

# A Primary Teacher

By Bill Pugh



The January sales are over. Holidays are over and the school year has begun. The book and stationery lists are out. Action is required from someone, probably Mum. Uniforms, shoes and sports gear, are needed. The costs mount.

In 1872 the Victorian Education Act decreed education to be free, secular and compulsory. The latter two fine, but free? Schools levy charges for various needs, and there will be school camps and excursions to be paid for later on. All of the above will enrich the school experience, but the first encounter between the child and a primary teacher, forms a basis on which education begins, and is priceless. So spare a thought for the Primary Teacher at this time.

There will be lessons to prepare. Another class, names to learn, kids to welcome and energy to harness. Lunch times and recess supervision

provide opportunity to get closer in a school yard chat or game.

Happy memories of teachers linger. The teacher who late every afternoon, sat us on a piece of carpet and made stories live. She had no family, each grade was hers. And old “pop”, in the grey dust coat, who insisted on correct spelling, and memorising tables. Snippets of poetry and little extracts from wonderful writers were introduced.

I shall always be grateful to the teacher who gave me “stickability” and told me to give it a go, even if it seemed hard. Ron gave me a life skill.

A teacher gets to know each child personally and through written reports and parent/teacher interviews, gives honest, helpful and encouraging assessments of a child’s progress both academic and social. There is a partnership between home and school.

## Reflection:

*The best report I ever read is written in Luke of The Great Teacher: “And the child grew and became strong, he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.” A large part of the child’s early development as a whole person, rests with a very special primary teacher. The sticker on the rear window of a family car reads: “Thank God for a Primary Teacher”. And we should.*