



Nundah State School 1865-2015



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Editor Matthew Wengert

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Dedication:

This book is dedicated generally to the many great teachers and principals from Nundah's past 150 years and next 150 years who have been (and will be) remembered for the right reasons, despite those few teachers remembered for all the wrong reasons.

This book is dedicated specifically
to Mavis Baxter and Russell Parry.
Those who know them know why.

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FOREWORD

Children have been educated in the Nundah area for thousands of years, but the first formal ('modern') schooling was established by the German missionaries in the 1840s. In 1865 the German Station National School was opened by the colonial Queensland government on our school's present site. At that time Nundah was half a day's riding from Brisbane.

The name was changed to Nundah State School in 1896. The school then had three large classrooms for over 100 pupils, but only about half of the students attended through all their primary school years. By 1916 the enrolment was almost 700. The northern wing of the main building was completed in 1935, and a new wing parallel to Buckland road opened in 1951.

By the 1950s the population grew to more than 1700, including a separate Infants School with up to 600 pupils. The school pool was built in 1956—before that swimming was taught at the Sandgate Baths and the Valley Pool—with the swimming club forming in 1960. A 'Centenary Library' opened in 1965, and was replaced by our current library in 2009. The Morrie Bernard Hall—constructed in 2010, and opened in 2011—was named after our former principal who was at Nundah for nineteen years.

This book is a work of compilation, made possible by the contributions of dozens of interested—and interesting—volunteers who have provided the ideas, images, and information that follow. The table of contents points to written elements by four of the school's principals—one current, and three former—supplemented by notes from four P&C presidents (ditto). Another section covers the history of the school's swimming club, and there is also a brief chapter on the school's physical/structural history. Several important sections are written by or edited by Russell Parry, whose indefatigable commitment to gathering and organising the school's history has duly entitled him to bear the co-dedication of this book.

Nundah State School has a long and strong history, embodied by the many thousands of pupils who have passed through its gates over 150 years, and of course by the hundreds of dedicated teachers and administrators who have kept the wheels of learning turning. These children and staff have been supported by a host of parents and guardians—many of whom have volunteered their time in a diversity of ways to enrich the educative and physical environment in which the work of nurturing young minds has evolved over a century and a half.

This spirit of volunteering is crucial to the ongoing improvements in any school, and this book can only exist because of the selfless gift of effort and time of current and former parents and pupils. The many faults and failings of the current volume are in no way attributable to these generous people (listed in the acknowledgements page at the rear).

My involvement with the school begins and ends with being a parent of six children who've had the great benefit of a fine quality education at Nundah. I have been involved with the P&C association—in the roles of secretary and vice-president—through which I have been personally inspired by the keen and kind commitment of that impressive group of people.

The P&C association (and its forerunner, the Nundah State School Committee) has played a powerful advocacy role on behalf of the school for longer than anyone now alive can remember. Major achievements include the establishment of the pool, major support for the library and grounds maintenance, and the commemorative events that mark the school's proud history. The 1965 Centenary booklet is re-produced in full within this book, and provides the standard (albeit somewhat dry) text for the history of Nundah State School's first century.

The other significant historical components of this book include—apart from the many photographs—memoirs and oral history transcripts, as well as some mini-chapters on particular aspects of the school (such as the swimming club, and the buildings). Some of these memoirs were originally produced in connection with the major 125th anniversary event in 1990, and others have emerged as we approached the current sesquicentenary celebrations. You'll see (if you get that far into the book) that not all of the memories are entirely positive. Spoiler alert: most contributions to the book are affectionate and affirmative.

Another form of memories included in this book have been gathered from the Nundah Old-Timers (former pupils) Facebook pages. Some of these threads were initiated by a list of themes/topics that I proposed, and which the moderators seeded in a series of callouts to generate content specifically for this book—as well as to carry on the new and usual discussions of the group. This material from Facebook posts is typically brief, and often quite conversational in structure and tone. It is also highly susceptible to hasty expression, and has required some intensive editing by me to bring the text into conformity with standard conventions of written English. I have also edited (by deletion) elements that go off-topic, as well as a couple of instances that may have possibly caused offence, however unintentional. The Facebook threads are public, so the edited and original texts can be compared by anyone sufficiently interested.

The book commences with prefatory contributions by a number of notable current and recent interested persons, beginning with the Queensland Minister for Education, and including the local Member of the Legislative Assembly (and long-time friend of Nundah State School), the school's Principal, former principals, President and the P&C association, and former P&C presidents.

I hope you find this book engaging, informative, and worthy of this most significant milestone in the history of Nundah State School.

Matthew Wengert (editor)

Education Minister Kate Jones' message in the Nundah State School 150th anniversary book

Nundah holds a unique place in Queensland's past as the first free European settlement. It was established in 1838 as a German mission for the local Aboriginal population – the Turrbul people.

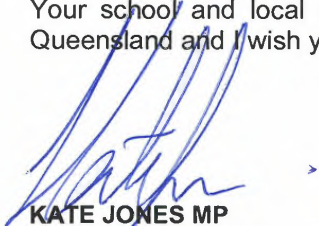
Today it's hard to believe the location was selected because of its remoteness from the main penal settlement at Moreton Bay.

While your school opened as the German Station National School in 1865, it was not the area's first school. Formal education had begun in the area in 1841 when Pastor Karl Wilhelm Schmidt held classes in an open hut for the children of the German missionaries and local Aboriginal families.

Today your school continues to welcome students from diverse backgrounds and Nundah's 'culture of care' continues to grow and show. Thank you for inviting me to be a part of your sesquicentenary celebrations through the pages of this commemorative book.

Congratulations to those involved in its production, both in the printed form and the ebook, to mark the school's long and significant history.

Your school and local area hold a special place in the history of Brisbane and Queensland and I wish you well for your celebrations.



KATE JONES MP
Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events,
Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

I've represented Nundah State School as the member for Clayfield for almost 9 years.

It has been my honour to represent the school during this time and especially during the 150th Birthday Celebrations.

Out of the many fond memories including student leader investitures, opening the EdMac building my fondest memory visiting was being Principal for a Day back in 2011 where I did everything from working in the Principal's office - to playing handball with the students at lunch time!

Over the last couple of years, I have been proud to be able to deliver funding and Great Results for Nundah State School – including \$597 152 aimed towards increasing the percentage of students meeting the national minimum standard, \$317,603 towards repairing the school to make the school a safer environment for the Children. I am also pleased to see that Nundah State School now has flashing school zone lights to make our Children safer on the way to school!

Over the last 150 years Nundah State School has come a long way and it is truly a testament to Mrs Cox and all previous Principals before her.

I look forward to serving as the Voice for Nundah State School in the Queensland Parliament to the best of my ability throughout this next term.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim Nicholls". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Nicholls MP
Member for Clayfield
Shadow Minister for Infrastructure
Planning, Small Business, Employment and Trade

PRINCIPALS and P&C PRESIDENTS: PAST and PRESENT

PRINCIPAL'S PREFACE

By Ms Deb Cox

It is a great privilege to be the Principal of Nundah State School in this, our 150th year of caring for and educating the children of our local community.

One of the oldest schools in Queensland, I still recall the day, almost four years ago now, when I first encountered the magnificent, heritage listed main building. Constructed in parts during the 1930s, it establishes an inspiring and an imposing first impression. I remember asking myself: "How does one maintain and enhance that?" While at the time I meant the building, this was soon to become an enduring theme for my leadership of Nundah State School on my pages of our history book; How can I maintain all that is impressive about Nundah and yet enhance it so we are stronger, kinder, cleverer, and even more appealing...?

I loudly and proudly tell anyone listening just how wonderful our students are. They value education, seeing themselves as learners with purpose. Our community underwent a substantial change and resurgence in recent years, so that our school is now brimming. Our families are a genuine representation of a multicultural Australian Society. They now represent a complex and broad range of backgrounds, religious beliefs, ethnic origin, and socio-economic status. Many students are the 3rd or 4th generation of their families to attend the school.

Reflecting this changing student body, we have also experienced many new staff becoming part of the Nundah community. As we have expanded, and as staff have retired, been promoted, and sought opportunities elsewhere, we have been able to balance our experienced school staff with teachers early in their career, and teachers returning from service in country areas of Queensland. Our leadership team reflects our larger school, now including a second Deputy Principal, Master Teacher, Learning Coach and full-time Head of Curriculum, as well as additional support staff in Guidance and Learning Support. We now have full-time specialist staff in Music and Physical Education, and a part-time teacher for the Performing Arts (Dance and Drama). All staff have all shown great commitment to substantial professional learning over the past few years, as we have come to understand how best to implement the Australian Curriculum, to teach Literacy to improve student outcomes in Reading and Writing, and to develop our skills to engage students in learning with use of eLearning and digital technologies. We delight in being learners too!

Our main school facilities are well provided, with a pool, spacious oval and impressive hall. Many of these have been enhanced with contributions by active and involved parent body and local community. Recent improvements include improved road safety procedures; expanded and safer points of pedestrian access; air-conditioning of some less ventilated spaces; renovation of the staffroom; window tinting for exposed spaces; a new uniform shop; re-developed resources centre / library; new student furniture for some classrooms; upgraded toilet facilities for junior school and pool; renovations of some classrooms and office spaces; re-development of front gardens and car park; external painting of some

buildings; the creation of outdoor learning areas for both the senior and junior school, and, of course, the stage one re-development the junior school play space.

This historical milestone of 150 years provides us a timely opportunity to ask the question: Who are we and who do we want to be?

This year has drawn forward some memories of us all as we have perused old photos, heard recollections from our past students, and enjoyed the children playing ‘old fashioned games’, and dancing around our maypole. It has garnered community contribution as enthusiasm to begin the re-development of our student play spaces, and has given our history lessons some real audience and purpose.

So what will the next few pages of our History book record ? As part of our 4 year plan, we are currently refining our vision for the students and our school. Significant staff, student and parent input have shaped the following areas of focus:

- Maintain our traditions and community events, while we create new celebrations.
- Further develop our capacity to teach our students the personal qualities and 21st Century learning skills they need to live in Australia and in the world as, curious, creative and co-operative citizens.
- Engage student input into the development of the school, in particular responding to their curriculum needs and interests more, and integrating their ideas about how they would like their classrooms to be (as Contemporary Learning Spaces - both indoor and outdoor). This will enable their input into the renovation of more classrooms, and creating more student friendly outdoor areas eg Mosaic and Sound Gardens;
- Extend playground and play space by re-development of the quadrangle to the oval; around Prep and upper oval for the benefit of junior and upper school students;
- Develop new learning areas, e.g. expand the library and underneath; with a view to to building a facility for outside school hours care.

For me, our 150th year is an opportunity to explore possibilities as we reflect on our Legacy. What do we want to leave behind for others to enjoy and benefit from: physically, emotionally and intellectually. What do we want to look back on? What imprint do we want to see and feel we have made on this part of our world. I know our past students and staff will come and as they view Nundah again, they will reflect on what Nundah gave to them, and what they gave to Nundah. Thank you and enjoy all that we are, and all that we can become!

Mr Morrie Bernard: MEMORIES OF NUNDAH

I commenced my teaching career in 1975 when I was appointed to Somerset Hills State School. I was encouraged by the principal there (Harry Kinnear) to consider the role of principal—he thought I had enough mongrel in me to be successful at the job. My first small school was Cooranga North (1980-82) between Dalby and Kingaroy with 20 students. Next was Bungunya State School (1983-84) with 50 students followed by Lake Clarendon near Gatton (1985-86). I came back to the big smoke in 1987 and was a non-teaching principal at Bulimba (1987-89), Darra (1990-92), and finally appointed to Nundah State School in October 1992, and stayed there until I retired in December 2011.

I was very happy to come to Nundah as I lived at West Chermside and it was convenient to home. In 1992 it took me 10 minutes to drive to school; by 2011 that was up to 20 minutes—this was entirely due to the increased traffic and not the state of my old blue ute. I knew I was following a highly respected principal into Nundah (Evan Daniel) and I was a little concerned about this. But the staff and parents gave me a very good welcome; apparently the acting principal, who was in the job for term 3 1992, succeeded in upsetting quite a few people—this made the task a little easier and ensured a warm reception.

In 1992 the school had 370 students in years 1 to 7 with 14 class teachers. Many of the teachers had been at Nundah for a number of years. School numbers had declined steadily since the early 1970s, which reflected the demographics of the suburb. I decided that one of my main tasks would be to arrest the decline in enrolments. There was a deputy principal door sign in one of the draws and I told the Administration Assistant (Ms Pat Ryan) that one day this sign would be used again—she was doubtful.

There were some interesting teachers of the ‘old school mould’ at the time—some even referred to themselves as ‘senior male teachers’—to this day I have no idea what a senior male teacher actually is. One had a milk run (if you can remember what that was) that he used to work on in the early hours of the mornings. This resulted in a limited amount of energy by the afternoon and the teacher resorted to the odd afternoon snooze. I always knew when this was on as the teacher was at his desk head down and the class totally silent—about the only time in the day that it was. Another teacher had some interesting religious beliefs and insisted, in her classroom, books depicting dinosaurs and man coexisting would be a feature of her learning program.

I was impressed by the school’s excellent grounds and facilities, including a fabulous swimming pool (one of Queensland’s first) and a wonderful oval. We also had a unique playground called ‘Discovery land’. This consisted of some interesting features such rope bridges, climbing apparatus and swings. I was a little alarmed on inspection of this as some of these items were 4 and 5 metres high with no soft fall. ‘Discovery land’ became a victim of workplace health and safety, and was later removed by Q-Build after one too many broken bones, much to the disgust of the older children and its builders.

Nundah’s enrolments continued to decline slightly and reached the lowest point in 1996 at 336. I remember this clearly as on Day 1 of the school year we did not have one new enrolment through the door and had only enrolled 32 Year 1s. In discussion with the P&C we decided we needed to raise the school’s profile and be more active in promoting

ourselves. One of our strategies was to advocate with Education Queensland for a Preschool at Nundah as well as upgrading facilities and working on the provision of a school hall and new library.

One of our best achievements was the establishment of a preschool at Nundah. We advocated for this through the regional office, whose initial response was 'You have to be joking the Nundah enrolments are predicted to be 250 by 2000.' But our enrolments started to turn around as we became more active around the area and by 1998 were back above 390. With some support from the Geebung District Office, and local politicians, we were given a 'trial' Early Education Centre. Its future was dependent on enrolments and we were allocated 25 places—these were easily filled and we even had a waiting list. A couple of years later the EEC was expanded to 50 places. The school's future looked good at this point as we were able to keep these pre-schoolers into year 1 and we soon had a deputy principal (Russ Malsem). By 2000 our enrolments were about 425. I never found out who in the central office planning section was responsible for the 250 enrolment predicted a few years earlier!

At this time I had a health scare and was diagnosed with lung cancer (this is one thing you should avoid in life if at all possible). I had a large part of 1999 off work and during this time I was overwhelmed by support from staff, students and parents. It made the battle so much more positive and was actually responsible for my long stay at Nundah. Besides quite enjoying the place I decide there was more to life than promotions and higher duties and decide not to chase these. Though interestingly, as the enrolments at NSS went up the school was reclassified from a band 8 to 9 (Class1) and I received a promotion.

We always had a fantastic and supportive Parents and Citizens' Association at Nundah. Most of what is seen around the school was the results of their work over 150 years—centenary rose garden, tennis courts, oval, pool stands, centenary library, music room, tuckshop, etc., etc. We always had positive and productive meetings with very few disagreements. One aspect of the Nundah P&C was the 'mercy clause'—no meeting should extend beyond 9pm, and this was well followed and much appreciated by all who attended. The biggest meeting was in the late 1990's when we were looking at updating the uniform and nearly 70 people attended. Wayne Swan MP happened to drop into this meeting and whispered to me 'What's going on?' I explained it was uniforms and he said 'I won't stay long.' I could never understand this turn out, as far more serious issues were regularly discussed at general meetings. P&C office bearers and volunteers are the unsung heroes of our schools and it was a pleasure to work with them. We went 'upmarket' and gave the Ladies Auxiliary a makeover calling it the Events Committee. This hard-working group organised school social and funding raising events and proved very successful.

The academic standards at Nundah were always high. When I got there I did a few tests and was impressed with the students' strengths in the basics. This was always reflected in our NAPLAN results. Though my opinion of NAPLAN is not high (to say the least), the data from it is not reliable and schools waste the first term preparing for it. An extensive outdoor/camping program was run. One of the highlights was a camping trip to Moreton Island; it is surprising how many past students I meet who refer to this as one of their best experiences. However, it did take staff a week to recover.

The school saw great growth from 2000 to 2010. We had a full time deputy principal (Mike Ormiston) and a head of curriculum (Cindy Keong) as enrolment went up to about 650 which was a number I felt was best for us in terms of staff and facilities. The P&C were advocating for a new school library as the one built in 1965 was clearly inadequate. Through our then local member (Liddy Clarke MP) we had a meeting arranged with the Minister for Education to put the library proposal forward. This proved to be a very short meeting as the best way to describe it would be... 'We were thrown out'. In spite of this set back we continued to advocate and the next minister saw the merits of our proposal and a new library was provided—the one now hanging off the wall at the Bage Street corner, which also provided a covered play area.

The children were generally very well behaved, but there were some who made the job interesting. Like the young lad who 'left' and we could not track his whereabouts—4 weeks later he turned up for sports day and we never saw him again after that. One Friday a bike was stolen—on the following Monday a student turned up with a very badly painted bike and still continued to claim ownership despite us scraping off the paint and revealing another child's name. One boy decided to wrestle myself and Deputy Mike Ormiston, this resulted in Mike's tie being very firmly grabbed and swung around. I thought this most amusing as the knot was reduced to the size of a marble—Mike failed to see the funny side, mainly, as he had to buy a new tie. And finally the lad who stole an expensive pen from his teacher, we were suspicious but had no proof and offered a reward—the pen turned up. Some months later a teacher's car keys went missing and we suspected the same student, but still weren't sure. Another reward was offered, this time on parade and, surprisingly, the keys turned up 10 minutes later. Having claimed he 'found' the keys, his next question was 'What's my reward this time?' Answer = 5 days suspension! These were generally rare events and one can look back on the humorous side now, but, probably not then.

Nundah always had an interest in sport with an emphasis on participation. There were numerous interschool teams. I remember in 2000 we had 5 cricket teams—the most of any school in the then Toombul Sport District. Staff did a terrific job in organising sports carnivals and Nundah still had an inter-house ball games competition, sadly a dying skill these days. Music was a very important part of the school and the school's music program was always strong. This was supported by our bands and choirs. The marching band being one of the few left in Brisbane. A music room was built and named after one of our long serving teachers, Andrea Murphy, who was very involved in the program. Music nights were organised to display the program's talent. The first music night was held about 1996 run by our Music Committee. I was a little sceptical about it but was glad to be proven wrong and the quality of the nights, and community attendance, soared. Another event was the Fancy Dress Ball—along with class items staff came dressed as superheroes, smurfs, movie stars, seven dwarves, ninja turtles, sports players etc.

The school changed significantly from 1992 to 2011. I would estimate around 2000 students passed through the school in this time. One of the most important areas was technology. From a few computers to all classrooms with them, electronic learning boards, a computer room and all connected to the net. The principalship became more managerial and centred on managing staff, finances and resources; other staff took responsibility for teaching and learning. We had many more students who had English as a Second Language, and the makeup of the school community reflected that of Australia as a whole. The introduction of

Prep Year was important in giving children the basics of early learning. Nundah was lucky as we had the space for prep facilities and capable staff.

As I mentioned earlier, a school hall had been discussed from the early 1990s and we had a facility—EDMAC (Evan Daniel Multipurpose Activity Centre)—that the P&C provided. This was inadequate for our school numbers and activities by 2000. We knew what we wanted in a school hall, but did not have the funds and really did not want to burden the school with a two million dollar debt. Fortunately the Global Financial Crisis came along and the federal government devised Building the Education Revolution, which gave us the funds towards a hall that is hoped will serve and enhance education at Nundah for many decades.

Nundah is a school with a long and proud tradition—it was pleasing to be a small part of its growth and development.

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Mr Evan Daniel: NUNDAH STATE SCHOOL

From 1979 to 1992, I felt very fortunate to be Principal of the Nundah State School. In my opinion, it was a first class School with good pupils, friendly parents and a great staff, two of whom require special mention—Peter Richards and Andrea Murphy, because of their dedication to the School and also for giving me their full support throughout my Principalship.

There were more than ample classrooms, playground/sporting facilities and academic equipment. The School, during Departmental Inspections, always received favourable reports, indicating that sound and progressive educational programmes were being implemented.

My Son, David, spent his seven years of Primary Education within its surrounds and he still has fond memories of the Institution.

On my arrival at the School, I was impressed to find a Champion Marching Band, a very strong Swimming Club and a Creative Arts Resource Centre. As a Teacher Training School, ten to twenty students from the St. Lucia University and Carseldine College of Advanced Education had worthwhile experiences in teaching in most classrooms. All Staff Members were committed to assisting in providing Teacher-Learning experiences.

We developed a Camping Program for years 4 to 7:

Year 4—a sleepover at the School; Year 5—5 day Horse Riding Camp; Year 6—one week adventure Camp on Moreton Island; and Year 7—one week adventure Camp in the Carnarvon National Park.

Each year we had a Fancy Dress Ball, Christmas Carols at the Pool and the children participated in Anzac Day and Nundah Village activities.

With funds from a strong and supportive P&C Association, we upgraded the two northwest Tennis Courts, added lights and a players' shed, and hired these out to the Public. A shed for sporting equipment and shade covers were constructed on the oval and an Art enclosure was constructed under the northwest wing. An area within the School grounds was set aside for staff parking, reducing dangerous double parking on the surrounding streets.

The school did not have an Assembly Hall. (Now it has a superb one.) The P&C removed walls and converted the four classrooms on the northwest wing into the desired open area for music, assemblies and concerts.

Because of the ample sporting facilities, we were able to involve almost all the children from Years 3 to 7 in inter-school sport on Friday afternoons. Many children developed their skills to such an extent that they were selected for State Teams. We formed a Chess Club, a School Choir and promoted the use of Computers in school activities.

After a short period at the School, I was able to convert two classrooms, by removing walls, into one Staff Common Room, thus bringing all Staff together rather than having small groups in five separate Staff Rooms. All Staff, Teachers, Aides, Cleaners and Groundsman were included in all School Social events.

As a Member of the Nundah Sharks' Swimming Club, I was able to open its Membership to the pupils of St. Joseph's and Northgate Schools. I still enjoy Life Membership of this Club.

In 1990 we celebrated 125 years of Nundah as a seat of learning. Now in 2015, we shall see 150 years.

I am proud to be called upon to provide these few words as part of Nundah State School's History.

+++

Mr Jim Broadfoot's Memories of Nundah State School (1990)
Edited by Russell Parry

Dear Reader,

Hearty congratulations to Nundah School in celebrating its 125th birthday. Thank you for the invitation to attend this special party on 6 October 1990. My wife and I are very happy to accept this, and look forward to taking part in the reunion festivities.

I am grateful to the Education Department for supplying me with details of my 48 years as a teacher—the last 39 of which as Head Teacher [HT]. I was stationed in Brisbane for the last 20 years of my career, with over nine of these at Nundah in two separate periods: 20 July 1953 to 1 October 1955; and then from 1 January 1966, until my retirement on 23 February 1973.

During my first period at Nundah, the School had an enrolment higher than that of any other school in the State, peaking at 1752, requiring a staff of 56 teachers. There was no separate School for Infants at Nundah then.

At the age of 45, I found myself as the 'youngest' HT of a Class 1 School in Brisbane. However, this did not last for long. Schools were reclassified in 1955, and on a seniority score, I gave way to Mr Reg Cochrane who was 10 years senior to me. For the next eleven years I was HT at Oakleigh, where, after ridding myself of an early chip from my shoulder, I worked hard, happily, and gainfully. I applied for Nundah on Mr Cochrane's retirement, and this accounted for my second period as Nundah's HT.

Swimming lessons

At Allenstown (Rockhampton) I noted the great advantage that a swimming pool had for a School. Nundah soon was greatly in favour of having a pool of its own. In the season about a 100 children from the senior section were taken by train to Sandgate where they received swimming instructions on one afternoon each week. As soon as a child gained a swimming certificate they had to make way for a non-swimmer. It was better than 'a no swimming at all' programme, but only just so, considering all the inconvenience (and some risk) involved in taking so many youngsters to and from the train, across busy streets, boarding and detraining and counting heads into and out of a pool of sea water far from crystal clear!

Nundah was so geared up to getting a pool that in short time a Special Swimming Pool Fund was set up, and every legitimate method of raising money was explored, and some exploited. The response was such that half the cost of a pool was in hand, and a tender accepted for its construction, in under two years. It was a tremendous effort on the part of the parents represented by their committee, backed up by the hard work and enthusiasm of the school staff, and generously supported by the Nundah suburb in general.

The pool was built in the first year of Mr Cochrane's Head Teacher-ship, a school swimming club was formed, and soon Nundah became the state's foremost school in swimming activities. Children were not only taught to swim, but were made better swimmers. Sandy Smith from a non-swimmer became a swimmer skilled enough to represent Australia in the Edinburgh Empire Games.

In great team efforts, it is difficult to name people. However, Merv Webster and Alan Gynther, will always be remembered with gratitude in Nundah's story—especially in relation with swimming at the school.

1955 Royal Visit

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II visited Brisbane in 1955 and children were given an opportunity of waving farewell to her at the termination of this visit, as she and her entourage drove to the airport. The bus lift of the whole of Nundah School's children to their allotted position of Oriel Road, Ascot, is worth a mention in the school's historical story. The children occupied about 100 metres of footpath along Oriel Road from its intersection with Alexandra Road. The sight of 18 buses full of excited flag waving Nundah youngsters, making their way along Sandgate Road in a continuous line extending from Toombul station to Clayfield level crossing, was indeed impressive—one that I shall always remember.

1967 Sir Edmund Hillary

Visitors to Nundah were many and were always welcome. Probably the most noteworthy during my time at Nundah, were Sir Edmund and Lady Hillary. On their arrival they were served morning tea in the school library which was rather an appropriate place, since the visit to our school by distinguished visitors was through the courtesy of Field Enterprises Inc., publishers, and sponsors of Sir Edmund Hillary. By the time tea was finished, the combined populations of both schools had been gathered and seated around the swimming pool which was the only place where so many youngsters could be comfortably assembled for such an occasion. For the next hour Sir Edmund held the children spellbound as he spoke to them of his experiences—especially his work among the Nepalese and Sherpas—and showed artifacts from these people. Among these was a pair of huge brass cymbals. To the delight of all, Sir Edmund demonstrated with these outsized ‘clangers’. I’m certain their music could have been heard as far away, as the Nundah railway Station. A threatening thunderstorm brought this most interesting and unusual outdoor gathering to an end earlier than expected. Incidentally, all of the interesting paraphernalia was packed into two huge suitcases, which Sir Edmund Hillary insisted on carrying himself.

Cloudland Fancy Dress Balls

The Annual Fancy Dress Ball was always one of the highlights of the year—probably regarded as such more by the youngsters than by parents and teaching staff. Mention of it would have to be included in Nundah School’s social history—even only for the reason that it was always held at the historic Cloudland Ball Room, now demolished - controversially. For weeks before the event, under the expert guidance of Mr Joe McQuaid, the children were given practice and instructions in the niceties of etiquette and intricacies of skills relating to the ballroom, and Joe was always in his element as the exemplary Master of Ceremonies on the night of the ball. They were very special and enjoyable occasions.

Inter-House Activities

Other extra curricula events were the annual inter-house athletics, and swimming carnival. In order to maximize the number of children participating, every child was timed with a stop watch in running and swimming over appropriate distances, and programmes were drawn up with the children for the three school houses, competing in their respective events against others of more or less equal ability. This also eliminated the false notion that some children were ‘not good enough runners or swimmers’ to take part in events as team members. This, too, I believe might have encouraged youngsters to make an effort to improve upon their own ‘time’, by pitting themselves, with maybe beneficial rub-off effect in other spheres of their endeavours.

Arbor Days

Nundah’s fine playground environment is sufficient evidence that Arbor Days have been conscientiously celebrated over the years. We made the children into “planter groups” with representatives of all the age groups in the school. Each group had at least one subject to plant, a tree(s) and/or shrub(s). Every child was expected to take an active part in the planting programme, even though it might be but a small part, and it was expected that they would care for their planted subject(s) during the whole period of their school attendance. By the time they left the primary level every child would thus have had a very personal interest in some tree(s) and/or shrub(s) within the grounds.

The School Library

When the attendance at Nundah depreciated it became possible to have two vacant classrooms converted into a library—a school necessity that was lacking. Over the years, Mr George Henley shouldered the responsibility of acting as the school librarian under very adverse conditions, in addition to carrying out his other duties including that of teaching a senior grade, usually of outsized dimensions. The Department selected Mr Henley to attend a special course of instruction for teachers who might become full time librarians. When this course was completed, Nundah rejoiced when Mr Henley was appointed as the school's first full-time librarian—responsible also for the school's other resource material and equipment.

Business helpers

From the Nundah district citizens in general, and the business people in particular, the school received strong support. The Sorris brothers gave to the school the use of their theatre, free of charge, once a year for the performance of the school concert. At this event, Mr Russ Tyson, a Nundah old boy, conductor of the ABC Radio daily 'Breakfast Session' acted as Master of Ceremonies. Mr Cyril Jordan of the Nundah Newsagency always received the school's order for the supply of school requisites for children eligible for State Aid. This order was of considerable dimensions each year because most of the Tufnell Home children were in receipt of State Aid. Mr Jordan annually made a generous donation to the school library funds. I always had the feeling that his gift equalled the amount of profit that Mr Jordan could have made from those orders. Another businessman to whom the school was indebted was Mr Ivan Franklyn who chartered to the school his private buses as a special discount.

Top Staff

All larger schools have a core of staff members that help give to the school a form of stability. Some have served at the school for many years and have seen Head Teachers come and go. They are naturally a cautious group. They tactfully welcome the incoming HT's and gradually ease them into the new environment. They take each year's crop of young teacher graduates under their protective wings, offer advice to those who will accept it, and generally make the new staff members feel among friends and part of a school team.

On coming to Nundah from Allenstown SS it was my happy and fortunate experience to meet such long-standing Nundah staff as Ross Stanley (the senior teacher, without extra emolument) George Henley, Merv Webster, Joe McQuaid, Mrs Jean Moss, Mrs Marj Reid and Miss Margaret Outridge.

Deputies

Mr Stanley assisted with the regular internal examinations and in the general organisation and administration. When official Deputy Principals were appointed to Class 1 schools, Mr Standley became Nundah's first Deputy. After the position became a classified one in the Department, some teachers in areas outside of Brisbane who held Class III schools, applied to become Deputies in Brisbane. It was in such circumstances that Mr Stanley had to make way for Mr Richard Hoffman who came from a North Queensland Class III school of which he was HT.

To Mr Ross Stanley & Mr Dick Hoffman I give my sincere thanks for their expert assistance, and also to Mr Joe McQuaid who served as Acting Deputy for six months while Mr Stanley was on long service leave.

Sporting Greats

I would never be forgiven if I did not make mention that two of Nundah's parents were among the greats in Queensland sport. I refer to Mr Wally Grout, and to Mr Ken (Slasher) Mackay. We were delighted to teach their children. I must also make mention of the names Geoff Masters—of Davis cup fame, Bill Buckle, Queensland Sheffield Shield opening batsman and Captain, and Ron Westerway, Queensland Sheffield Shield fast medium bowler, all of whom attended Nundah during my time there. I have already mentioned our champion swimmer, Sandy Smith. However, her younger sister Allison who attended Nundah also represented Australia at the Montreal Olympics and Chirstchurch Commonwealth Games.

