area in a very tactful way. Because of her skills and discretion as a person, she was invited to join the Committee . . . We always had the problem of finding time for a staff meeting all together — with Day Care some members are always on duty with the children, with shift hours and a sleep programme. We were able to solve this by appointing a part-time teacher to come once a week for a whole morning, so that Willaree could have a preparation period. Then during that period, when the three year old group was having outdoor play, the three teachers in charge of groups had time for a meeting . . . "

With the alterations complete Joan continues her story, "The building arranged like this meant that the children could get up from their rest when they needed to and were less regimented. The play room was there ready for them to occupy themselves quietly until everyone was up and dressed. It was always a very peaceful part of the day and a pleasing sight, particularly in winter. The huge open fire would be burning brightly and the children would bring their clothes to the hearth rug to dress.

Teachers had the opportunity to chat quietly and watch and foster dressing skills, brush and arrange the girls' hair to everyone's satisfaction . . . We had enough staff to take some children out into the garden, so generally the afternoons were very relaxed and unstructured . . . Having reached this point with adapting Warrawong to its changed programme, we decided to continue with further improvements. The original playroom was always rather dark and we depended too much on artificial light. Rob McLaughlan was once again called on to draw up some plans, to put in some high windows along the wall facing out towards the carport. By putting in a new sliding door we were able to open up the play room on to a paved courtyard, and on fine days we could set up easels, etc., under the trees. It was also a good place for a water trough or to wheel the prams. It relived the limited space in the playroom.

The back verandah being a dreary asphalt area, we were inspired to cover it with green indoor-outdoor carpet commonly used on tennis courts. With the new roof, another Rob McLaughlan design, to cover the open section, we now had a wonderful day play area. It was one of the greatest assets we had since we could now set up the outdoor equipment safely. We also had a set of outdoor blocks here.

A new workshop was built and provided space for carpentry and maintenance work and storage for the mowers. . . .

The bank — directly above the back verandah, and leading up to the hillside area, by this time had been landscaped with rocks and steps, so the children could now climb without causing erosion. With the planting of hardy shrubs and climbing plants this became very attractive and we were able to place a slide and ladders etc., to add to its usefulness. The bush area was now the last part of the property to be adequately fenced and since children could wander there it was felt necessary to complete the work for maximum safety. The carpark facing on to Grey Street had also been completed to make a safer arrival and departure of parents and children."

Family

Throughout the records and personal reminiscences it becomes obvious, as stated previously, of the stability of the staff, their length of stay and of the family atmosphere. It was necessary because of the size of the grounds to

employ handymen or gardeners. Their tasks include gardening duties, cutting firewood, etc. But these men have taken a special place in the hearts of the children as they gave rides in the wheelbarrow or the trailer behind the mower.

Mention is made of George the Cat and Miffy Bunn. Miffy Bunn was the dachshund pet of Barbara Bunn and lived with Barbara in the Director's quarters — and "occasionally" enjoyed titbits accidentally dropped at mealtimes. George the Cat was a beautiful black creature who followed a child to the kindergarten, whereupon, being pleased with the place, he took up residence. He was greatly respected and was allowed prime place always in the winter before the fire. He was astonishingly placid and never minded being over-loved and patted by the children. If their handling ever became too much, he would rise with dignity and move elsewhere. His contribution to settling in unhappy children was of great importance, and also the parting from Mummy and Daddy in the morning was often eased by a little chat and pat with George. He was a member of the Warrawong family and played his role. The children thus being exposed to another avenue of warmth and caring.

Flat

Over the years the flat near the kindergarten has been leased out, used by couples and families working at Warrawong, used as a caretaker's flat and experimented with for counselling and discussion group meetings, and as a meeting place for parents. This experiment failed as parents seemed to like to be close to the hub of activity — the kitchen, and the children, and staff, and so at the present the flat is leased out.



