

# ORBOST & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

P.O. BOX 284 ORBOST VIC 3888



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## NEWSLETTER

No. 115 March 2015

*A DEDICATED AND HIGHLY RESPECTED TEACHER —*

# HARRY GROSVENOR

*“NOT ONLY A SCHOOL TEACHER, BUT A TEACHER OF LIFE ITSELF”*

### HARRY'S EARLY YEARS

Harold William (“Harry”) Grosvenor was born at Carnegie, Melbourne, on December 28, 1934.

He was the eldest son of Eric and Bessie Grosvenor, who had a dairy farm at Hampton Park.

During the war years, the family lived on a poultry farm at Springvale South.

Harry completed his primary school years at Springvale State School and began his secondary education at Dandenong High School in 1947.

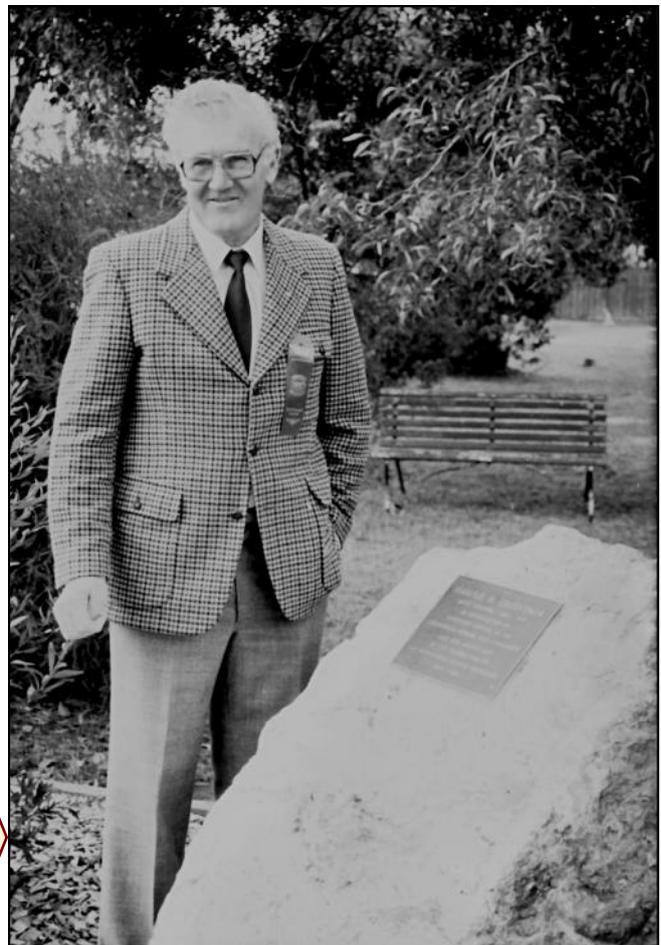
When the family shifted to Hillside, near Bairnsdale in 1949, Harry attended the Bairnsdale Technical School for three years before switching to the High School for one year in 1952.

### 100 YEARS: BIG DAY FOR NEWMERELLA SCHOOL

“Harold W. Grosvenor, head teacher 1966-1972.

In appreciation of dedicated service to the Newmerella School and the community. Laid 5th August 1989 at the celebration of the Newmerella School — 1889-1989.”

‘Snowy River Mail’, Wednesday, August 9, 1989.



## A TEACHING CAREER BEGINS

In 1953 Harry completed a one-year course at Melbourne Teachers' College, where he graduated with a Trained Primary Teachers' Certificate.

Harry then spent the rest of his teaching career within the Bairnsdale Inspectorate, at schools between Bairnsdale and the New South Wales border.

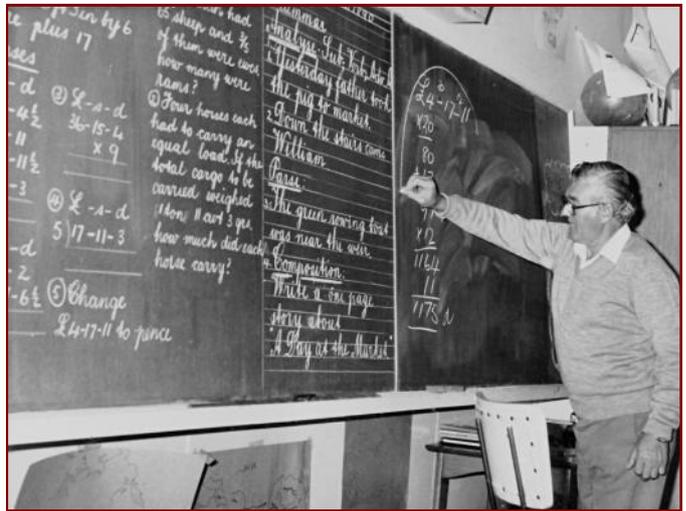
His first position was at Bairnsdale Primary School in 1954, broken by the then compulsory National Service training.

In 1955 Harry was appointed to the two small schools of Delegate River and Tubbut, near the Victorian / New South Wales border. The schools were 36 miles apart so he taught on a part-time basis, spending a week at a time at each school. Travel between the two localities was by motor bike and involved some very early and cold Monday mornings, especially during the winter months.