Final notes

My years at Nundah were very happy ones. No HT could have received greater loyalty, cooperation and help from a staff than Nundah gave to me. Nundah parent body as a whole and their representative school groups, the School Committees and Ladies auxiliaries gave to me their good will, were always most supportive and eager to know how they might help the school's endeavours for their children. The third, and most important component in the school team—the children themselves, were proud of their school, each thought that their teacher was the 'Best Teacher' and like most healthy youngsters, delightfully frank and friendly, natural, liking to be noticed, eager to please, able to be motivated, and happy. I certainly missed them on retirement.

A school in some respects resembles a healthy noble tree in the forest, both continually growing older, yet forever young. Nundah might now be regarded as an old school, but like the old tree, it is perpetually young, the aging tree with its new body, layer of growth, together with its new and tender shoots and leaves—and the school with its annual intake of infants from young Mums and Dads, and its annual intake of young teacher graduates, full of eager enthusiasm and new ideas. May such a happy and fruitful co-existence of age and youth continue at Nundah.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Broadfoot



1885: Girls and Infants Teacher Miss Laird

Access for all to a high quality of education is something that we sometimes take for granted in this country. While the faces of staff, students and parents continue to change as the years progress, high standards and inclusiveness have remained a constant at Nundah State School.

My own connection with Nundah started in 2005 when my oldest son started in pre-school. At that time The School had an enrolment in the 300s and had many staff who had devotedly served the school community for lengthy terms. As our four children have passed through its heritage listed front door, our family has been consistently grateful for the academic and other learning that they have participated in. It will be a sad day when my youngest daughter finishes her time at the School next year.

We have many positive memories of this fine institution. Year after year our children have been nurtured and cared for by committed staff. They have participated in many out of class activities such as the Nundah Sharks swim club, music, chess, sport, public speaking and Science Club to name a few. These have often been made possible by staff going above and beyond their role description, but also in many cases by dedicated volunteers. Three themes run through my family's experience at Nundah State School.

Firstly, *change* is a constant. Some aspects of the school are almost unrecognisable compared to ten years ago. Wonderful new facilities have been added. Long standing staff have retired or moved to new challenges, and many new staff have joined the team. Year 7's have moved to high school, but enrolments have still expanded to more than 700. New technologies and ways of learning have come to the fore. However, many special traditions such as the marching band continue strongly and link our current pupils with those of the past. Long may this healthy mix of old and new continue.

Secondly, *community* is king. It is people who have formed 150 years of history at Nundah State School, and the way that they relate defines us. A community (made up of students, staff and parents)—in which everyone feels included, and is valued for who they are—is essential to our past, present and future. We must strive to continue to value people above all else, and the P&C considers that it has an important role in doing this. The buildings and grounds are necessary, but they are only the backdrop for our experiences and a prompt for our memories.

Lastly, *contribution* is key. Over the last couple of years, the P&C have run volunteer thank-you events to acknowledge all those giving their time for the benefit of our pupils—it has been astounding to total hundreds of different contributors. In a large, busy and old school, it is sometimes difficult to appreciate all of the contributions made, both present and past. I have found that by making a contribution, however small, a greater sense of belonging develops. Each year it is time for the next generation of students, staff and parents to step up ready to make those contributions.

On reflection, my family's association with Nundah State School is a small blip in its long and distinguished life. However, it will always be important to us, and we hope that in some ways, we will also leave it richer for our participation and contributions. The pages of this

book are full of memories that have been made by countless other students, staff, parents and friends. They are worth reading and celebrating, even if only to make sense of the present and look expectantly to the future. With a wonderful community, accepting of change, and full of people ready to make a contribution, I have no doubt that the future will be a bright one.

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Zarnia Wilson: P&C President 2009-2012

My name is Zarnia Wilson and I was the P&C President for four years from 2009 to 2012, my children Xanya and Quincy were at Nundah State School from 2003 to 2012. I started going to P&C meetings because I wanted to become more involved in the development of my children's school.

My time as President was both very rewarding and at times challenging, I played a pivotal part in the planning stages of the hall being built which involved weekly meetings in the lead up to construction. I took part in many ceremonies including the opening of the resource centre, the purpose built music room and the hall all of which the P&C contributed too. I was also privileged enough to be a part of the retirement of significant staff members whose legacies still live on at Nundah—Mr Mike Ormiston, Mrs Andrea Murphy, and of course Mr Morrie Bernard—all of whom set the precedence and instilled the sense of community in which Nundah State School is so solidly built.

2012 saw massive changes for Nundah State School with the retirement of Mr Bernard and the introduction of our new Principal Ms Deb Cox came an overhaul of the entire school which continues right now but as the dust settles her vision hasn't wavered and Nundah State School continues to lead the way in all aspects of schooling but maintaining the foundations established by those before her.

I am now a Teacher's Aide at Nundah State School, my children have moved on to University and High School but I've remained an extremely passionate advocate for the Primary School through its caring and nurturing teachers and staff that have given my children a great start to life.

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Meredith Kirby: P&C President 2007-2009

My connection with Nundah State School has been an enduring one. Whilst my three children were at school it was my pleasure to help in a voluntary capacity, in classrooms, working in the tuckshop, being part of the Events Committee and finally taking on the role of P&C President. I made enduring friendships through my time helping at the school. During a time of great change at Nundah our children thrived under the guidance of Morrie Bernard and the many wonderful staff

I have a long association with Nundah State School. In the seventies, I arrived at this very large Queensland school to complete my final two years of primary schooling. I landed in

6A with Mr Norris, having moved states with my family. Nundah State School could not have been further removed from the small Northern Rivers school that I left behind. I then returned to Nundah in the same decade to complete part of my teacher training.

My memories of school days at Nundah are: Old English scripts on crowded blackboards, playing elastics on the bitumen, swimming carnivals, fancy dress balls at Cloudland and, my favourite, ballroom dance practice at the Nundah Memorial Hall.

The script is now on a computer screen, children play different games on the bitumen, the fancy dress ball found a new venue and a different style of dance. However, the heart of Nundah remains. Excited children start each year in their crisp uniforms and lace up shoes. Teachers continue to nurture students. Many friendships form as a social hub of the local Nundah community evolves.

Although my contact with Nundah is limited now, the grapevine is strong and I still hear about what is happening and maintain an interest, albeit from afar. Happy 150th Birthday Nundah State School.

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John Mothershaw: P&C President 2002-2007

I had a strong emotional connection with Nundah State School despite never being a student there. My paternal grandmother was a student from 1908, and my father was a student there during the Second World War.

It seemed natural that when we moved to the area that our children would attend the school. We were involved at the school for ten years—my son started in 1999 and my daughter finished in 2008. I was president of the P&C from 2002 to 2007.

The turn of the century and the early 2000's were a period of great excitement and growth for the school. I remember Principal Morrie Bernard sharing with me an Education Department planning report that predicted a steady decline in student numbers down to 200 students. In reality the school was starting to see significant and sustained growth in numbers and each year saw an additional class and teacher added to the school community.

A major concern during this period was the impact of construction of the Nundah tunnel on the school. Noise and construction traffic were the major issues and caused disruption for a couple of years. When completed however removal of through traffic and other improvements on the roadway significantly improved the amenity of the school.

Of course growth brings with it problems and issues that need to be addressed. Smaller school numbers had allowed for generous allocation of double schoolrooms to most classes. The library was spread out over a number of former classrooms. Extra classes and the introduction the Preschool program during this period meant this space was need for teaching purposes. It was apparent that a new library/resource centre was needed, and that hall facilities provided by the Edmac building were no longer adequate.

As parents you appreciate that your children benefit from facilities at the school that were bought about by the efforts and advocacy of earlier generations. The swimming pool, a dedicated music room, musical instruments, camping and sporting equipment were some of the assets that our children had because of the fundraising efforts of earlier P&C committees.

I was given some minutes of P&C meetings from the 1950's that document the effort to raise money and plan for the school swimming pool. Many of those people who contributed so much time and effort would never have got to use the pool. It became their legacy to the future school community.

In a similar vein the fundraising, advocating (including a meeting with the then Education Minister Anna Bligh) and planning for a new school library building was a big agenda item during our period on the P&C. The building was completed and occupied just a few weeks before my daughter finished year 7!

I remember money raised during our time on P&C going to replacing and increasing the number of musical instruments, providing computers and software, replacing sporting and camping equipment, buying books for the library, returfing and top dressing the school oval.

I enjoyed working with the Principal and teaching staff, P&C members and other parents during my involvement at Nundah State School. I wish the current and future school community every success in helping grow and develop young minds.



Outridge Family 1898

APPLICATIONS FOR AID TOWARDS THE COST OF ERECTING NEW SCHOOLS.*—Bowen, conditional grant, £700; local subscriptions to the amount of £300 have been raised. Bowen Bridge Road, conditional grant, £300; building about to be commenced. Bald Hills, conditional grant, £300; local contributions not yet received. Condamine, conditional grant, £350; building about to be commenced. Cleveland, conditional grant, £300; local contributions not yet received. Fortitude Valley, conditional grant, £700; local contributions in process of collection. German Station, conditional grant, £350; £150 have been raised locally. Goodna,

Brisbane Courier 20 May 1865

<p align="center">Government Advertisements.</p> <hr/> <p align="center">TO CARPENTERS, &c.</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Education Office, Brisbane, 1st June, 1865.</p> <p>THE BOARD of EDUCATION will receive until 4 o'clock on WEDNESDAY, the 21st instant, TENDERS for the Erection of a SCHOOL HOUSE and TEACHERS' RESIDENCE, at the German Station, according to Plan and Specification which may be seen at this office.</p>

Tender Notice, Brisbane Courier 3 June 1865

YESTERDAY was an eventful day at the German Station. A large number of parents, children, and friends met to celebrate the completion of a spacious Primary School. After partaking of some refreshment, all assembled were addressed briefly by Mr. Macdonnell, the Inspector, and Messrs. Zillman, Pugh, Brookes, and Gerler. Mr. Rode occupied the chair. A pleasant day was passed, and it is to be hoped that the Inspector's suggestions to parents will be carried into effect. Throughout the proceedings the greatest interest was manifested. The number of children present, all but a few, resident within easy reach of the school, was striking. There must have been not far from a hundred. It is satisfactory to see our new arrivals taking as deep an interest in the vital question of education as older colonists. Perhaps it is invidious to notice, that on the occasion of this nature in East Moreton, neither of the representatives of East Moreton found it convenient to attend. Their absence was noticed and observed upon, but not especially

lamented. A change is apparent in our political atmosphere; it may be, that the gentlemen alluded to are keen meteorologists. We doubt this; the conclusion that neither of them actually represent East Moreton is preferable.

WE recommend the perusal of the following paragraph, from the *Queensland Times*, to the police authorities of Brisbane, as the nuisance complained of in it is much felt by persons whose occupations prevent them from returning home until late in the evening. George-street West is specially favored by animals, the owners of which believe in free commonage. The *Times* remarks:—"Steps are being taken by the police to put a stop to a nuisance which has for some time past been very flagrant in town. We refer to the number of cattle and horses allowed to stray at all hours of the day and night. It is time, indeed, that something was done, for on dark nights it is absolutely unsafe to walk in some of the bye-streets."

'... all but a few, resident within easy reach...'
Brisbane Courier 27 September 1865



Possibly the oldest photo showing the front of the school, circa 1870
(Courtesy of Jenny Glover)

IT is not often that events which may happen at the German Station—one of the oldest settlements in the colony—find notice in our columns, but the residents are a quiet-going sort of people, and confine themselves, with commendable persistence, to the transaction of their own business. Last Friday, however, a public event took place there which caused some local excitement and enjoyment, and which will not soon be forgotten. The children attending the Primary School were invited, with their parents and friends, to a pic-nic got up for their pleasure by Mr. and Mrs. M'Allister, the master and mistress. A paddock belonging to Mr. A. Rodó, the "father of the station," was kindly lent for the occasion, and at about 11 o'clock, the children, to the number of about 100, assembled at the school. There they were marshalled in decent order, and attended by a number of the residents, and headed by Mr. J. Trundle, who carried a large flag on horseback, proceeded to the place appointed. Having arrived there, various congenial games were commenced, and indulged in with unabated vigor until the declining sun warned parents and children alike that it was time to separate. Ample refreshments, in the shape of cake, buns, tea, fruit, &c., were provided during the day, and many of those who could scarcely be called children joined heartily in the sports. Messrs. Noble, Trundle, and M'Allister severally addressed the little folks upon

the educational advantages possessed by them as compared with the children of twenty or thirty years ago, and exhorted them to still greater diligence and perseverance in the pursuit of their studies. A high eulogium was passed both upon Mr. and Mrs. M'Allister for the interest taken by them in the children under their care, and much praise was awarded to the ladies who had rendered such kind assistance on the festive occasion. There were altogether about 150 people on the ground, besides the children, and at the close of the proceedings, which were very successful throughout, the National Anthem was loyally and heartily sung.

'... a pic-nic got up for their pleasure...'
Brisbane Courier 17 January 1870

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THE annual treat of the children attending the German Station National School came off on Friday last. There were about 120 young people of both sexes present, and also thirty parents of the pupils. The treat had been provided through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. J. Macalister, the teachers of the school, and a few friends in the neighborhood. There was a very liberal supply of tea, cake, lollies, &c., and all present seemed to heartily enjoy themselves. After the eatables and drinkables had been disposed of, cricket, tilting in the ring, and other games were instituted with great success, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent. Such reunions as these are very useful, and deserve to be encouraged, as they tend to increase the good understanding that should always exist between pupils, parents, and teachers.

'... a very liberal supply of tea, cakes, lollies, &c...'
Brisbane Courier 30 January 1871

An operetta, entitled, "John Bull and his Trades," was very successfully rendered by the pupils of the Nundah State School on Friday evening in the Nundah Recreation Hall. John Bull, seated in state among his retainers, is informed that there is discord in his dominion, the trades and professions contending as to which is the most useful and indispensable to the country, whereupon John Bull summons them all to his court, and determines to try their cause. Choruses by servants of competitors follow, and then an offer of arbitration by the nations of Europe having been respectfully declined, the Baker leads off, singing a song in praise of his trade. The Miller interrupts, saying the Baker is dependent upon him, and the Farmer calls them both his subordinates. So the debate proceeds, the different trades asserting their claims in recitation, song, or duet, the chorus frequently intervening. The confusion becomes greater, until at last John Bull interrupts the case, in order to deliver his verdict, which is that all should help the rest and that all should be a band of brothers. A final chorus proclaiming this ends the cantata. The singing was melodious and harmonious, and the recitations for the most part expressive, precise, and audible. The children took up the various parts with spirit, and the large audience testified its appreciation. The singing was under the direction of Mr. A. Kays.

Brisbane Courier 26 November 1894

NUNDAH STATE SCHOOL.

Complaints having been made at various times as to the supply of drinking water at the above school, and also to the sanitary arrangements, a meeting of the School Committee was held on Saturday to consider steps to remove the causes for complaint. In regard to the water supply, the quality was good, but the quantity was not sufficient, and the mode of supplying it to the children gave grounds for complaint. It was decided to request the Education Department to place two tanks under the playshed, and save the water that at present goes to waste. The sanitary arrangements were considered a nuisance and menace to the health not only of the school attendants but of the whole of the immediate neighbourhood. It was proposed to urge the adoption of a different system. Other matters, such as the levelling of the play ground, minor repairs, and improvements, received attention. All the buildings require painting. The teacher's residence has seen the best of its days, and, though it may have appeared a very pretentious structure in the sixties, when the kindly face of the author of "Halek" beamed on the youths and maidens of old German Station, and the present member for Nundah sturdily grappled with the difficulties of the three R's, will now hardly bear favourable comparison with the home of the neighbouring artisan or labourer. It cannot boast either of external appearance or internal comfort. A new residence is necessary and preferable to patching, repairing, and putting additions to the old. The committee have not any funds in hand, but parents and others will be requested to contribute towards a share of the cost of such new additions as the department may decide to furnish.

Brisbane Courier 23 June 1896

THE PLAGUE.

ANOTHER CASE IN BRISBANE.

The suspicious case of illness reported to the authorities no Thursday night has been proved to be plague, and the case was such a serious one that Dr. Hutchens found it necessary to inject the curative serum twice, once while the patient was at the hospital, and once after his removal to Colmaile yesterday afternoon. The patient's name is Thomas Grant, and he was employed casually on the labour schooner Coquette, which has been in Brisbane some time, and is moored in midstream off the Alice-street wharf. He resides at Nundah with his mother and seven brothers and sisters. The cleansing gang has been despatched to Nundah to fumigate and disinfect the house in which Grant resided, which the Inspector has already reported as being in an unsatisfactory condition. Two members of the family were found to be employed in town, and two others went to the Nundah State School, near their home. The health officer will therefore consult with Dr. Love as to the necessity of cleaning the school in question. The whole of the contacts were despatched to Colmaile yesterday afternoon.

Bubonic Plague comes to Nundah?

'... the cleansing gang has been despatched...'

Brisbane Courier 15 December 1900

School No. 43.* Class of School 5.

Public Instruction, Queensland.

Lundah Mixed State SCHOOL for the Year 1895.

Table V. Monthly Summaries.—General Instruction 63.

COLONY & SCHOOL NO.			MONTH ENDING FRIDAY.	ATTENDANCES.		
Ses 2, 3, and 4.				BY BOYS.	BY GIRLS.	TOTAL.
No. of Sch.	Two or more other Schools under the Department during the Year, before attending this School.		January --- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	273	243	516
	Boys.	Girls.				
C.	0	0	March --- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	3012	3224	6236
	0	0	April --- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	2107	2147	4254
1	1	0	May --- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	2760	2794	5554
	1	0	June --- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	2280	2263	4543
2	1	0	July --- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	1246	1354	2600
	1	0	August --- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	1834	1935	3769
3	1	0	September --- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	1714	1527	3541
	1	0	October --- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	1776	1885	3661
4	1	0	November --- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	2102	2210	4312
	1	0	December --- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	753	801	1554
AGGREGATE FOR THE YEAR			21,954	22,897	44,851	

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR THE YEAR.

Number of School days as shown in the School Calendar ... 226.

Number of days on which the School was open ... 217.

Aggregate Attendances ... BOYS 21,954 GIRLS 22,897 TOTAL 44,851

Average Attendance * ... BOYS 101.2 GIRLS 105.5 TOTAL 206.7.

CHILDREN WHOSE EDUCATION IS BEING NEGLECTED.

- (a) There are in the neighbourhood 0 Boys and 0 Girls, six years old but under fifteen, who are not educated up to the standard of education and are not attending any school.
- (b) Of the foregoing 0 Boys and 0 Girls are not over twelve years of age.
- (c) In the half-year ending June 14 Boys and 19 Girls attended less than 60 days.
- In the half-year ending December 10 Boys and 13 Girls attended less than 60 days.

EVENING CLASSES.

On the back of this Form, give particulars regarding any Evening Classes which were held in the School, or were conducted by any of the Teachers during the year. If no such classes have been held during the year, write—after this note and not on the back of the form—"No Evening Classes."

No Evening Classes.

I certify this Return to be correct.

W. A. Nutridge Head Teacher.

of, give the Class (Regs. 49 and 50); if a Provisional School, write "Provisional."

School No. 43

Aggregate Attendances: 44851 days in 1895



Min Bradshaw's Basketball Team
(date not known, circa 1900-10)



'New Teacher's Room 1915'
(name of scallywag not known)



School class 1915



'Nundah School 1918'
(children sitting on Buckland Road)



Scholarship class 1919



School Choir 1929



Anzac Day display 1917, in honour of Lieutenant Blair (teacher killed in France, 1916)

2.68.

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. _____ Name BLAIR Andrew Paterson
 Unit Unattached Infantry
 Joined on MAY 21 1915

allotted 9Bw

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... Andrew Paterson Blair
2. In the Parish of _____ in or near the Town of Airdrie in the County of Scotland
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject—(N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... Yes
4. What is your age? ... 31 Years
5. What is your trade or calling? ... State School Teacher
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
7. Are you married? ... No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... Father Mr J. Blair
60 Salston St K. Point
Brisbane
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Inconspicuous and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? ... No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... 6 Years Lieut in Junior Cadets
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... No
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be found to you after embarkation during your term of service? ...
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and venteria fever? ... Yes

I, Andrew Paterson Blair do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

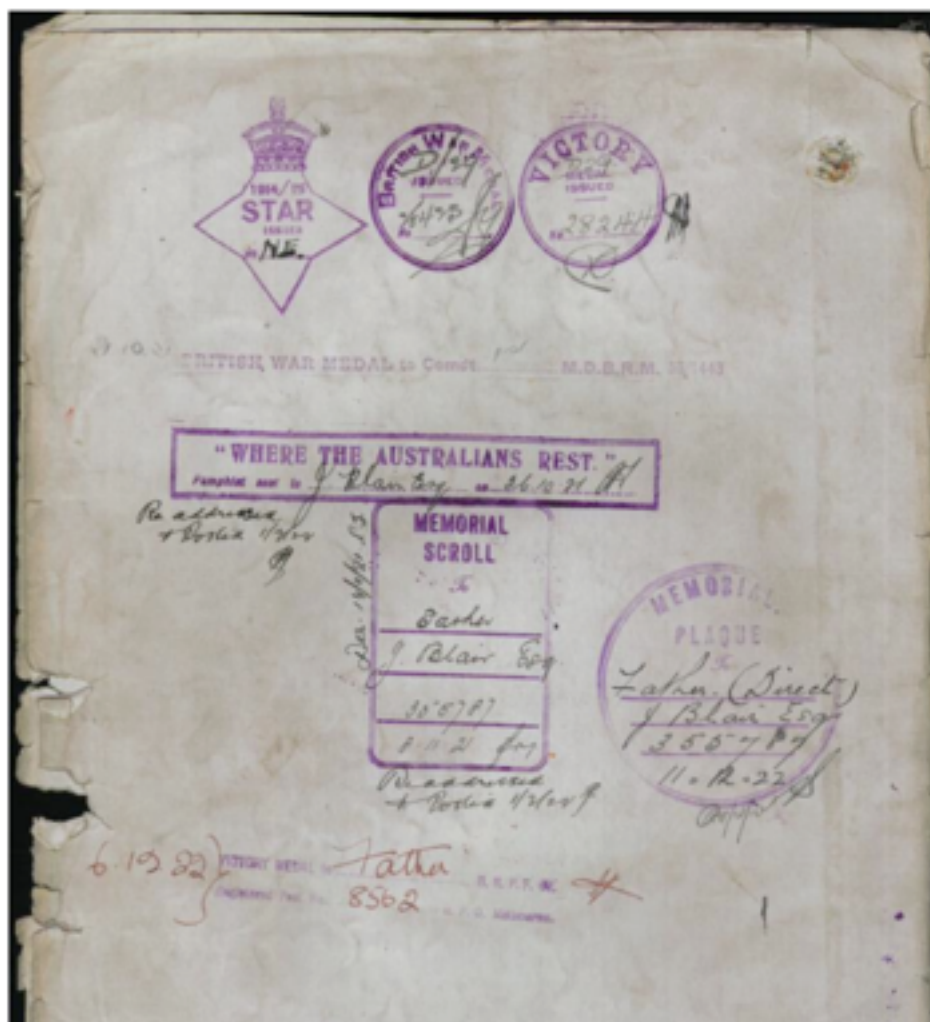
And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife*† and children.

Date MAY 21 1915

Andrew P Blair
 Signature of person enlisted.

*This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men, or widowers without children under 16 years of age.
 †Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

Attestation Paper for Andrew Blair, NSS teacher who joined the AIF in 1915. Lt Blair died of wounds received in his first combat experience in July 1916. Buried in France.



Lt Andrew Blair was unmarried, and was survived by his parents.
 This page from his AIF Service Record notes the citations (medals) awarded to him.
 (Images on this and preceding page courtesy of National Archives of Australia)
 'Lest We Forget'





Meryl Proctor's class photos 1932-1940
(Note that the quadrangle is compacted soil. It is also interesting to see how big the camphor laurel tree already was before the second world war.)

Danny Gamble's Nundah State School days 1892–1895
Edited by Russell Parry (2014)

In 1892, from the age of six, I attended the Nundah State School for about three years when it was known at German Station National School. However, I'll refer to it as Nundah State School as I relate some of the incidents in my early school life in order to emphasise the progress which has taken place.

Since Nundah State School was the nearest till Eagle Junction State School opened on 8 July 1895, we walked over two miles each day from our worker's cottage on Sefton Estate, Clayfield along a bush track where we frequently met with small groups of Aborigines. Today that same bush track is full of commercial traffic and is known as Sandgate Road. One of the Aborigines we met was named King Sandy, and around his neck he proudly wore a brass plate on which his name was engraved.

At this time Mr Outridge was the Headmaster and Mr Irving the supplementary teacher of the school. At the back of the school (before the drainage under the present school oval) was a gully through which a creek flowed. Here, with pin hooks, cotton and sticks for rods, we would often come to fish. This gully was surrounded by thick bush and trees. During lunch hours and after school we would build tree humpies with the aid of tomahawks to hack the branches. Coming home in the afternoon we would often linger to swim in Kedron Brook which was then a crystal clear spring of water flowing into the dense bush and trees. In flood time, when the current was strong, we would love to watch the logs and debris being carried swiftly downstream by the swirling waters. One flood time we almost came to mishap when, on becoming too venturesome, we went in for a swim and were carried downstream. We were too frightened to tell our mothers about it.

Another favourite identity of ours at this time was a Mr Dalton who was the station-master at Clayfield. He had a wooden stick for a leg and used to hobble about collecting tickets and opening gates. Sometimes he would permit us to open the gates for him. The pastime he loved best of all at the station was putting pins on the line and waiting for the engines to run over them and flatten them out.

One Arbor Day at school the teacher was trying without much success to free the young trees from their pots by banging fiercely on the side of them. I stepped out and demonstrated how my father (a gardener) used to extract them by gently tapping the pots with the handle of a spade.

With my mates I used to roam about the wild, thick bush which covered the nearby hills, now Wavell Heights. Here we would see Koalas in the tall gum trees and listen to the curlews and other bush birdlife. Throughout the bush we could see wallabies jumping about and many other species of Australian fauna. Our hobby at that time was to collect birds' eggs as there were plenty about then.

'A Look At The Early Days' Letter to the *Nundah Express* Editor Wednesday 14 April 1965, p4.

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Nundah State School and the First World War era
Written in 1990 by Mrs Evelyn Hill (nee Barrett)
Edited by Russell Parry

I was enrolled at Nundah State School early in the month of August 1914 having left Toowoomba on the 4th of August, the day of the declaration of World War One. I was admitted to third class at the age of eight and was quite happy to be seated next to a very nice girl called Ethel Garget. The class was then learning to work on 'short division sums' which I had already learnt at the Harlaxton S.S. One of my teachers at that early stage of my school days was named Miss McComb.

Until I reached Preparatory Class (which was the class formed to prepare pupils for the scholarship class) nothing happened worth remembering. I was neither happy nor unhappy. I wasn't smart but I wasn't too dull. I managed to get into the scholarship class under the tuition of Mr Bradbury and Mr Best (the teacher of the preparatory class). This class created a record as being the first to have 100% pass. To celebrate we had a party in the Toombul Shire Hall. Mr Tapsford from Northgate was compere and his wife was the pianist but I don't remember much besides of that event.

I remember going into the city one Saturday morning to have a group photo taken at a studio. I have lost mine but I am sure there are still plenty of them around. The two outstanding pupils were Irene Buckingham, and Evelyn Nugent (just lately deceased). Both were notable for beautiful handwriting. Most of my days at Nundah S.S. were spent during World War 1 days and we had to wait months for our results. To hear them we gathered outside the school, standing three feet apart with our mouths covered as by then the bubonic plague was raging. [Ed. Note: She is referring to the Spanish Influenza pandemic that arrived in Queensland in 1919] A scholarship holder then could apply for a position as a 'pupil teacher'.

The school's 'war effort' was the sewing of red crosses on khaki cloth bags, knitting socks and balaclavas, and 'Belgian babies' to sell. We also knitted a sort of sweat cloth with string. I have often wondered at the school children being involved in a motorcade through the city and throwing white feathers to the crowd of bystanders. The school lost at least two popular teachers to the war—one of which was Mr Blair.

The school building then was a low set creamy coloured single storied structure. We sat at long desks fitted with holes in which were inserted china containers for ink (ink wells) and grooves to hold slate pencils. Slates were slid into openings to fit hopefully without clatter. It was a privilege to clean the blackboard with a dusty rag.

For a penny we could buy a pretty little tin containing a small piece of real sponge for cleaning slates. The sponges themselves needing frequent washing as they got very offensive at times.

The long seats were handled at each end by a pupil as we waited for the order: Seats in or Seats out. All done without noise or be penalised.

On certain days arithmetic cards were handed around. On these were printed a miscellany of sums and often used as an instrument of punishment to be worked after school.

There were some anxious moments on copybook days when we used ink, and unless you were lucky enough to be issued with a good nib the whole session could be disastrous. A bad nib could splay and splatter ink spots. Our reading books contained some very fine extracts from famous books and some very good poetry which we were obliged to learn 'by heart'. There were times set apart for mental arithmetic, drawing (in large books), sewing, scripture lessons, singing lessons and the teaching of basic musical theory. The exams consisted of five papers eg. Arithmetic, English, History, Geography, and the Miscellaneous Paper. This paper was a general knowledge set of questions, which included the music theory.

There was not a lot of emphasis put on sport that I remember. In swimming lessons we were obliged to catch a train to the valley baths and to my knowledge our best swimmers learnt to swim in the nearest water holes of which there were quite a few. There was a drill of a very mild type every morning before marching into school two by two to the sound of bugles or coronets. The girls drilled with skipping ropes which were decorated with ribbons on special occasions. Such an occasion was a visit from a representative of the John Gould wild life society or bird league for which we were all lined up in white to be on our best behaviour as befitted such an important event. There was not a great deal of important events as Nundah was still a bush Town. The trams stopped at Clayfield.

Lunch was eaten in a dusty shed or around a clump of bamboo down near the long tin sheds, which were called lavatories. The grass was long enough to be tied in knots to trap the unwary. We drank water from hot tanks that abounded in mosquito wrigglers. Marbles, tops and kit-kat were games the boys enjoyed while girls played hopscotch, skipping and beams—a game played by throwing a ball at the beam of the dusty shed. Kit Kat was banned as it became too dangerous. Every now and then a man with a gramophone would visit the school and for tuppence we could listen to records of comic singers after school.

My favourite memories of school were being at home and hearing the school bell being rung from where I lived. The one in Nundah was not a noise nuisance. I don't remember being sorry not to have to walk that long white dusty road to Hamilton Road every day. No buses cars or bitumen.

Six pence bought a black and white class photo. I don't think I have been very helpful but I had fun taking a trip back in time. Wishing you well for the coming celebrations. [125 anniversary in 1990]

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Meryl Proctor memoir

Written in 2015 by Meryl Proctor, with assistance from her daughter Coralie Holmes

I started primary school at Nundah State School in 1931 at 5 years of age.

My elder brother, Craig, and I walked to school together each day, always enjoying each other's company. I was a quiet girl and so found making friends a little difficult, however when I look through my address book of folk I kept in contact with from the school. I am amazed to have so many wonderful memories.

My family didn't own a car till my education was complete—so rain, hail or shine, Craig and I would take 'Shank's pony'—me skipping along while my brother struggled to keep up with me! We walked from McMaster street so must have been getting my exercise. I earned my first bike at the age of 18 years and our first car was a Chandler, a really big moment in our lives!

Writing books were scarce so slates were provided with slate pencils, which made a scratchy noise. I still have the slate my cousin used. We used copy-books using ink pens dipped in the ink wells which at times created a big mess but we were always careful to do our best. We had colouring pencils so I spent many hours enjoying making my beautiful pictures and reading though I don't remember a school library. Apparently that was built in the late 1950's. There was an alphabet board we learned our letters with and I remember reciting our times tables over and over again—very handy for later on!

