



Apollo Bay Youth Club History

Compiled by Robert Telford

Apollo Bay Youth Club was started in 1942 by Mr. Jack Sexton, the local police sergeant at the hall next to the Church of England. The hall was on the land where Garden of Eden is now. Then they went to the Mechanics' Hall but whenever there was a function on they had to move out so the Committee bought land in Moore Street to build their own hall.

The kitchen was built first which the kindergarten used. Mrs. Alma Leorke was the teacher and this was the first kindergarten in Apollo Bay. They had a working bee to dig the foundations and my father Bill Telford was the only one who turned up, so he dug all the foundations for the hall by himself. The area was 60 x 40 feet in those days. I watched the frames go up when it was being built and I helped nail the floorboards down. The local mills donated the timber and flooring. Mr. Dickason was the builder. It wasn't lined for a while, until they got more money. Residents gave debentures and the Youth Club paid them back. Some donated money, there were carnivals on the foreshore with spinning wheels, luck envelopes, etc.

In those days, about 1949-1952, building the hall was very different from building today. Brown paper was nailed onto the studs and the locals collected thousands of beer bottle tops to hold the paper on. Then it was covered with wire netting to hold the cement on when it was rendered. Incidentally, Greenacres and the Masonic Lodge were built at the same time in this way. Later when they had more money they built on, between the kitchen and the hall. Eventually the toilets went inside, the old toilets were outside the hall, girls one side and boys the other.

The Youth Club opened in 1952 but the inside of the hall still wasn't lined. In those days the police helped run the activities, like gymnastics and games. My Mum's catering committee made a lot of money catering for functions which kept the club going. If we ever lose it we would never be able to get it back. The land next door is also owned by the Youth Club and this good open space for children to play on.

Today many groups use the hall:
Monday - Steiner children's group
Tuesday & Thursday - soft tennis, indoor tennis
Wednesday & Saturday - OCR FM 88.7 Apollo Bay
Friday - Church group
Weekends - Groups hire the hall for functions, parties, special events, AGMs etc.

January - CWA fair
April - Apollo Bay Music Festival

I attended Youth Club and went on to be the leader for 35 years. During that time we had 100 children, four nights a week, two girls nights and two boys nights, junior and senior.

Elise Telford, my mother, was secretary for 35 years, Barbara Telford, my sister, was girls' leader for 10 years. Bill Telford, my father, did the hall maintenance for 20 years.

I had the first key of the hall when it was completely finished, mind you, it was for the back door!

Hall Schedule

January 2022						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Schedule 1	4	5	6 Schedule 1	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Schedule 1	14	15
16	17	18	19 Schedule 1	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Schedule 1	29
30	31 Schedule 1					



Hall Inquiry

To get in touch with us, simply fill in your details below and we'll call you back soon.

NAVIGATIONAL MENU

- Youth Club
- Radio
- Farmers Market
- Scouts
- Men's Shed
- Co-Op
- Soft Tennis

