Coorparoo State School

1876 – 2026



150th Anniversary

Coorparoo State School
1876–2026
On the wings of wisdom

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Chapter 1

Before 1876

First Nations' History of Coorparoo State School

Long before Coorparoo State School opened its doors in 1876, the area was home to a thriving and complex First Nations culture. The land on which our school stands, rich in waterways, wildlife, and forest, was part of the traditional Country of the Jagera and Turrbal peoples, who were part of a broader language group that spoke Yuggara.

For tens of thousands of years, the First Nations people cared for, and lived sustainably in, this region. What is now known as Coorparoo was a vital part of their daily life, providing food, shelter, and spiritual connection. The name "Coorparoo" is believed to be derived from the Aboriginal word "Kulpurum," referring to the mosquito, or the local Norman Creek that runs through the area.

A Land of Abundance

Before European settlement, the Brisbane River and its surrounding creeks, including Norman Creek, were lined with lush forests, fig trees, eucalypts, and mangroves. The area supported a wide variety of plant and animal life. First Nations people gathered roots, yams, and water lilies; hunted birds, possums, and kangaroos; and fished using expertly crafted nets and bark canoes.

Campgrounds were located along the ridgelines and near water sources, including sites at what are now Woolloongabba, Dutton Park, and Yeronga. Norman Creek was a particularly important waterway, feeding into the fertile lands that sustained community life. These lands included the current Coorparoo area, which served as a gathering ground, a travel route, and a space for ceremony and cultural teaching.

Culture, Ceremony, and Connection

A strong network of paths connected the Jagera with neighbouring tribes, allowing safe passage for trade, ceremony, and social visits. Sacred ceremonial sites, including bora rings used for initiation and teaching, existed throughout the southern suburbs, including at Moorooka, Tarragindi, and Annerley.

The community often held corroborees—ceremonial gatherings involving dance, song, and storytelling. These events could attract hundreds of participants and were deeply important for cultural teaching, seasonal gatherings, and diplomacy between groups. According to early settlers, Norman Creek, near what is now Holland Park, remained a regular corroboree site, even into the 1880s.

Early Encounters and Impact of Colonisation

European arrival in the 1820s and 1830s brought profound change. While early relations included co-operation and trade, settlement rapidly led to displacement, disease, and violence. Camps and pathways were gradually overtaken by roads, farms, and buildings.

By the 1850s, settlers reported large gatherings of up to 400 Aboriginal people still travelling and camping through south Brisbane and Coorparoo. However, government-imposed curfews and discriminatory laws increasingly restricted movement and access to land. In 1897, Queensland passed the Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, stripping Aboriginal people of legal rights, land access, and family autonomy.

Despite these harsh measures, many First Nations people continued to live and work in the area, contributing significantly as labourers, domestics, and community members. Oral histories from the time speak of warm relationships between Aboriginal women and settler families, and of Aboriginal people who remained connected to their traditional lands through quiet resilience and community strength.

Legacy and Continuing Connection

Although much of the Aboriginal presence was eventually marginalised or erased from public memory, the lands surrounding Coorparoo State School have never ceased to be Aboriginal land. Descendants of the original custodians still live in the area and continue to maintain cultural and familial connections.

As a school community, we honour the Jagera and Turrbal people and all First Nations communities who have contributed to the long and rich history of this land. We recognise the pain of dispossession and the resilience of cultures that have survived and thrived despite immense adversity.

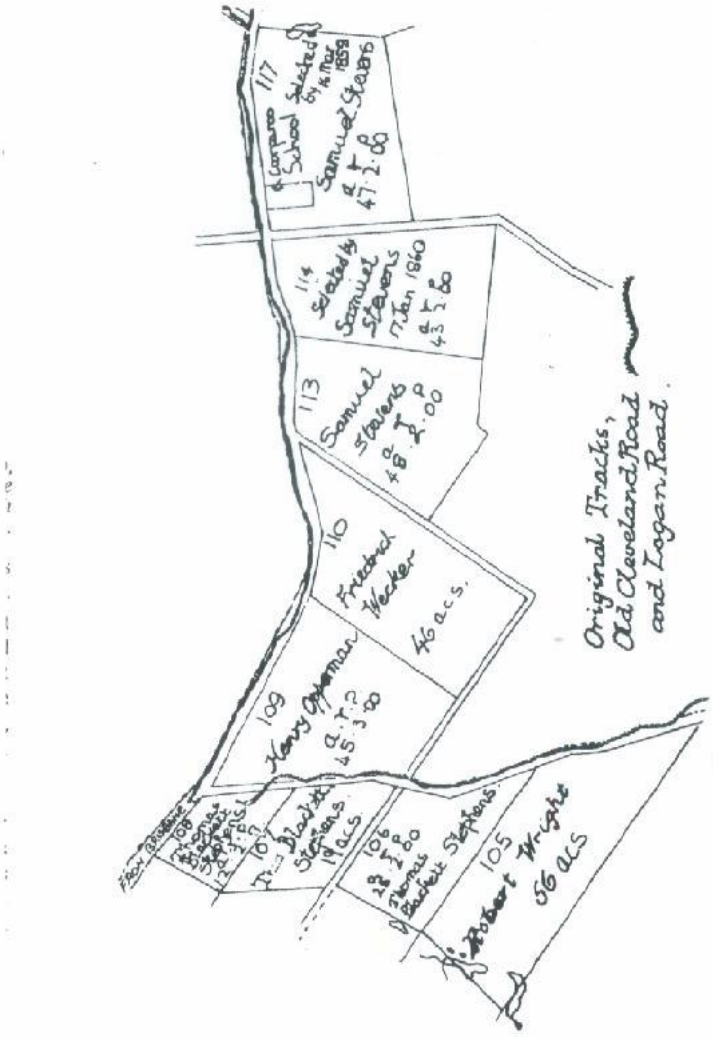
Coorparoo State School stands today on a place of deep cultural significance, and we are committed to sharing this truth respectfully with future generations of students.