Although I loved to run for fun, I was not good at sport so I remember on sports day, after the teachers lined us up for our race, I would run the other way so people wouldn't see me! Funny to hear the other day that my great-grandson, Harry (5years old) does the same thing!!

I loved skipping, mainly on my own and was quite good at it. I love playing Captain Ball and Tunnel Ball with my classmates. I was in a team for ladies cricket that I loved. Rounders was one of my favourite games.

I learnt to play the piano from 7 and a-half years old and as I loved this, I enjoyed sharing stories of my lessons with my friends at school.

I now live in an Aged Care Home in Kallangur, where I sit and often remember fondly of my 7 years at Nundah State School and the friends I made there. I hope that your 150-year anniversary is lots of fun.

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Observations of an Asthmatic Nundah State schoolboy from 1936-43

By R. (John) Longmore

Edited by Russell Parry (2015)

I started at Nundah State School in late January 1936 in Miss Andersons's Prep 1 class. She had been the Prep One Teacher since time immemorial and had taught the mothers of many of my new classmates. My mother took me along on that first day and never ever came to the school again—nor did my father ever go in the gate. I was on my own to fight any battles that may inevitably arise.

I was wandering around not knowing where to go and what to do and what was expected of me when another five year old Stanley Cane—approached me and said he would show me. He was very proud of himself and his command of the situation, and he was a very kind little boy. He did exactly what he promised, taking me under his wing. I was very grateful on that challenging day, and my appreciation of Stanley Cane has endured through all the intervening years Stanley—SALT OF THE EARTH!

Many Nundah SS students took part in the 1938 Centenary celebrations to mark the first free settlers arriving in 1838. I was only seven years old at the time and recall the floats parading along Sandgate Road through the Nundah Shopping centre. My elocution teacher—Molly Crompton put me on one of those floats. It was on a very large flat-bottomed truck and we children were dressed as butterflies, bees, etc. There was not much to hold on to and we could have been thrown off at any moment.

Throughout all those years from January 1936 to the end of 1943 and its scholarship exam, primary school was a necessary endurance—not a pleasure. As an asthmatic, I spent many weeks in bed—gasping for breath, day and night—so I missed much schooling, and had to work diligently to catch up. In an earlier class, our two parallel classes, for whatever reason, were reassembled. Some stayed where they were, and others were moved to another class. No explanation was given but I ended up in the class where the high achievers were two years older than me—two extra years of brain development. My father expected glowing school reports from me, and was very critical when I came below the topmost three in the changed class. Of course he only wanted to boast to his bosses and mates at work. He didn't like me much anyway—so it wasn't important to me what he thought.

The teachers we had during my eight years at Nundah State School were an uninspiring collection—no doubt bored by what they were doing. Mostly they were older men—some were so awful I actually detested them, and being in their class was worse than being in jail. For me the exceptions were the two from whom I learned the most: Miss Pettiford and Mr Alcorn. Mr Alcorn was, I think grade 5, but what earlier grade Miss Pettiford taught I can't truly recall. She was a very attractive lady whose favourite subject was English and her enthusiasm for this subject set me alight. I absorbed everything she said.

Mr Alcorn was different from the other bored—even cruel—male teachers. He tried to teach us how to operate, how to behave. I do not recall his ever punishing anyone, but when overcome with the frustration of determined non-attention he used to hurl pieces of chalk at the subject of his displeasure—and on occasion a blackboard duster—he could have done severe damage. For me he did not engender fear, so did not blot out the learning process. He

used to tip back his chair and put his feet on the desk. Not a pretty sight. Strangely enough they both left NSS and married each other soon after.

A few younger teachers began to appear in the late 1930s and early 1940s, but when WW2 swept through the Pacific, they of course disappeared into the Armed Forces.

Mr Ferguson (1940 4B) was a strong attractive young man and all of our class was in love with him—all the girls, and the boys too; though the latter may have called it something else. Mr Ferguson survived the war and then lived on the far side of Nundah Station.

Mr ‘Hopalong’ Harland was our authoritarian and unapproachable Head Teacher with his walking stick and gammy leg. He spent a considerable time during class breaks on patrol ready to appear unexpectedly in any part of the playground. His unhappy, cross and intolerant presence was always constant 5 days a week.

The Deputy Mr Finter was more approachable, and was always buzzing all over the school. He didn’t seem to teach very much... he rather ‘filled in’ if there was a desperate need. When he addressed our class, his manner was much kinder and more conciliatory than either Mr Webster or Mr McDonald.

I endured Mr Webster for Grade 6 & 7 and Mr McDonald took the other half of our two classes. Mr Webster repelled me to the core. He wore the same blue/grey trousers every day, with their frayed cuffs dragging in the parade-ground dust. His vibration as a human being was cold, distant and hard—remarkably similar to my father, whose lovelessness was palpable. I rebelled against Mr Webster—every day and in every way.

I made sure that I never came up against Mr McDonald—I never trusted him. I had heard of his intolerance and tempers.

Mr Bilborough was our choir-master. I used to attend his choir practices on a Saturday morning. He filled in as a teacher, and he took a class full-time in the higher grades but none of the students I spoke to liked him at all, and he was not a knowledgeable or confident teacher—he was certainly without charisma. I can’t recall from my higher grades and later days at Nundah State School any teacher of lower grades that made any other impression!

When continued WW2 setbacks overtook Brisbane in early 1942 the boys from the higher grades were directed to dig trenches to accommodate school students, when expected air-raids took place during the day. The trenches I helped to dig were at the top of the bank leading down to the ovaland very close to that incline. Of course what I dug out was of the same material as at the base of the oval clay and a grey substance almost as hard—blistered hands the result.

We had air raid alarms, but I never got to use my handiwork. I rode a clapped-out second hand bike to school every day and I only lived less than a five minute bike-ride away. So under those conditions I was allowed to run out and jump on my bike and pedal like mad to reach home and jump in our air-raid shelter, which was often half-full of water (and frogs). Although this was a very serious and frightening time, I felt more secure doing this. So I never did try out my trench at school during an alarm.

We boys in the higher classes also had to establish the planned Rose Gardens in front of the new Bage Street wing. The soil was not imported—we had to use the same horrible clay. Thereafter, I always wondered how the rose bushes survived in that unresponsive soil.

I come from a family with almost no interest in sport, though Mother played tennis in her early days. There were faded photos in our family album of tiny four year old me with a racquet bigger than myself. I always longed to play tennis—I was never interested whatsoever in highly organised team games. But there was never any tuition in tennis at NSS in my time there—there was a tennis court close to the oval but it was in a sad state of neglect. Of course one could not expect anything like that to change during the war years, and it was not until the later 1940s that the tennis court was rescued from oblivion.

Mr Webster was the school football Coach, and being in his Grades 6 & 7 classes I was expected to join the Friday afternoon runs around on the school oval. Our unattractive School Oval was created by excavating the school grounds between Bage Street and Buckland Road. Sadly, the soil, like all the soil in those grounds was basically clay. So, the oval was made flat and level, but after years of rain on it the surface became as hard as concrete. In my day, no top dressing or lawn was added to it. Therefore falling over on it could strip the skin.

The prospect of Mr Webster, and that vile oval was a total turn-off. So I stubbornly refused to join in. Mr Webster was furious, but my tendency to frequent asthma saved the day. As a punishment I was made to sit alone in our classroom and work through answering the entire questions on a card of sums. I didn't mind at all—it was a gift and not a punishment. Added to the extra tuition I had in the city every Saturday morning, my mathematical skills rose from a disinterested 25% to a creditable over 90% in the 1943 scholarship exam at the end of grade 7.

Later, I played tennis at school with a social group mostly on Sundays until I left Brisbane in 1952.

I never saw either of my favourite teachers again until after the 125th Anniversary for the school in 1990. One of my school pals told me that Mr Alcorn was in the Royal Brisbane Hospital, so of course I went up to see him. He was sitting up in a bed in a corridor and had a part of one leg missing due to gangrene! He was slowly dying as it had not been stopped in time. He told me all about his life after leaving teaching. He was just the same as he always had been only older—and a tiny bit wiser.

I told him just how much I appreciated his teaching style and skills (I never did get a piece of chalk in my eye) and how much I had benefited. I stayed with him for quite a long time, and the experience was quite precious for me. I never saw him again! His wife—the former Miss Pettiford—had died some years before.

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Nundah SS memories from Jean Shaw (born 1937)

Notes collected by Coralie Holmes

Jean remembers that students started with Prep 1 and 2 in the first year, then prep 3 and 4 in the second year then went on to year 1 so she thinks she started 1942 or so. She then attended Nundah State School till year 7.

Jean recalls the brown boxed pleated uniform with the yellow shirt underneath and they wore a straw hat. She remembers the Alphabet chart and reciting the times tables over and over again and says that helped her in later life.

Jean remembers the teacher's chalkboard but the students had slates and slate pencils and inkwells and nib pens for the copy books.

The pie van came to the school each day and pies, sausage rolls and pasties were 5 pence each. She doesn't recall a tuckshop.

Milk was delivered to the school in bottles.

The Tufnell Home for Orphans, only down the street, sent children to NSS, some of whom became her good friends. Jean walked from her Northgate home to school every day.

A clear memory is of the sports days—she recalls running, Captain ball and Tunnel ball. The students would travel to Eagle Junction SS to compete. She remembers the playground at EJSS well. Jean loved Basketball in assistant goalie position and remembers travelling to other local schools for competitions when the swimming season was over.

A great memory is of the huge tree in the middle of their playground at NSS—she thinks it was a Fig tree [Ed. Note: camphor laurel] and there were wooden seats around it for them to sit during breaks. A bell was rung to tell them when to go out.

Jean was in the fife band at school where they played the national Anthem on parade and for the students to go in to school—they would play at other schools in competitions. They also had other students play the drums.

The cane was given to students, but only by the Headmaster.

The desks were wooden and had inkwells and were slopped, with a groove for the chalk.

Jean loved the weekly train trips on Friday afternoons (school time) to Sandgate Swimming Pool where they learned to swim from year 3. The train trips were paid for by the school. The students were allowed to buy an ice-cream for 1 penny—a highlight for them!

The students also were taught sewing, knitting and cooking, traveling by train to Woolloowin SS for Domestic Science lessons in older year levels half a day per week where they would sew a sampler.

The dentist van visited the school every 6 months.

If teachers found head lice, the students were sent to the school nurse for treatment.

At the completion of year 7, the students would go to Eagle Junction SS to sit the Junior Scholarship exams before going to High School.

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Nundah State School: Buildings and Grounds
Russell Parry (Class of 1970)

We began as German Station National School on Monday 2 October 1865, making us the 43rd school in the new Colony of Queensland. Our Colonial Government had contributed around 75% of the cost to erecting a Head Teacher's residence and a separate single classroom. The remainder came from local citizens and originally school fees were charged for pupils. In this chapter, let's uncover the role that our grounds, buildings and pool played in transforming us into a thriving 21st century school.

We cover an entire 8 acre block bounded by Bage Street (originally Old Sandgate Road); Buckland, Park and Boyd Roads. On two sides there are single dwelling residential properties and a large park (just over 9 acres) on the Boyd Road side. A memorial Park (of about 1.5 acres) faces half our Bage Street frontage, which has an attractive streetscape with circular roundabouts enhanced by on street parking. Unfortunately, spill over from the nearby railway station as well as the retail, commercial and hospitality areas at the Nundah shops have created parking issues for our community.

The block was sloped from its high point on the Buckland Road/Bage Street corner down towards Boyd Road. A major retaining wall separates the former upper tennis court area from the three story school building which was cut and filled to create a large flat surface. This area includes the eventually bitumen upper quad which was for many decades used for morning parades. On the Boyd Road side the school steps down from the former upper tennis court and four square area into a reduced sized tennis court then the pool followed by the Morrie Bernard hall and school oval. On the Buckland Road side a sloped area separates the oval from the level area with the main brick buildings.

Cooling afternoon sea breezes and views to Moreton Island and the surrounding suburbs add to the attraction of the high parts of this site. If you look carefully at the school oval, even in the dry conditions that prevailed in 2007, you should see a slightly greener diagonal strip. Our playing field was created by cutting into the rising ground to fill the pre-existing hollow and provide drainage to help the now underground creek flow out under our oval and Boyd Park. Bridge Street gives a clue to the direction of the water flow.

During most of the 20th century, Boyd Park also served as a lunch time play area and an additional sporting field for the school. Some recreational features are shown in the photograph. Since 1953 when the Memorial Hall was completed, its sprung wooden floor was particularly useful for our dance lessons. Additionally, the public library since 1967 has supplemented the various iterations of our school library. Boyd Park now incorporates various play and recreational areas as well as modern public toilets.

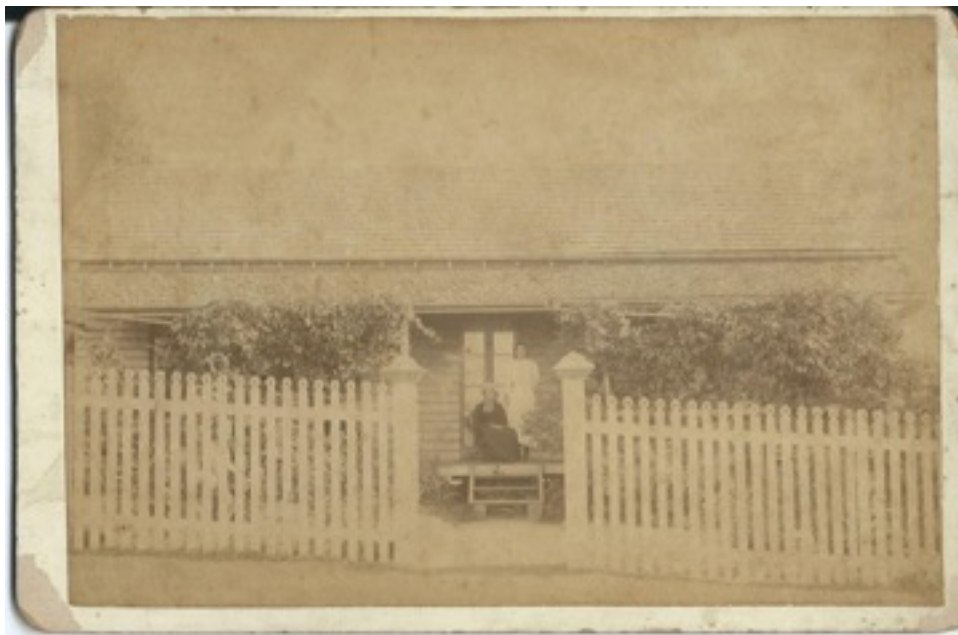
Since 1922, the memorial park serves as a constant reminder to the loyal service of volunteers from our school and the local Toombul district. Still visible in the picture is the rose garden used to beautify the front face of our school. This also salutes Major Sam Bradshaw who was our Head Teacher (1905-1919) and a keen rose gardener. Although the magnificent Moreton Bay Fig Tree that used to grace the Buckland Road and Bage Street corner is long gone, an echo Moreton Bay Fig tree thrives in the Buckland Road/Park Road corner of our grounds.

Proximity to the nearby Nundah Railway Station, since it opened in 1882, partly led to our re-naming as Nundah State School in 1896. After New Sandgate Road followed the lower gradient around the hill, traffic flow gradually declined up Bage Street. However, it wasn't until the tunnel opened in the early 1990s that more traffic calming and street scaping was completed to enhance our Bage Street frontage.

Our grounds are a fantastic advantage. The school oval enables a wide variety of activities from cricket to sports carnivals. Pool meets can be run at night without noise or lighting complaints from neighbours. Shade areas abound and undercover areas and covered walkways improve conditions on rainy days. Trees soften the built environment and discrete space is available for the younger grades.

Buildings

Head Teachers were important local dignitaries who lived with their family on site from 1865 to around 1937. As their residence occupied the best portion of the school site this established the face for our school on (then) (old) Sandgate Road. However, what was appropriate accommodation in 1865 no longer fit the bill by 1896. The Head Teacher was losing face as his residence no longer compared well with even local labourer's abodes. Consequently, a new residence was successfully fund raised and agitated for to upgrade the face of Nundah SS.



Teacher's Residence circa 1894 (photo courtesy of Jenny Glover)

Our first shingled roofed classroom was built on the Buckland Road and (now) Bage Street corner of the site with a veranda about six inches above ground level. A substantial stepping stone, supposedly from its main entrance, was later inscribed and incorporated in our Bage Street building as a reminder of our colonial past. Whether this simple wooden building actually had substantial stone steps or it is really from the Head Teacher's residence is a matter of conjecture. Either way it's our only 19th century element in the modern school.

Up until 1908 a hand pump was used to recover rainwater that had fallen from the shingle roof into a circular underground well with brick sides and a dome shaped top. Once reticulated water was connected in 1908 the dome was smashed to ground level and dray loads of fill brought in to cover the well. These bricks may still survive for a future school archaeologist to recover! Possibly, an easier task than locating the various unmarked lost time capsules buried in our grounds.

A substantial open sided playshed and separate male and female entrances for the lavatory block were constructed further down the slope away from the Buckland Road side. Overtime this led to a huge shady bamboo grove. An echo of this toileting arrangement is the current toilets under the Year two wing.

Room 2 (which can be seen in the 1918 photo [p30] behind the tree) was added with an attached office for the Head Teacher as enrolments increased. More enrolments led to Room 3 and later Room 4, which were connected by a communicating door. All four rooms were connected by verandas and passage ways. As you can see in the photograph the water tank fed from the room 4 roof is in the full western sun. Room 5 was built as a separate building and as it had a new office for the Head Teacher the previous office became a staff room. The wooden fence visible on the right hand side of the picture was our Buckland Road boundary.

Generally the wooden building followed the slope of the land on the Buckland Road side. As you can see in the image, a flight of stairs connected the fifth building to Building six. A female staffroom was attached to building six, which was partitioned into three classrooms at the time of its construction in 1916 thus making the other staffroom for males. The last wooden building was sited parallel to the sixth building and later became the second grade wing. Similar to the sixth building it was also partitioned into three classrooms.

Water tanks collected the rainwater for drinking and underneath the school building provided some cover from the elements as well as helping cool the classrooms. Few trees grew in the schoolyard and water gouged out a channel down the slope. Awnings and deep verandas provided some respite from the heat and areas for port racks and school hats. Windows were designed to maximise light into the classrooms in the era before electricity was connected to the buildings. Only the hardiest trees seemed to survive long past their Arbor Day planting.

The modern face of Nundah began with the construction of the brick Boyd Road wing in 1935 as a Depression era project. The Great Depression hit the Nundah area hard and many school dads were on employment relief projects when they could find the work. Our Bage Street wing was opened in 1941 and ten years later the Buckland





Nundah State School (main building) under construction
(image courtesy of Brisbane City Council)

Road wing completed the three phase project. Mr W. D. Murray was the last Head Teacher to occupy the residence before it was sold and removed so that the Bage Street wing could be built.

Brick buildings were a substantial gift to the local community. Lowering maintenance costs reduced the burden on the school budget to expend funds on maintaining our external appearance. It also altered the risk profile from arson attacks on school property. Particularly, after the Head Teacher no longer lived on site. Airy, well lit, low maintenance buildings are mainly a feature of the 21st century. However, low maintenance brick structures were a great boost for Nundah SS.

Once all three story brick buildings were constructed it led to the concept of a 'big school' and a 'little school'. This was reinforced in the 1955 to 1974 era when huge enrolments encouraged separating the school into the Nundah Infants' State School for first and second grades and Nundah SS for the higher grades. Once baby boomers had traversed their primary schooling the school was re-joined to preserve its Class 1 status for as long as possible.

Hidden amongst the tree canopy are the school dental clinic and the Prep buildings. Similar to all Queensland schools, gradually overtime the built environment has expanded and the open spaces contracted at each school. However, new buildings and painting colours soften the somewhat austere external face of our school from the depression era monumentalism of the 1930s. Internally, the school featured some attractive Art Deco elements in the stairwells and ceilings.

The Morrie Bernard Hall (opened 2011) situated on Boyd Road below the bright swimming pool fence creates a new southern face for our school. Although the fenced off dog exercise area reduces the open space in the park, recreational areas such as the visible basketball hoop counter balance this for students. The Assembly hall—which is accessible via undercover walkways—widens the education possibilities available at our school. As you can see, the windows on the Hall are designed to maximise natural light while protecting from direct sunlit glare.

The Corpus Cristi dome became a prominent Nundah landmark from 1926. This provides a constant reminder to the separate path that most local Catholic students have taken in their primary education since St Josephs was build in 1916. Equally prominent locally from 1951 are the brick north, south, east and west faces of Nundah SS. A reminder that great schools spring from well sited, well designed buildings on spacious grounds.

The Pool

Opening our seven-lane pool in 1956 after a huge fund raising drive was a real turning point for Nundah students. It put learning to swim within affordable reach of the vast majority of students and enabled a good proportion to excel in the sport. Dual stands, enthusiastic swimmers, club nights, great coaching and supportive parents and teachers all helped transform our school into a swimming powerhouse.

Students from the 1954-56 era fund raised hard to create this lasting legacy. Previously, swimming lessons had been restricted to the murky sea-lice infested Sandgate Baths where seawater entered through holes in the bottom of that pool. Learning to swim in these trying conditions was a challenge supplemented by lads teaching themselves to swim in a local Kedron Brook waterhole.

Concluding remarks

To survive on the same site since 1865 is remarkable. Despite newer schools opening and competition from various Catholic and private schools from time to time, Nundah SS continue to thrive. Large, well sited, improved grounds, well-built buildings able to be adapted to 21st century classroom needs and a cool pool culture have all played their part. Generations of Nundahites have raised funds to supplement taxpayer's money throughout our impressive history to incrementally improve our natural advantages.

Sources:

Robinson, E. W. (1983) *Recollections of the Nundah State School in the Early 1990s*.

Jones, O.J. (1965) *German Station State School 1865 Nundah State School 1965 Centenary History booklet*.



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Whole school portrait 1950



Whole school portrait 2010

Two Patrick generations at Nundah SS from 1916-1965
By Eleanor Patrick (Class of 1963)

Nundah State School's Admission Registers list eleven people with the surname of PATRICK in the twentieth century. My late Dad, Ted, and his five siblings account for six. The other five names belong to two sisters, two cousins, and myself, Eleanor, an NSS student from 1956 to 1963. Another former NSS student who was proud to be a Patrick for a great deal of her life was my late Mum, Daphne, whose surname was Ross prior to marrying Dad in 1945.

Mum and Dad/Daphne and Ted were classmates for most of their NSS years. A photo exists of NSS's Grade V class of 1931. Mum, standing 2nd from the left in the back row, is quite easy to locate. Her dark curly hair was never cut before her teens, and for most of her childhood Mum wore her two tightly curled pigtailed in front of each shoulder. Dad is 3rd from the left in the row in front of Mum, positioned close to her right arm.

Bare feet can be seen on the boy sitting at the front at the far right of the above photo. In the Great Depression era family budgets and beliefs were such that it was normal for boys to attend classes barefoot at NSS. More than half of the boys may have been barefoot in 1931. Dad told me that he cannot recall owning a pair of shoes even up to his Scholarship year. On the rare occasions he might have been required to wear footwear, they would have been borrowed shoes.

In the 1920s and 1930s, male teachers frequently caned pupils, especially boys, for the slightest misdemeanour. My parents told me that a great many boys, including those in Dad's classes, chose to undermine a teacher's use of the cane as a means of correction. The boys in Dad's classes held a weekly competition in which Dad not infrequently, he told me, was the winner or runner-up. A count was made by classmates of the number of times each week that any boy was caned/given the cuts, and the boy who received the most was respected and honoured by the other boys for the week to come. I guess it would have been sad to be caned often and then be only the runner-up. What would teachers had thought if they had known of this competition?

During my parents' years of schooling, the 'R' word at the forefront of Dad's mind was Rugby. Rugby League was Dad's passion in his NSS years, and he regarded attending classes as the price he had to pay in order to be on the premises, to practise before school, at lunchtime, and after school. However, Mum, in her NSS days, prided herself on her manners and cleanliness, and so tended to ignore a particular boy in the class whose knees were always filthy from numerous rugby tackles. Though Rugby was the 'R' word that took priority in Dad's youth, from the 1940s onwards, Romance triumphed greatly and so may be said to have won out over any sporting or other interest for the bulk of my parents' lives.

Dad's sporting skills were so good that he gained a place on the 1934 premiership winning Nundah State School Rugby League Team, and also on Queensland's Primary Schoolboys' Rugby League Team. Dad was always very proud that he had worn a maroon jersey for Queensland. It was a pity for Dad and the team that, in the year they travelled to Sydney to play against NSW, Queensland was beaten. Sadly for our family, Dad passed away in 2004.

I wonder if he might now be ‘upstairs’ cheering on Queensland’s dominant State of Origin Team of the past decade.

Some people might think it a pity that Dad never had a son to whom he could teach such sporting skills as rugby league and cricket. However, Dad always delighted in his four daughters, of whom I am the second, and all of us were taught at a very early age to appreciate cricket. A further sport that Mum and Dad both enjoyed was tennis. For some years before as well as after their marriage, they played Saturday afternoon tennis with a group of ex-NSS pupils, including the well-known ABC radio personality, Russ Tyson, a lifelong friend of my parents. Cecil Smallcombe and family were both friends and neighbours when we Patricks lived at Wavell Heights. I am told that Cecil and his wife, Daphne, also participated in the Saturday tennis afternoons that my parents so enjoyed in the 1940s and early 1950s. The friendship continued with the next generation. On occasions I played after school, either at the Smallcombe home or at my own home, with Judy, who was close to my age.

Other members of our family might not have excelled in sport to the same extent as Dad, though we all achieved in one way or another and all went on to have excellent careers. Mum was a homemaker when her daughters were young but later had a career in sales, where she put to good use the arithmetical skills learned at Nundah. My elder sister and I each became Prefects and in my Scholarship year I was awarded a bursary as top female student of 1963. The bursary took the form of a book voucher donated in my name to the Library of the school I was to attend the following year, which was Wavell High.

In late 1964 Dad was promoted from Brisbane’s Taxation Office to work in Canberra and early in 1965 the family moved to join him, so my younger sister never became a Nundah Prefect. However, she was chosen as School Captain at her Canberra Primary School. My youngest sister was schooled in Canberra and so never experienced the joys of the rest of the family in being a ‘Nundah kid’.

I send greetings and fond memories to fellow Nundah classmates from 1956 to 1963 who might come to read this story.



The Sandgate Saltwater Baths: A favourite Nundah State School excursion
By Russell Parry

Ever wondered about learning to swim before our school pool was built? Well, many Nundah State School pupils from the 1930s to the mid 1950s era recall their Friday afternoon steam train trips to swimming lessons in the Sandgate Baths. Prior to the opening of these Baths braver Nundah pupils taught themselves to swim at a local Kedron Brook waterhole. However, as the largest primary school in Queensland by 1954 with over 1600 enrolled, about 120 Nundah SS pupils entrained each week to the Sandgate Baths in the warmer season.

First, intending swimmers lined up for leg inspections with any that showed fresh cuts ruled out due to sea lice and other marine nasties. Then it was a walk in pairs down to Nundah Railway Station to be locked in the toaster rack carriages by the Station Master. Woe betides any pupil caught chewing gum! Arriving at Sandgate the Station Master unlocked each compartment, and the pupils then trekked in pairs over to the Sandgate Baths on the seafront.

After a quick change into saggy woollen togs in the strong smelling individual cubicles, lessons started in the seawater fed Baths. Lessons were divided into ability levels—those able to swim a length, width or learning to float. These long and wide Baths went from 3 feet at the shallow end to 8 foot 6 inch deep. Muddy sand would flow into the bottom of the Baths from Moreton Bay. The bottom became stirred up by many feet to make the water a murky dark brown, thus concealing some inappropriate activities. However, older pupils needed to recover a brick thrown into the deep end as part of their Advanced Swimming Certificates. So recovery involved deep breaths and groping blindly along the pool bottom with hands and feet.

Pupils lined up afterwards along the poolside for a headcount to make sure nobody was still on the pool bottom, before being allowed back to the changing cubicles. After outside showers and inevitably slower re-dressing there would be a rush to return via the afternoon train. Quick changing schoolboys from the early 1950s fondly recall the Charlie Chaplin and Fatty Arbuckle machines in the Sandgate Baths kiosk that cost a penny. Forgetful pupils who left wet togs in their swimming bags over the weekend would often find them covered in ants.

Eventually, the main supervising teacher, Mr Merv Webster, ended these pupil-favoured but teacher-challenging excursions to Sandgate. Mr Webster knew a pool located on the Boyd Road side of the school grounds would pay homage to an earlier 1938 proposal to commemorate the centenary of the 1838 arrival of the German Missionaries with a public pool in Boyd Park. (This was just one of a number of failed attempts to get public baths in Nundah.) He pushed, prodded, and cajoled the then huge pupil and parent population into a massive two-year fund raising effort to build the Nundah School Pool by 1956. Fund raising included bottle drives and schoolgirls seeking donations from local Nundah businesses. Their lasting legacy was our Olympian producing 7-lane school pool, which improved the swimming ability of all subsequent students.

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Betty Collom's memories of the Nundah Pool, etc.

Swimming Pool

In the early 1950's there was fund raising to build a Swimming Pool so the children didn't need to travel by train to the Sandgate Baths to gain their Swimming Certificates. The School Fetes were a major boost to the Pool funds.

On Saturdays, Nundah shopping centre would close at 12 Noon, so people were then free to come along to the Fetes which were held each year in September on the Oval, organised by the P&C Committee. The Committee would meet each month and there was also a Ladies Auxiliary. For a number of years, Frank Larkin was Chairman (children Kerry, Paul, Denise and Wendy), and Mervyn Collom was Treasurer (children Douglas, Betty, Kenneth and Gillian), while Jim Wilson (Jimmy and John) and George Jeffcoat (Ross) were among the Committee members.

All the tents and stalls were set up during the morning, and at the end of the Fete, whilst the Committee counted the proceeds by lamp light, people would be dismantling everything and removing it from the Oval.

There were cake stalls, fairy floss stall, jams and sweets stalls with lots of home cooked toffees and lollies in little hand-made cardboard baskets, jumble stalls, best doll prize tent, pony rides and a variety of games. People made gifts for sale by knitting, crochet, sewing or craftwork, and wooden toys. One year there was a radio announcer on the playground broadcasting from the Fete.

There was always the question of whether to take out rain insurance. One year there was heavy rain and fortunately insurance covered the loss in fund-raising.

A ceremony at the Swimming Pool celebrated the dedicated work of many parents and teachers, and acknowledged their tireless efforts and many hours of work to raise sufficient funds to build the Swimming Pool.

The Auxiliary Committee—including Mrs North, Mrs Blackford, Mrs Sands, and Mrs Ailsa Collom—ran a Tuck Shop on a Monday to ensure children were eating more nourishing food, and because bread had run out over the weekend with no new supplies available until Monday morning. A lot of fruit and vegies were supplied by Sue Tin at Sandgate Road, Northgate.

In the post-war years, a small bottle of milk was supplied by the Government for each child each day in an effort to have healthier children. Some children were milk monitors, who collected the crates from the central drop-off point and brought it to the verandah outside their classroom. Sometimes the milk crates had been left where the rising sun had time to warm up the contents, before morning break.

Concerts

We also had concerts each year in the Nundah Picture Theatre. There were pianists, plays, folk dancing, poems, magicians, and one year Chad Morgan—'The Sheik from Scrubby Creek'—performed with his guitar, and he was considered a great success. Some of the acts

were presented seriously, so everyone enjoyed the Sheik's large buck-teeth and humorous songs.