With the possibility that the Tubbut school would close, Harry applied for and gained an appointment at Goongerah, some 30 miles closer to Orbost than Tubbut. It was during his 3½ years at Goongerah that Harry first met his future wife, Shirley Towns, when both were members of the Orbost Young Farmers' Club.

At the end of first term in 1960 Harry moved to Tambo Upper, another one-teacher school with an enrolment of 24 students. Shirley and Harry married at Orbost in May 1961 and for five years they lived in a farm house on Alan Johnston's property at Tambo Upper.

Harry was then promoted to a third class teaching position at Bruthen State School where he taught for three years.



'Snowy River Mail'

Wednesday, January 11, 1956.

## NEWS FROM THE NORTH

### 21st Birthday Surprise Party:

On the occasion of his 21st birthday, Mr Harry Grosvenor (teacher for Tubbut School) was treated to a surprise party at the home of Mr and Mrs J. Neven on December 28th.

With almost seventy friends to wish him well, a happy time was spent with song and games until the small hours of Thursday morning. A leather case containing shaving gear, etc., was presented by Mr Clem Ingram, on behalf of Tubbut and district friends. A key, and other gifts were also received. A delicious home-made buffet supper was served with the birthday cake with its 21 candles having pride of place. This was made by Mrs P. Reed and decorated by Mrs E. Downey, both ladies from Goongerah.



### MODEL RAILWAYS

Harry enjoyed sharing his keen interest in model railways with youngsters and various community groups. He also arranged demonstrations at the local Orbost Show.

As well as making models for his own use and enjoyment, Harry handcrafted well over 300 models for the hobby market with some being sold overseas.

## ARRIVAL AT NEWMERELLA

Harry, Shirley, and six week-old Wayne, arrived at Newmerella at the beginning of 1966, and set up home in the school house, next door to the Newmerella School, in McLaughlin's Road where they remained for seven years.

Harry's first assistant teacher was Jenny McMahon (Gunn), then Margaret Hibberson, followed by Alma Mundy. There were about 63 children from Preps to Grade 6.

Shirley and Harry's daughter, Wendy, arrived in November 1968 to complete their family.

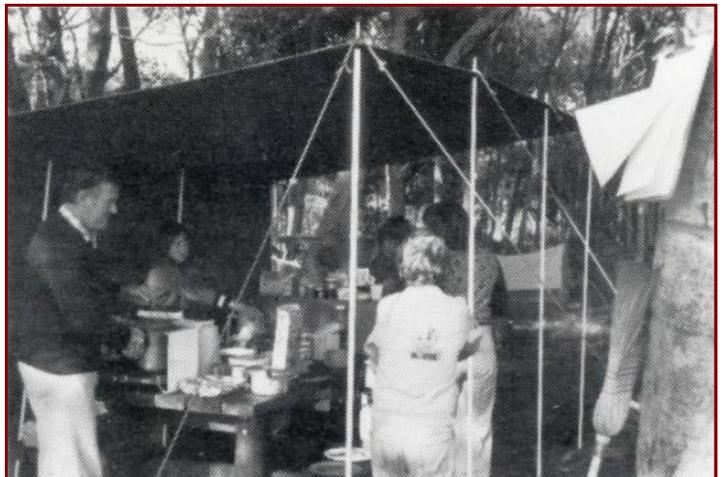
In 1973 Harry was promoted to Orbost Primary School as vice principal but, after a short time, he reverted to Class three level so he could spend time in the classroom with the kids which he enjoyed more.

The family moved into a school house in Orbost for 18 months while their new home was being built at Newmerella. They moved back to McLaughlin's Road in 1974.

In February 1984, at just 49 years of age, Harry suffered three heart attacks in three weeks. This was a shock to everyone as, prior to this, Harry was regularly seen riding his bike from his home at Newmerella to school in Orbost. Following double by-pass surgery in November 1984, Harry spent nine months in 1985 as Officer-in-charge of the Orbost Education and Support Centre.



L-R: Mrs Elaine Brown, Tanya & Sonia Brown, Harry Grosvenor, \_\_\_\_\_.



Orbost Primary School Grade 6 Overnight Camp at Corringe - 1977



Harry introduced the Bike Ed program to Orbost Primary School after he and Peter May (Marlo P S) successfully completed a two-day training program at Bairnsdale. This encouraged Harry to ride his bike to school from Newmerella to Orbost which he did quite often.

## PREMATURE RETIREMENT

In 1986, Harry attempted to go back to teaching but was hugely disappointed that, after a week, he was forced to give up his teaching career. He officially retired at the end of 1987.

In 1989, at its centenary celebrations, the Newmerella Primary School acknowledged Harry's dedication and contribution to the school and the community by commissioning a plaque in his honour.

Harry's retirement was spent involved with his many community organisations and his model railways.

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He wrote several articles for the *Australian Model Railway* magazine and recorded a history of the Bairnsdale to Orbost railway line before it closed forever on August 21, 1987.