The bank — landscaped



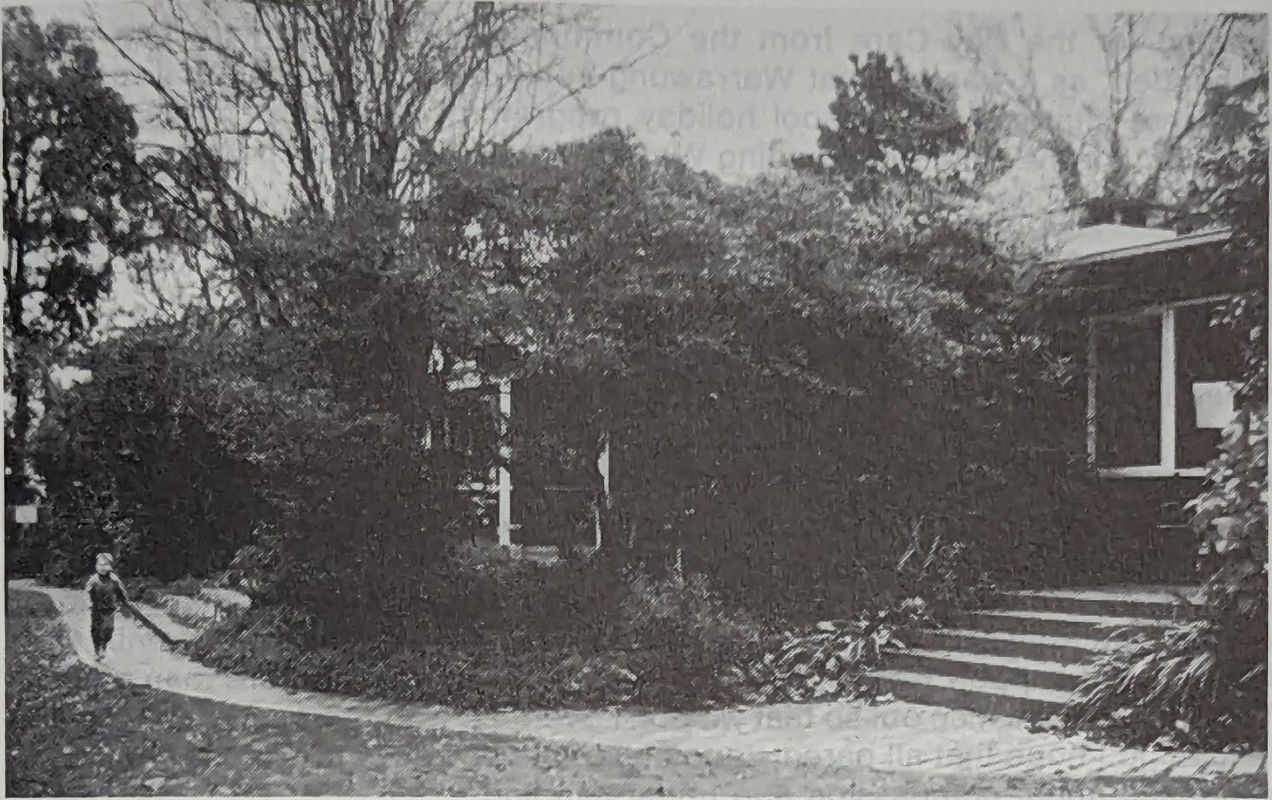
Paved Courtyard

3. WARRAWONG TODAY AND TOMORROW

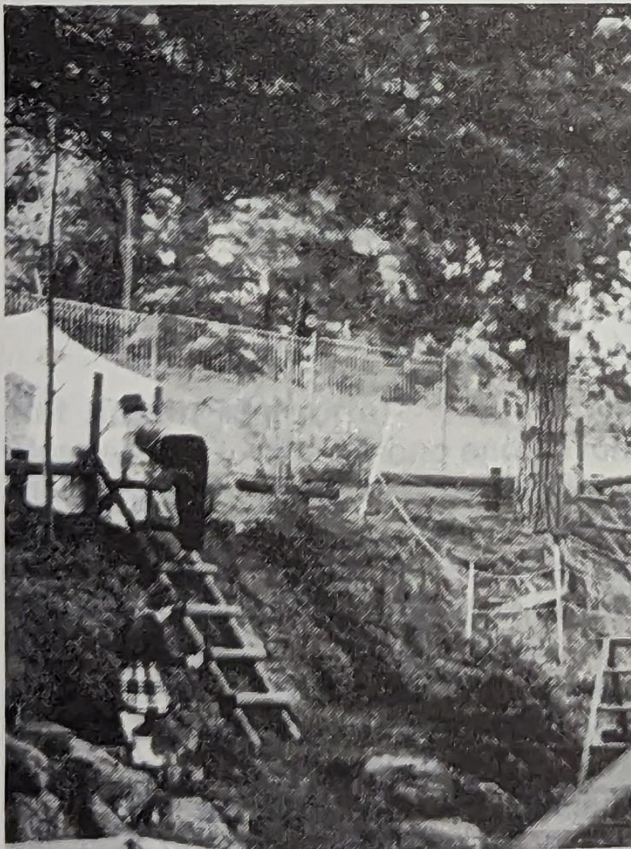
Warrawong Today

Joan Groube retired in 1983 and Liz Gower was appointed as Director. As with all Directors of Warrawong Liz brings to the position a very special warmth and caring for all the children, and adults who come into contact with Warrawong for whatever reason. Society changes over the years but the need for a caring supportive environment for families who are hurting never goes. Many women who are choosing to return to the work force are seeking high quality day care — yet many families are faced with the absolute necessity of the mother returning to employment. When families hurt, the children, especially the young, hurt even more.

It was with much joy that Pat Leever was appointed as a part-time member of staff in 1981. Pat had been a regular visitor as a psychologist from the Special Services Branch of the Education Department. After retiring from this position she was happy to come to Warrawong in a part-time capacity. As well as individual counselling, Pat would conduct discussion groups on various relevant subjects. Pat was able to mingle with the children and get to know parents on a more intimate level, and make her counselling much more meaningful and relaxed for all concerned.



Entrance to Warrawong today



The playground

Funding for the Day Care from the Commonwealth Government has been suspended, as it was felt that Warrawong could be self-supporting if realistic fees were charged. The school holiday programme continues for the hours 9am-5pm for the children attending Warrawong and siblings up to the age of 7 years. Any places after this go to outsiders if required.