European Arrival

On 25 September 1856, a proclamation in the New South Wales Government Gazette gave notice of an auction sale to be held on 21 October, of “Country Lots” in the Parish of Bulimba. These lots stretched roughly from what is now Stones Corner to the present Bennetts Road, with Old Cleveland Road bounding them on the south, Norman Creek and Scott’s Creek (near the site of Norman Park Railway Station) bounding them on the north. Although the men who purchased the land did not put it to productive use or reside on it, they may be considered pioneers.

The second Crown land sale was on 29 December 1857 and most of the lots sold were on the southern side of the present Old Cleveland Road. Samuel Stevens purchased 48 acres and the year after, 1858, he bought another 47 acres just beyond Pine Mountain Road (later Cavendish Road) and fronting Old Cleveland Road. In 1860, he purchased a further 43 acres adjoining his first purchase, thus making him the biggest land holder in the newly opened area.

Originally, the only inhabitants of the area were First Nations people hunting the virgin forest lands and fishing the waters of Norman Creek. The low-lying part in the vicinity was named COORAPAROO by the indigenous inhabitants. The meaning of the word, we are told, was "the home of the mosquito". A Government surveyor later gave the same name to a creek which flowed from what is now Dale Street, along the depression near the present line of Pembroke Road. It crossed Old Cleveland Road near today's Bus Stop 21, flowed towards the junction of Harries Road and Barnes Avenue, under the railway bridge at the Buranda side of Coorparoo Railway Station, and joined Norman Creek near Stanley Bridge. Over the next 20 years, people filtered into this south-side bushland area of Brisbane and it became very obvious that a school was badly needed in the district. Many more families had moved into the area and the land was being cultivated. There were several dairy farms and vineyards and it was not unusual to find a flock of sheep grazing in a paddock. However, many of the children had to walk or ride on horseback to the nearest existing schools which were at Bulimba, Kangaroo Point and Boggo Road (later Dutton Park).



Map showing allotments sold at second sale of Crown Land, December 29th, 1857, together with further properties acquired by Samuel Stevens

Samuel Stevens realised this need and, in 1875, donated two acres of his property near the junction of Pine Mountain Road (Cavendish Road) as a school site.



At that time, education in Queensland was undergoing considerable change. By an Act of Parliament in 1860, education in the new colony came under the control of a Board of General Education and any child attending school at that time had to pay fees ranging from threepence to one shilling and sixpence a week. However, when Charles Lilley became Premier of Queensland, fees were abolished and in 1870, education in schools controlled by the Board became free. Queensland gave a lead to the rest of Australia and was followed in 1875 by the Education Act which was to be the basis for development of the Queensland system for almost a century. This Act transferred the entire system of education in Queensland from the Board to a section of the Department of Public Instruction. Thus, after 1875, primary education remained free but for the erection of school buildings for which one-fifth of the cost had to be met by the locality whose request for a school had been granted.

On 22 March 1875, a meeting was held at Frederick Wecker's home, at what is now the corner of Old Cleveland Road and Kirkland Avenue, to consider a suitable name for the area and for the proposed school. There was a desire to name the locality "Stevens' Town" and the school "Stevens' Town School" after the man who had donated the land. However, this did not appeal to Mr Stevens and a new name was sought. It was finally decided to use the Aboriginal name COORAPAROO but to anglicise it by dropping the first "A". The name and the proposed site of the school was then submitted to the Board of Education and by 1876, approval had been received. A contract was then drawn up for a school building and for a Head Teacher's residence.

The school was a two-roomed structure – set on low blocks with two narrow verandahs. It was studded with pit-sawn hardwood and walled with ten-inch chamfer board. Doors and window sashes were of cedar and the roof of shingles. The Head Teacher's house also was completed. Both projects cost £546/11/-, of which £95/-/- was submitted by residents of the area.

Before the building could be occupied, a thorough inspection had to be made and a report submitted to the Secretary of Education. However, there were two items in Inspector Richard Gailey's report that delayed the opening:

“There are several bad stumps of trees close to the School House, but the Specification makes no provision for their being grubbed out. I desire further instructions in this matter.

“I am of opinion that the Contractor is equitably entitled to be paid for any labour he has expended in clearing the ground, as there is no reference made of any such work in the Specification – unless probably he was informed, previous to signing the Contract, that it would be expected of him to do such clearing, in accordance with the usual custom. I desire further information in this matter.

“There is no provision for drinking water for the children or teachers. I desire further instructions in this matter."

When the land had been cleared of wattle and gum trees, the stumps remained. Those close to the school had to be removed by the building contractor. The remaining ones in the playground became a much bigger problem which extended over many years. Also, the water tank which was referred to in Richard Gailey’s report, had not been installed. This was eventually done with local residents contributing £10 towards the expense. However, this was not completed in time for the opening of the school.



