



**2009 VSCA Canteen of the Year Awards**  
**Celebrating excellence in Victorian School Canteens in 2009**

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# **Glenda Smith Memorial Award**

**celebrating excellence  
in canteen and community**

**in memory of  
Mrs Glenda Smith  
Yarrowonga PS  
6/8/1952 - 5/10/2009**

**“Strive and Achieve Together”**

VSCA Canteen of the Year Awards are joint initiatives of  
Victorian School Canteen Association (Inc A0013400G, ABN 67 780 636 703) in conjunction with VSCA Canteen Services Pty Ltd (ABN 20 062 392 983)  
PO Box 1035, Box Hill, Vic 3128

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VSCA - in 2009, proudly celebrating 26+ years of helping schools to happy munching!



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Glenda Smith is remembered by members of the Victorian School Canteen Association as a very special person.

Her highly valued work as a parent, canteen volunteer, member of School Council, President of the Parents' Club, and canteen manager at Yarrowonga Primary School embodied the school's motto of "Strive and Achieve Together".

Glenda featured in the VSCA Canteen of the Year Awards as a multiple prize winner. She was the winner of the VSCA Most Improved Primary School Canteen Award in 2007 and the VSCA Innovation Award for the Best Primary School Canteen Idea in 2007.

In addition, she was awarded Highly Commended for the Primary School Canteen Manager of the Year in 2007 and again in 2008; Highly Commended for the Most Improved Primary School Canteen in 2008, and Highly Commended for the Best Primary School Canteen Idea in 2008. Sharon Pitches, Glenda's nomination for VSCA Canteen Volunteer of the Year in 2008, was also a winner.

Glenda was an innovator.

In 2003, she set up a free Breakfast Program at Yarrowonga Primary School. She worked hard to recruit volunteers and to gain local donations of milk, bread and juice. She then raised funds to purchase a conveyor toaster that cooked 150 slices per hour, and later obtained a grant from her shire council to expand the program to three mornings per week.

In 2007, Glenda implemented 'Healthy Heart Tuesdays' at Yarrowonga Primary School with the aim of encouraging children to eat and make healthier choices. All packaged snack foods were placed under the counter and the only available snack foods for sale were fruit, yoghurts and any home cooked healthy foods. She introduced apple slinkys and these became popular very quickly. A very tempting platter of available fresh fruit took centre place at the serving window. A best seller was her special yoghurt cones which are small square ice cream cones filled with yoghurt topped with rice bubbles. Instead of the icy poles available for purchase on other days, she sold "pear pops" (½ pear frozen on a stick), "banana pops" (½ banana dipped in fruit juice and rolled in crushed rice bubbles) and frozen pieces of mixed fruit. Freshly cooked wholemeal pancakes with no toppings just walked out the door. Depending on the availability of volunteers, each week Glenda tried to make something different, including anzac biscuits, banana or apple muffins, sultana & zucchini cake. Drinks were limited to plain water, fruit juice or flavoured milk.

Glenda was a character.

She was the originator of the annual "Yarrowonga Duck Race", a major fundraiser for the school each Easter. She would dress up in a duck suit and go all around the town selling raffle tickets.

Glenda staged many special themed lunch days for her students. For extra fun, she would dress up - as a witch for Halloween and in her footy gear for Footy Colours Day.

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In Glenda's own words from 2008:

"I am a mother of 6 grown up children. I have always loved children...

I started doing canteen duty in the early 90's and this continued for many years until I took the unpaid position for 1 year and then it became a paid position. A job I have been doing since 1999.

I enjoy my job and love walking through the playground and having the children all call out to me. And when I arrive on Tuesday mornings loaded up with bread for the free breakfast and everything else I am trying to carry on one trip from the car, you can hear the scream of 'Glenda's here' and the children rush to greet me and help to carry my load. By the time I get to the canteen door, I am usually empty handed and they are asking for the key around my neck so they can unlock the shutter for me. And then it's 'Can I help? Can I help?'

The older ones are allowed to help load the toaster until the other adult help arrives...I work in the canteen on Monday, Tuesday and Fridays and the other two days of the week at a child care centre. It's hard to choose between the two and if I could I would work at both full time as I love walking in the gates at both places, there's only 1 of me and I think I am lucky that both my jobs are involved with helping children...

My philosophy is if you want to be good at what you do, you need to love it and that's what I do.

I believe all children need to be treated with respect and made to feel special.

When a child comes with no lunch, make them feel special, don't make them think they are a burden because you have to make them a sandwich. I always say 'Hey, how hungry are you?

Would you like two?' Nobody knows what their day was like before they came to school.

Late lunch orders it's usually 'Right, you're on dishes - see you at recess.'

They look and then I say, 'No, just joking'...'"

The Glenda Smith Memorial Award is a special VSCA award to honour Glenda's memory and to celebrate her exemplary work in her school canteen and her school community.

From 2009, it will be awarded annually to an outstanding canteen manager or school community who demonstrate similar qualities, integrity and spirit that Glenda embodied in her lifetime, as expressed in Yarrowonga Primary School's motto:

"Strive and Achieve Together"



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