One year (1956?) the Fife Band was an item in the concert. Betty Collom announced the three pieces the band played. While there ere normally only 20-25 students in the Band at that time, anyone who had a fife crammed onto the stage—many not competent to play the music—so it was a screechy mess, particularly as some microphones at the back of the stage were still switched on.

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Reflecting on my Nundah school days
Kay Lawrence (Class of 1960)

My school days at Nundah were happy ones and I can remember always looking forward to getting back to school after the holidays. The teachers I had were very good and kind. I can't remember ever seeing any really bad student behaviour. We were not allowed to talk in class and so learning proceeded very well. There was no talking back to teachers and I cannot remember hearing any swearing from students in the playground.

I loved being in the fife band and playing three times a day as the students marched into school from parade. We learned to dance in preparation for the school fancy dress ball held at Cloudland each year. They were exciting events.

We chanted tables every day and it has been wonderful to have instant recall of these during my life. No calculators or computers! As a primary school teacher I can honestly say looking back, that in most areas the way we learnt and what we learnt were far better than what we see in schools today. Repetition became frowned upon which led to major declines in basic maths and spelling.

One reading book was thrown out in favour of many books. In depth study of stories and poems were sacrificed for skimming of a variety of books at different levels to cater for individual needs. Our social studies text book was taken out of the curriculum along with other subject text books. I am not surprised that basic core subjects such as literacy and numeracy are now being looked at after student results have shown a decline in these areas overall in the last few decades.

We always took great pride in our handwriting after lots of careful daily practise in our copy books. Swimming was my favourite sport and we were fortunate to have swimming lessons in the school pool every week in the warmer weather. Another lesson I enjoyed was sewing where we were taught basic stitches on a sampler. These days I am sewing children's clothes for my family and also to sell at markets.

Looking back on my early school life I can say that I have much to be thankful for at Nundah with dedicated teachers who have done much to set fine standards of learning and behaviour in their students. In my teaching career as an adult, I hope my students will remember me in the same way as I remember my teachers from Nundah State School from 1951 to 1960.

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NSS Amateur Swimming Club—The Nundah Sharks: Fifty-Five Years Strong

Written by Mavis Baxter, Nita Kennedy, and others.

Updated in 2015 by Angela Denver-Fedder

The Nundah State School Amateur Swimming Club members (now widely known as the Nundah Sharks) have taken pride in their achievements and growth during the existence of the club, and many families have enjoyed and benefited from their association with the club, and likewise the Nundah School.

Even as far back as 1922 it was reported in the local newspaper, 'The Lilley Despatch', the results of the annual swimming carnival of the Nundah State School held at the Booroodabin Baths (now known as the Valley Pool), and the prizes for the events were donated by local residents.



The School pool was built in 1956 mainly owing to the efforts of the late Mr Merv Webster with the enthusiastic backing of the then Headmaster, Mr Jim Broadfoot. It was financed by public subscription, where parents pledged themselves to pay a monthly amount over a period of two years. The pool was opened during the time of Mr R.J. Cochrane, Mr Broadfoot returning to the school in 1966 and remaining until his retirement.

The swimming club was the brainchild of one person, Mr Merv Webster. For years he and other teachers had taken children to Sandgate on Friday afternoons for swimming lessons. On the opening of the School pool he conceived the idea of a school swimming club. Mr Webster used to walk to and from school with Mr George Henley, expounding his ideas to Mr Henley who offered to help him with the organizational side of forming a swimming club, and so were sown the seeds of the Nundah State School Swimming Club.

February, 1960

Meeting to discuss ways and means of forming a club.

March 15, 1960

Meeting of interested parents when it was agreed to seek the Education Department's approval to form the Club.

May 26, 1960

Meeting—Annual Subscriptions: 3/-s (30c) first member of Family, 1/-s (10c) each additional member including adults. Nightly Fees: 6d (5c) per night except carnivals.

Letter to School Committee re requisition—provision of P.A. System, Repositioning of lights and Finance.

June 16, 1960

School census of likely members—364 members.

The original Motto—which the new club prominently displayed—was 'It is better to have swum and lost than never to have swum at all'.

August 30, 1960—1st Annual General Meeting

1960-61 Season

Patron	Mr R. Cochrane (Headmaster)
President	Mr E. Hill
Vice President	Mr L. Kerr
Secretary	Mr M. Webster
Asst. Secretary	Mrs P. Klemm
Treasurer	Mr G. Henley
Asst. Treasurer	Mr J. McGahey
Committee	Mesdames. Wells, Shepherd, Kerr Messrs. Hardy, Hughes, Trenfield, J Reid, S. Wilkes, A. Gynther
Hon. Auditor	Mr Sadleir
Competition Officials	
Chief Judge	Mr Hardy
Judges	Messrs. Hughes, Battner, Knowles
Chief Time-keeper	Mr Wilkes
Time Keepers	Mesdames. Crawford, Curtis, Charles Messrs. Shepherd, Thew, Miller, Davies, Brazier, Burns
Starter	Mr H.C. Jarrott
Check Starters	Messrs. F. Trenfield, J. Martin
Asst. Starter	Mr Towne
Result Steward	Mesdames. Hill, Charles, Kerr, Curtis, Hughes
Announcer	Mr Alex Dewar M.L.A. Messrs. Sheardown, Klemm
Recorder	Mrs Kerr
Referee	Mr A. Gynther
Gatekeeper	Mr Crawford
Handicapper	Messrs. C. Reid, N. Oliver, D. Dickens, T. Willmet, N. Pringle Mesdames. Arnott, Willmet, Reid, Saunders
Chief Call Steward	Mrs Wells
Call Stewards	Messrs. Clacher, Collins, Rackley Mesdames. Shepherd, Collins
Runner	Mr Charles

The Swimming Club was the first of its kind in Queensland, and the forerunner of many more. In the ensuing years, the club was honoured by requests to assist in the formation of similar clubs in the metropolitan area, and by 1971 thirty other school clubs had been formed in Brisbane.



Learn to swim classes commenced on Saturday mornings under the control of Mr Allan Gynther, Mrs P. Wells, Mr S. Wilkes and Mr F. Trenfield. The first learn to swim class was held on 5th December, 1960. Mr Merv Webster held training sessions before and after school, and these were continued in the 1970s by teachers Mr David McKay and Mrs Lyn McKay (née Coulter)—who graduated through the Swimming Club from its commencement.

Special tribute must be paid to Mr Allan Gynther for his lengthy service to the Club. Mr Gynther was instrumental in expanding the learn to swim classes both on Saturday mornings and Christmas holidays and also conducted advanced training classes over many years. As a result of his coaching many club members gained top representative honours.

Under Mr Gynther's guidance, a film called 'Let's Swim' was made by club swimmers, and this film has been in the Education Department's library for the benefit of children learning

to swim since the early 1960s to the present. [Ed. Note: This film could not be located in any institutional catalogue in 2015, including the Qld Dept of Education or the National Film and Sound Archive, the State Library of Qld, the Qld State Archives, or the National Library of Aust.]



In the 2012-13 season, the committee with assistance and leadership of head coaches, Zarnia Wilson and Michael Kersnovske raised the funds to heat the pool. This enabled the club to offer learn-to swim classes all year round and winter swimming officially commenced in the winter of 2013. In 2014, the committee voted to privatise the swim school operations. The tender was awarded to Mrs Zarnia Wilson in January 2015. The swim school is now named A-Quality Swim School. The relationship between the swim school and the club remains close, and club nights are supported by the A-Quality coaches.

In 1966 Mr Alex T. Dewar M.L.A. donated the Dewar Shield for competition between the seven schools in the Wavell electorate: Nundah, Virginia, Wavell Heights, Kedron, Geebung State Schools, Our Lady of Angels and St. Joseph's Convents. Today, five clubs remain in this annual competition—Nundah, Virginia, Geebung, Wavell, Kedron State Schools.

In March 1971, the first Ascot Cup Carnival was held between Ascot, Nundah and Wynnum North. Over the years Ascot and Nundah have been consistent competitors together with

another invited Club (often Eagle Junction) and the cup was contested until Nundah's withdrawal in the 2013/2014 season.

In 1979 the Rita Hayes Shield was instigated by Wavell Heights Swimming Club between Wavell Heights, Kedron and Nundah State Schools and was a highlight on the swimming calendar for many years.

Currently, the club participates in the Clayton Owen Shield (November), the Terry Sullivan Cup (December), the Nundah Experience Shield (February) and the Dewar Shield (March).

TROPHY PRESENTATIONS:

Always a favourite event with the children has been the Annual Presentation Night when rewards for the season's efforts became a reality amidst the excitement of 'on stage' presentations and group photographs.

During the early 1970s membership numbered over 400 when up to 90 events per night were held. The club's depth of talent meant that it was possible to have two teams competing on the same night in separate carnivals. The club was undefeated for eight years in open competition.

Nundah Swimmers have represented Australia at Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, competed in and gained places in National Open and Age Titles, State Titles, National and State Primary School Titles with great success.

The following are but a few of those achievers:

OLYMPICS

1968	Mexico	Robert Cusack
1972	Munich	Gail Neall
1976	Montreal	Alison Smith, Lyle Smith
1988	Seoul	Karen Van Wirdum

COMMONWEALTH

1970	Edinburgh	Sandra Smith
1990	Auckland	Karen Van Wirdum

NATIONAL AND STATE TITLES

Sue Winstone, Gail Bucknall, Bruce Parry, Alison McGregor, Lyn Coulter, Ross Gynther, Paul Gynther, Trevor Gynther, Neil Gynther, Mark Gynther, Susan Stewart, Greg Cusack, Judith Robinson, Kristine McNeilly, Stephen Orme, Janelle Randel, Coral Towne, Bill Clarkson, Peta Clarkson, Joanne Clarkson, Stephen Crocker, Jenny Tambling, John Baxter, Glenn Kennedy and Michael Denman.

AUSTRALIAN ROYAL LIFE SAVING

Lifesaving began with the building of the school pool and Nundah children have achieved countless successes since the activity was introduced by Mr Bill Nugent and Mrs Phyllis Wells. On Several occasions Nundah won the Brisbane Metropolitan School Championship.

The following swimmers competed in National and State Titles:

Val Kerr, Ross Gynther, Gail Peake, Marlene Towne, Paul Gynther, Greg Reid, Jeannie Baxter and John Baxter.

National Team:

1983-1990 Jeannie Baxter

1990 Germany (World Life Saving Titles—Rescue 90)
Jeannie Baxter and John Baxter

OFFICE BEARERS

Year(s)	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1960-61	E. (Gene) Hill	Merv Webster	George Henley
1961-62	Gene Hill	Merv Webster	George Henley
1962-63	J. Hughes	Merv Webster	George Henley
1963-64	J. Hughes	Merv Webster	Bert Jarrott
1964-65	Tom Willmet	Merv Webster	George Henley
1965-66	Tom Willmet	Merv Webster	George Henley
1966-67	Roy Hatten	Merv Webster	George Henley
1967-68	Roy Hatten	Merv Webster	George Growcott
1968-69	Bert Jarrott	Merv Webster	George Growcott
1969-70	Bert Jarrott	Merv Webster	George Growcott
1970-71	George Growcott	Merv Webster	John Thomson
1971-72	George Growcott	Merv Webster	John Thomson
1972-73	George Growcott	Vi Short	Bill Orme
1973-74	Viv Parry	Vi Short	Bill Orme
1974-75	Viv Parry	Vi Short	Bill Orme
1975-76	Jack Baxter	Vi Short	Bill Orme
1976-77	Jack Baxter	Denise Humphries	Bill Orme
1977-78	Bill Orme	Beryl Branch	Denise Humphries
1978-79	Bill Orme	Judy Arnell	Denise Humphries
1979-80	Mal Keen	Judy Arnell	Audrey Reibel
1980-81	Mal Keen	Judy Arnell	Audrey Reibel
1981-82	Mal Keen	Judy Arnell	Audrey Reibel
1982-83	Judy Arnell	Robyn Lambert	Val Marsh
1983-84	Terry Polley	Robyn Lambert	Val Marsh
1984-85	Terry Polley	Margie Riley	Val Marsh
1985-86	George Marsh	Margie Riley	Bev Green
1986-87	Mac Burgess	Vicki Krosch	Bev Green
1987-88	Mac Burgess	Vicki Krosch	Margaret O'Hara
1988-89	Peter Barnes	Vicki Krosch	Margaret O'Hara
1989-90	Peter Barnes	Vicki Krosch	Margaret O'Hara
1990-91	Trevor Coote	Vicki Krosch	Margaret O'Hara
1991-92	Rod Green	Lynette Smith	Marilyn Howie
1992-93	Rod Green	Lynette Smith	Marilyn Howie
1993-94	Ron Lowrey	Bronwyn Gallaher	Marilyn Howie
1994-95	Ron Lowrey	Colleen Stiller	Marilyn Howie
1995-96	John Vandermatt	Caren Taylor	Marilyn Howie
1996-97	John Vandermatt	Wendi Herrington	Ros Colegrove

1997-98	John Vandermatt	Wendi Herrington	Ros Colegrove
1998-99	John Vandermatt	Kerri Kempin	Ros Colegrove
1999-00	Pia Anderson	Kerri Kempin	Ros Colegrove
2000-01	Pia Anderson	Terry Freidman	Ros Colegrove
2001-02	Pia Anderson	Kay O'Leary	Ros Colegrove
2002-03	Pia Anderson	Kerri Kempin	Ros Colegrove
2004-04	Warren Gibson	Leanne Hands	Ros Colegrove
2004-05	Pia Anderson	Nancy Bauer	Ros Colegrove
2005-06	Michael Bernes	Margaret Jones	Kerri Kempin
2006-07	Michael Bernes	Bruce Peatey	Kerri Kempin
2007-08	Michael Bernes	Kerri Kempin	Kay Alexander
2008-09	Michael Bernes	Kelli Chilton	Cathy Perkins
2009-10	Malcom Perkins	Kelli Chilton	Cathy Perkins
2010-11	Malcom Perkins	David Hornigold	Steve Shaw
2011-12	Malcom Perkins	Angelique Woodgate	Steve Shaw
2012-13	Glenn Ricketts	Michelle Hausler	Steve Shaw
2013-14	Steve Shaw	Angela Denver-Fedder	Chris Shaw
2014-15	Steve Shaw	Angela Denver-Fedder	Chris Shaw
2015-16	Andrew James	Katie Stride	Glenn Crompton

Over the last fifty-five years fourteen members have been given Life-Membership of the Club namely:

AGM

Mr Merv Webster	1971
Mr Bert Jarrott	1971
Mr Tom Willmet	1971
Mrs Kath Willmet	1971
Mr George Growcott	1975
Mr Jack Baxter	1979
Mrs Mavis Baxter	1979
Mr Bill Orme	1981
Mrs Judy Arnell	1988
Mrs Andrea Murphy	1988
Mrs Noela Houlihan	1990
Mrs Nita Kennedy	1991
Mr Evan Daniel	1992
Mrs Vi Short	1993

The following Long Service Awards/Badges have been given to these swimmers for ten years dedication to the Club:

Jeannie Baxter	1983
Tanya Reibel	1983
Anita Reibel	1985
Sharon Carter	1985
Ronald Carter	1985
John Baxter	1985
Susan Marshall	1985
Karrie Arnell	1986

Catherine Neville	1987
Sheree Reibel	1987
Ben Arnell	1988
Len Grasbon	1988
1989	Ian Houlihan

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

1970 10 years Anniversary Swimathon—money raised for roof over grandstand

1970 December The Club held a Novelty Carnival and Christmas Breakup which became an annual event for many years. In later years ‘Carol by Candlelight Evenings’ were instigated by Mr & Mrs Baxter and Committee. Nativity Pool Settings with Santa, music and candlelight were a delight for the young and old alike

1972 April 8 Breakup Carnival—The Merv Webster Stand was named in recognition of the late Merv Webster’s contribution

1981 21 years Smorgasbord Dinner Dance—Mayne Sporting Club.

1985 25 years Smorgasbord Bush Dance—Woolshed Rainbow Valley

2012 Fundraising Swimathon to raise money for pool heating

The wonderful success of the Nundah State School Amateur Swimming Club since its inception cannot be measured purely in terms of carnival wins or representations at top-level swims or the number of records broken or even times and cold statistics, but rather it should be considered from the point of view of the benefits derived by thousands of children and parents during the past fifty-five years.

During that time, parents have willingly contributed their time and effort as committee members and pool officials and in so doing, have been actively involved with their children in sport, while at the same time, they have formed friendships which have continued long after their membership of the club had ceased.

Thousands of children have graduated from our learn-to-swim classes to become competent, if not champion swimmers, conscious of water safety—two very important factors in protecting precious young lives. Through their involvement, they have learnt the spirit of competition, the discipline of hard work in training, teamwork, sportsmanship, dedication to the club and the ability to cope with success as well as defeat.

May there be thousands more like them in the years to come.

[The original history of the first thirty years of the swimming club was compiled by Mrs Nita Kennedy, Mrs Mavis Baxter, Mrs Judy Arnell, Mr George Growcott, and Mr Bill Orme. This information was updated by Mrs Angela Denver-Fedder for publication on the 150th Anniversary of Nundah State School.]

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Jordan family memoir

Jenny Glover (nee Jordan) spoke to her sister Susan Martin (nee Jordan) and cousin Wendy Mitchell about their time as pupils at Nundah in the period 1942-58.

Jenny and Susan's father Cyril Jordan owned the local newsagency in Station Street, and presided over the 1965 Centenary celebrations.

They are descended from the Bridges family, that included students in the original 1865 class—Susannah Bridges was Jenny's great-grandmother. They still have relatives at the school in 2015—an unbroken family line throughout the school's entire history.

Here is a mix of details from my cousin (at the school 1942-49), and my sister and myself.

Miss Anderson a very tiny lady was the infant teacher and she had a rocking-horse in her class room.

Mr Harland was the Headmaster while we were there and he was very strict and isolated.

Miss Angel was a very lovely Grade 4 teacher, with Miss Gilbert being very strict. She also took the sewing class held once a week.

Mr McQuaid must have been at Nundah nearly all his teaching life. He was single when he came to the school and was there until retirement. He was a very nice man.

Mr McDonald and Mr Webster were the Grade 7 teachers, but were really only interested in you if you played sport. We never did.

Girls still got the cane, which my sister tells me she often got. I must have been better behaved.

We had an Annual Fancy Dress Ball and also a School Concert, both of which were held in the old Nundah Cinema.

Earlier, girls did Domestic Science (cooking and dressmaking) and boys (manual arts), going to Woolloowin State School. Later we went to Sandgate by train. There were no provided buses in those days.

Fridays in summer there was swimming at the Sandgate Pool, which was a fairly shallow stone surrounded pool. None of us were allowed to go, as people were often sick afterwards—no Chlorine in those days.

Our lunch hours we were mainly in the quadrangle, spent playing hand ball, skipping ropes and girls often played tennis. The boys all headed to the oval for cricket, football or tennis.

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ORAL HISTORY BY SUBJECT

THE INTERVIEWEES:

Ailsa Marshall (born 1929) spent her primary years at Nundah. Her mother had been at the school: ‘...she wouldn’t have allowed me to go here if she hadn’t thought it was a good school’, and then her four children also attended—‘... They’ve done well professionally. They’re all clever.’

Anne Paine (nee Somerville) and Denis Paine attended Nundah from 1957 to 1964.

Anne: ‘[I] just liked the school itself. ... I think just general schooling itself and the library and of course learn to swim.’

Denis recalls: ‘It was a good school but I wasn’t a good student. ... School back then for me had sports like the tennis, swimming and things like that.’

Elizabeth Acheson went to Nundah primary (her parents also attended Nundah primary), and was a school prefect in 1965 (the Centenary year).

Elizabeth: Oh... It was the best! ... I always loved school and yeah it was a good school.

Graeme Blackman attended Nundah from ‘about 1955 to 1962’:

... typically in those days all the [local] kids came to Nundah, so you went to basically the closest school, and it was generally a good school, although the teachers at the school at the time put extreme pressure on me and they had expectations that I would be academically inclined like my sister and I was far from it. Um... maybe as a result I used to wag school a lot to get away, but the school was generally quite good. We had milk at morning tea, underneath the main office block, the front office block, and generally it was quite good, lots of sport, but overall I think the teachers in those days were very disciplined, very strict, academically, very good.

Jan Thompson taught at Nundah from 1966 to 1972, during which time her children Christopher (1967-73) and Wendy (1969-75) commenced their schooling here.

Jan left to specialise in remedial teaching. Christopher believes his time at Nundah was ‘... in the good old days, the prime era of the school I would have thought...’ Wendy went on to become a teacher (but not at Nundah).

Ken Marmon started at grade 1 at Nundah in the early 1950s (‘1952 I think it was’). ‘We loved it. It was a good school. The only thing I think was in those days the bottles of milk for morning tea, they used to be sitting in the sun for about an hour, so you would get this warm milk, but anyway ... I think it was, we had pretty good teachers here.’

The Quigley family had six children go through Nundah, including Victoria (Scholarship class of 1960), Sue (grade 8 in 1963), and Gordon (1958-65). The girls enjoyed primary school more than their brother did.

Victoria: I really enjoyed being here. I felt quite confident and a lot of the people from my class went on to do good things in the community, have good jobs and I’ve stayed in contact with a few people. So yeah, I think the school did the right thing by me and it was a great place to be.

Sue: I thoroughly enjoyed school. I think it was a good school. I didn't know any other school of course so I can't compare them. I think it gave me a good foundation for high school. I was just an average student, but I succeeded.

Gordon: I didn't excel very well at school. I had some overbearing teachers who did keep me in line and if it wasn't for them I probably would have gone way off the rail and not just off the rails. But I did have a good time. ... I had a keen interest in girls and that's where they all were. So I didn't only go to school to eat my lunch, I went to see the girls.

POOL and SWIMMING

Ken Marmon: I was here before they actually built the swimming pool, we used to sort of get the train down to, I think it was Virginia, we used to go to Virginia school for swimming lessons, and then they built the pool here after that, it would have been the mid fifties I would say.

Victoria Quigley: The swimming pool was great. We were sort of in the middle on the swimming pool era when it was being built and first came into use. So that was good. And even when we left we came back to do teaching swimming lessons on a Saturday morning.

Sue Quigley: The pool was great—just great having that there. You could have your swimming lesson during the week too.



Wendy Thomson: But it wasn't just the academic side of things, it was the excellent sports and swimming program, um... Mr Ginther [?], he ran the swimming club for the swimming training, and we had a seven lane pool which most other primary schools... if they had a pool it only had six lanes. And we were a big part of the swimming program and our father who at that point worked locally down at the [inaudible] bank at Nundah, he was the treasurer of the swimming club. And my parents were very community minded, they were a part of all of those kind of things.

MUSIC, CHOIR, FIFE BAND and MARCHING BAND

Elizabeth Acheson played in the fife band: I was in the school band, in the fife band, and I can remember being very excited the year we marched in Toowoomba in the Carnival of Flowers. I remember going up there on the bus. And uh, yeah, I was one of the fife players, yeah. I think I still have my fife at home actually. [laughs] I was showing the kids... because my grandkids are now learning recorders at school, but ah. I said, oh we use to play fifes and they said, oh what's that nana? [laughs] Yeah... we went up [to Toowoomba] on a bus, yeah... and we always marched for the ANZAC Day services, as well.



Victoria Quigley: I really enjoyed being a part of the choir too. ... We did the choir eisteddfod every year. And there was a choir for every year level I think. [Where was the eisteddfod?] In the city hall. And that was a big event too, to see all the other schools getting up and going on in front of a huge crowd. [Was it nerve-wracking?] No because we were with our mates and we were always standing next to people that we'd practiced with and yeah it was great.

Gordon Quigley: I was in an operetta... in 1965, Madam [Princess] Chrysanthemum. I was one of the sprites. It was part of a three part play held at Wirana Hall in Ascot from memory.

Wendy Thomson: But it was a top school. Our band, with Greg Bosa as the music teacher and I have to say he was a genius, we were the state champion marching band. And we would compete on the weekends in our beautiful purple and white dresses with our epaulets, our purple ribbons tucked in our long socks and shiny black shoes. And I still actually have all the ribbons from our competitions. We were a fife band, and we also... In 1973 or 1972 Gregory O'Harris came to teach woodwind, and we were one of the first schools to have

free music lessons. I remember my mother bought me a Yamaha flute and I do recall it was \$115.60, I do recall that. And we played our flutes in the fife band, which was why, I said to my Mum earlier, the song we played was “Dance of the Flutes’ and that’s when we became state champion marching band. That’s thanks to Greg Bosa who continued his music career until retirement.

Jan Thomson: He was very firm with the students, if they missed attending regularly, they were out. So he got the dedicated ones.

Wendy Thomson: Well actually we travelled even through the State I think at one stage in 1975 we were billeted in Emerald. I can remember often going to Mt Gravatt schools, um, so it would be weekends that we would go and have these band competitions that we would travel around to other state schools and you would compete, but a lot of the schools back then would have marching bands and they were recorder and fife bands and you would be graded on your marching and your precision and very military style techniques and turns, and then you would have a second grading, um, and that was on pieces that you played stationery, so we didn’t march with our flutes, we would march with our fifes and then we would perform the other and then they would combine the marks and that’s how you were given your rank. I’m sure that we had a lot of trophies. We had a lot of cups and shields and things and there were newspaper articles, which I have a copy of and I noticed I saw in the film they have some of the newspaper things scanned in, probably in recognition of our win. But we did, the choir performed as well and Greg Bosa was involved in the old festival of music. Every year, school from all over Brisbane would go to City Hall and perform and they’d have the record. They’d make a record.

Jan Thomson: A 600 voice choir, five times over. So there were actually five separate 600 voices choirs to perform in the City Hall. So it gave all of those children that experience. It was great.



DANCES and FANCY DRESS BALL

Ailsa Marshall on the Fancy Dress Ball: We went to the Shire Hall first and then it went up to Cloudland. First I went in the one down at the shire hall. A friend in the lower grade and myself, we went as an old man and an old woman. And, I think we got first prize. And, then, normally, you know, a fairy or something like that. But that was the old man and old woman, together. I think we got the prize for the best pair.

Anne Paine's clearest memories include the school dances: Probably the fancy dress balls. They were every year, up at Cloudland. You used to all get dressed up in fancy dress except for grade seven, when you got dressed up in your best outfit. We used to always have learn to dance classes across at the memorial hall. Mr. McQuaid, wasn't it, he used to teach us to dance over there. We used to have so many afternoons a week down to the hall. The ball would come up at the end of the year. And it was a really great night. And some really good costumes.



(Photos supplied by Amanda McLaughlin)

Elizabeth Acheson on the fancy dress ball: Yes, yes. Up at Cloudland. We use to go, and we use to get taken down to the hall here on the corner to be taught our dancing by Mr... I'm sure it was Mr McQuaid? And he use to take the ball, the dancing classes so, we knew how to waltz and that when we went to... But yeah. I particularly remember the centenary one cause I went in centenary costume. That was the thing to do that year, like with the long dress and the... and the long frilly pants underneath and the bonnet. I can remember my gran making my costume for me, for that ball.

The Quigley siblings on the Fancy Dress Ball:

Victoria: Oh I loved the school ball at Cloudland!

Sue: We used to have practice sessions down at the memorial hall.

Gordon: 'Boys, you may now select your partner'

Victoria: And they'd run across the hall.

Gordon: Usually to one girl.

Victoria: You had to get there quickly to get the right selection. So that was good fun.

Victoria: You had to wear something different every year for fancy dress.

Gordon: I think I went as a pirate once.

Victoria: [Our] mum was very creative. She used to sew, sew the costumes.

Sue: I went as an Irish girl once.

Victoria: And a Dutch girl

Sue: They would have been handed down. With three girls we would have had the chance to wear one of those one year.

SPORTS

Denis Paine played tennis for the school team: Denis: [We played against] Virginia and all the other schools around the district. Take parents or teachers cars down to the other schools. There was only six of us would go. Normally a team of six, and teachers would take us off in the cars. No seatbelts back in those days—you could squeeze a few more in the car. [laughs]

Elizabeth Acheson spent much of her lunchtimes playing tennis, and was on the school team: I was very keen on tennis. I use to spend a lot of my time on the tennis court. Yeah, I was in one of the interschool teams but I can't remember what... [chuckles] But, yeah, my mum use to actually help take us to the other schools and we would go to Wavell High to play and we went to Virginia, and that. Yes, tennis was a sport I always liked.



Graeme Blackman: Mainly down the oval, cricket in the summer... swimming, a lot of swimming... [I] was here I think when the funds were raised for the pool. I did my bronze medallion, or started my bronze medallion. And winter-time was always rugby league, always rugby league. ... We used to play down the oval at both the corner of, directly behind the school and the one across the road behind the hall, they were generally the sports that most of the boys engaged in.

Ken Marmon: We played a bit of football on sports day, rugby league, and I know we had a good rugby, and Aussie rules team here too actually. I never played Aussie rules, mainly football. Yes we were in the football team here, played against all the other schools in the area... I think it was mainly Virginia and those sorts of schools. Wavell Heights was always

a tough team to beat, they always had the best side, we always had trouble beating them, there were a few others I think... Eagle Junction I think was another one, a few of them round the areas, but they were only the Under 7 Stone team in those days. [Tennis?] Well funny you should say tennis... When we had the tennis courts here, I loved tennis and I was coached for a while and then I just got sick of it sort of thing, you know, but now I think I should have kept in with that, but I was coached for a few months here at tennis. I think it was most of the year round, 'cause it was down by the side of the pool there, but um, yeah, I should have kept playing that because we still have a social game of tennis today...

Victoria Quigley: [It] was great... being part of a sporting team, and go and visit other schools. That was really enjoyable. Softball and basketball. I wasn't very sporty but it was really good to go and see other schools.

TEACHERS AND TEACHING

Ailsa Marshall on teachers: I had my favourites, naturally. Um. I can remember Miss Anderson. She was a lovely lady. Next person I can remember was Mr Henley. As a young school girl, I had a real crush on Mr Henley, who also taught all my children. Um, then there was Mr Muldoon. He was a good teacher but I wasn't his favourite pupil. [laughs] I used to talk too much!

We had Mr Bilsborough, who was the choirmaster in those days. And I can remember in seventh grade, Mr Webster was one of the teachers. But I had Mr McDonald. And I thought the world of Mr McDonald. And Mr Finter was deputy head. And Mr Harland was our head teacher. Mr Finter, I think he was liked by all of us. But he was very strict, but he was fair.

Denis Paine on teachers: It [Nundah] wasn't tough. We had a couple of tough teachers but that was the child's fault. Probably back in hindsight they were very good. Probably the harsh and stricter ones for me. Muggeridge was pretty tough... Webster was the swimming coach. He was tough but good. He was excellent actually. You knew where you stood with him. Whereas the others were just tough. You could talk to him. Back in those days, anyway, you could respond to him, whereas Muggeridge you couldn't talk to. He was just disciplinary. ... As I said, Muggeridge was probably the most toughest [*sic*] one in grade seven, but he would have been the toughest, but he was tough because you were going into high school. So he was preparing you for that. But generally, I'd say he was a good teacher, but at the time he seemed pretty tight!

Elizabeth Acheson: I can't remember any bad teachers, I really can't. You know, I was sort of happy with the teachers that I had, and went with the flow I suppose? [laughs] ... I just got on with what I had to do, you know, what I had to do. And I always enjoyed school. I always enjoyed reading and that sort of stuff.

Graeme Blackman: There were quite a few good ones, a gentleman by the name of Mr McMirty, who he was a tough old man and he also taught me sister, but he was very good, very good. There was a younger guy, I can't remember his name right now, a younger bloke who used to give me a lot of grief, a lot of hard times, again driving me academically to be like my sister, but his discipline was physical, not verbal like McMirty's... But generally teachers were okay...