Chapter 2

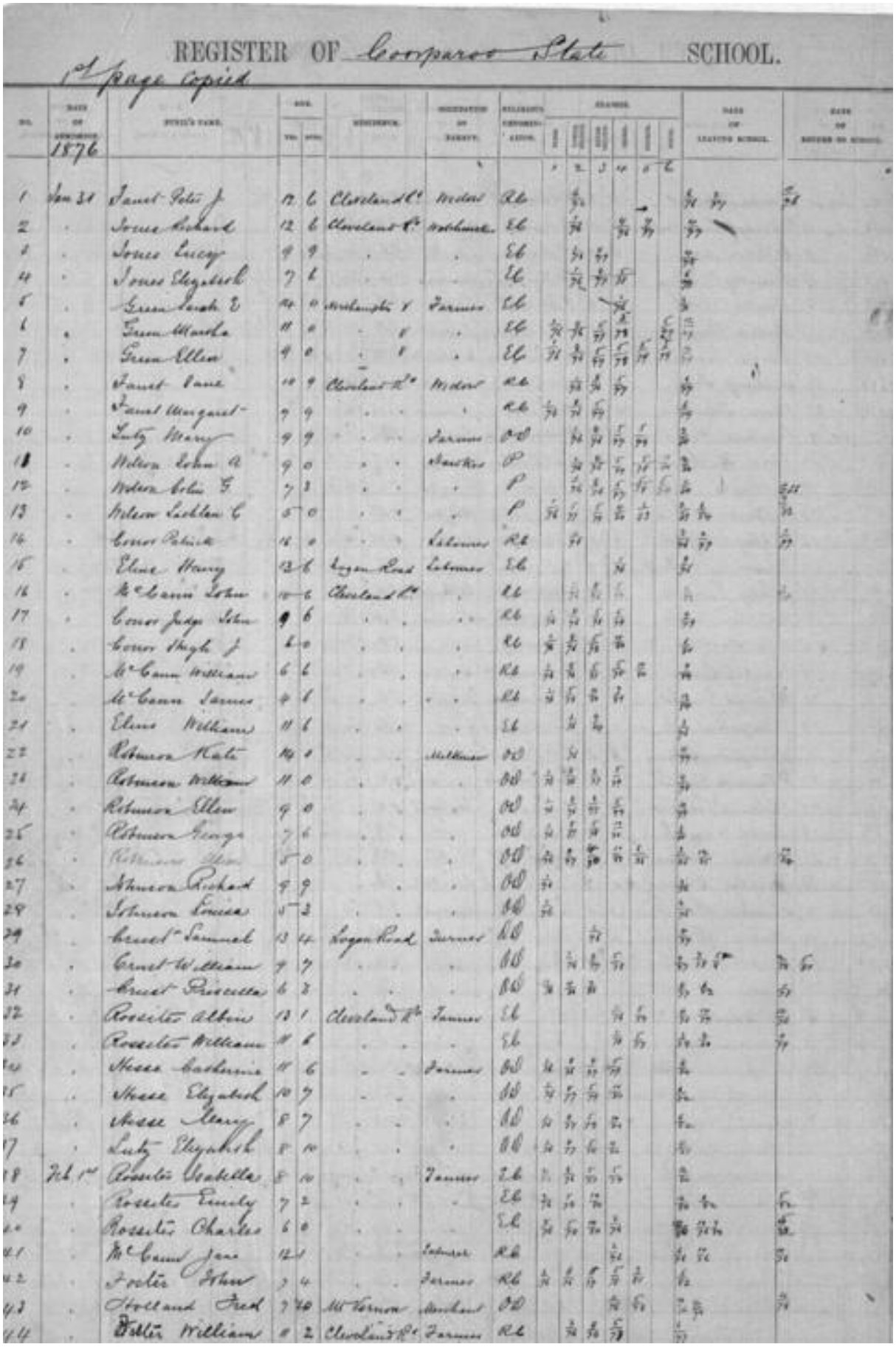
1876 – 1884

John Towell

The school opened on 31 January 1876, with 37 children being enrolled. The honour of being the first, went to Peter Faust, better known as “Joe”. The Faust family lived on the crest of what is now known as Camp Hill and ran a dairy farm.



Mr John Chaseley Towell was appointed as Head Teacher. He was born of English parents whilst they were en route from England to settle in the Moreton Bay District. In 1862, Mr Towell was admitted to the teaching service as a pupil teacher at the Normal School and after various positions as pupil teacher, Assistant Teacher and Head Teacher at Enoggera, he was appointed to Coorparoo. He was the only teacher at the time and by April, the number of pupils enrolled at the little school had risen to 80. Relief came with the appointment of one of the older pupils, Henry Sankey, as a pupil teacher.



REGISTER OF Cooparoo State SCHOOL.