Sadly, Warrawong does not have the facilities to take all children who apply. Many children are referred to Warrawong from a variety of agencies — not necessarily because of a specific need with the child, but because the family is in need or distressed.

Warrawong Tomorrow

Where Warrawong heads for in the future has yet to be decided, but under the leadership of Liz Gower with her empathy for the children and their families, we can be sure Warrawong will be led in a positive manner. It seems fitting to close with a quote from Liz "All children have special needs and it's a rare family that doesn't need support from time to time — some just need it more than others! We do try and balance out so that we don't overload with too many very special needs and I hope that all parents and children involved with Warrawong learn something about compassion and understanding."¹²

4. TRIBUTES

Of the many people that contributed to the development of Ware and Warrawong, Pat Austin and Lottie Machol stand out as typifying the spirit and character of the era.

Pat Austin Memorial

Most visitors to Warrawong and anyone who has read the information booklet, will know of the Bird Bath situated near the front entrance. This memorial Bird Bath Fountain is in memory of Pat Austin who gave so much of herself to Warrawong as a volunteer and then as a staff member. Much could be written of Pat, but I'll leave it to these words of Miss H.M. Paul to express what all those who knew Pat felt — "To be with her and a small group of children out for a walk in the paddock, exploring for wildflowers or mushrooms or insects or watching the cow being milked, or gathering eggs from the hens' nest, was to experience Froebel's works brought to life. 'Come let us live with our children.' That was the spirit which Pat was able to be with these children. The qualities Pat carried into her work could never be compelled or demanded or bought. They were the natural out-flowing of a singularly beautiful nature."