We had a teacher, Miss Greenhouse [?] I think her name was, yeah, and she was an English teacher and she was... she was 'Old Greenie', but she was very inspiring in many respects in regard to English and that ... [Why was she good?] Oh I think it was just her teaching style and methods, cause in the mid 50s and 60s, grammar, poetry, books of some substance were common currency in terms of learning, not like today, so I think it was teaching style, her approach, you know, and the way she brought the subject matter across... [Did she tell good stories?] No, it was more rote, in many respects it was more rote...

Ken Marmon: Yeah, you do remember the good ones... Mr Alderson, he was a great teacher here and I think he was very understanding teacher, but you know... there's *[sic]* no bad memories as far as teachers go, I don't think we had any problems with teachers.

Wendy and Christopher Thomson's mother Jan taught at Nundah while they were students, and much had changed by the time Wendy chose teaching as her profession:

Christopher: What is interesting though, and I didn't know this until we were just talking outside because when I started here in grade one, 1967, I had a particular teacher that I started the beginning of the year with, and then um, Mum came along part way through the year and took over the class I was in and replaced the teacher I had which required me to be transferred to a different class because I couldn't have my own Mum as a teacher, that was considered inappropriate, whether it was a school rule or just what Hilder Rose had made the rule. But I had thought that she had just transferred in, but apparently, you might want to tell the story of this, we've just discussed it outside, was the, the policy or whatever of the education department of the time was that ah, at the end of every year, all married teachers were sacked. And the following year as positions were filled by graduates and unmarried teachers, they could be rehired part way through the year, which was the reason why she came to my class part way through the year. So that's a bit of interesting school history.

Jan: Did you know that? For several years that occurred, all married teachers finished before the Christmas break. ... Married female teachers. Yes that's right, married female teachers.

Wendy: There was a lot of discrimination against female teachers just simply because they weren't paid the same amount of money. They were paid less money. Um.

Jan: They were paid even less, not getting their Christmas holiday pay.

Wendy: Yes. They would never get that. And they would um... I don't even think you had super. It was a lot of years before you got superannuation.

Jan: Yes married teachers didn't have superannuation. ... So all those years that we were married female teachers, we were temporary teachers. They didn't take us back on as permanently, they took us temporarily. So I guess it was under that banner that they come terminate at the end of the year to save on holiday pay. ...

Wendy: No, and that's why you have all those jokes about the old school maids because the women who were still in teaching were actually unmarried. They were spinsters. And that was the reason why they were still teaching, because married teachers were forced out. That's what the unions fought for all those years, so I get super and I get equal pay.

Jan: I did the first training for remedial teaching. It was the first department provided training for remedial teaching. So I did that at Mt Gravatt and my first appointment was based at Sandgate State School and it was called a remedial centre and we took children from neighbouring schools. I think there were about seven schools sent their children into Sandgate um to have a session with remedial program there. So that was the beginning of recognition of and provision of any sort of help for remedial kids and dyslexic kids.

Wendy: It was a beautiful school and the teachers were very good teachers. And in the era through the sixties and early seventies in particular, Nundah was actually a School of Excellence and as my mother can recount Trainee teachers and teachers from other schools were brought to Nundah to observe. I suppose very similar to what you've got going on at Kelvin Grove College now where you've got um certain classrooms where students observe teachers in their teaching space. Well Nundah was really like that, and it had very high academic standards and a lot of my class peers from here are all professionals and have all gone on to great academic success in tertiary and so forth.



Christopher and Wendy Thomson, and their mother Jan (a Nundah teacher), recall some of the rules and rulers they have known:

Wendy: I think the big difference in the teaching and the teaching style back then was class sizes and also the physical punishment. There were teachers using rulers, hitting students with rulers.

Jan: Were there?

Wendy: Yes, there were.

Christopher: The 12 inch ruler.

Wendy: There was a particular teacher who used to say backhand or forehand. ... I can remember in year 2, I had gone to put my jumper in my schoolbag and I'd taken so long because, well I was only 4 when I started school in grade one so you can imagine...

So I'm trying to fold my jumper, because my mother had said 'fold your jumper when you put it in your bag', and I came back and some teacher said 'you've taken too long, put out your hand' and expected me to put out my hand and get hit by a ruler. I pulled my hand away and ran off. Sorry that was unacceptable to me. And I think I may have run around to you, to your classroom.

Jan: Let me tell you a quick story, this was when I moved to Sandgate. At lunchtime, children not playing right or getting into mischief would get sent to queue outside the principal's office to get the cane. It was his daily exercise. So they were all queued up, and he was going wack, wack, wack down the line and he gets down to the end boy. 'But Sir, but Sir'. 'Put your hand out, no arguments!' and in the end he got a whack of the cane. The boy was from the Catholic school down the street and he was sent up with a message to give to the principal.

LUNCHTIME: FOOD, FRIENDS, GAMES

Ailsa Marshall on lunch: Oh, well mostly, we'd sit and have our lunch and have a natter. Then we'd skip, pay marbles with the boys, or else, you know, we might play some basketball if we had basketball practice. Generally, just a really nice lunch hour, playing.

Ailsa Marshall: Our favourite days, I think, were our break up days which are so different to break-up days nowadays. We all used to bring a plate. Every person in the class would bring a plate. And the school would buy the watermelons and drinks. And I think we even got an ice-cream. And you know, it'd just be a great day.

Anne & Denis Paine talk about lunchtime play: Denis: Yeah, I was down the tennis courts down the back wall, here [gestures], whacking a tennis ball against the back wall. The coach would get you down there every half an hour at lunch and practise against the concrete wall.

Anne: I didn't play tennis, but we used to go have your lunch and go down to the big oval and used to be able to walk right round the outside of it and make cubby houses amongst all the wattle trees. I remember using the leaves to brush the dirt and make it all nice and even so there were no rocks or stones and we'd have all little cubby houses around there. Denis: You were allowed to climb the trees in those days.

Anne: We'd climb the trees and hide in them. I always used to get into strife because I'd pick the wattle when it was in flower and take it home and my dad was allergic. He had asthma, very bad. Of course, the wattle used to set him off.

Ken Marmon: Played marbles, the old marbles, yeah, used to do that, just trying to think back, that was mainly what they did really in those days.

Gordon Quigley: Now at lunchtime we used to race around the park playing ball mainly. Sometimes we would get into the drain outside here in Boyd Rd and build dams in the water and look for gold and quartz, quartz crystals—much to the disgust on the teacher who would come along and kick us all off. And then we used to use little blocks of wood to cut car tracks in the hill going down to the main area and race cars down there.

Victoria Quigley: Well we used to hang around as a group. We'd sit down on the field—everyone had to go down to the field, probably for supervision I think, and you weren't allowed back until the bell rang, so we would just sit down there and talked. We didn't do any running around.

TRANSPORT, TRAVEL TO SCHOOL

Ailsa Marshall on walking to school: I know one of our favourites, ah, terrible things to do! We, the state school, in those days, we hated the catholic school. Still St Josephs? And our favourite thing was, we'd pass on our way to school. We'd call out:

Catholics catholics, ring the bell

Catholics catholics, go to hell...

And then they'd call out to us.

States states, yah yah yah

States states ...

I can't even remember what they'd say! It was an ongoing thing with the catholic school there. We'd go out of our way to go past.

Anne & Denis Paine on getting to school:

Denis: Caught a bus. I lived on Vernon Street, was the other side of the railway line. Threepence for a bus.

Anne: You were privileged! I had to walk!

Denis: We did walk [sometimes]. If we did, we'd come up over the railway line. Normally caught the bus.

Anne: No I walked. We only had one car and dad always had it. Mum didn't drive. Just walked to and from school. All three of us. As we got older, waiting for the little brother to come along. I've got 3 brothers that came here. We used to all walk home together.



Ken Marmon, asked if he walked to school:

No, I lived the other side of the railway line. We used to get a school bus that would come up. Sometimes we'd walk home. The first day I come to school actually—I was in grade one—I was dropped off for this class and I was home before my mother got home. I said I'm not going to this place, but anyway she bought me back again, the next day. That was just one of those things, it was all good after that.

Wendy and Christopher Thomson discuss the ups and downs of vehicular transport with their mother Jan, circa 1970:

Wendy: I walked over the hill [to school].

Christopher: You didn't walk! Can I tell the dirty little secret that you [Jan] used to drive us to school without a driver's licence?

Jan: Oh. I don't know about that, but there were no seatbelts.

Christopher: No there were no seatbelts, driving up that treacherous Toombul Tce hill, parking out the front of the school, unlicensed and then driving us home down that treacherous Bage St hill.

Jan: I don't know anything about that!

TUFNELL HOUSE

Jan Thomson (former teacher), and Christopher & Wendy Thomson (former pupils), discuss the students from Tufnell House:

Jan: We [the school] used to take the children from the Tuffnell home up the road. ... It was never an orphanage but children who were in there were wards of the State, children who'd been taken out of situations deemed unsuitable or not safe.

Christopher: There'd be quite a number of them for different reasons.

Jan: They were called the Tough-en-ells. The kids used to call them the Tough-en-ells and I think they thought they were a particular brand of tough kids.

Christopher: Well Doug [V] was

Jan: Some of them definitely were

Christopher: They had to be walked up every morning, so you knew them by their arrival because they were walked up by the nuns each morning, a little parade of the Tough-en-ells would come up...

Wendy: But they were an interesting bunch. There was the Little girls you came to our house sometimes, Patience Little and Lily Little.

Jan: We'd take them for an outing from the home to our place.

Wendy: We were community minded.

Christopher: And then there was the Doug [V], who for those who were around in 1967, who would have been known for one of the things that we grade one boys liked to do, who if you go and have a look there's a spoon drain that runs down the Buckland Road side of the infant school building, down bill run. And you could race your matchbox cars down the drain or down the open spoon drain and some other kids would stop them at the bottom. And if they didn't stop at the bottom, they would fall into the grate, which was and it's still there now, I've just been to have a look, a big steel heavy grate. And this particular day, Doug [V] wanted to retrieve a couple of cars that out of there, and um, thought he was mighty enough to pick this thing up, which he was for the brief few seconds that it took for it to be lifted up and have it fall back down and completely remove his big toe from his right foot to which Miss Rose had to...

Jan: I can remember her running up the stairs nursing him and his toe sort of flapping by the skin from his feet. It was terrible. He spent a long time in hospital. I think he got gangrene or something terrible.

Christopher: He had a lot of bad luck...

Jan: Don't talk about the snake!

Christopher: We won't go there, suffice to say, for a period of time in later history, he was for a period of time my brother-in-law. And during that time he was subjected to a range of unfortunate accidents resulting in the loss of several more toes amongst other things.

Wendy: Often the Tufnell home children didn't have the... because a lot of the things they had were donated, they have second hand, they were often noticed in the playground because they had the older style of uniform, when we went from the pinafore, the chocolate pinafore to the checkered, the little checkered dresses, and they for years later would still be wearing the pinafores, and so they did sort of stand out, and um, I now in reflection as an adult do recall there was a little bit of ostracizing that went on. The kids were pretty thick skinned. There wasn't pushing or bullying.

The Quigleys' memories of the Tufnell kids:

Gordon: The children from the Tufnell home always wore their uniform.

Victoria: And they had a blue with a white blouse.

[Were they ostracized?]

Gordon: I don't think consciously they were, but they were different, you know.

Victoria: No not picked on. The way that they were different was that they weren't allowed to come to somebody's place after school to play. So the limitations that they had made it difficult to form good friendships.

HEADMASTERS & PRINCIPALS

Anne Paine: Mr Cochrane was very good, fairly strict. We had Mr Stanley as the deputy. They were both quite good. Back then, we still had the cane and it got used!

Elizabeth Acheson on Mr Cochrane: When you are in that era of growing up... you just accept... I think we accepted a lot more that we did as we were told then what kids today do. But I never had any issues with him. I never really got into trouble at school so, um, so, yeah. But yeah, Mr Cochrane was the one that was here.

Jan Thomson (teacher at Nundah in late 1960s to early 1970s): I'll just interject here. If you've taught under Hilda [?] Rose you were a good teacher.

[She was the Principal of the Infants School?]

Jan: Yes she was and she was very keen to have the top possible standards. When I started here it was a cuisenaire trial in the school, it was an experimental school and the head of the school was experimenting with the cuisenaire. And the teacher who took on that experiment was a fairly senior lady called Miss Coyne and those children lived and breathed number facts and cuisenaire for their whole time in their grade one. So then it was the Maths teaching method right across the board after that. And the children's maths abilities, they used to write equations that started on one end of the blackboard and went right across to the other of creating number factors with their rods. It was very exciting, yes. Standards were high. They had formal examinations prepared and presented by Hilder Rose. The teachers were all nervous about about what tricks she was going to come up with in the exams. So we all had to work hard to meet her standards.

[...]We used to get most years, we got two straight from college, young beginning teachers. And they landed on their feet being placed especially in the infant school there because they got the best of introduction and really equipped them for their life of teaching. Excellent

teachers there, all of the teachers that I taught with in that infant school came under the heading of excellent.

[Infant school was grades 1 and 2?]

Christopher Thomson: Yes it was a separate school with a separate head mistress and it was a separate thing. And there was a fence, there used to be a fence along between the two. And there was no crossing that fence. You were on this side or on that side. It was generically referred to back in the day as 'little school' and 'big school.' So it was actually a graduation when you went from little school to big school, because you were now on the big school side of the fence. So it was a big deal.



UNIFORMS

Ailsa Marshall on uniforms: Oh, yeah, we had the brown and the gold shirts. It was optional, but I wore one every day. I always wore shoes. They weren't compulsory, though. A lot of them [boys] came barefooted but I always came in, you know, brown shoes.

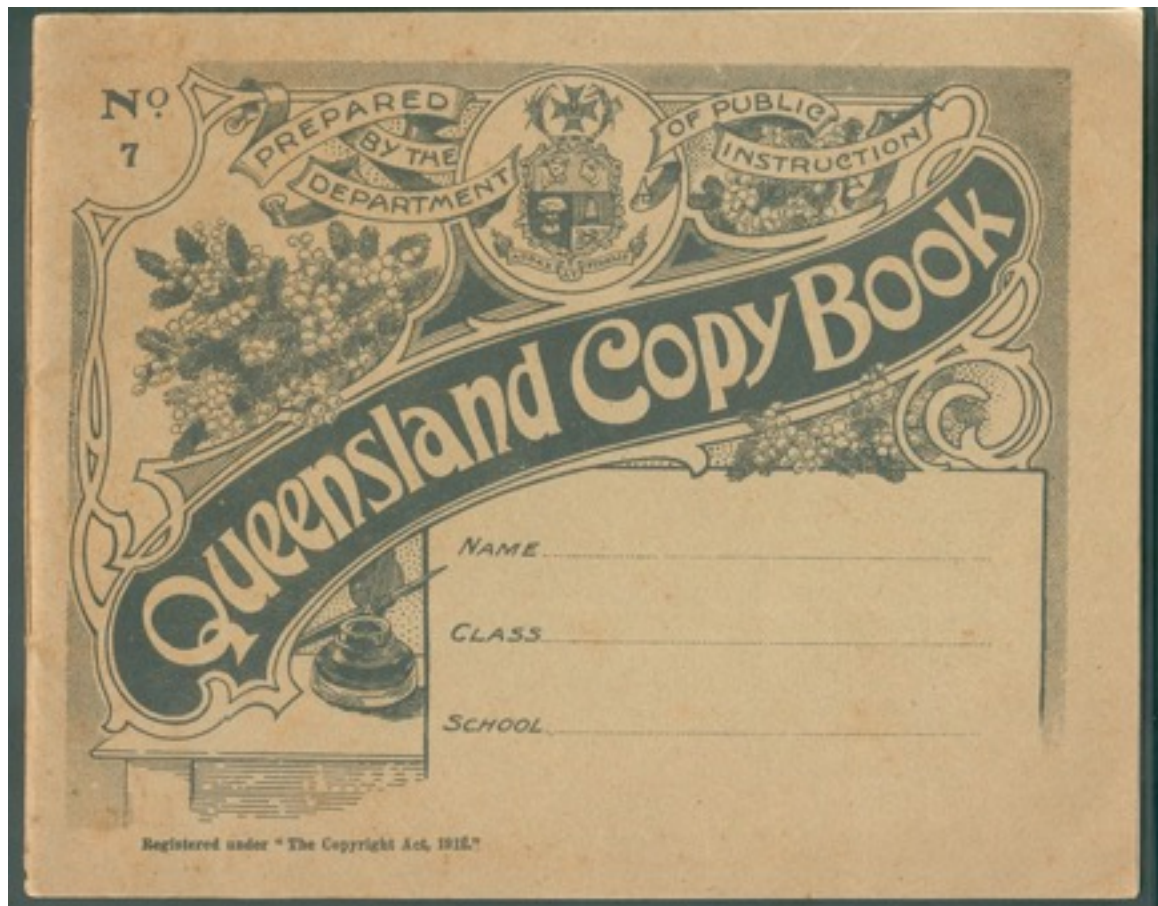
Denis Paine recalls saving sock wear and tear: Wear shoes back then? No. Not even in winter. We couldn't afford shoes.

Elizabeth Acheson is asked if everyone wore a uniform: I don't think so? No, I know I always did, we had the box pleat one. The brown box pleat pinafore, and the blouse underneath, but I... I think most kids use to, but I know I use to always did. Mum always had our uniforms ready for us, mmm.

Ken Marmon: No, no uniform, bare feet. There was no uniform, I'm pretty sure, no there wasn't a uniform, not in those days... Never wore shoes to school.

Gordon Quigley suffered from the allergy to shoes common to boys of that era: One of the things that my mother always insisted on was that I always wore socks and shoes to school. So we would walk up Cressey St to Shaw Rd around the corner, take off the shoes and socks, straight in the bag, off to school.

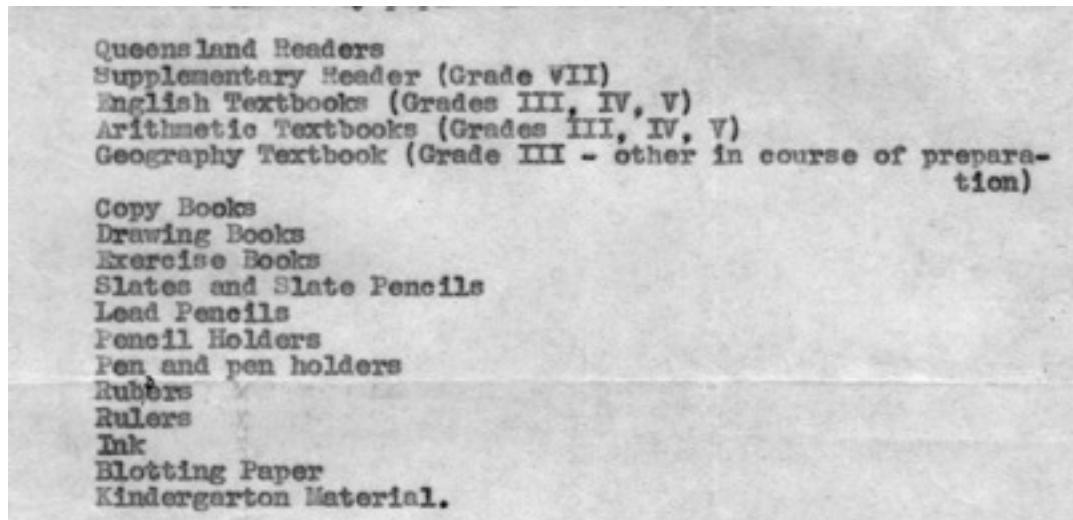
Victoria Quigley: When I look at my very early photographs there was just a smattering, maybe a third of the class would wear a uniform. But as we came on further in the later years of school, except for grade 8, more people were wearing uniform then. But it was really hot, those box pleats, like that would give you four layers with the blouse underneath. Very hot! And we had parade out on the bitumen—that U-shape that the buildings form—and we had probably about 1000 people on the bitumen, it was so hot.



SUBJECTS

Ailsa Marshall: [Favourite subject?] Oh, English and maths. I hated history and geography. I got into more trouble about that than anything. I just didn't like them! Unfortunately, now, I'm wanting to buy atlases and reading historical things. The things that I didn't learn at school. Now, I'm in to that.

Elizabeth Acheson: I always loved geography, and I was always good at maths. Yeah. [What was it about geography that you liked?] Um... always been interested in places in the world, and um... since I've got older I've done a lot of travelling now. So, that must have been what started me, with you know... to know what was happening in other places in the world, and where places were.



Graeme Blackman: Favourite subject was English and History, loved the history and the English, and ... Maths was my weakest subject, I actually surprised everybody when I... I think I got about 59%, or 61% in my scholarship, in my grade 8 year in Maths and everybody was stunned that I'd actually passed Maths and would be going on to high school.

Ken Marmon: My favourite subjects were [*sic*] geography, wasn't too keen on the maths but, geography probably and English I suppose... [Why geography?] I think just discovering the world you know, see what other parts of the world that you didn't know about, and some of those things I learnt in there, now I've actually been to see those places, you know that's been great, you know places like the Leaning Tower of Pisa sort of thing, that's fantastic...

Sue Quigley: Mainly Maths and Geography. I hated English. I wasn't good at English, that's why I hated it.

Gordon Quigley: At Nundah I enjoyed the, what'd they call it, the cane work and the home arts type stuff, using your hands to make thing, I really enjoyed that sort of stuff. Manual arts, though it wasn't called manual arts until we got to high school, it was called something else like craft.

Victoria Quigley: Oh I love Maths. I think we might have been a Maths family. I didn't like History, I liked Geography though. I think the support of our parents too really helped us. Our parents were really keen on helping us do better than they had done at school, and to go further in our education too.



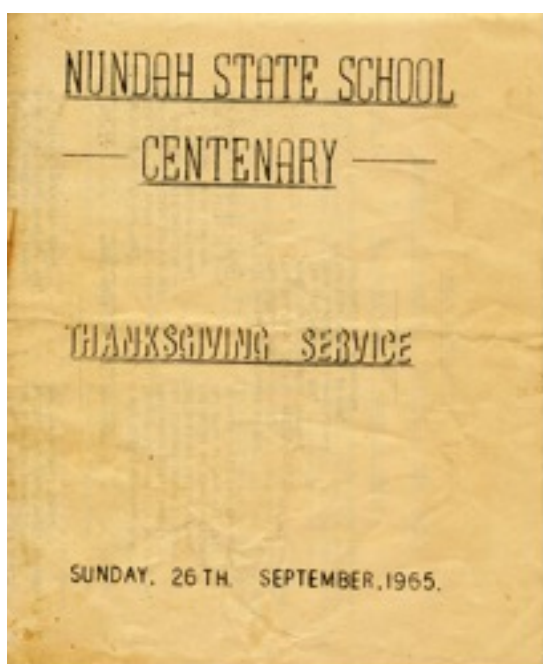
1965 CENTENARY

Elizabeth Acheson:

There was a big church service down at the pool, and I know my mum and dad were really excited about that because they actually knew the minister who took that. They had gone to school with him. So, both my parents came to this school as well.

And we did a play. I think it was called Princess Chrysanthemum? And I was in the chorus lines of that. And I actually still have my costume at home from that play. I might touch it and it might fall apart, I'm not sure [laughs]. But, yeah I know I've still got it in a box at home.

I remember that we got a new school library for the centenary, and I loved reading, and the teacher that I had, Mr. Henley, that year had actually been my mum's school teacher. He was close to retiring by the time he taught me but ah... I always remember grade seven being a good year here because of the centenary, and just the different things that were happening in the school.

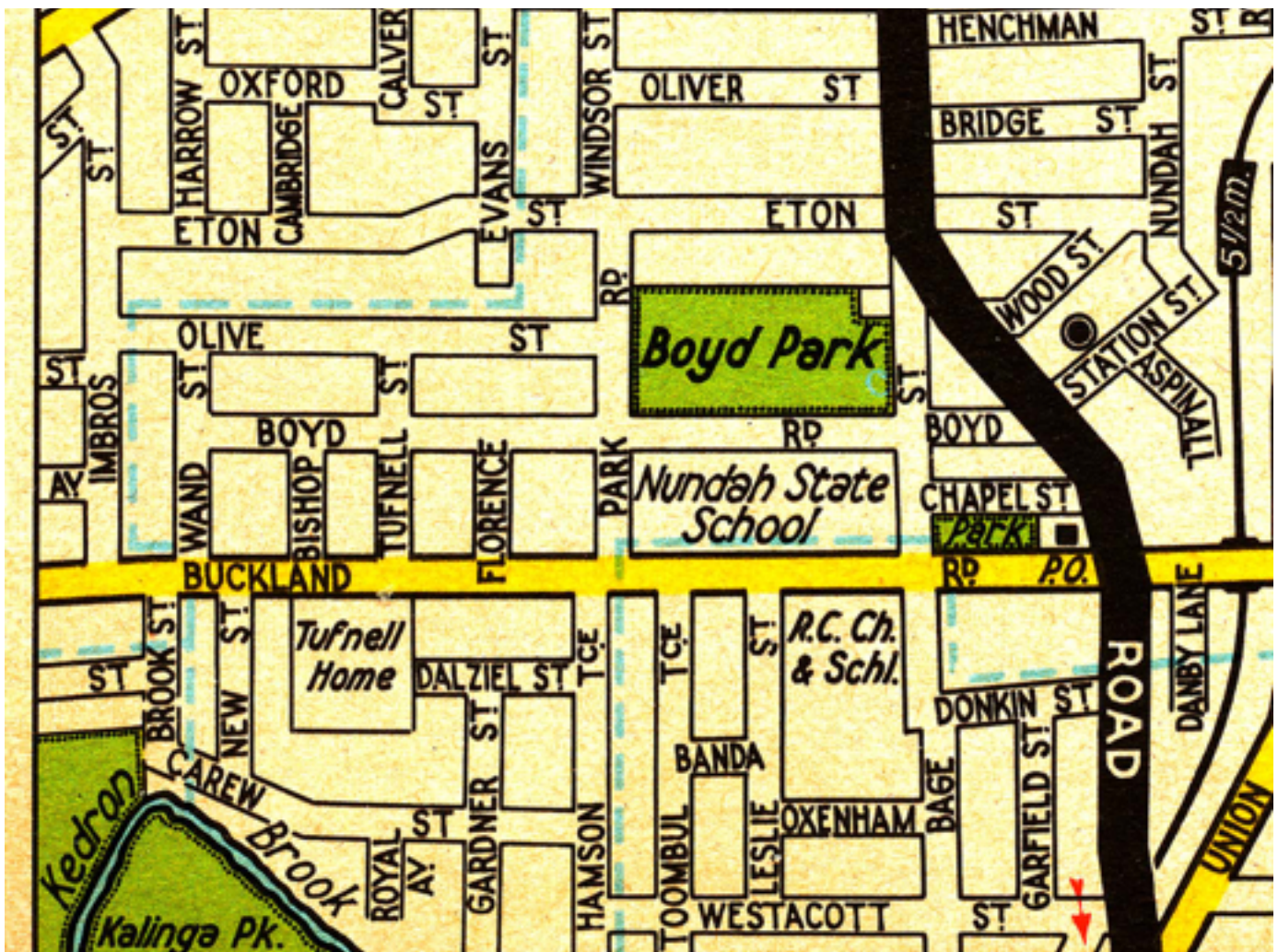


COMMUNITY and the LOCAL AREA

Anne & Denis Paine reply to a question about ‘wagging it’:

Anne: No, no. You weren't game to! If you didn't get into strife here, you got into strife when you got home because everybody around the streets knew you. 'Cause we all grew up in Nundah, we lived in Nundah, you went to Sunday School around Nundah. Everybody knew everybody.

Denis: The community back then was vastly different to today. It wasn't as mobile. We were only talking about it this morning, actually. The community we grew up with you knew your local storekeeper and shops. And they all knew you and your parents. Whereas now you go down the shops, you wouldn't know one soul from another. One employee keeps moving around. The community back in those days was a very close-knit community. You know Norths Football Club was the northern suburbs. Now its just a football club. The cricket club down there was the Northside Cricket Club. You don't have that sort of stuff now. The community's dynamics are very much different.



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FACEBOOK FORUMS

‘BALLS... DANCES...’

Lynette Smith: Ahhhhhh Cloudland. The bouncy dance floor... and the fancy dress... wearing my mums wedding dress... unaltered mind you... she was so tiny when she got married... when my kids went to Nundah they still had fancy dress but the magic of Cloudland just wasn't there.

Beverley Carol Ryan: Going in grade 5 as Dolly Varden, my Aunt made the costume.

Lyn McKay: Cloudland, the Fancy Dress Parade... All the ballroom dancing lessons on the parade ground, ‘The Monte Carlo’ and Mr McQuaid, the wonderful MC.

Peter Brumpton: The best night of the school year.

Lyn Mcmillan: It gave all the girls from Tufnell Home one night of being "normal"... Loved it.

Beverley Carol Ryan: ‘Monte Carlo’, ‘Pride of Erin’, barn dance and the waltz... loved them all.

Jenny Logan I certainly remember walking around the neighbourhood selling tickets for it. The funny thing is that people always bought them and I am pretty sure had no intentions of going to the ball. The prices were something ridiculous like 20 cents a child and 50 an adult, weren't they?

Gunvor Madden: The bouncy floors. It was the best night as you got to stay up late on a school night.

Jillann O'Neill: And to top it off, Mr Dewar then gave us a holiday!

Stewart Gardner: The cable car was the highlight for me and my family. We would get the bus to Newstead and the cable car would take us up to Cloudland. Hanging out on the outside balconies kissing girls comes to mind as well. I can't remember where we hired the costumes for the dance. My family had photos of us in full dress, I will attempt to find out if they still exist. (1959/1965)

Maxine Deacon Kirchheiner: I remember the lead up when we used to go to the Memorial Hall for dance practice before the big day at the beautiful Cloudland where it was a mixture of dancing and hanging out on the balconies.

Lyn Krebs: Loved the funicular rail from Newstead up the hill. The Grand Parade was stunning, and then the anxious wait to see if your favourite boy would ask you for a dance, this was in the upper grades, the younger ones had set dance routines. Loved the ballroom dances we were taught by Mr McQuaid. A great night ! Yes the Tufnell Home boys and girls had a lovely time, a highlight in their year.

Lyn Mcmillan There was no older boys at Tufnell...only grade 1 and 2 for a while...then they went to Enogerra boys home.

Kathleen de Leon: Our last ball .. Everyone was dressed in 50s/60s outfits as that was the year Grease was released!

Amie Becker: Mrs Verryt dressed as a punk, me dressed as Princess Leia, heel and toe polka and the chicken dance.

Stewart Gardner: I do remember the ticket sales. I use to sell tickets to my neighbours. It was more like a fundraiser as they had no intention of going to the Ball. I can't remember the price but it would of been pre decimal.

Stewart Gardner: The Friday night swim club has to be one of the highlights of NNS. Dawn Fraser paid the school a visit one year, so it must of been a good swim club.

Richard Williams Re ticket sales. I recall the was an inter-class competition with the class that sold the most tickets (not sure if numbers or dollar) got a free swim. Maybe second and third also got one. There was a chalkboard under the Music Room/ Mr Webster's wing showing progressive scores. The Kalinga Tram ceased in Dec 62. Lyn Krebs - I believe it was a funicular - the carriage going up braked the one going down, and the one going down towed the one going up. They passed in the middle.

Kathleen de Leon: We [Tuffnel Home kids] went to the ball during the 70s... It was a truly magical event where you were free to be normal amongst families... Free to explore the wonderland that was Cloudland.. It is one of my favorite childhood memories.

Lyn Mcmillan: I went as a bride and thought I was so beautiful... was the best time of every year...funny how you think getting dressed up one day a year and having to dance with boys was the most wonderful night of the year... it even beat Christmas

Sue Ward: I have a few pictures of me dressed ready to go—one of them as a harem girl.