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No.	Date of admission 1876	Pupil's name	Age Yrs.	Age Mths.	Residence	Occupation of parent	Religious denomination	Classes	Date of leaving school	Date of return to school
1	Jan 31	Jones Peter J	12	6	Cleveland Rd	Medical	RC			
2	"	Jones Richard	12	6	Cleveland Rd	Wesleyan	EC			
3	"	Jones Lucy	9	9	"	"	EC			
4	"	Jones Elizabeth	7	6	"	"	EC			
5	"	Green Sarah E	10	0	Wellington Pt	Farmer	EC			
6	"	Green Martha	11	0	" "	"	EC			
7	"	Green Ellen	9	0	" "	"	EC			
8	"	Jones Jane	10	9	Cleveland Rd	Medical	RC			
9	"	Jones Margaret	9	9	" "	"	RC			
10	"	Lutz Mary	9	9	" "	Farmer	OC			
11	"	Nelson John A	9	0	" "	Sawmiller	P			
12	"	Nelson John F	7	3	" "	"	P			
13	"	Nelson Sabben C	5	0	" "	"	P			
14	"	Connor Patrick	11	0	" "	Labourer	RC			
15	"	Cline Henry	12	6	Logan Road	Labourer	EC			
16	"	McCann John	10	6	Cleveland Rd	"	RC			
17	"	Connor Judge John	9	6	" "	"	RC			
18	"	Connor Hugh J	6	0	" "	"	RC			
19	"	McCann William	6	6	" "	"	RC			
20	"	McCann James	4	1	" "	"	RC			
21	"	Cline William	11	6	" "	"	EC			
22	"	Robinson Kate	10	0	" "	Millkeeper	OC			
23	"	Robinson William	11	0	" "	"	OC			
24	"	Robinson Ellen	9	0	" "	"	OC			
25	"	Robinson George	7	6	" "	"	OC			
26	"	Robinson Alice	5	0	" "	"	OC			
27	"	Johnson Richard	9	9	" "	"	OC			
28	"	Johnson Louisa	5	3	" "	"	OC			
29	"	Ernst Samuel	13	11	Logan Road	Farmer	LC			
30	"	Ernst William	9	7	" "	"	LC			
31	"	Ernst Priscilla	6	3	" "	"	LC			
32	"	Rossiter Albion	13	1	Cleveland Rd	Farmer	EC			
33	"	Rossiter William	11	6	" "	"	EC			
34	"	Hesse Catherine	11	6	" "	Farmer	OC			
35	"	Hesse Elizabeth	10	7	" "	"	OC			
36	"	Hesse Mary	8	7	" "	"	OC			
37	"	Lutz Elizabeth	8	10	" "	"	OC			
38	Feb 1st	Rossiter Isabella	8	10	" "	Farmer	EC			
39	"	Rossiter Emily	7	2	" "	"	EC			
40	"	Rossiter Charles	6	0	" "	"	EC			
41	"	McCann Jane	12	1	" "	Labourer	RC			
42	"	Fowler John	7	4	" "	Farmer	RC			
43	"	Howland Fred	7	10	Mt Vernon	Merchant	OC			
44	"	Butler William	8	2	Cleveland Rd	Farmer	RC			

At that time, there were no teachers' colleges for those who wished to train as teachers. A promising student who wished to become a teacher could be appointed as a pupil teacher – a pupil one day and in charge of a class the next.

The Board of Education was desirous of improving the quality of teaching staff and decided to do this by means of a pupil teacher system. They built the historic Normal School on what is now the corner of Edward and Adelaide Streets, where pupil teachers were given short courses of instruction in teaching methods.

The pupil teacher's lot was not an easy one, as their days were long and hard. Most of the day they were teaching and in the evening preparation of lessons had to be made for the next day, as well as studying for their next pupil teacher examination. This system did produce better teachers and was gradually extended to other schools and continued for some time after the first Teachers' College was established.

The first inspection of the Coorparoo School was on 12 July 1876. It stated:

"... grounds not cleared or fenced. Garden begun. The buildings are new, of good design and workmanship but not of first class timber throughout. Certain minor improvements are required. The supply of teaching materials is not quite complete. The organisation is very fair and the routine works smoothly. Order and discipline are good."

Laura Mary Stevens was appointed as the second pupil teacher in April 1877. The number of enrolled pupils was 92 and on 26 April, a second inspection was made which reported that:

"... the grounds are fenced and cleared but not stumped. A garden has been begun but has not progressed far. The buildings are yet good but white ant has begun its ravages. Water has been provided by a sunk tank. Lavatory and hat rooms are yet wanting. The school is well supplied with ordinary teaching materials. The attendance is a high percentage of the number on a roll and a fair number attend regularly. The staff is not wanting in capability. The school is well disciplined, has a good tone, and is pleasant to handle. The organisation is good and the work of an intellectual cast. Except as regards music, derivation and the girls' drill, the results are pretty uniform over the required range of subjects, and a very fair proficiency has been attained, though it has to be noted that the average age of the pupils is rather higher than usual in some of the classes. The routine is faulty in one point and the records might be more carefully kept. The general condition of the school is good and very fair progress has been made."

In the following year, 1878, Henry Sankey, the pupil teacher, was transferred and his place on the staff was taken by another pupil teacher, Alexander Stirling. On 25 and 26 April and on 28 August, the school was again inspected. Enrolled at the time of the former, there was a total of 110 pupils and at the latter, 97 pupils. The report showed that:

"...the fence, grounds, buildings and premises are in good order and the school-room is well found in all the necessary furniture and apparatus for carrying on the work of teaching. An additional blackboard is needed.

"Order and discipline are, generally speaking, satisfactory; the pupils are clean, well-dressed and attentive. The work of the school is gone through smoothly, steadily and with considerable

professional capacity. The junior work is, perhaps more satisfactory than the more advanced, except in drill in which the juniors are less expert. The lesson documents show a fair share of skill and forethought and the teaching power is reasonably well distributed. A few families show a high rate of irregularity; the majority, however, are pretty steady and punctual. The course of study is that prescribed for a school having four classes and is of full schedule range. The records and lesson documents are not neatly written.