From early 1998 Harry suffered further serious health problems, as well as two more heart attacks, prior to passing away peacefully in his own home on October 15, 2000.



'*Snowy River Mail*', Wednesday, August 9, 1989:

The finishing touches — Mr. Harry Grosvenor displayed a superb model railway layout at the Show. The layout, with some 63 feet of track, took over eighteen months to complete. Harry built almost the entire system, including the rolling stock.



#### **ALICE & HARRY'S OLDE TIME DANCE BAND**

Harry played his accordion with a number of local musicians and in 1974, with Alice Robinson, formed "Alice and Harry's Olde Time Dance Band, a partnership which continued for ten years.

## **HARRY'S INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

- Harry and John Kleinitz inaugurated the formation of the Newmerella Fire Brigade. It was registered as a "B" class brigade on June 17, 1968. Harry was made an honorary Life Member of the Newmerella Fire Brigade on June 13, 1998.
- Harry was secretary of the Newmerella Rodeo committee formed in 1969. With Joe Webb as president the first rodeo was held A.N.A. weekend 1970.
- During the biggest flood on record in February 1971, Harry manned a P.M.G. radio and a Police radio for a week from the Newmerella School. Lessons were fitted around the hourly radio schedules.
- Harry served two 5-year terms on the Orbost & District Hospital Board. He was president of the Board in 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74 & 1979-80.
- He assisted with the building of sailing boats and canoes for the Orbost Primary School's sailing camps and rafting programs. Harry also introduced the Bike Ed program to Orbost Primary School.
- He was a volunteer Ambulance driver in the 1970s. Sometimes the ambulance was parked outside the school when he was on call.
- Harry played his accordion with a number of local musicians, but teamed up with Alice Robinson in 1974 to form "Alice and Harry's Olde Time Dance Band", for a 10-year partnership.
- Harry was involved in and helped organise Newmerella's "Back To" in 1978.
- In 1979 the Orbost Chamber of Commerce honoured Harry by naming him "Citizen of the Year".
- Harry was presented with a Life Governor's certificate by the East Gippsland Ambulance Service in 1981 for nine years voluntary service.
- In early 2000, Harry received a certificate for five year's valued service to Neighbour watch.



Back L-R: Harry Grosvenor, Nelva Baughurst, Alice Robinson, Marion Wait, Ruth Burn, Vicki Geddes, Elaine Hofen, Lorraine Davies, Paul Lavell.  
 Front L-R: Shirley Grosvenor, Enid Wait, Bretta Izzard, Muriel Sederlan, Phyllis Eaton, Emily Healey, Joyce Cumming.

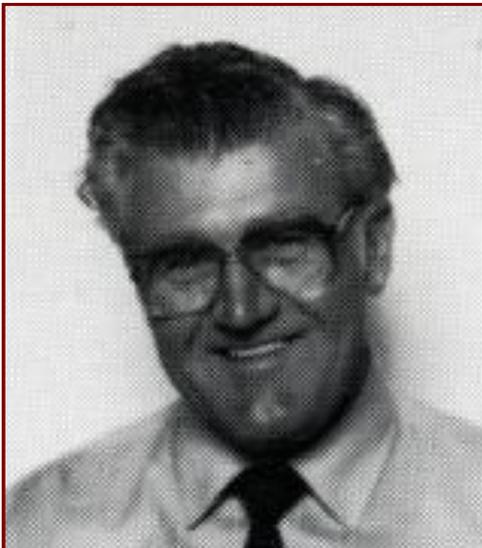


**PAST PRESIDENTS**  
*Honour Roll*

Years	Name	Years	Name	Years	Name
1919-24	C. Arkins	1982-84	J. M. Duggan		
1925-37	J. S. Tomlinson	1984-85	R. T. Sifton		
1937-46	J. F. McCoy	1985-86	B. M. Reynolds		
1946-47	C. V. Downey	1986-89	G. V. Thomas		
1947-49	J. F. Hossack	1989-91	J. R. Court		
1949-57	T. H. Rodwell	1991-94	B. F. Suter		
1957-60	L. C. McLeod	1994-98	L. R. Harding		
1960-61	B. F. Johnson	1998-00	J. T. Gammington		
1961-67	L. C. McLeod	2000-01	L. R. Harding		
1967-69	Rev. A. N. Parton	2001-04	W. J. Phillips		
1969-71	J. D. Torley	2004	C. Van der Vlugt		
1971-74	H. W. Grosvenor				
1974-75	P. T. Martin				
1975-76	J. G. Richardson				
1976	R. J. Coulston				
1977-79	J. G. Richardson				
1979-80	H. W. Grosvenor				
1980-82	B. M. Reynolds				

ORBOST & DISTRICT HOSPITAL

ORBOST REGIONAL HEALTH



**ORBOST AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL - 1980**

Chairman of the Committee of Management, Mr. W. H. Grosvenor, accepts a cheque from Mrs. J. Hammond (left) and Nurse L. Marshall for \$654 raised by hospital staff to cover the cost of floor coverings of the day room for general patients.