Kathleen de Leon: I went as a school girl one year... In my NSS uniform... I also remember not being allowed to go one year... I was devastated...

‘BOOKS’

Elizabeth Von Dohren: Definitely Enid Blyton's famous five and secret seven -loved those books

Russell Parry: I'm unsure what I would have borrowed after taking out all the Biggles books.

Richard Williams: Jennings and darbishire(?sp) and the Bobbsey Twins, as well as Enid Blyton from the school libe, Rev Awdrey's Railway Series and a series of large format non-

fiction books about a wide range of topics, the name of which escapes.

Margaret Chalmers: Enid Blyton ... especially Famous Five series

Debbie Cowles: Loved Famous Five and then Secret Seven. Good books

Chenoa Janette Balks: Enid Blyton and the Nancy Drew books as well

Robert O'Connor: As a small boy I read The Famous Five and Secret Seven. Then as a lad it was books like Under Two Flags and Two Years Before the Mast. By the time I arrived at KEDRON in '59 (sub junior) I was into a tad more racy stuff like Gods Little Acre (Erskine Caldwell) and From Here to Eternity (James Jones) And oh, the movie? That kiss on the beach. I've kissed Deborah Kerr a thousand times since I saw it at the Nundah flicks when I was eleven. If only I could have been as interested in my school books as I was in 'Little Darling' and 'Karen Holmes'?

Bruce Bax: Enid Blyton....Secret Seven

Karin Welch: Enid Blyton, Roald Dahl, Judy Blume.

Lyal Lomax: I have six Biggles books in good condition which i received very late 40`s early 50`s. They were great reading with plenty of action.

Graham Ramsay: Biggles. Famous 5. Secret 7. And the William series. About 32 of the William books. About a misunderstood boy always in trouble. Set in England around 1940s I think.

Bruce McNaught: Capt W.E. Johns - What a guy. I loved Biggles and I think that I read every book that he wrote. Ginger, Bertie and Von Stalhein - great characters. I read all the Famous 5 and the Secret 7 also. Bit Biggles was my favourite.

Rae Cope Devlin: Famous Five was the start of my love with reading to this day. Couldnt wait for Library day to get more books. I still have my Little Women books and Heidi series now around 60 years old.

Robyn Newell: I could read even before I started in grade one. After I checked out any books in the school library that I hadn't already devoured (loved Enid Blyton), my father took me to the Nundah Council Library where I discovered all those wonderful sci-fi novels of the era—some of which my father had to pretend were his loaners!! Adventure rules!

Janelle Kane: I remember borrowing 'Freaky Friday' (yes the book from the movie that had Jodie Foster in it) and I loved the 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory' series of books. I still remember the library pockets in the books with the cards and the white lined paper that had the due date on it. The era before scanning bar codes, LOL

Christine Cotton: Loved the Famous Five, Secret 7, Enid Blyton's school boarding stories, also read all the Heidi series, Polyanna(it was also a series wasn't It?) and many others.

Leon Miller: MAD magazine and Billy Bunter

Shirley Petrie: 1962 Famous Five and Secret Seven

Nola Connolly: Enid Blyton . I worked in a school library for 27 years and she as still popular.

Brad Coward: I was forever reading The Bobbsey Twins novels. Mr Henley told me to change my reading habits quicksmart.

Kim Andres: Enid Bagnold's National Velvet. Then the library threw it away when I was in year 7 (1978) - so I managed to take it home with me. (the librarian was Mr Richards, I think). I also loved Judy Blume, Felix Salten (Bambi, Bambi

Jill North: I loved the Malory Towers series also by Enid Blyton and avidly collected all The Bobbsey Twins books. Oh how I wish we'd had access to the vast range of books children have today

TinaTrev Green: I fell in love with books while reading all of the Biggles books. Billy Bunter, the Bobbsey Twins, Secret Seven and Famous Five kept me rather busy. Eric Leyland was also a great children's writer.

Rae Onger: Enid Blyton, Biggles and the Billabong series by Mary Grant Bruce loved them all.

Russell Parry: Was there a teacher in charge of the 'school library' prior to Mr George Henley?

Richard Williams: I can't answer your question, Russell, but hard to believe Mr Henley managed the library as well as teach a class.

Russell Parry: [Mr Henley] was talented guy. I don't think many other teachers would have been able to put together such a good selection of reading material for the school library.

Kathy Smith-Kieseker: Enid Blyton for sure. Just loved the Famous Five!

Ann Payne: Famous Five, Secret Seven, Little Women

Don Nelson: Enid Blyton—the Famous Five & Secret Seven. Mum would bus it in to the city to buy the latest book!

Jillann O'Neill: Yes. Enyd Blyton... as mentioned by many! And Ethyl Turner. .. Seven Little Australians , The Cub. And a series ...with characters ... Guy... (So Guy Came Too was the title of one book) Patience, Esme, and twins, Peter and Pamela... known as Pan. Have no idea who the author is. Also Malcom Saville books. L. M Montgomery and LM Alcott... and... The Ajax series! I must have had more time to read back then!!

Jillann O'Neill: My sisters enjoyed The Billabong Books...

Fiona Herrington: Definitely the Famous Five—they were my heroes!

Carol Samworth: Enid Blyton. I loved The Famous Five stories. Near where I live in Tasmania there is a small offshore island that looks just the way I imagine Kirren Island would have looked.

Leona Mccarthy: Heidi—any Enid Blyton—and I loved Between You Me and the Gatepost by Pat Boone in my teens.

Jenny Miller: Hey where is Annette the Air Hostess, and The swish of the curtain (kids putting on a play).

Lesley Born: I believe Enid Blyton's 'The Secret Seven' were the reason I became an avid reader.

Sherenne Cummiskey: Yes... Famous Five and Secret Seven by Enid Blyton from the Nundah State School Library... Also the Faraway Tree... Strange, when I got to High School, I didn't want to read books... Is that called "teenage years"? Hmmmm

Trudie Stammers: Famous 5. Really enjoyed them. Still enjoy mysteries and suspense to this day!!

‘EXCURSIONS’

Richard Williams: I only recall two excursions—not sure what grades. We walked down to the TipTop bakery on Sandgate Rd, and caught the bus into Her Majesty's Theatre in Queen St to see Oliver. Not sure of the educational justification for either of them, but I do recall developing a liking for cream buns at the bakery. (1963-69)

Elizabeth Smith: I remember going to the RNA Showgrounds to see the Queen (1954?) for the school children's welcome. Seems we were there out on the grass of the main ring for hours. But we did get to see her

Lyn Krebs: Not sure which year , but we visited the Golden Circle cannery I think at Northgate. Does anyone else remember this and the butter factory near the river , Along Kingsford Smith Drive.

Lyn Krebs: Yes, Elizabeth, I also remember the Queen's visit in 1954 at the RNA grounds

Amie Becker: 1982-1987 I recall quite a few excursions: a couple of visits to the Ekka by train; a trip to the old Museum in grade 4 again by train and stopping at McDonald's for a free lunch because our teacher was Mr McDonald; Early Street Village; Golden Circle Cannery (I can still smell the putrid pineapple); school break up at Amazon (Wet and Wild, Jindalee). And of course our school camps at Warawee (Grade 4 and 5??) Moreton Island (Grade 6) and Mapleton (Grade 7?). I recall the Moreton Island camp well. My leg was in a cast after breaking my ankle. Sandfly bites under the cast which I had to scratch with a

stitch. Mr Richards piggy backed me around for the whole camp. (What a legend!)

Elizabeth Smith: Did we also go to the City Hall for Symphony Orchestra concerts?

Lyn Kelly: Yes. We did in Year 7. 1951. Or was that Junction Park SS. Not sure. But I am sure that I LOVED it and dreamed of being an orchestra conductor.

Jillann O'Neill: Grade 3 I think was Tip Top. Don't forget the cannery... That was by train. Grade 7? We also saw a Russian folk dancing group... or something like that... at Her Majesty's ... Maybe grade 5? I think Oliver was grade 7.

Michele Eberle-Hutchinson: The Graveyard at Nudgee—that's where one of my kids went, with their class in early period costume!

Sharon Boland: Not sure of the years but we went to Nanda factory, Golden Circle factory, both by bus , a nature walk where we did our cross country we walked this one not ran. St Helena Island was bus /boat. Also the Buderim Ginger factory whilst on year 7 camp in 1978. I also remember a time at the RNA (1973-78)

Janelle Kane: I don't remember the years of the excursions but here were the places we went to: 1. The Ekka: we got on at Nundah with clipboards & had to right down every train station (I cheated, I looked in refidex prior to event LOL). 2. Sandgate Co-Op Fish Factory Allpass Pde Shorncliffe: to see, fish, I guess LOL 3. NANDA Pasta Factory at Banyo (I think) 4. Golden Circle Factory 5. Pauls Milk Factory 6. City Hall for a Orchestra event. 7. City Botanical Gardens for a 'World Childrens Day' event and we all had to dress up in a costume. Sorry I can't remember the exact years to all these but they were all between 1975-1981.

Chris Gould: A location in a nearby suburb where there was underground liquid maybe mud. and we were allowed to bounce on them to test them. Lucky nobody broke through. Maybe the cannery and Tamborine Mt.

Jill North: In 1969 I took my class to a Lion Park somewhere at the Gold Coast I think. Returned with the full quota!

Sue Andreassen: Would have Bullens at Beenleigh.

Jan Edwards: Our class or it may have been the older grades went to the Nundah Theatre to watch the movie of the Queens coronation, it was so long we nearly all fell asleep.

Kim Andres: Mr Ian Murphy took through both the Nanda factory and Golden Circle Cannery in 1978.

Jan Edwards: Yes also at the exhibition grounds where we made E2R in bodies.

Margaret Whiting: When the Queen came in 1954, the whole school (1500+) were taken in buses down to Oriel Rd Ascot to watch her drive by. We all had flags to wave and it was over in a flash! I was also in the E11R. We were in the second E in Queen. All dressed in

white. One of the girls from the convent up the road actually got to present the bunch of flowers to Her Majesty.

Bryony Denham: We went to the environment centre - I think it's the Raven Street Reserve at McDowell. I attended from 1991 to 1996.

Jill North: The only excursion I remember ever going on was to Parliament House in Grade 8.

Lyn Cook: Kilcoy Butter Factory, Golden Circle, Newstead House.

Elizabeth Smith: Ooh yes, I remember Newstead House too.

Jonathan Hastings: Went to the Nanda Pasta factory in about 1979. Also to Bunya State Forest education centre in 1980. The Golden Circle Canery with THAT smell! Yikes.

Carol Samworth: Our class went by bus to a display about Canada. It might have been in Grade 6—1968. Also to see the musical (or was it the film?) Oliver, around about the same time.

‘GETTING TO SCHOOL’

Russell Parry: Between late 1965 when the bus routes changed and finishing Grade 7 in 1970, I walked the mile to school. In those days, rather than thinking of it as down Rode Road past the Amoco Petrol Station and crossing into Harrow St etc - we thought of it as walking past people's houses... For example, I'd think of it as walking past Mr Henley's place or over the road from Mr Webster's home or down past Mr Gynther's home or watch out for the boxer dogs at the Basset's place or that's where the girl lives that I'm not allowed to ask to dance at the Memorial Hall practice or I'll get thumped by an Alpha thug's place. We didn't call them Alphas in the 1960s. Or that's John Aitchison's joint—wonder if he's already at school. The walk home was normally with various schoolmates—whereas the walk to school was to follow the gradient of the hill from Wavell Hts down past the Butcher's Wavell Hts Squash courts to get to school the easiest way then over Boyd Park to get into school grounds.

Warren Betts: I walked or rode my bike—coming from Imbros street I had three ways I could go. First was along Imbros and down Olive street all the way to Boyd park and across the park to school. This was not the preferred way as the dew on the grass made my shoes wet before school. Most of the time it was along Imbros, right into olive, then right into Wand street and then left into Boyd street. This was the preferred way to and from school as there was a house near the intersection of Boyd and Wand streets that had a bubbler on their fence—this was great on the way home on hot days. The third way was down Imbros and along Buckland road, but you rarely went this way because of the hills

Karin Welch: From York Street it was bus 28B, if I remember correctly

Julie Sugden: Walked from school, down past tip top bakery and up the hill in Sandgate road. For a while I caught the number 25 bus from near the Commonwealth Bank to just

past Hamilton Road

Tony Denise Faulkner: From Jenner street Nundah, I walked.

Stewart Gardner: I lived at 54 Imbros Street (1959/65). I would walk with my sister down Olive Street across the oval Boyd Park and into school. Wet grass was not a problem as I never wore shoes to school. Depending on who I walked home with it would be Eton Street.

Nola Connolly: I caught the bus from Wavell Heights to school if I missed the bus I had to walk

Beverley Carol Ryan: Walked full length of Boyd Rd, rain or shine

Warren Betts: I was number 17 just opposite Sylvan avenue. I suppose the fact that I also had two mates who lived on Boyd road made me go that way more often than not.

Sherenne Cummiskey: I lived in Evans Street from around 1957 till 10 years old and then Kinmond Avenue from then on... My sisters and I WALKED to and from school and even to Swimming Club on a Friday night in the dark....

Russell Parry: I agree about the walk to and from Friday night swim club in the dark. I think the only difference in my route was that it involved more going along Rode Road where there were more street lights. Some other swimmers including one in particular who was afraid of the boogie man was driven to swim club in his dad's yank tank.

Kim Varney: We (Kerry & Kim Towers) lived at 24 Melton Road Toombul (Toombul Shoppingtown was just a paddock at that stage). We walked to McMaster Street at the top of the hill, turned right into Atthow Parade and then we cut down the lane way between the Church and what was then a sawmill to Union Street; past the Fire station in Union Street to Buckland Road; over the railway bridge (if we were lucky a steam train would be going through - no big protective walls in those days); up Buckland Road past the old Post Office on the corner and then through the park.

Russell Parry: The more I think about it, the more that I think there were ppl staffed on the zebra crossings around our school on the Buckland and Boyd Roads and on Bage St. We all had to cross at the Boyd Road Crossing near the swimming Pool gate which is why aerial photos would show a diagonal walking line over Boyd Park.

Lyn Marsh: I loved riding my bike. Down Buckland Rd and into Toombul Terrace or down Leslie St and into Westacott St. We lived on top of the hill looking down on to the little bridge leading to Kalinga Park.

Rae Onger: Rae Onger 47 to 54 I rode my bike lived Ryan's Rd Northgate then Melton Road Northgate finished up York Street Nundah

Lyn Marsh: Beverley, I can't remember Diana but there was Roslyn Karrasch and Janice Powell nearby. (I was Lyn Bartlett 1949-57)

Greg Assay: I walked for many years, until I made myself deliberately late one day and "had to" ride my bike or I'd be late... rode my bike from then on..

Cathryn Williams: I went to Nundah in the 80s and as typical of the time, I was often dropped off and picked up by my mum. I did also catch the number 26(I think) bus to school from Flower Street on the Nundah/Northgate border. The regular route went up Sandgate road, but for school time diverted up Bage Street and then around the school stopping in Buckland Road.

Carol Jacobsen: Walked from Upton St Nundah, to Sandgate Road and then straight up the hill to school. Occasionally altered the route to walk the way via Nundah Railway Station, and then up Station street to the Nundah Village shopping centre, and up Boyd St to the school.

Leona Mccarthy: Yes we walked as a group, picking up kids as we passed their homes, but if it was raining then the bus with George. From Zeehan street Wavell Heights could go so many ways and we changed it regularly.

Richard Williams: When I was at the Infants School Mum used walk me to and from each day. Down Boyd Rd, across Sandgate Rd at the lights, down Station St, under the subway and then across Oxenham Park. Later I caught the 28 from Nellie St. It usually turned left from Buckland Rd into Sandgate Rd, but the one at the start of school used to detour up Buckland Rd, into Bage, Boyd, Park and back onto Buckland to set down at the school. Some days the driver would go through Nundah Shopping Centre and back up Bage St past the Memorial Hall. There was a dedicated Route 28 school bus for us in the afternoon. As I got older I walked home, often distracted by the pool hall/pinball parlour in the old Nundah Fruit Market near the railway station. When I was in Year seven we used to do Road Patrol on the Bage St pedestrian crossing (near Chappell St). We had red flags and stopped cars to let students cross.

(1963-69)

Jillann O'Neill: Walked with my big sisters from Tarm St, along Shaw Rd and then straight down Buckland Rd... Somewhere along the line... I started to catch the bus. We also walked home...I remember walking with Jayne Kyle-Little... Mum would be out looking up the road for us. Her words, " Please, don't dawdle home," sometimes ignored!

Yvonne Watson: Until I was 10 years of age, and was given a bike for Christmas, I walked, from Suvla Street, in Wavell Heights, down Olive Street, and across the park to the School. Only on rare occasions did I catch the bus, where is boarded on Shaw Road.

Lyn Krebs: Always walked as we did not have a car....along our street , Julia Street out onto Sandgate Road just down from Hamilton Road and straight along Sandgate Road to the school.

Carol Nelis: Walked across Rode Road, down Windsor Street, then across Boyd Park. When I got a bike, rode that route, then stowed bike in the bike shed, under the wooden building.

Lyn Kelly: I lived at the top of Windsor St Carol Nelis. Next to Crowthers who were on the corner of Rode Rd.

Kathy Smith-Kiesecker: Always walked but would take different routes home to put some variation in the trek home to Leighton Street. It's amazing how many variations I found other than the direct Sandgate Road route. Always walked to school the direct way though. And I went through a period where I would kick a stone all the way to school, leave it at the gate and kick it all the way home. Maybe I was a tad OCD during that phase.

Stewart Gardner: Interesting Kathy , my return journey home in the afternoons usually took a different route.

Lyn Krebs: Before we moved to Julia Street , we lived at the Eton Street end of Windsor Street and I started Prep while we were here , Mum would walk us to school , 1950.

Lyn Northfield: I remember catching the bus from Wavell Hts in Rilatt St. Sometimes in the afternoon we missed the bus and would walk home.

Greg GoodApple: Yeah, I walked from cnr Collins St and Hamson Tce from 1963-65. No shoes as well.

Lyn Krebs: Thanks, Lyn Kelly. Yes I remember the Johnsons and the Hoeys and the Bamblings were our next door neighbours . We lived in the house behind them facing Windsor and their home faced Eton Street. Mr Hoey would take us for rides in his horse drawn sulkies. I was born while Mum and Dad lived in Windsor Street as was my brother Graeme.

Gail Hamilton: Some creative moves and memories... Walking to school from Dethridge Street, Norhgate sometimes involved walking along train lines with older children. Not so good where the lines crossed a gully. Crawling over was my best option as I was scared of the gaps between the rails and the height (not so much about the trains which luckily we never encountered on this section).

Sister catching bus home when very small. Telling bus driver I have lost my penny whilst holding ice block behind her back.

Me catching bus home on my own for first time at same age and in first year of school, leaving my brand new school port at the bus stop. (1950's)

George Parker: In the early days, we went by bus from Melton Rd for the first two years, then we went by shanks pony (bare feet), then the later life by bike.

‘LUNCHTIME GAMES’

Russell Parry: The free play part of lunchtime was signalled by the 12.40pm bell and another one (or teacher's whistles) at 1.20pm to signal it was time to return to class. Tiggy would have been popular for Grades 1-3 between 1964-1966 when boys and girls could play together. Some of those Grade 2 girls could easily out-run me. However, it was the ‘Queen Bee’ of my class organising we ‘subjects’ down for a game of Kings and Queens around the base of the Moreton Bay Fig in the corner of the Oval that sticks in my mind. Her game

always ended in her having to kiss the King - a popularity factor for that lad that lasted for many subsequent years. (1966-1970 Grades 3 - 7)

Fiona Hoffmann: Late 60's early 70's - elastics, skipping - who remembers the rhymes we used to say?

Richard Williams: We had tracks for our Matchbox, Corgi and Dinky toy cars (today they would be expensive models) in the bank on Boyd Park. (Turn left as you cross the road). We would clear the dirt from the track with our bare feet, remove our vehicles from our pockets and see whose car would go furthest. The paths for the cars would get more complex as time progressed. I do remember the importance of being asked to be part of whatever class activity someone was informally arranging. (1963-69)

Russell Parry: I'm really unsure if we played marbles at lunchtime - maybe it was b4 school started.. However, the marble playing area was on the dirt ground which was the Grades 4-7 boy's eating area below the cement steps between the pool and the upper tennis court. We'd draw a circle in the dirt for our games. Does anyone recall the rule about how and when you could use your stonker?

Russell Parry: Fads came to Nundah like yo yos at one stage. To be cool you'd have to learn how to (at least) 'Walk the Dog', 'Rock the baby in the cradle', and 'loop the loop'. Naturally, going "Round the World" could be dangerous for other kids so I'm uncertain which tricks were banned...

Wasn't there a hula hoop craze somewhere in the mid to late 1960s?

Beverley Carol Ryan: We had hula hoop craze about 1958.

George Parker: In the late 1940s, over the other side of Boyd Rd, in large paddock, which had a great slope downward, we built sleds out of rubbish timber. We had rope attached to the front and six kids would grab the rope and pull the sled down hill at a fast pace with another person on-board. It was great fun, but Mr Harland stopped it as he thought it was dangerous. Crikey it sure was dangerous when you came tumbling off the sled. This is a close replica of the sleds we used.

Richard Williams: The yo-yo fad often used to coincide with the Ekka, as Coke and Fanta yo-yos were either sold there, or were in the sample bags.

George Parker: Most of us were at school during the war and soon after the war, and naturally we all played war games, and everyone wanted to be a spitfire. We would roam around with our arms fully extended like the wings of an aircraft, clench our fists and with our thumbs pointing forward, which were the machine guns of the spitfire, and would shoot everyone down.

We all had our rifles made from the wattle tree branches that were thick on the area we called the "BANK", which was along Park Rd. But, in our later grades we either played cricked down on the cricket oval between the school and Park Rd, or pulled the sleds down the slope of the paddock, which is now Boyd Park.

Jillann O'Neill: 1967... I was in Mr Huth's class. I remember looking out of the upstairs window to see the playground full of colour from the multitude of hula hoops. Mine was a birthday present... orange.

Lyn Marsh: I remember playing Sevens against the brick side wall of the main building. You threw a tennis ball against the wall and had to do a variety of claps, spin arounds or bounces for each number up to 7. Skipping was also popular with a long rope and one person at each end turning and a line of girls running through—'pepper' was fast, 'over the waves'—with just one rope, two ropes going in opposite directions was trickier. 'Salt, pepper, mustard ----' and one more word I've forgotten. (50's)

Lyn Marsh: Skipping—I just remembered one of the rhymes 'Over the garden wall, I let the baby fall, my mother came out and gave me a clout and said she'd turn me inside out'

Yvonne Watson: We spent our lunch break running from one end of the main building to the other, bouncing tennis balls off the girders.

Ron Carter: In the 70's I remember playing 4 square handball every lunch hour. Use to play with a basketball or similar. The janitor painted courts over the assembly area for all kids to play

Karen Martin: I also remember the skipping & elastics when I was there in 1967 - 1973. Also knuckle heads was big. I also played around the banks of the oval & we would have rocks around our 'tree' like cubby houses. Marbles was big also.

Jillann O'Neill: Elastics.... Called French skipping for some reason...?

Richard Williams: French skipping reminds me of the similarly obscurely named French cricket. Hold the bat in front of your legs, turn and face the person throwing the ball from where it was fielded. Out if caught or hit on the legs. No stumps, bowling, pads or protector.

Michele Eberle-Hutchinson: My girls played 'pig in mud' and 'off ground tiggy' in the 90's.

Michele Eberle-Hutchinson: They also would slide down the banisters when teachers not looking (and we hope the current students do not do this!!)

Richard Williams: Sliding down the banisters I completely understand!

Coralie Betts: Playing on the hot metal slippery slide - always getting in trouble from mum for either burning or wearing holes into my "brown" cotton tails (knickers).

Fiona Hoffmann: Folded paper you put your thumbs and fingers in ...paper had numbers or colours written on it and when you opened up the paper it had something you had to do depending on the number you selected.....sounds double dutch - not sure how else to explain it!

Coralie Betts: Fortune Teller.

Jillann O'Neill: It's a chatterbox.... Kids still love making them.

Christine Cotton: Played skipping, elastics, sevens, statues, letters. Vaguely remember doing some sort o hula hoop dance for some event in grade 1 or 2 (1966 or 67)?

‘LUNCHTIME’

Fiona Hebdon: Red rover cross over...

Leon Miller: I remember tunnel ball being big at Nundah.

Carol Nelis: In the 1950s we did not get to mix in playground at all. The boys had the oval and the marble patch where the Memorial Hall now stands. We just had the parade ground and area under main school building, for skipping and tennis ball game, 7' s., also played game guessing film stars names from their initials., pretty tame, but no electronic gadgets those days.

Russell Parry: There were designated areas for each gender and grade. However, there was a quirk in the rule that let some Grade 3s mix at play. I woke up recalling that lads played marbles by drawing a small circle in the dirt in the flattish area between the upper court and the pool. You got to keep any marbles you could hit out of the circle. One of the girl's areas was the upper quad where elastics and French skipping were the go.

Lorna Jerome: Also in the 1950s I recall skipping, hop scotch.& sitting under the wattle trees on the oval having lunch. This was the simple life but very memorable.

Beverley Carol Ryan: Yes Lorna, skipping and hopscotch in the 50s.

Kelvin Donna Francis: We played nuckles, red rover cross over, and what's the time mr wolf. (1971-77)

Jenny Logan: What about the good old elastics girls, I remember having huge lengths tied in dozens of knots from being broken all the time and being in trouble from Mum for raiding it from her sewing box. Also fond memories of walking around under main school building playing our Fifes (before recorders). Thought I was a musical genius being able to play Frere Jacques & The Bells of St Clemments. Goodness - seems like a lifetime away.

Richard Williams: We used to play hand tennis (aka handball). And there were tracks down the bank on Boyd Rd side of Boyd park down which we raced our toy cars.

Leon Miller: In the 60's boys played red rover before school, hand ball and footy on the oval at lunch times and the girls did elastics under the library and lots of hand clapping games

Christine Cotton: In the late 60's i remember elastics, skipping and playing sevens (with a tennis ball against a wall).

Lyn Kelly: Don't remember. Skipping I think...

Lyn Kelly: Ah, I do remember. We played table tennis at lunch time. smile emoticon
Had a competition event at Marlene Allman's place and I won.

Leigh Plane: I remember knuckles, elastics, skipping and playing sevens like Christine Cotton had mentioned.

Beryl Parfett: I loved playing in the huge trees down on the back fence-line on the oval & guess the TV show game.

Robert Rice: We played Wall Brandy with wet tennis balls—more punch and you couldn't deny you were hit—wet mark on shirt and matching welt. When groundsman hadn't mown the grass on the oval for a while we would tie grass traps and watch the fun unfold. Running bare footed through clover patches to see if we could make it through without being stung by bees.

Beryl Parfett: Ha,ha... I remember grass traps & boys playing marbles at the bottom of the steps.

Richard Williams: I had forgotten about grass traps. Did they ever work?

Robyn Newell: No, girls didn't play cowboys & indians at school—we needed the special bits of defining clothing—ropes, feathers, chaps, tassels, knives & guns—not permitted items back then. But the boys had no trouble making do with leaves, bits of sticks & any old bits of scrap, then running round madly in gangs with a whole lot of whooping and shouts of 'BANG BANG —you're dead!!'

Remember when Shintaro & Ninja games were banned? Was it the violence or the anti-Japanese sentiment still simmering from WW2? There were quite a few veterans teaching at NSS in the 60s when ninjas became a mad fad for Aussie kids...

Russell Parry: Robyn Newell This is worth a conversation thread on its own. Apart from Mr McQuaid, which teachers in the 1960s had served in WW2? I know Mr Norris talked the talk but I could not find him on the WW2 nominal roll and as far as I can work out Mr Webster stayed teaching at NSS in WW2. I have vague recall about Ninja stars being banned in the NSS schoolyard, however, I've clear recall of how popular Shintaro was for some afternoon TV in the late 1960s. Apart from that James Bond movie set in Japan it was our first real exposure to Japanese culture

Robyn Newell: I remember our mother wondering just what my two brothers wanted with those tomato-soup can lids—no wonder they were banned!! Re anti-Japanese sentiment, this probably didn't come only from teachers (veterans or not) but the older generation of parents, who actually experienced the war

Russell Parry: We would have had a National Panasonic radio in our house about 1967, I had my first new Seiko watch in 1971 and (I think) Mum's new Japanese car would have been purchased in 1972. But I can recall visiting a relative's house in the 1960s and 1970s where there was not one Made in Japan item in their home. The Samurai TV show was an important part of absorbing Japanese cultural values alongside the manufactured goods. The

meaning of 'Made in Japan' meant a quite different thing to we of the second wave baby boomers (born 1956-65) than it did to first wave boomers (born 1946-55) purchasing Japanese made items at the Nundah shops.

Kay Grimstone Mckay: My friends n I used to build cubby houses around the oval in between the big trees. Every Monday we would bring in sheets n blankets n set up big cubby house n Fridays pull it down n start all over again following Monday. Awesome memories.

‘MARCHING BANDS’

Russell Parry: My era was 1964-1970 so morning parades and marching into school were part of the militarisation of the school students particularly when we were in the big school. Australian soldiers were in the Vietnam war for most of those years so the marching band was part of the regimentation that often manifested itself in primary schools just as cadets were part of the backdrop to our later high school years.

As far as I can work out, the first couple of band like instruments were given to NSS during WW1. Massed displays of patriotic school children were certainly part of the home front.

There would have been Nundah SS school children who took part in those patriotic displays at the Ekka grounds and they would have been trained in marching techniques.

Lyal Lomax: We used to march into school in the 40 and 50`s

Tarn Clarisse: 1987 to 1993. Still play G-d save the Queen. Grand old duke of York and Micky Mouse.

‘MUSIC AND CHOIRS’

Russell Parry: The only music lessons that sticks in my mind were Grade 2 1965 when we were learning the Beatles song - Octopus in the Shade. We often went down to the Music room underneath the Gr 2 wing to practice. Mayber the trainee tchr accompanied us with her guitar. I don't recall a record player but know that a piano was in that room. Maybe we were learning that song for the 100th that year.

Does learning the 23rd Psalm in the Gr 6 & 7 classes of Mr Barry Norris, count??

My dodgy memory suggests that the band often played God Save the Queen at morning parades on the quad. However, I'll defer to those with more crisp memories of what the fife band learned... We certainly sang that National Anthem back in the day. (1964-70).

Tarn Clarisse: In the late 80's early 90's they played both God Save the Queen and or Advanced Australia Fair on alternative days.

Janelle Kane: Music Lessons from Mr Chris Nunns in 1980. He would regularly get us kids to sing ‘King of the Road’ and ‘Pearly Shells’, to this day whenever I hear those two songs I can still see us sitting in the Music Room singing those two songs. Also as I was in the Junior Band in 1977-1978, we would play two anthems at Assembly. ‘God Save the Queen’ and ‘Advance Australia Fair’. I also fondly remember Mrs Crook the official music teacher of the school during my later years at Nundah SS - Janelle Kane (nee Ross) 1975-1981.

Jill Innes: I had to learn to play God Save the Queen as the criteria for joining fife band. Drove my parents nuts trying to perfect it in one weekend. Miss Powell was our beloved music teacher and took us for choir. She used to train us up to sing in the huge. Primary schools choir in City Hall Each year. I have a photo of those huge choirs with the pipe organ behind us but my copy is packed in a container at the moment. Someone else might have it.

Tarn Clarisse: My favourite memory of grade 6 was Mr Nunn's playing the Guitar and us all singing along to Under the Boardwalk and many others.

Lyn Semple: Russell your Mr Norris quote is spot on to this day I know the 23rd Psalm thanks to him.