“The average results at first inspection were fair; fair progress was made during the last half of the year. The school is in a satisfactory condition. The staff consists of the master, one (1) female and one (1) male pupil teacher.”

The Coorparoo School was now firmly established and its growth seemed assured. However, the development of a school depends upon the professional competence of the Head Teacher and staff, the assiduity and initiative of the School Committee, and the interest and cooperation shown by the community the school serves.

The first Coorparoo School Committee was formed in 1878. Its members were Messrs Lade, Reuben, Nicklin, Brabazon, Wecker, and Stevens. Because of their satisfactory performance, they were re-elected for the following year of 1879. They, and many others who came after them, shared the great responsibility of ensuring that the school buildings and school grounds were adequate and in a satisfactory condition.

One of the first major requests the Committee made was to the Department of Public Instruction for the Head Teacher’s residence to have two extra rooms added. This was approved and work carried out.

Mr Towell left Coorparoo in 1884.

Chapter 3

1884 - 1899

William Halstead

Mr Towell was replaced by Mr William Henry Halstead who had taught as a pupil teacher in Central Schools in the United Kingdom, before being sent to Queensland by the Agent-General under the recruitment scheme. By this time numbers, at the school had risen to 130 and more accommodation was needed.



In 1884, the Coorparoo School Committee comprised Messrs Lade, Bennett, Burstall, MacKay, Reuben, and Nicklin.

On 13 October 1885, Mr James Burstall, Secretary of the School Committee, wrote to the Under Secretary for Public Instruction, pointing out the necessity for more accommodation. He stated the number of pupils enrolled was 130 and that the average attendance was 110; also that the number would increase. A prompt reply was received and, by the end of the year, additions were made to the wooden school to accommodate another 100 pupils. Numbers continued to rise and by the beginning of the 1887 school year, they had reached 272. More additions were requested and approved and tenders were called on 31 March.

In those days, the School Committee had the authority to grant a holiday each quarter.

More families were moving into the area, so the population was growing rapidly. The enrolment was 428 and there were 11 teachers on staff. Once again, it was necessary for the Committee to request further extensions to the school, and in their letter of 4 September 1888, they stated that although the school was built to comfortably accommodate 240 pupils, this number varied, and at times had reached over 300.

In reply, a Departmental official advised that the school could cope with ten or 20 more pupils above the present attendance. He also suggested that there was no need to hurry to make further

additions "...for even if the school were more overcrowded now than it is likely to be for a year or so [he] would suggest to the Minister that another school should be established somewhere in East Brisbane, possibly about Stanley Bridge".

Accommodation continued to be a problem and on 27 May 1889, Mr Halstead wrote to the Under Secretary for Public Instruction again advising of crowded classrooms and requested further extensions to the school to accommodate 80 or 100 pupils. As there seemed to be no intention at that time to establish a school at Stanley Bridge, permission was finally granted to erect the required extensions for 100 scholars as soon as possible.

No further addition was made to the school for 27 years.

On 21 January 1890, the Secretary of the School Committee, Mr Bennett, wrote to the Department requesting a fence be built to separate the boys and girls in the playground. However, the fence was never erected.

The Committee for 1892 comprised Messrs MacKay (Chairman), Burstall (Hon. Secretary), Bennett, Green, Lade, and Winship. During this year, many school concerts were held and a fireworks display was held to raise funds. A profit of £15 was made.

The playground still had not been cleared of stumps 17 years after the wooden school was built. The 1893 Committee - Messrs Nathaniel Lade (Chairman), James Evan Burstall (Hon. Secretary), Thomas Burgess (Treasurer), John Thomson and Arnold Vivian Thomas, then requested to have the Head Teacher's residence painted and the yard of the house enclosed by a fence. The Department again pleaded lack of funds, so the Committee had this work and the stumping done at its own expense. The cost of the painting and fencing was £11/15/- and the destumping of the playground £1/19/-. These amounts considerably reduced the limited finance of the Committee. However, the improved appearance of the entire school area was much appreciated by the staff and locals.

The Chairman of the School Committee, Nathaniel Lade, died in 1895, and a new Committee was appointed for the following year, 1896. This year marked the first Committee with seven members who were Edward Deshon (Chairman), J S Bennett (Secretary), J E Burstall (Treasurer), W H Greenfield, William Thompson, Arnold V Thomas, and F W Higginbotham.

The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria was observed in 1897. Financial aid was given by the Shire Council and bronze medals were distributed.