Lottie Machol

Lottie Machol was a person who saw a great need and did something about it. Her many years as a participating member of the Graduates Council and Warrawong, are a testimony to her great love of children.

Lottie was a single lady of independent means. She gave freely of her time and her money. To glance through the Minutes of Warrawong at a time when Warrawong was struggling both financially and in a deeper sense to find its role in the community, Lottie was there — not only in the big decision making time but in the mundane, every-day running of the Centre.

Those who knew Lottie recall, with fondness, her real affinity with the children. She was, as one person remembers, passionately fond of children. She had the time and more importantly made the time to do the small things that made life easier for the staff and ultimately the children. In many respects we will never really know just how many hours Lottie gave so willingly to Warrawong; nor the great financial support she gave so freely in small things and in larger donations.

Recorded in the Annual Report 1969-70 were these words "There were many expressions of sorrow, love, esteem and gratitude on the passing of Lottie Machol at this time. She had been a constant support to Warrawong and to the Committee."

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5. SUPPORTERS OF WARRAWONG

Land

When Col. Davey originally gave Ware to the Graduates, there were 25 acres of land. Since 1958 the land has been subdivided and sold and the money used to improve and adapt Warrawong to a Day Care kindergarten rather than the residential building it was designed for. It wasn't easy to divide and sell Warrawong land, but the upkeep of orchard land and pastoral land was often beyond the capabilities of staff and committee and the money was used wisely for the benefit of all. Warrawong now sits on 4 acres and is still a haven and natural habitat for birds and wildflowers — situated amongst the suburbia of East Ringwood.

Opportunity Shop

In 1959 Miss Helen Sage opened the Kindergarten Opportunity Shop in Nicholson Street, North Carlton. Miss Sage continued to run this shop with enthusiasm and dedication until its closure in 1983. Staffed solely by voluntary staff, it wasn't always easy to find that staff and Miss Sage put in much time and effort that many of us will know little about. From small beginnings the Opportunity Shop not only offered a service to the community but its takings were given to many needy organizations, including — Forest Hill, Warrawong, Rita May Harris Kindergarten, Isabel Henderson Kindergarten, Free Kindergarten Union, Silver Door and the Fitzroy Youth Centre, and Boynde Guild.

Auxiliaries

One formed in Ringwood and one in Croydon for the support of Forest Hill and Warrawong "The Committee is very much indebted to the two auxiliaries at Ringwood and Croydon, who have continued to show interest in our work by coming regularly to help with sewing and mendings, ironing and jam making. It is very gratifying to the Committee to know that they have the support of local residents."¹⁵

These auxiliaries have since disbanded after years of valuable assistance.

Parents' Association

Back in 1957 a small group of 5 mothers started the Mothers' Club — with the idea of raising money to assist the Committee in purchasing play equipment. These mothers also gave a day each week to assist with tasks within the Home. It is obvious they were an industrious group for in the 1958-59 Annual Report they had raised £ 50 at a morning stall.

This small group has grown throughout the years to the present day Parents' Association (PA). Their active participation in fund raising is always appreciated by the management committee. But of greater value is the identity and unity the PA provides for the parents. It is a forum for all parents to come together, to support one another as parents, and to meet as a social unit.

The regular working bees held to collect and chop wood, and to do other much needed jobs around the buildings and grounds is one way for all parents to join in and contribute much needed practical support.

On other occasions the PA has organised speakers for parents about certain aspects of childrens' development that concern all parents.

Whether social functions, working bees or fund raising, the PA provides a body for all parents to get to know one another and to make Warrawong home for the parents as well as the children.

Silver Door

The FKU had at its disposal a warehouse in Flinders Lane and with the outbreak of war put it to good use. An executive member, Mrs George Paton (late Lady Paton), brought back from England the idea of saving and recycling waste. This was in 1939. Initially toothpaste tubes were collected in bins placed on Victorian Railway Stations. A committee formed for this was known as the Special Efforts Committee and following the inspiration to paint the entrance door to the warehouse silver, became known as The Silver Door. The Silver Door became the auxiliary of the FKU as well as the Union's war effort and everyone benefitted. They expanded into tinfoil, aluminium and lead.