Beverley Carol Ryan: I learnt a song at school in about grade 6 called The Happy Wanderer I still can sing it word for word.

Graham Ramsay: The happy wanderer. The trout. The white horse inn. The mill stream. All songs I seem to remember with miss Powell. Think I was the only boy in the choir one year. Remember the combined choirs at city hall with the huge pipe organ.

Jill Innes: They are definitely the songs from one year at the city hall!!! We learnt them so well that I can still remember all the words I reckon! One year was the Aussie Christmas song.... Out on the plains the brolgas are dancing!

Graham Ramsay: I think there was 600 kids on stage. But I maybe wrong too. It was some time ago.

Jill Innes: I had a figure like that in my mind...600. I remember it was very squishy and very precise! (I did year 7 in 1970).

‘OTHER SPORTS’

Richard Williams: ‘Anderson Anderson in the Bin, Newman Newman further in, Blair Blair on the top, They deserve a lolipop.’ Unlikely to win a Nobel Prize for Literature, but an important chant (taunt) in the 60s.

Russell Parry: My era was 1964-1970. I think we also did the sack race, three legged (sp?) race and the wheelbarrow race. Maybe these were all over 100 yards. I don't think the hessian bags were able to be washed—but I also thank far fewer school children had asthma in the 1960s. In the three legged race our legs would have been tied with used stockings. There would have also been an egg and spoon race. I'm unsure if we used a real egg from a carton—but there is a chance that we did. So anyone who dropped their egg would have cracked it.

As far as I know there was no such thing as participation points for your house. The only ones who won points were those coming first, second or third.

Sue Baxter-Winch: We definitely had egg and spoon races in the pool.

Richard Williams: Was tunnel ball a competitive sport or something we did as classes?

Russell Parry: Tunnel Ball was a highly competitive inter school sport in the 1930s and 1940s. Another post mentioned that with the polio scare around 1951 this sport was dropped as an inter-school activity. I recall playing it on Boyd Park as a class activity.

Every year in the egg and spoon race kids would talk about substituting a hard boiled egg. If there was any doubt about the veracity of the egg there would be many teachers quite capable of dropping the egg at the end of the race to check that there were no substitutions.

Sue Andreassen: Tunnel Ball was a athletics sports day activity I think it something that Anderson may have won. It is still played at school now.

Annalise Muhling: I seem to remember Tunnel Ball was always at every athletics carnival and I remember another ball game think it was called Leader ball ? but can't remember the difference. Inter-house carnivals were on the school oval ? Also remember playing inter-school hockey in Grade 6 and/or 7. I was always put on the wing tongue emoticon . Still have trouble with my knees from playing hockey. Also Friday afternoon sport we used to go ice skating down the road at Toombul. This was in the late 1970s.

Beverley Carol Ryan: I played softball.

Sue Baxter-Winch: I seem to remember boiled eggs dyed orange...

Russell Parry: Wasn't it a breast-stroke length of the pool starting in the water with the spoon in our mouth? Were those eggs hard-boiled?? Or was it a ping pong ball?

Sue Baxter-Winch: I thought they started out as hard boiled eggs. they may have changed down the track to ping pong balls. Margaret Chalmers. Any thoughts. i have memories of boiling the eggs up but they may have been for another purpose.

Garry Brown: Rugby League didn't we win Just about every thing in the 60s, from 4 stone to 5 stone ?? Inter-school to carnivals in Gympie, Toomoomba, and Kingaroy...

Sandy Smith: I played tennis not very well. My parents couldn't afford lessons so I had to figure it out for myself. I can remember having to paint the white lines on the courts on Fridays for interschool matches. Sometimes the lines would be quite wobbly and I often wondered how the referee could make sense of them.

Lyn Kelly: 1951—Year 7s used to play table tennis at lunchtime, and had a Challenge Ladder. I was a newie at the school so I was at the bottom. But Ruth Elliott wouldn't let me challenge her for 3rd rung. It was the start of table tennis for me—hadn't ever played before. Loved it. Marlene Allman and Bev Hunt also played. Marlene who was at the top of the ladder had a competition at her place one Saturday afternoon and I won.

Lyn Krebs: Inter house comp on school oval, then district comp against the other schools was at Oxenham Park. We marched down Buckland Road en masse to cheer on our selected athletes. What a hoot!

Lyn Kelly: I think we did tunnel ball as a class in phys-ed. And on sports day.

Lyn Krebs: Yep tunnel ball was played for sport while I was at NSS..... Inter house and at the districts. Also of course on sports day.

‘SEASONS AND STORMS’

Russell Parry: I only recall two seasons. Footy season and waiting for Footy season. Slipping the pads into the sides of my footy shorts pulling on those jerseys (sp?) and avoiding the bindi patches on our bare foot run in the 4 stone 7 lb team. I only ever scored one try.

My era (1964-70) still had a trimester system so the term between May to August was Footy term. Brisbane was still very tribal in this era, and we also followed Norths Devils in the days well before the Brisbane Broncos. Eating oranges at half time (cut up into quarters) and listening to the Coach was just part of our Friday arvo sports.

Russell Parry: There were tiles lost and upper level windows smashed on the brick building in the 1985 storm. Anyone, on the page who recalls those events?

Janelle Kane: I vividly remember the January 1985 storm as I was still living at Ryans Rd Nundah & about to start TAFE as I was 16. Mum and I were home alone. Hail smashed in all our front windows, ruined my Mum's new carpet and our aluminium louvers flung off. I remember unit blocks in Nundah St with the roofs shredded off Neighbours spoke of being trapped on the old red Qld Rail carriages and hail smashing through the train windows.

Judy Lenske: I remember the January 1985 storm very well. Was driving from Zillmere to my parents at Wavell Hts travelling along Newman Rd turned into Main St where a rubbish bin wash blown up onto the bonnet of my car. The hail was unbelievable and my 9 month old daughter was in the car with me. When I arrived at Rode Rd the front (southern side) of my parents house all of the windows had hail damage and the front of the house was water damaged. They had been there over 40 years then and had never experienced anything like that storm

Coralie Betts: My parents lived in Norwich St Wavell Heights [in 1985] and lost all windows on East and South of home—roof tiles—air con units smashed—water damaged throughout—whereas my little Ford Laser was parked at Spring Hill that afternoon as was also severely damaged by hail.

George Parker: I played football all through school, and was a good player, scored many tries. I can't remember if we ever played in the finals, as a game was a game and that is all that mattered. I was selected for the QLD School Boys in 1950, but the trip to Sydney was cancelled due to polio was ripe in Sydney at the time. I continued playing with Northern Suburbs playing ‘C’ and then gave it away and got involved in Tennis.

‘SUBJECTS’

Richard Williams: I remember reciting multiplication and addition tables in class. And they were on the back of our Dux exercise books. In Social Studies we went up the Queensland

Coast on the Sunlander, learning about the towns and farming on the way. I think we only got to Rockhampton. I still recall some of the poetry that we learned by rote, but didn't necessarily understand. 'I must go down to the sea again, to the glorious sea and the sky. And all need is a tall ship, and a star to steer her by.'

Art, music and copy book were a struggle for me, as I was not creative, musical or neat. Projects on cardboard with Old English titles. Craft on a Wednesday afternoon, basket weaving then carpentry, which was really drawing a pattern on a piece of timber and stippling.

Beverley Carol Ryan: The teacher used to take us down under the school and we would recite times tables parrot fashion I still know them all today at 69, best way to learn.

Lyn Marsh: I remember doing maps of Australia and Queensland and adding the names of the rivers and towns so carefully with a mapping pen. We learnt the names of the Queensland coastal towns from Brisbane to Cairns by heart and I can still rattle them off. We did artwork with pastels in books with a clear sheet of paper between so the pastel wouldn't smudge. I enjoyed some of the stories in the Qld Reader but some of the stories and poems were quite confronting by today's standards. I still feel sorry for poor Gelert 'in sooth he was a peerless hound' who was slain by his master thinking he had killed his baby son while in fact he had killed a wolf while protecting the baby!

Beverley Carol Ryan: I hated those copy books. At 69 I still write like a kid...

Jenny Miller: I remember words with Greek and Latin roots on flip charts. Brilliant—should be compulsory today. Super useful.

Richard Williams: Trying to remember some of the science experiments we did. I remember Mr Huth swinging a bucket of water under the building to prove the existence of centripetal force.

Jillann O'Neill: Also in Mr Huth's class, we climbed out of the window where we had a little science experiment happening with plants. By the way... Does anyone still have a copy of the wonderful book we had in grade3 for social studies... People and Places? Fingers crossed!!

Our classroom was above the portico (or whatever it is called) above the stairs at the front entrance to the school. It provided a secure concrete 'pit' for us.

'SWIMMING BEFORE THE SCHOOL POOL'

Margaret Whiting: I'd like to bring back another memory—Pre-pool swimming. We went by train to Sandgate Pool, which was down on the waterfront. The pool was built with something plastic-like, and it resembled a very very large bath that was filled twice daily by the tide with the brownish Moreton Bay water. The result was that you were in this very big bath that was really slimy with brown silt on the bottom. Goggles were not anywhere in sight then. I spent the whole lesson treading water as I was determined not to touch anything except dry land. Also the dressing sheds had big gaps in the floors and the local kids could

get underneath and have a perve! This didn't last long as the pools were all closed during the Polio scare. We did get immunised at school.

Laurel Connolly: Yes, we belonged to the Sandgate Pool days, and Woolloowin State School for Domestic Science and caught the train to both!

Kris Brown: I remember Mrs Dancey used to organise afternoons at Sutton's beach some afternoons... Would only be like half the class at a time from what I recall.

Lyn Kelly: I had a great experience at Sandgate pool Russell. Used to go by train every Saturday morning during the mid-50s. Loved it. Taught myself to swim. It was the Esther Williams era. I loved watching her swim and picked up on the techniques. Actually it was prob more just the smooth gliding style that inspired me. I was terrified at school classes (Junction Park). There was no slime etc at that stage... Just good seawater.

Del Godfrey: I remember faking not being able to swim a length as we were then not able to go any more—once you had your certificate that was it!!

Lyn Krebs: We went by train to the Sandgate baths. Yep remember these swimming excursions well, esp the murky water and too many in the pool!!

Laurel Connolly: I sure wasn't one that braved swimming in the Kedron Brook Waterhole.

Lyal Lomax: I remember swimming in the creek and making canoes out of corrugated roofing sheets which sunk to the bottom. The train trips to and back to Sandgate were fun except for the lice, muddy water and wet and heavy soggy togs.

Cyndi Fisher: We used to go to Sandgate station by train, then walk in line to the Sandgate baths, for weekly swim lessons. The water was seawater pumped in and out. It was all a lot of fun. One memory is buying a 'frying pan', toffee with a stick in it, in a cake paper, for 1 penny, to be slowly enjoyed on the walk back to the station. That was in the late 1940's.

Lorna Jerome: Yes I remember it well....I remember swimming the length of the pool for the first time—starting at the deep end and finishing at the shallow end. I was so proud of myself. I can't remember the muddy water though.

Cyndi Fisher: The water wasn't muddy, just not clear like today's pool water. The intake was probably well out from the disturbance of the tidal flats. The flats weren't actually muddy though—do you remember the countless thousands of soldier crabs that used to inhabit the flats at low tide?

‘TUFNELL HOME’

Russell Parry: In 1965 two of the Tufnell lads also in Grade 2 showed me and others at lunchtime the Ekka sample bags they'd been given on their trip into the show on the previous day. These had sample bottles of honey and Vegemite etc. (As an outsider, fairly oblivious to the home lifestyle, it left me with the impression that stayed with me through

primary school that life at the home had its upside.)

Beverley Carol Ryan: I had a good friend from Tufnell home at NSS all my school years her name was Pearl Horn.

Judy Lenske: I know I sometimes swapped my mums home made biscuits for their bought cream ones.

Karen Martin: I had a friend called Lindy Link around 1970/71. We would do each other's hair in the lunch break. I also had non-identical twin brothers called Kevin & Donald Fitzgerald who were scallywags! (Nee Brown)

Sherenne Cummiskey: Sherenne (nee Cleveland) A special quiet girl from the Tufnell home was in my Grade 8 class in 1962. I think her name was Shyrell Fallon, but I am not sure. I really liked her and don't know whether I ever told her!! I have some mixed 'sorry' feelings from back in those days.... The kids from the Tufnell Home were not always included in the wider birthday and other parties and celebrations of kids from NSS back then... Just some thoughts...

Paul Tyler: Living opposite Tufnell Home at 215 Buckland Rd, Nundah all those years ago I never knew at that age what Tufnell Home was all about. Which thinking back now I wish I did 'cause I would have been more involved with the kids in that area.

Robert O'Connor: I will share with NSS posters my single personal memory of Tufnell Home. Of course there were plenty TH kids at school but I never had a reason to befriend one and get to know him/her, in my experience, as a rule they kept pretty much to themselves. One day I found myself at some kind of a fete the Home was having and met this girl who told me she lived there. I was around 14-15 at the time ('58-'59). We spent the day together walking around holding hands and occasionally we'd get behind a tree or into some shrubbery and have a kiss. As I said, I'd never had much to do with the TH kids but this one impressed me, I was really taken with her. She was my age but far more grown up, no surprises here I hear you say and you would be absolutely correct, but I'm not talking about the obvious. It was her matter-of-fact, adult, acceptance of, and outlook on life that stood her apart from any girl I had previously known and let me say the day was entirely wholesome notwithstanding the odd, innocent kiss here and there. She talked a lot and I never tired of listening to her. She talked more of things outside the Home and was interested in what I had to say about my family, trips to the beach and picnics to the mountains and what I did in much the same way as an adult acquaintance might be. I spoke, she listened then answered me with thoughtful lucidity, unusual for a girl so young. Then at around 4 pm we were spied by a gruff man she told me worked at the home and he told her in such a manner to get back to the home. The man could have been frightening to many young girls but this girl simply looked at him with a bored (but accepting) expression, said goodbye to me and walked off in the direction of the Home. I went after her, 'I'll walk back with you'. And I did for a way during which time I gave her my phone number. I recall vividly she writing it down on a piece of paper with her lipstick she took from her well-stocked shoulder bag that hung diagonally from her left shoulder. All this makeup? Strange accoutrements for a TH kid to have but she seemed to have it together. I waited for that phone call but alas it never came. I remember that day, as I do many others, but I have

always thought this kid was rather special. Yes! All girls are special, I know that, let's say she was different and over half a century later I still remember that day spent with her and have from time to time wondered whatever became of her. The cool, unflappable Tufnell Home kid with nice hair who listened intently to what I had to say. The kid with pink lipstick and rouge who spoke adult to me, kissed me behind trees, and had that shoulder bag containing all the female necessities of life. PS: Over the next few weeks I developed the suspicion she had planned to run away that day. Apologies for the long-winded tome. There are some stories difficult to precis.

‘UNIFORMS’

Richard Williams: Difficult topic. I only wore the standard yellow and brown (or gold and tan) shirt. Don't remember special shorts and socks, not that I wore socks often. Also have no memory of a sports uniform, or school togs. I know I rarely wore uniform (not compulsory then) on swimming days, so it was easier to find my shirt in the changing rooms. (1963-69)

Russell Parry: Uniforms were not yet compulsory in the 1964-1970 era. Instead, for those not in school uniform the clothes needed to be simply neat and tidy. Even Prefects wore, what would be considered today as ‘Free Dress’. Accordingly, I don't recall that there would have been a 'Free Dress' day till high school.

As enclosed shoes were not compulsory there were strict rules in the schoolyard about not breaking bottles. Any lad caught breaking a bottle would normally have faced the cuts.

The concept of school shoes amongst the lads may have been unknown in Primary school within various families. Even footy boots were only used in the higher weight divisions. Boys may have only had one pair of shoes—perhaps for church, scouts or other special times. Sandles or thongs were more common. Hardening up the feet was admired and schoolyard races were run bare foot.

This meant that we paid more attention to what was on the ground. Bindis and broken glass etc needed to be avoided.

Annette Horne: School uniforms were required on excursions but not required everyday. Sports uniform - I played softball on Fridays and we were loaned brown t-shirts with a gold trim and those stunning nickerbockers in brown. Band uniform—the purple tunic over white skirt, sock tabs and hat. I remember having to kneel down so that the distance to the bottom of the skirt from the floor could be measured. Too bad if you grew... (1976-82).

Russell Parry: In the late 1960s good swimmers were looking for an edge. One shaved down for races. Others had a crew cut—these were the days before many male swimmers wore caps. Those who thought that the Nundah togs gave them an edge raced in those. It was the uniform for good swimmers.

Another part of the swimming uniform was the tracksuit in school colours with a discrete Nundah Swim club badge. This was well before the days of quick drying tog material. Anyone wearing a tracksuit with wet togs was pretty obvious. Still it was better than shivering in a towel between races.

The cool look was to wear your tracksuit top with the towel wrapped around your waist. Many swimmers would have taken two towels to a race meet. Other than the tracksuits and the Nundah togs I'm unsure what other part of the swim club uniform would have been used

in the 1964-70 era. A uniform t-shirt would have been used in the early 1970s and swimmers selected for the Qld team were given blazers, bags, and ties in maroon colours with the Qld Maltese cross emblem.

Richard Williams: Russell, were the tracksuits bought as NSS SC track suits, or were they generic track suits with a NSS SC badge, purchased from the club, sewn on?

Russell Parry: Richard, the tracksuits were in the school colours. I've got the feeling that on one of the circa-1963 photos it shows one of the girls in her tracksuit top. I'll see if it's been uploaded on the page.

Richard Williams: I must have had the cheaper version!

Russell Parry: You are probably right on the money. Maybe they were choc brown tracksuits with the NSS Swim club badge sewn on.

Francesca Emma Di Muzio: I remember sitting on the floor at school and tracing a pattern with other new band members for our mothers to sew our purple and white uniforms.

Caroline Millar: Annette Horne we must have been in the same softball team. I think I remember you. I was in the B team with Miss Short. A lovely lady who made us feel good about being in the B team and not comparing us to the A team.

Ps I had those brown swimmers in the swimming club in 1981/1982. I used to swim so many laps before school with those paddle things on my hands.

+++

MISCELLANIES



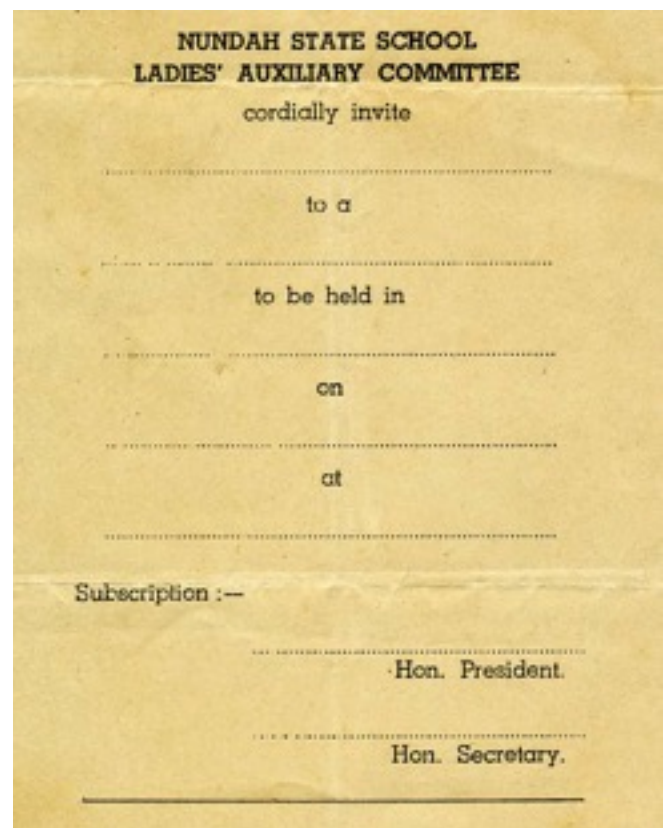
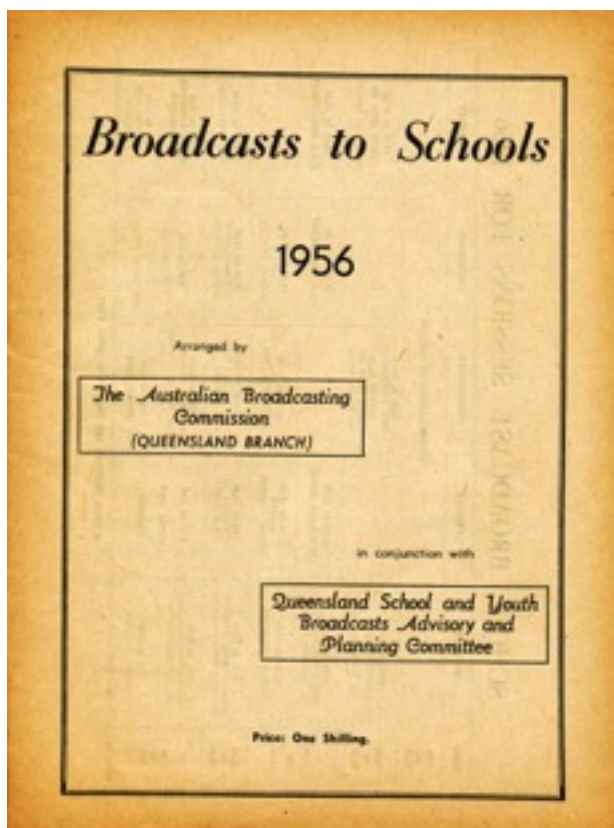












Shayn Hart

Rehearsing operetta

RHEARSING their parts in the Japanese operetta, *Princess Chrysanthemum*, are Grade Seven pupils from Nundah State School, from left, ~~Gay~~ *Gay* ~~Dean~~, 11, of Nundah, Geoffrey Atherton, 11, of Wavell Heights, and Jennifer Young, 12, of Nundah. The operetta will be staged tonight and Thursday night, at the Orana Hall, Clayfield, as part of the Nundah State School Centenary celebrations.



The
NUNDAH STATE SCHOOL

presents

Princess Chrysanthemum.

A Japanese Operetta
by

C. KING PROCTOR

Programme for
Wednesday, 29th September and
Thursday, 30th September, 1965.

Price 6d.



CAST

Princess Chrysanthemum (The Emperor's Daughter)	Angela O'Kane (Wed.) Jennifer Young (Thurs.)
To-to Yum-Yum Du-Du Tu-lip	Leah Dawe Angela O'Kane or Jennifer Young Barbara Unwin Robyn Lee (Wed.) Carolyn Smith (Thurs.)
	Maidens attendant on Princess
Fairy Moonbeam (The Princess's Good Genius)	Glenys Lanham (Wed.) Kim Campbell (Thurs.)
The Emperor What-for-Whi (A Merciful (?) Monarch)	Geoffrey Atherton or John Chenoweth
Prince So-Tru (In love with the Princess)	Sharyn Hart or Ralph Brown
Prince So-Sli (Also in love with the Princess)	Gaye Deagon or Leonard Gainsford
Top-Not (The Court Chamberlain)	Gregory Mallyon
Saucer-Eyes (The Wizard Cat)	Julie Quilter

Scene 1	The Emperor's Garden
Scene 2	The Cave of Inky Night
Scene 3	Same as Scene 1

Sprites of the Night:	Robyn Rackley Ainsley Pringle Ardleigh Cleveland Lynette Lacey Heather Sampson Irene Card Gordon Quigley Paul Goodenough
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Fairies:	Elizabeth Bergman Barbara Cowling Wendy McGahey Robyn Dunn Janice Morgan Julie Morrison
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The Emperor's Attendants:	Neil Gynther Leonard Gainsford John Chenoweth Ralph Brown
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The Chorus:	Lyndell Garrett Kathleen Duffley Deborah Stark Sandra Kickbush Susan Tripcoony Ruth Winterflood Jennifer Williams Virginia Richards Valmai Jones Christine Hall Sherill Truscott Margaret Eglinton Del Smith Ann Pickard Barbara Whitehead Glenys Hira Elizabeth Rubie Julie Karrasch Susan Campbell
	Dianne Maige Sharon Lane Lyn de Broughe Cheryl Hargrave Gail Senter Margaret Morris Marian Johnson Marilyn Lawton Deborah Curtis Heather Hambleton Joanne Lish Sandra Ballard Ian Priestly Julie Wallace Laurel Young Edna Carlsen Phyllis McNaie Roslyn Essex Elizabeth Aitchison

JUDITH FISHER INTERVIEW

When Judith Fisher retired from her role as Teacher Aide at Nundah school in 2012 she held the distinction of being the longest serving staff member.

Interviewed by Matthew Wengert.

Transcribed by Kristi Boyle.

[MW] Please identify yourself for the recording.

[JF] I'm Judith Fisher and it's Friday the 14th of September 2012—my very last working day here at Nundah.

[MW] How long have you worked at Nundah?

[JF] I started at Nundah on the 2nd February 1982. My three children were already pupils here, Sarah started in 1978 so I had a long involvement with Nundah.

[MW] Had you grown up in the area?

[JF] No, I hadn't, I was actually born in Mackay but because of my fathers health and because I was having, I had to wear glasses from when I was three and Mum and Dad were having to fly backwards and forwards so we moved down here. I started school in New Farm for six months then I went to Zillmere Primary School, Wavell Heights then I went to Wavell High School so Chermside was where I lived for most of that time.

[MW] So your three children all went to Nundah School?

[JF] They did indeed, yes.

[MW] Did they have a good schooling?

[JF] They did thoroughly enjoyed we looked at, because Prep wasn't available or Preschool as it was called then wasn't available here at Nundah, so I took the children to Northgate Primary School for their preschool education but we looked around at all the other schools in the area and that was a lovely little family atmosphere nice tiny little school, we just thought of all of the opportunities they would have here would be well and truly worthwhile and we've been proven to be correct they are highly successful children.

[MW] How big was the school?

[JF] When Sarah first started there were just over 570 and that just Years 1 to 7 so it wasn't a tiny school back then.

[MW] There was some point where it was over a 1000 back in the early 50's?

[JF] I think that in 50's there were 1600 students here and I find that mindboggling just to think, although I can remember when I was at Primary School and we have a little seat down in the library now that the children love to sit on to read at lunchtime, some of them were two some of them were three seats long and they were bolted to the floor. There was very little room to move and I know from my own year 2 photograph there were 49 children in the photograph, so there would have been a couple away so classes were very much bigger back then when we used to look after the dinosaurs at lunchtime. Hahahaha

[MW] 50 kids! In a class

[JF] Yes, amazing.

[MW] Teacher was earning their pay.

[JF] Yes, but here of course that was before they had developed a lot of the classrooms, like there were two classrooms that had been put into one so they were just single classes and there wasn't really any room for negotiation. Workplace, Health and Safety now would never tolerate having that many children now in such a small space.

[MW] Who was the principal when you first started?

[JF] When Sarah first started Sam Dutton was in his last year as principal, then Evan Daniel took over, that would have been in 1979 and he was here til the end of 1990 I think it was, and then Morrie Bernard came in 1991.

[MW] Can you remember anything about Sam Dutton?

[JF] Apart from the fact that he was very white haired, I don't remember a lot about him, we probably only had a couple of conversations and that was just to say Hello and things I don't recall, he used to come to the P&C meetings.

[MW] So you were involved in the P&C?

[JF] Yes, yes I was.

[MW] So he retired?

[JF] Yes, he retired.

[MW] Then Evan Daniels, did he retire from the school?

[JF] He did retire from the school, he retired at 55, I still see Evan and Greta socially. ... This wing, the EDMAC is actually named for him, the Evan Daniel Multipurpose Activity Centre.

[MW] So was this built when he was here?

[JF] It was always here it was used as a music wing and then it was converted into a bigger area and a multipurpose activity centre cause we had the stage put in at the far end so we could use that for productions.

[MW] So it was named after him then?

[JF] Yes.

[MW] What can you tell me about Evan Daniels as a principal?

[JF] He was very fair, I think all of the principals have been inclined to walk around amongst the children, they have a presence at the school and I think that that's a big selling point for the school they're not just sitting in their offices they're out amongst talking to the children so that they get to know them. He wasn't a loud man, reasonably quiet in his speech but he just had that air of authority about him and the respect of the children. He'd done a lot of country service.

[MW] So was it a happy school?

[JF] It was indeed, yes yes I think in a sense when I think back to that time education was less stressful in that there was still that importance put on the childrens learning procedures and what have you but now everyones trying to outdo the last procedure and make it different, sometimes it appears to me just for the sake of change. And I think that we always need to embrace change, if its for the betterment of what we are doing.

[MW] And who was the vice principal with Evan Daniel?

[JF] We didn't have any deputies, back then, even with 570 students and I think it was the numbers, the numbers were probably declining as time went on from the 1970's. And I think in the early 90s at one point it got down to just under 350 children so it was a very small school then. It's always had a strong background with marching band history and traditions and also with the music and choirs, in fact when I was down at the Nundah Village festival

on Sunday a lady came up to me after our choirs and said 'you probably wouldn't know this name but my music teacher at Nundah was Jim Bilberra, in fact I said everyone at Nundah knows his name because the music captains all know his name because his choir from here won an eisteddfod back in 1937 I think it was, so she was very chuffed to hear that.

[MW] There's an old photo of a choir but I don't think it has individual identification of the people in the photograph but it may be earlier than that cause it is an old photo, it may be of that choir?

[JF] I'm sure they were really proud of that win.

[MW] So you've always had, sorry, have you always had a strong presence in the music area?

[JF] Well Sarah started in the marching band in 1981, and I went to the meetings then I was on the P&C from 1978 when Sarah started was coming to meetings.

[MW] Was the P&C very big and active back then?

[JF] It was, it was indeed. I think when Peter Richards and Ian Murphy were both teaching here... but they had children here as well it was a dual role for them... but yes it was, they were very big meetings. But I believe the P&C meetings, I haven't been to one for a few years here now, but they used to get substantial numbers as well.

[MW] I think people have come to believe they're very busy in their lives cause it's constantly mentioned in advertising with fast food and stuff that they're busy. I'm not sure if people are really busier than they used to be are they?

[JF] Well I think of things like that, in regards to what you just said about the fast food and things like that and it was always a good thing to do with your children was to get them to help you to prepare the meals and doing a bit of cooking. They can start off with the very basic things when they are little, that's all a part of family time and I guess that's where I've been fortunate too, like I was at home with my children for eight years. I did some part time work in that time and then I was working in another field before I got the job here at Nundah but they tried to around work hours and things like that but I don't think it's worth sacrificing the time you can spend with your children and I think that that teaches them so many life skills. I have a sense now, and I don't mean this in any derogatory form at all but that the children are developing what I call a "mob mentality" fairly early because they are put into daycare, who do a wonderful job with those children, but they never have that time at home that my children grew up with, because they're dropped off at a daycare centre, there are a whole lot of other children there and so they're doing battle to get the attention, they don't have their parents philosophies and ideals ingrained in them because they're not spending that length of time with their parents that's just my own personal views.

[MW] I think you're probably right, they have, some families have very little actual waking time together on an average week day and even on weekends sports can require people to hustle and bustle out of the house by maybe eight o'clock to go to a training session then they hustle and bustle to get lunch before they go to the actual match and a whole day can be absorbed going to and fro and to and fro sporting things which is good, but its not solid family time its on the move family time.

[JF] I found when I was working here and at that time I was very fortunate indeed because I think at the time there were something like 93 applicants for the job when I applied for the one in the library and I started here in 1982. So when we went home in the afternoon when I'd take my children home, I'd still get all their news of the day and we could talk about it so then when my husband came home from work and we were sitting at the table I would then be able to prompt the kids and says 'Did you tell Dad about such and such' and that would get the ball rolling again and that would make quality family time. I think that you have to be reasonably selective too in how many things you allow your children to be a part of because it diminishes your family time together. As the fifth of seven children I know that family is everything.