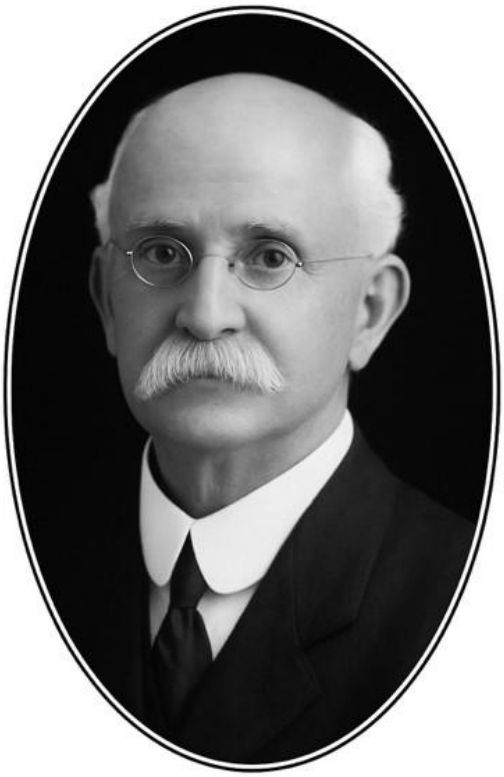
In 1899, Mr Halstead left Coorparoo. His term of office had been a very successful one, both in growth of the school and in the scholastic attainment of the pupils. He took over the Brisbane East State School on 1 July of that year. Halstead Street, which was named after him, runs off Cavendish Road, behind the school which he served so well.

Chapter 4

1899 – 1920

Joseph Beet

In July, Mr Joseph Frederick Beet, another immigrant teacher, took up the position of Head Teacher at Coorparoo. He had served as a Pupil Teacher in Coventry, Carmarthen College and as Headmaster of Sheepwash National School in Devon, before leaving England to come to Australia where he was admitted to the teaching service in Queensland on 21 January 1884. After being appointed Head Teacher at Copperfield and Townsville West, he came to Coorparoo.





The Head Teacher's house had become a building of additions and was by now a most unsatisfactory dwelling that had neither bath nor stove. Efforts were made to have these amenities installed and more requests were made to the Department which eventually had a stove installed but no bath. A new fence on Old Cleveland Road was erected, and a small gate placed in front of the house.

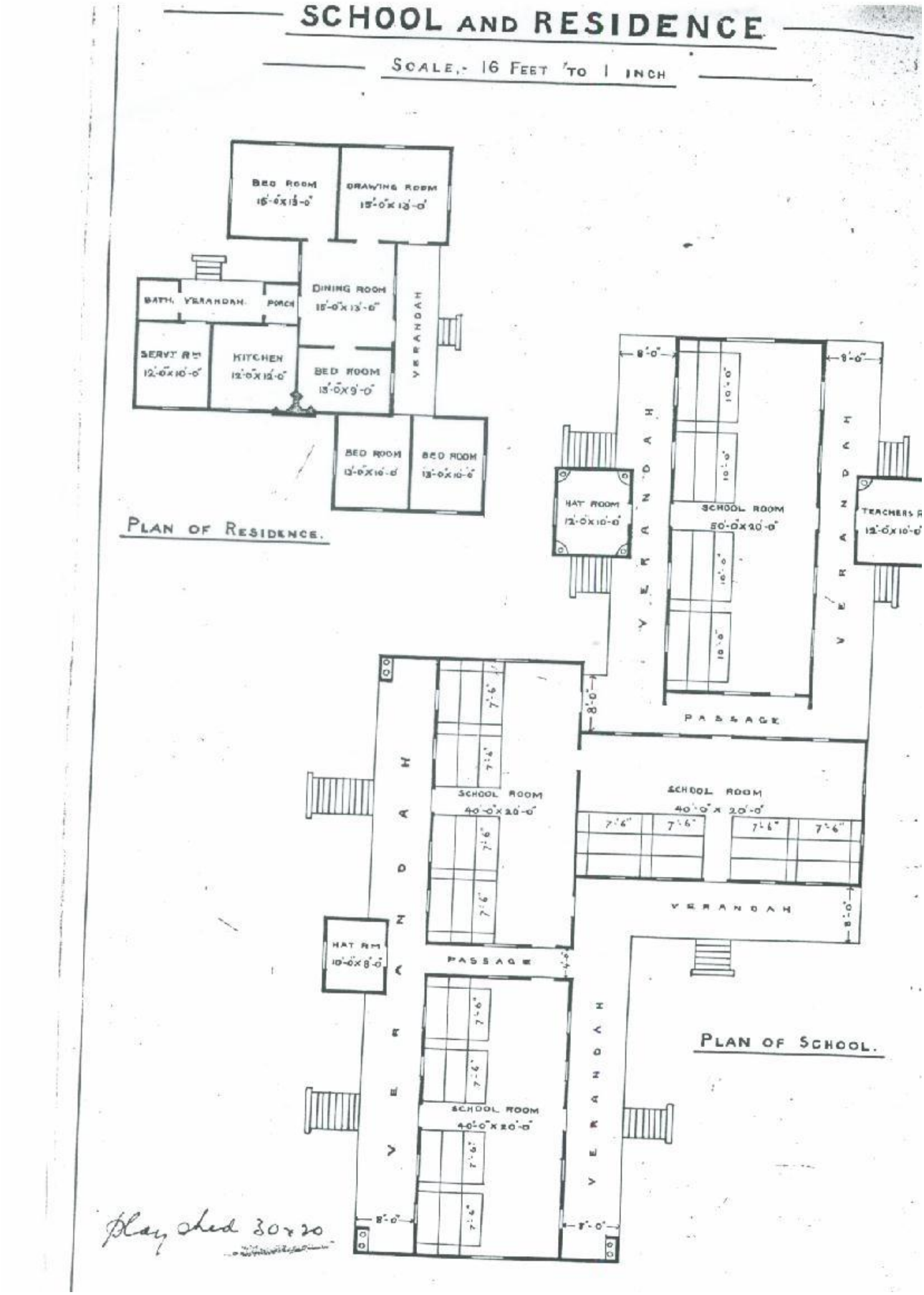
In 1900, Coorparoo was one of the first schools to erect a flagpole, following the offer of the Education Department of a full-sized Union Jack. The ceremony of hoisting the Union Jack was performed by the Secretary of the Committee, Mr J S Bennett.