J.B. Were

Not enough can be said about the continued generosity of J.B. Were. Their financial support over the years has helped to make Warrawong what it is. In fact, their financial support has meant that Warrwong is. But their support is more than dollars and cents. There is an affinity between the staff of J.B. Were and Warrawong children. Kathleen Bourke who worked at J.B. Were for over 40 years remembers the tradition of giving dolls to the girls and money for gifts to be bought for the boys at both Forest Hill and Warrawong. "An employee at Were had been involved with kindergartens during the depression and thought it would be nice for our girls to do something, and so it evolved that we dress some dolls and give them to the kindergarten for the children at Christmas time. Of course, these were only for the girls, and as the men on our staff were not handy 'wooden toy makers' we gave the kindergarten teachers some money to buy suitable toys."

Miss Bourke recalls the procedure — "I collected cash from the staff, both men and women, in order to purchase dolls to be dressed by the girls, and also to give enough money to the kindergartens for the purchase of toys for the boys ...

By this time it was well known that 'Were's' had dolls at Christmas time. Our girls were willing to dress dolls — the request made by me was 'Please make the clothes so that they can be removed by a 3 or 4-year-old, preferably buttons or ribbons. We had them knitted, crotcheted, sewn, etc., and if we had a bride we always put it in 'dolly's corner'. I thought the kindergarten teacher was always marvellous the way she matched our dolls with her children. We had a display of the dolls in our canteen for about 3 days and during that time the staff from neighbouring offices came in to have a look.

One client said we should make it a competition, but I said the only prize is the smile the small girl gives on receipt of her present."

This lovely tradition continues through to the present day and the gifts are truly appreciated by all the children, and the kindness and caring put in by the Were staff is of great support to the staff and Committee of Warrawong.

Free Kindergarten Union

Or as it is known today the Free Kindergarten Association (FKA). Their constant support, and practical advice be the problem minor or major; to preparing submissions for government subsidies or planning changes to the programme, the FKA advisors have always been ready and willing to help. Their support has been insurmountable to staff and to the committee over the years, and appreciation cannot be expressed for the practical nature of their help. It continues unabated today.

APPENDIX

Chairpersons and Secretaries of Ware Committee, 1937-57 (source: Graduates Annual Reports)

1936-42	Miss Ruth Drake	Mrs Martha Arms (Hon.)
1942-43	Miss Ruth Drake	Miss P. Rogers
1943-45	Miss A. Dreyer	Miss P. Rogers
1945-46	Miss F. Emerson	Miss P. Rogers
1946-48	Miss A. Dryer	Miss P. Rogers
1948-52	Miss F. Emerson	
1952-53	Judith Brownbill	Joy Etherington (co-Hon)
1953-54	Celia Wilkinson (Hon)	
1954-55	No report from Ware	
1955-56	Miss F. Emmerson (Pres)	Mrs Hamilton-Moore (Hon)
1956-57	Miss N. Campbell-Smith (Pres)	Mrs Hamilton-Moore (Hon)

Chairpersons and Secretaries of Warrawong Committee, 1957-87 (source: Graduates Annual Reports)