[MW] They do learn a lot at home. And you learn from them if you have the time.

[JF] They do, they do and you can multitask when you're at home in mean when they were little and they would spread put all their lego things I'd still be able to do some sewing or something while they were doing that but we were there together not that I was in their face all the time and not that they didn't argue. You were a part of it all.

[MW] I understand the reasons but I have a lot of pity for kids who are dropped off at 7.30 and picked up at 6.00.

[JF] I think that we're moving them on too much too I can remember from my school days we were far more sedentary in the classroom, we were very active outside but when you're in the classroom you're in the classroom you learn to sit and you learn to listen and you learn to be quiet and I think these children are so busy they're so mobile being moved from space from space even within the classroom that they are being cheated in a sense, I think.

[MW] Was there a uniform when your kids first started here?

[JF] Yes, yes it was the little checkered dress and the shirt for the boys and I think for their sports day they had just a plain gold tshirt, it wasn't a polo shirt just a plain tshirt.

[MW] So when did you first get involved with the marching band?

[JF] Well the marching band in 1981 when Sarah first joined I've never been, I have never learnt any musical instruments all my children are musical. They started off on the piano at

home and went to various instruments and still have a great love of music. They went on through Wavell High School and the music programme there. Kedron has a brilliant music programme also and many of our children from Nundah go there. I've always had a love of music, I go dancing 4 or 5 nights a week just because I love the music and I love to dance and it's very good socially. So I have had a long involvement and will continue to have an involvement with the music here at Nundah.

[MW] Is there anything can you tell me about the development?

[JF] Well I think, from when I think back to the marching band with Sarah when Sarah was first a member. Peter Richards who has an army background had an interest in the marching side of it and Andrea Murphy was always involved in music so they sort of split that but they would practice 2 or 3 times a week and then as my boys came up they were playing percussion in the marching band, I think they started from when they were in grade 3 or 4 maybe, it seemed that at that time cause I know the involvement with their sporting teams, you know boys with their football from Grade 2 they were playing interschool sport which was a wonderful wonderful thing to do. I know they have the gala days now too that replace that interschool sport and I know that it is logistically it is a huge issue to move them around but I think that Friday afternoon interschool sport was probably a highlight for them.

[MW] What kind of sports?

[JF] Sarah played softball, it was then and they all played tennis socially more than in teams. The boys played Rugby League while they were here, none of them were in outside of school teams because their music commitments had already started at that time, that's why I was saying sometimes you just have to be selective. My children are now 40, 38 and 37 and they are all still playing sport. So its good

[MW] Was the marching band very big in the early 80's?

[JF] Yes, yes it was and I have a feeling that the junior concert band was still in existence then they hadn't joined into two. The marching band itself had the uniform, the purple and white uniform that Greg Moser who was the music teacher here and quite theatrical because those are the colour of theatre and so they had they all marched in that little uniform, I do have some photos at home it might have been the Fassifern Potato Festival [?] or something the children in their uniforms, but the junior marching band wearing brown and gold uniforms that they wore.

So it was quite huge but I can't really tell you the exact numbers but I'm sure Andrea Murphy could give you exact numbers. Yes it's a shame to lose the history. History and tradition have their place I know that we need to be looking forward and aspiring towards new things but as a base the history and tradition is a good thing.

[MW] What was it like when Morrie Bernard came to Nundah, and what was he like as a principal I don't know where he came from?

[JF] He had come from Somerset Hills to here and he came six months maybe twelve months after Greg Farlow started in the library. Morrie was something of a visionary he looked at people sort of assessed what was happening, I know the opportunities he gave me to work with special needs children in all different fields, in behaviour management and in lots of those areas onto the talent concert and various things we've done over the years he was very progressive and wanted the children to be involved, he was always a presence here whenever there was a morning tea, he would go around to classrooms constantly, even if it was just to create a little bit of mayhem hahah and then he would leave so the teachers could get the kids back on track he was always very involved with the children. We were very worried when he got that terrible cancer and we weren't sure that he would survive, I took lots of cards the children had made I took them to his house one afternoon and he said 'Oh have a read of this one'—and this little boy had said 'Dear Mr Bernard we miss you and we hope you don't die!' And he said I agree with that little boy and I hope I don't die and luckily he's still with us

[MW] And when was that?

[JF] That would have been probably 1996 maybe.

[MW] So was he noticeably sick at school?

[JF] He just had a really bad cough, one that he nearly turned himself inside out with and when he went to have it investigated he'd never been a smoker but he had this huge cancer on his lungs, with heavy chemo therapy they reduced the size of that and took half his lung, so that's why he has that raspy voice.

[MW] And he came back strong afterwards?

[JF] He did, he did indeed, he surprised us all.

[End]

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**GERMAN STATION STATE SCHOOL
1865**



**NUNDAH STATE SCHOOL
1965**





Mr. R. J. COCHRANE,
Present Headmaster, Nundah State School,
appointed October, 1955.

Miss F. BRUCE,
Present Headmistress, Infants' School, Nundah,
appointed July, 1959.

FOREWORD

This year marks the centenary of the establishment, on the present site, of the Nundah State School.

To commemorate this historic, and I might add, auspicious occasion it was thought fitting that a brochure be prepared wherein both, by words and photographs, the history of the school should be traced and recorded. One can appreciate the enormity of the task confronting those to whom has been entrusted this most searching and arduous task. To those people we are most grateful for a duty well done.

I trust that herein all pupils both past and present will find much of interest. Particularly does this apply to those who were scholars in the eighties and nineties of last century, many of whom I hope will seize the opportunity to visit the haunts of "long years ago", to renew old friendships and recall most pleasant associations enjoyed in their early school days. The old school rooms have given way to our present pretentious brick and mortar structure. Such is progress!

This, your old school, has a proud and I trust enduring record in all fields of educational practice—academic, cultural, and in the fields of sport. For this we owe much to the

conscientious teaching staff who by their skill industry and enthusiastic understanding, have maintained a high standard through the years. Credit must be given to those students who have brought honour to their school by their accomplishments in the business, professional and sporting worlds.

Your school is now equipped with all amenities essential in meeting the needs of sound educational progress. To mark the Centenary we are establishing for approximately £4000 the Nundah State School Centenary Library which no doubt you will make a special effort to inspect and contemplate upon. For such amenities our thanks are due to the untiring efforts of members of past school Committees and the enthusiastic support of parents and teachers. In conclusion my thanks are due to the members of the Centenary Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. C. Jordan, the teaching staff and the Parents and Citizens Association chaired by Mr. J. Rackley. All have given freely of their time and services in the compilation of this brochure and in organising this week's centenary celebrations.

R. J. COCHRANE
HEAD MASTER



Back Row (left to right) : W. R. J. NUGENT, R. J. STEVENS, K. W. JENTZ, K. J. CUSKELLY, A. N. M. STEWART, Miss M. NURSER, Mrs. F. BRADFORD, Miss L. TARLING, F. A. MCMURTRIE, T. L. HUTH, B. NORRIS, P. T. INSTRELL.

Middle Row (left to right) : Miss J. BUCHANAN, Miss G. F. LAWER, Miss H. ZEUSCHNER, Mrs. M. J. FOTHERINGHAM, Miss J. M. GRAY, Mrs. J. SEARLE, Mrs. P. I. KERR, Miss M. LEAHY, Miss I. COYNE, Miss N. PRESNEILL.

Front Row (left to right) : G. A. HENLEY, J. M. MCQUAID, O. H. JONES, A. R. STANLEY, (Chief Assistant), R. COCHRANE (Head Master), Miss F. BRUCE (Head Mistress of Infants' School), Miss J. CARLEY, Mrs. J. MOSS, Miss E. M. PRIDDY, Mrs. E. M. AGNEW.

Absentees : Mr. M. WEBSTER (on Long Service Leave). Mrs. L. CARLISLE (Music Specialist).



1885 Old Nundah School House Shingle Roof & Ivy Chimney. Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Outridge (Headmaster) and family.



1885 Old Nundah School — Girls and Infants.

Mr. Hurworth's first wife had died during his time at Nundah and he married Miss Phoebe Hamson who was one of the original scholars. Mrs. Hurworth later, after the death of her husband, was a Mrs. Grant.

Mr. Hurworth was transferred in 1877 and was succeeded by Mr. J. Keys who remained until the end of 1878. Mr. Keys commented on the poor condition of the school residence, which apparently was infested by white ants. It is interesting to note that cost of painting the residence was £46 and rebuilding the kitchen £36.

Names of Committeemen in this period are Rode, Goeldner, Westphal, Robinson and later Charles Hows.

On one occasion mention is made that fifty seven percent of the children attended eighty percent of school time. Today it is not unusual to have over ninety percent of children attending eighty percent of school time.

Mr. J. G. Mitchinson was next Head Teacher and the staff appears to have comprised the Head Teacher and his wife. This arrangement appears to have existed also during the Head Teachership of Mr. J. G. Stewart. In 1883 the enrolment was 61 but by 1886 shortly after Mr. Outridge became Head Teacher the average was 118. The school room measured 48 ft. by 18 ft. so changes between classroom and verandah were often necessary. Additions costing £449 were made to the building at this time.

In 1889 the staff consisted of the Head Master, three Classified Assistants and three Pupil Teachers with an enrolment of 200 pupils. The earliest existing admission Register of the School dates from 1892 and the first admission in January of that year was Arthur Bradbury who was a Pupil Teacher and also an Assistant Teacher of the School for 30 years. In 1892 the number of admissions was 132. This is evidence of the growing population of Nundah.

The School became known as the Nundah State School in 1896.

In 1897 a new School residence was built at a cost of £522 and in 1898 the School consisted of three large Class Rooms. The Admissions amount to about 100 each year but only about a half of these new scholars appear to attend the School through all their Primary School years.

Mr. Outridge was transferred to New Farm at the end of 1900, and was followed by Mr.

E. H. Larter who was Head Teacher until March 1905.

The next Head Teacher was Mr. S. Bradshaw who served until 1919. It is interesting to mention that in erecting a new School the School Committee was responsible for one fifth of the cost. In 1905 the value of the School buildings was £900 and the Residence £450. The Committee was informed by the Department of Public Instruction that in the event of fire the Committee would be responsible for one fifth of cost of new building. This prompted the Committee to take out an Insurance Policy to cover their responsibility.

In 1908 water was laid on to School grounds. Previously the School had depended on water drained from the roofs to an underground tank. In the same year an application was made by Nundah Coal Mining Company to carry out coal mining under land occupied by School, but there was to be no disturbance of surface.

In 1910 the average attendance was 342 and shortly afterwards the yearly admissions were over 200.

In 1912 a new room was erected for Infants, and an Infants Wing erected in 1916 at a cost of £735. Dual desks were supplied to some rooms about this time. By January 1916 the Enrolment was approaching 700.

This is the period of World War I and here we should pay tribute to Past Scholars and Staff who served with the Forces. On an Honour Board in the School Vestibule are the names of those who served. These men would have attended School prior to 1906 to be old enough to serve in World War I.

In 1919 Mr. G. Smith became Head Teacher and in this year there is evidence that the Residence was being used as Class Rooms. A drain was constructed across the Oval by the Toombul Shire Council. In 1920 the local Progress Association suggested to the Department that portion of School Reserve be sold, but the School Committee noted with pleasure that the Department decided to take no action to sell part of grounds.

In 1925 Mr. W. D. Murray became Head Teacher and from the commencement of the school year 1930 a new syllabus was adopted. The division of pupils into classes up to Sixth Class was changed to Grades, comprising Preparatory and from Grade 1 to Grade VII. It is interesting to note that the last admission number in 1929 was 8649. New Register



Class photo circa 1887.



Class 1895.

numbers commenced in 1930 and have now reached 9812. In the sixty four years from 1865 to 1929, 8649 children had been admitted and in the thirty four and a half years from 1930 to present date 9812, making a total for the hundred years of over eighteen thousand children.

In 1935 the northern wing of the present school building was opened. The cost of this wing was £9000.

Mr. Murray retired in 1937 to be followed by Mr. A. E. A. McCahon who remained until August, 1938.

Mr. W. Harland came from Allenstown, Rockhampton, to be the next Head Teacher at Nundah until his retirement in 1952. In this period the portion of the school fronting Bage Street was opened in 1941 and it is of interest that the original stone step of the 1865 school is built into the wall over the front steps of the present building. This step bears the inscription :

"This stone was the step into the original State School which was built in 1865".

We must remember that the years 1939-1945 were the years of the Second World War and the work at the school was necessarily adjusted to conditions at the time. Trenches were dug in the School grounds for protection of pupils in case of Air raids and portion of the school building was used by the State Commercial High School which, as a necessary precaution, was moved out of the city.

At the beginning of 1945 the enrolment was approximately 800 and the attendance was steadily increasing. In the next few years a considerable number of houses were erected in the Wavell Heights area and in 1951 a new wing parallel to Buckland Road was opened.

In the 1947 Scholarship, Miss Lesley Trist

won the Corporal French Memorial Prize which was presented to her in 1948 by Sir John Laverack.

Between 1945 and 1950 the School was provided with a broadcast set and a number of speakers by which suitable broadcast lessons can be heard in a number of rooms. Also a projector for visual education lessons was purchased.

Mr. W. Harland who had been Head Teacher since 1938 retired at the end of 1952 and was succeeded by Mr. A. M. Schildt who in June 1953 was appointed a District Inspector.

Mr. J. T. Broadfoot was the next Head Teacher and about this time the enrolment had soared to over 1600 pupils. In 1955 our present Head Master, Mr. R. J. Cochrane was appointed, and also in this year the Infants Department was created as a separate School. Miss. J. Carley, who had been on the School staff for some years was appointed Acting Head Teacher of the Infants School until Miss L. Neale became Head Mistress.

In July, 1959, Miss F. Bruce succeeded Miss Neale. At one stage the Infants School had an enrolment of well over 600 students but at the present time its numbers would be a little over 300.

With increasing attendances it was necessary to erect new buildings and five new classrooms and a library room were erected as extensions of the northern and southern wings.

Since the abolition of State Scholarship Examinations and the removal of Grade VIII to Secondary School the Enrolment has dropped considerably so that it is now about 850.

In 1958 the school became a Training School for holders of Teacher's Scholarships and each week trainees attend the school to gain experience in teaching methods and class work.

Class Photo of 1900s



DURING a period of one hundred years a number of assistant teachers have given faithful service to the school in the cause of Education.

Old pupils speak with respect of Edmund Hibberd and Charles Irvine and in later years Arthur Bradbury, Jim Bilbrough, Norm Finter and T. Leitch.

Miss Anderson was a well loved Teacher of the Infants Section of the School for over thirty years.

Present members of the staff who have been at Nundah for many years are M. Webster, G. Henley, O. H. Jones, J. McQuaid, F. McMurtrie, W. Nugent and Mrs. J. Moss. Mr. A. R. Stanley joined the staff in 1948 and has been Senior Teacher since 1955.

In 1873 the Education Department records that the only local resident interested in the school was Mr. Benjamin Rode. Fortunately since then parents have shown more and more interest encouraged by the teaching staff and active Committees ably assisted by Ladies

Auxiliaries have provided many amenities for the school.

Apart from supplying moneys for school maintenance, sporting activities, school equipment, and library books, a number of major projects have been undertaken. The Swimming Pool, with its filtration and seating was opened in 1956, some years after major work was done on the school oval. In 1962 a modern Tuck Shop was provided and a Centenary Library to replace the existing library, is now nearing completion.

These projects have been made possible by the untiring efforts of the interested school parents, particularly the Mothers. Regular Tuck shop trading has provided steady income for the school, and they have also been responsible for such successful activities as the Infants School Arbor Day Fete held annually.

The school also has been fortunate in having staunch support over the years from Members of Parliament such as the Hon. Tom Bridges a foundation member of the school, Mr. Frank Roberts, the Hon. Alex T. Dewar, and Mr. W. E. Knox.



State School, 1



School Rose Garden, 1917



undah 20/7/25

Head Teachers German Station— Nundah—State School

October 1865 to March 1868 —
John H. Nicholson.
April 1868 to March 1874 —
John Macalister.
March 1874 to April 1877 —
Chris Hurworth.
April 1877 to December 1878 —
James Keys.
January 1879 to July 1883 —
William Hitchinson.
August 1883 to September 1885 —
J. G. Stuart.
September 1885 to December 1900 —
A. H. Outridge.
January 1901 to March 1905 —
Ezekiel Larter.
April 1905 to July 1919 —
Sam Bradshaw (Major 76).
August 1919 to December 1924 —
George Smith.
March 1925 to December 1936 —
W. D. Murray.
January 1937 to August 1938 —
A. E. A. McCahan.
August 1938 to December 1952 —
William Harland.
January 1953 to June 1953 —
A. Scheldt.
July 1953 to December 1955 —
J. T. Broadfoot.
October 1955 —
R. J. Cochrane.

List of Original Scholars German Station School 1865

ATTHOW, Charles, James, Lousia, Ellen,
William.
BALLARD, Annie.
BRAWN, Augusta, Frederick, Godfrey.
BRIDGES, Thomas, George, Susan, Mary Jane.
BUCKLEY, Richard, Mary, Martha.
BUCKBY, Mary Ann, Elizabeth, William,
Alfred.
GOELDNER, Gustav, Robert Adolf.
GOTTSCHALK, Harriet, Wilhelmina, William.
GRAHAM, Bella.
HAMSON, Phoeby, William, James.
HARRIS, Elizabeth, Jemina.
KREUTZER, Joseph, Christian, Kate Mary.
LEMKE, Justina.
LEATHERLAND, Elizabeth, Henry, David.
MADDOCKS, Harry, Samuel.
MELTON, Elizabeth.
NEYLAN, Arthur.
PRACHART, August, Martin.
REUTENBERG, August.
ROBINSON, Thomas, Elizabeth.
RODE, Benjamin, Jessie.
STUCKEY, Isaac, James, Prudence.
WAGNER, David, Julius, Joseph, Benjamin,
John, Jane.
WALKER, George, Edward, Ruth, Harry.

Enrolled 1865 at German Station.

*Nundah State School "C"
Grade Rugby Team, 1928.*



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

From 1938 to 1946 under Messrs. Finter, McDonald and Webster, Nundah dominated the Tunnel Ball Championships. Outstanding children in this era included Blanche Chard, Gwen Ross, Jean Mackay, Sybil Wagner, Pat Hammond, Marion and Joyce Lather, Marie Aitchison and Rita Timmins.

Misses E. Richardson and N. Trudgian in the '40s and Miss Edna Priddy more recently have prepared fine basketball teams.

Softball, Hockey and Vigoro have been played over the years.

Frances Gordon and C. Aitkins in Basketball and Gail Curtis in softball have won State colours.

Messrs. Colin Clem, Leo Poidevin and Ross Stanley developed many excellent cricketers and in recent years J. Lynch, G. Ferguson, and Wayne Reid have played for the State. Lester

Warden and Bill Buckle also have represented Queensland in Sheffield Shield games.

The School has three tennis courts and tennis has been encouraged over the years by Messrs. R. Flint, J. McQuaid, R. Barnard and T. Huth who have sent out first class teams to represent the school. G. Masters (three times) and R. Brown played for Queensland while Ken Bardsley, Robin and Denis White were outstanding players.

Dancing is taught to all children for the Annual School Ball, the social event of the school year at the present time. In earlier years one of the most important social events was the Bay trip in the Q.G.Y. "Lucinda".

Mr. J. Bilbrough for many years carried out Choral work with Nundah State School pupils earning many distinctions. More recently this activity has been under the direction of Misses

SENIOR TUNNEL BALL PREMIERS, WINNERS R.N.A. CUP AND WINNERS R.N.A. CUPS Q.S.P.S.A.A.A. CUP, 1939.



Front Row : Mr. J. McDONALD, B. LEARY (Captain) Mr. N. S. FINTER, O. KENNEDY, Mr. M. WEBSTER.
Second Row : L. PETITT, B. EBB, A. LEWIS, M. DUX, B. CURRIE, B. CHARD.
Back Row : M. JOHNSTON, J. GARDNER, C. McDONALD.

Margaret Sharman and Bev. Ferguson, Mr. Bob Chapman and Mrs. L. Carlisle who have been rewarded by many successes in Brisbane and Queensland Eisteddfods.

The School Fife Band has performed with distinction at many important functions over the years, and is a very active unit in school life.

SWIMMING

The school pool was built in 1956 and prior to this time swimming was encouraged by Messrs. M. Webster, J. A. McDonald, and O. H. Jones who took pupils to Sandgate weekly over a long period. As well as the Sandgate Baths pupils were taken to the Valley Pool in the 1920's but the first available evidence of swimming being taught was in 1933. Since

1961 the School Committee has supervised "Learn to Swim" classes during the Christmas vacation and more than 2000 children have attended these lessons, some coming from suburbs many miles away.

The Nundah State School Amateur Swimming Club was formed in 1960 as the result of a conversation between two members of the teaching staff and a subsequent meeting was held in the Head Teacher's Office, attended by a group of enthusiastic parents.

It was the first of its kind in Queensland and the fore-runner of many more and in the ensuing years the Club has been honoured by requests to assist in the formation of similar clubs in the metropolitan area.

During the last 4 years the Club has had 1200 children pass through the pool in its

RUGBY LEAGUE CUP AND PREMIERSHIP WINNERS, 1934.



Back Row : D. BRAZEL, C. TRAPPETT, E. RAILTON, J. PATERSON, P. BURN, M. TILBY, T. DIVERSI.
 Second Row : J. JACKSON, T. PATRICK, F. BROUGH, L. STRITZKE, R. HAYES, D. BICKERSTAFF, I. PETITT.
 Front Row : D. SHELTON, T. QUINE, S. SMITH (Capt.), N. S. FINTER (Coach), W. D. MURRAY (Head Teacher), J. WILSON (V. Capt.), J. HOELSCHER, D. TANNER.

Learn to Swim classes and from these classes some pupils have been selected to represent the school in the subsequent metropolitan championships, where they achieved great success. In fact it is recalled that one child broke a record in winning her event.

Prior to the formation of the Club the School could only manage a minor placing in a relay. Today we find the School ranking as one of the leaders in swimming in Queensland. In the recent S.P.S.A. State Championships the School provided two (2) champions in N. Gynther (Record) and R. Butcher, together with 4 seconds and a third placing. In the metropolitan championship the school met with outstanding success. Space would not allow giving full details.

Past members, many who have continued

their association with the club as junior officials, have carried on with success after success in the G.P.S. State Secondary and Brockway Cup Carnivals and in each case a member of the Club will be found among the record holders.

Higher up in swimming circles, previous members in Lyn Coulter, Judith Robinson, Robert Cusack, Ross and Paul Gynther, have brought further credit to the Club having represented the Queensland Amateur Swimming Association in Australian championships.

Looking back over its very short life the Club has every reason to be proud of its achievements and at the same time acknowledges the Department of Public Instruction, Mr. R. J. Cochrane, Head Teacher, for its very existence and also the then School Committee

RUGBY LEAGUE CUP WINNERS (5 Stone Division) AND RUNNERS - UP PREMIERSHIP, 1938.



Front Row: A. S. HALLCROSS, G. PRIESTLEY (Vice-Capt.), Mr. N. S. FINTER, R. FRIEDMAN (Captain), Mr. M. WEBSTER, E. STRITZKE, M. HIBBERD.
Second Row: N. WISE, P. STONE, M. HIGGINS, N. HAMILTON, R. OSBORNE, L. COCKROFT.
Back Row: W. DASH, J. POHLMAN, N. PARSONS, D. GEORGE. *Absent*: D. CHRISTISON.

**METROPOLITAN AND ZONE PREMIERS, 1965
NUNDAH 5 St. 7 Lbs. RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM**



*Front row (left to right) : R. DEARLOVE, C. MCLEOD (CAPT.), W. NUGENT,
P. WALKER, P. GILLESPIE.
Second row (left to right) : D. BARTON, E. CLARKE, R. CHRISTISON, S. GARDINER,
G. DAVIS, G. WARD.
Third row (left to right) : R. KYLE-LITTLE, J. LOCHRAN, R. SMITH, L. GRANGER,
T. RODWELL.
Back row (left to right) : G. CLEWLEY, P. SHAW, P. SHAW.*

for its financial assistance given during the Club's formative years.

Life Saving began with the building of the school pool and Nundah children have won countless awards including 258 Bronze Medallions since this activity was introduced by Mr. W. Nugent and Mrs. Phyllis Wells. Nundah swimmers later to represent Queensland in Royal Life Saving teams include Val Kerr, Ross Gynther, Gail Peake and M. Towne.

RUGBY LEAGUE

The game was played from the middle 1920's. Men like Mr. Arthur Bradbury, Norm Finter, Dan Clemesha laid the foundations in the early thirties. Outstanding teams in 1934 and 1935 contained such fine players as the Brazil

brothers, Les Kubler, C. Trappett, Eric Railton, J. Paterson, L. Stritzke, J. Hoelscher, D. Shelton, Nev. Tanner. In the late thirties M. Higgins, R. Osborne, L. Cockroff, and D. Christison led Nundah teams. During the forties Mr. M. T. E. Webster prepared many Premiership sides.

In the last ten years the school has won the Northern Suburbs shield six times and the Dent Cup for the leading Brisbane school no fewer than four times. Mr. W. Nugent has produced many Zone and Metropolitan winners and teachers like Messrs. Kevin Horrigan, Dave Meltzer, Denis Murphy and Gary Balkin have coached top sides. Nundah not only enters ten teams in weekly competition but inter class games are keenly played. Nundah's

**METROPOLITAN AND ZONE PREMIERS, 1965
NUNDAH 4 St. 7 Lbs. RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM**



*Front row (left to right) : PETER ATHERDEN, PETER CLARKE, R. T. INSTRELL,
IAN LOCHRAN, BRUCE TAME.*
*Second row (left to right) : PETER SMITH, GREG HAYTER, MAX HORNIBROOK,
ROBERT JAMES, GREG CONWELL, CRAIG SMITH.*
*Back row (left to right) : NOEL THORNE, MARK SMITH, GARRY DICKENS,
JOHN MATTHEWS, JOHN GILLESPIE, DAVID KERR.*

first senior interstate players, Tony Scott and Kerry Larkin, also A graders Tim Kiss, Les Geeves and Scott Macrae are among the outstanding players. Schoolboy interstate and intercity players to distinguish themselves include Johnny Reilly, Teddy Bowden, Neil Nurnberg (twice) Geoff and Graham Crawford, Micky Keenan, Geof. Lacey, Laurie Pevitt, Ross Ogden, Brian Taylor, Roger Kearney, L. Stupart, Bruce Hand, Cam McLeod, G. Arundell, R. Dearlove. In recent years Mr. Barry Norris and Mr. Bob Stewart have been welcome additions to the coaching staff.

ATHLETICS

In order to create friendly rivalry in Athletics the pupils in the school are divided into

Houses, namely Anderson, Blair and Newman.

Anderson House is named in honour of Miss Anderson who taught as an Infants teacher for many years. Blair House is named to commemorate the name of Mr. A. P. Blair, a teacher of the school who as Lieut. Blair was killed in France in 1916. Newman House is named in honour of a Rhodes Scholar in 1939 who attended Nundah State School. Mr. Newman is a mining engineer and visited the school a few years ago.

From the pupils who perform well in House sports, competitors for Zone sports are selected. Nundah has competed with distinction in Zone sports since their inception in 1953 having been defeated for the championship Cup once only.

APPRECIATION

We wish to express our appreciation to many people who have contributed in so many ways to our Centenary Celebrations of 1965.

This booklet has been printed to set out a history of our school. A short history was what we had in mind and we feel that Mr. O. H. Jones has given us this short history without unnecessary filling. Human interest has been added by other items of interest about our school and the photographs. Unfortunately a photograph of the original building could not be located even though a great deal of time was spent in search of one. We acknowledge Mr. Jones' effort on our behalf knowing that he would have spent much time obtaining information from scanty and incomplete records now available. To those who made available photographs, documents and their knowledge of the school, we are extremely grateful and extend to them our sincere thanks.

We are honoured to have had the privilege of serving in this Centenary under such understanding and outstanding Head Teachers as Mr. R. J. Cochrane and Miss Fay Bruce to whom go our heartiest thanks for their co-operation.

Our new library, costing slightly more than

£4000 with the new books bought for it, will be among the best Primary School Libraries in Queensland. We appreciate the help given by the Education Department and the Department of Public Works in making available ideal library room space and subsidising the cost by fifty per cent. Mr. G. Henley, who has had control of the present library for a number of years has selected the books for our new library and worked in conjunction with the architect, Mr. R. S. Smith, who also was the architect who designed the tuck shop.

This opportunity is taken to record our gratitude to all the Teaching Staff, the School Organisations, and the friends of the School who have worked so well to ensure a fitting celebration of this Centenary. To all associates of the School, be they past pupils, teachers or members of Parents' Organisations, we wish a joyful commemoration and a very happy reunion.

C. G. JORDAN, Chairman,
Centenary Celebrations Committee.

J. G. RACKLEY, Chairman,
Parents and Citizens Association.

OUR CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

17th September—

Fancy Dress Ball-Cloudland Ballroom.

25th September—

Opening of New Centenary Library, 3 p.m. by The Hon. Alex T. Dewar, Minister for Industrial Development and Member for Wavell, and Mr. G. K. D. Murphy, Director-General of Education.

Display by School Children—Items of historical interest and school work on display, also a selection of paintings by Nundah School children in the Centenary Art competition. Orchid Display by North Brisbane Orchid Society.

26th September—

Church Service in School grounds, 2.30 p.m. Conducted by Chaplain D. Wyer, an Old Boy of the school.

27th September—

Monday evening, School open for inspection of Display.

28th September and 4th October—

Concert by children of Infants School under direction of Miss Coyne at Orana Hall, Clayfield, at 8 p.m.

29th-30th September—

Operetta "Madame Chrysanthemum" by Seventh Grade pupils under direction of Mrs. L. Carlisle, 8 p.m. at Orana Hall, Clayfield.

1st October—

Opening swim of season at School pool of Nundah State School Amateur Swimming Club.

2nd October—

Finale of our celebrations. Procession from Nundah at 1 p.m. to school oval for our Centenary Fete. Opening of the Fete by The Hon. Alex T. Dewar, supported by Mr. W. E. Knox, M.L.A., Member for Nundah.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following people have generously provided assistance in many forms (advice, guidance, ideas, images, information, and motivation):

Mavis Baxter, Russell Parry, Deb Cox, Morrie Bernard, Evan Daniel, Jim Broadfoot, Kate Jones MLA (Minister for Education), Tim Nichols MLA (Member for Clayfield), Kate Stone, Deb Hossack, Jim Davies, Richard Williams, Kristi Boyle, Paul Clark, Louise & Simon Paroz, Cathy Baker, Helen Hassall, Donald Nelson, Andrew Male, Angela Denver-Fedder, Nancy Foster-Bauer, Coralie Holmes, Meryl Proctor, Jean Shaw, Betty Collom, Jenny Glover, Steve Martin, Amanda McLaughlin, Michelle Mathia, Nathan Kirby, Ian Grice, John Mothershaw, Zarnia Wilson, Meredith Kirby, Megan Turner, Donna Kleiss, Ailsa Marshall, Denis Paine, Elizabeth Acheson, Graeme Blackman, Jan Thomson, Christopher Thomson, Wendy Thomson, Judith Fisher, Ken Marmon, Victoria Quigley, Gordon Quigley, Sue Quigley, Danny Gamble, Jim Broadfoot, Evelyn Hill (nee Barrett), R. (John) Longmore, Kay Lawrence, Lynn Jarvis, Gavin Hiscock, Lex Bourke.

The editor apologises for any names inadvertently and unintentionally omitted from this list—likewise, if I've spelt your name wrong then get in touch with the school and they can pass along your contact details to me so I can buy you cake & coffee to make up for it.