A holiday was granted to the children on 25 May 1900 to allow the caretaker, Mr James, to fumigate the school for Bubonic Plague prevention. The attendance at the school was then 413 of which 238 were boys and 175 were girls.

Mr Beet wrote to the Under Secretary for Public Instruction on 20 June 1901, advising of the unsuitability of his house and requesting permission to move into a new, eight-roomed house, and for a reasonable small allowance for rent.

These requests were granted, so Mr Beet and his family moved. Improvements were made to the school house and tenants installed. Eventually, the house was sold and moved to the corner of Old Cleveland Road and Rialto Street.

The gate which was placed in part of the fence erected on the original school house property is now on Lane Street and is the sole remaining article of the Headmaster's home on the premises.


SCHOOL AND RESIDENCE
SCALE,- 16 FEET TO 1 INCH
BED ROOM 15'-0"X13'-0"
DRAWING ROOM 15'-0"X13'-0"
DINING ROOM 15'-0"X13'-0"
BATH
VERANDAH
PORCH
SERVT RM 12'-0"X10'-0"
KITCHEN 12'-0"X12'-0"
BED ROOM 13'-0"X9'-0"
VERANDAH
BED ROOM 13'-0"X10'-0"
BED ROOM 13'-0"X10'-0"
PLAN OF RESIDENCE.
HAT ROOM 12'-0"X10'-0"
SCHOOL ROOM 50'-0"X20'-0"
TEACHERS R 12'-0"X10'-0"
VERANDAH
PASSAGE
SCHOOL ROOM 40'-0"X20'-0"
SCHOOL ROOM 40'-0"X 20'-0"
VERANDAH
HAT RM 10'-0"X8'-0"
PASSAGE
VERANDAH
SCHOOL ROOM 40'-0"X20'-0"
PLAN OF SCHOOL.
Play shed 30x20

The East Brisbane School was erected in 1901, and enrolment at Coorparoo substantially reduced. During 1902, great efforts were being made to obtain a male Assistant Teacher.

The Committee resolved in April of that year that a new 1,000-gallon tank should be obtained with a new hardwood top for the well, and that the necessary repairs be done to the well as it was in a dangerous condition.

Numbers increased to 363 during the year with 207 boys and 156 girls.

On 16 June, the Mayor of South Brisbane invited the Coorparoo children to the Coronation Fete which was held at the Woolloongabba Sports Ground on the 26th day of that month. This was appreciated, however, the Committee, when thanking the Mayor, informed him that it had been decided to hold the entertainment locally.

On 24 September, approval for expenditure of £4 for a new tank was approved by the Minister, subject to one-fifth being raised locally. The Works Department supplied and erected the tank. Local contribution was 16/-. £1 had been contributed to the funds by the Coronation Fete Committee. By the end of December, 20 more children had been enrolled at the school.

The cover on the well and drainpipes were in need of repair and, in April 1903, the Department approved expenditure not exceeding £2 for this work to proceed, along with £1/5/- for repairs to the handrail and a bottom tread of the steps at the main entrance. Also in September, approval was given to erect a screen around the teachers' toilets. Local contribution was £1/8/-. The Committee attached a filter to each tank – the cost being defrayed out of the school funds. The request for a new tank in the girls' playshed was not approved.

Mr Beet had requested Sergeant Major Byrne to come to the school to teach Physical Drill to the scholars and was authorised by the Committee to spend £1/12/6 upon dumbbells etc.

Earlier on, Mr Barnes MLA had notified the Head Teacher and Committee that the Government had granted the use of the QGS Lucinda for a river excursion to Pile Light for 500 persons. This trip was taken on 18 February 1904 and enjoyed by all.

The next request to the Department was for two clocks to be supplied to the school. The old ones were eventually given to the caretaker. At a cost to the school, two lamps were purchased.

Trafalgar Day was celebrated by Mr Fryar giving the children a lecture on the geological specimens in the school collection.

Another inspection was made of the school on 27 May 1908, by the District Inspector, John Shirley, who reported that:

"There were three hundred and six pupils present at inspection.

"This school has an efficient and well-equipped staff, each member is placed where his abilities are of the best service to the school. Management and organisation deserve credit. Order and discipline are readily maintained, and a very just tone prevails.

"Methods are modern and intelligent, and lessons are made interesting and practical. All English subjects gave sound results, and oral and written composition are more than usually successful.

Arithmetic is above average, pupils of all classes being able to deal with simple problems. Lessons in geography and nature knowledge are well prepared and teachers have given these subjects the necessary study to make their lessons interesting and effective. A very good attempt has been made to cover all schedule requirements.

“This school is in very creditable condition, and progress is steady and sound.”

The Methodist Church purchased “Hatherton” (the house next to the school) from the Nicklin family in 1911, and the children walked across the laneway to the Coorparoo School. Homework was supervised and they were encouraged to work hard.

A swimming pool was a project which had been in the minds of all associated with the school and, on 29 October 1914, a special swimming pool account was opened in a Brisbane Permanent Building Co Ltd, with a deposit of £3/18/6.