1957-58	Miss P. Clare	Miss J. Kendall
1958-59	Miss P. Clare	Miss E. Kelso
1959-60	Miss P. Clare	Mrs H. Swanton
1961-62		
1962-63	Miss P. Clare	F. Inglls
1963-64		
1964-65	Miss L. Machol	J. Bockholt
1965-66	Miss L. Machol	Mrs de la Froude
1965-66	Miss L. Machol	Mrs de la Froude
1966-67	Miss N. Richards	Mrs J. Serpell
1967-70	Miss N. Richards	Miss N. Brownlee
1970-73	Miss N. Richards	Mrs J. Serpell
1973-74	Mrs A. Ingamells	Miss N. Brownlee
1974-75	Mrs A. Ingamells	Miss K. Bourke
1975-77	Mrs A. Ingamells	Miss C. Gavans
1977-81	Mrs A. Ingamells	Miss K. Bourke
1981-83	Mrs J. Thomson	Miss C. Gavans
1983-84	Mrs J. Thomson	Miss F. Gavans
1984-85	Mrs J. Thomson	Miss S. Cleeve
1985-87	Mrs J. Thomson	Mrs J. Batchelor
		Mrs L. Hingston
		Mrs J. Batchelor
		Mrs L. Hingston
		Mrs J. Batchelor
		Mrs L. Hingston
		Mrs J. Waltes
		Mrs S. Panoussi
		Mrs J. Waltes
		Mrs S. Panoussi
		Mr T. Kerr

Staff List

(source: Graduates Annual Reports)

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1936-37 | Miss Bennett, Honorary Director
Miss Hooke, assistant (resigned 1938)
Miss J. Hornabrook, resident voluntary helper |
| 1937-38 | Miss Bennett, Director, voluntary capacity (left for health reasons)
Miss Ida Liddle, Director
Miss Morrow (d), assistant (filled in for Miss Bennett)
Miss D. Emerson, assistant
Miss Butler (d) (Forest Hill), and Miss P. Austin (d), voluntary service |
| 1938-39 | Miss Morrow, Forest Hill
Miss Hooke, assistant, married leaving
Miss Liddle, married leaving
Miss P. Austin, voluntary |
| 1939-40 | Miss Morrow, Director
Miss B. Webster, staff
Miss Wills, staff |
| 1940-41 | Miss Morrow, Director — leaving
Miss Penno, assistant
Miss Austin, assistant
Miss D. Emerson, married |
| 1941-42 | Miss J. Stillwell (d), Director
Miss Broadhead resigned |
| 1942-43 | No report |
| 1943-44 | Miss J. Stillwell, Director |
| 1944-45 | Miss P. Austin, Director
Miss Ruby (mothercraft) and Miss Stockwell who co-op during staff shortages. |
| 1945-46 | Miss P. Austin, Director |
| 1946-47 | Miss P. Austin, Director
Miss G. Simpson, pre-school mothercraft
Miss E. Taye, play leader
Miss M. Ruby, play leader |

APPENDIX

- 1947-48 Miss P. Austin, Director
- 1948-49 Miss P. Austin, Director (12 months leave)
- 1949-50 Miss R. Williams (Albrect)
- 1950-51 No report
 Julia Kessell, junior assistant
 Miss Meehan
 Mrs Johnson, primary
- 1951-52 Miss Meehan, Director, left to take up further studies (Nursing Sister)
 Miss Le Couteur, Director, took her place beginning of 1952
 Mrs James, regular member of staff
 Miss Gregory, spent several weeks at Ware with initial group of 15 children
- 1952-53 Miss Le Couteur, maintained running of home
 Miss James, resigned
 Miss Ford, valuable assistance
 Miss Moon (d), generously offered her services for first term.
- 1953-54 Miss Le Couteur, resigned
 December 53, young couple from England were in residence as caretakers in return for accommodation.
 Mr and Mrs Johnson took over management (mother and child holiday).
- 1954-55 Mr and Mrs Hodgson, resident
 Mrs Conley, kindergarten teacher
 Mrs Chadwick, kindergarten teacher
 Mrs Nelson, worked with Mrs Hodgson
- 1955-56 end of mother and child holiday
 Mrs Story, play leader
 Mr and Mrs Swanton, living in flat at Ware same time acting as caretakers.
- 1958-59 Miss N. Bowker
- 1960-64 Miss K. Fargher
- 1965-67 Mrs D. Inglis
- 1968-75 Miss B. Bunn
- 1976-83 Mrs J Groube
- 1984-87 Mrs E. Gower (Cockerell)

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