The average attendance of infants was 140 and the building they occupied had a capacity for 70 to 80. On 28 June 1915, the then Secretary of the School Committee, Mr W L Nicklin, wrote to the Education Department expressing the growing feeling in the community regarding the inadequacy of the existing buildings and requesting further accommodation to be erected with as little delay as possible as, with the state of affairs, both teachers and scholars were suffering great inconvenience.

Another inspection was made of the school on 3 August by the District Inspector, Mr W Gipp, who reported that:

“The Infants’ Room (40ft x20ft) has desk room for less than half its pupils. The result is that many have to sit on forms – generally two deep – placed on the floor in front of the desks, while others use an old-fashioned gallery and the remainder are taught in the playshed. Those who are not in desks have to do their writing by nursing their slates in their arms. It has become necessary for one or two of the infant classes to occupy the playshed fairly regularly and this leads to serious loss of time in transferring classes from the schoolroom to the shed and vice versa, not to mention the discomfort suffered during windy or rainy weather.

“That relief of this unsatisfactory condition is urgently needed appears to me to be undeniable; and I therefore beg to recommend that the new building for the infants asked for by the Committee be supplied.

“There is a suitable site for such a building between the school and the grounds of the Alexandra Home facing the main road. I would also recommend that the present infants’ room be adopted for the use of older children by making such alterations in its furniture as may be found necessary.

“On making inquiries with regard to the continuance of increase in settlement in the district – necessarily involving increase in the school attendance – I found that auction sales of residential sites in the vicinity are held almost every week; that the building of new residences is going on rapidly; and in the neighbourhood, the inflow of new settlers will in all probability continue for a long time to come.

“Much of the recent settlement was, no doubt, due to the knowledge that the tram service was to be extended to this suburb, and now that this has actually been done the rate will in all probability

be accelerated. To date the number of children attending the school is sixty-six greater than it was last year.

“In conclusion I beg to recommend formally:

“(1) That a new building to accommodate at the very least two hundred infants be erected.

“(2) That the present Infants’ Room be refurnished to render it suitable for older children.”

On 26 November, Mr Nicklin was informed by the Under Secretary, Mr J D Story, that the Minister had approved a new open-air annexe, dual desks and forms, and other necessary improvements. The open-air annexe was constructed and opened the following year, 1916.





The years following World War I saw increased development in the Coorparoo district resulting in more school accommodation problems.

Mr Beet retired in 1920 to reside at his Coorparoo home. He also has a Coorparoo street named in his honour. It runs off Halstead Street, parallel with Leicester Street.

This description was quoted from his son Dr William Ashley Beet's retirement tribute article prepared for the Beaudesert Historical Society.

Joseph was described as "a small, reserved and dignified, and scholarly man with a fresh complexion, and a very conscientious father. He was a very keen gardener who was devoted to his family."

Mr Beet's great grandson, John Quinn, relates:

My great grandfather, Joseph Beet, was Head Teacher at the Coorparoo State School in Brisbane for the first two decades of the 20th century.

After migrating from England to Queensland in 1883, Joseph served as a pioneer teacher in remote Copperfield and then as the inaugural Head Teacher at the new Townsville West State School in the late 19th century. From there, he moved to his Coorparoo assignment. He was active in the Methodist Church throughout his life. After retiring from the government school system in 1920, he continued to contribute significantly to education in Queensland, notably through involvement in the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association Council in the 1920s.

Joseph left a remarkable legacy, notably through his dedication, skill and humanity as a teacher, as well as his managerial, administrative and financial abilities. He was held in high regard by the Queensland Education Department and the wider communities in which he served and was actively engaged.

His positive example extended to his descendants, many of whom have contributed significantly to Queensland and Australia more generally. Sadly, I never met him, being born a decade after his passing. However, in piecing together his story, a clear picture has emerged of his modest but resilient and multifaceted character. His lifelong priorities stand out, especially his unwavering commitment to the value of education, and to music, gardening and caring for nature. These elements have continued to resonate strongly through his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Official and other accounts of Joseph's career confirm his commitment to delivering a broad education to his pupils, not just "reading, writing and arithmetic". He always wanted music and sport to be taught in his schools, where many concerts were held. School inspectors reported that his schools "were well conducted", with "excellent spirit" and that he was "a skilful teacher and a good organizer and disciplinarian."

Joseph was born in the Warwickshire market town of Nuneaton, England in 1852. He began his teaching career working as a pupil teacher in Coventry at St Michael's School from 1867 to 1872. According to family records, he undertook his teacher training at St David's College in Wales. This was the South Wales and Monmouthshire Training College in Carmarthen founded in 1848, and

now part of the University of Wales Trinity St David. This college required students to follow a strict regime which included starting the day at 6:30am with a cold bath. Students were often recruited from humble backgrounds, and to remind them of this, the college curriculum included subjects such as gardening and woodwork. They were also expected to acquire a good knowledge of grammar and arithmetic, as well as being taught Latin and Greek.



He served in a similar capacity at Carmarthen College in Wales for two years from 1872 to 1873.



He took up a teaching position of the National School in Sheepwash, a small village in Devon, where he served for ten years (1873-83) and married Lucelle Selina Ashley in 1876.



Lucelle proved to be a major source of strength and support to Joseph. An exceptionally well-read woman who wrote poetry, she was deeply religious with great compassion for the sick and underprivileged, and a devoted church worker. The Beet home later hosted many visiting clerics with whom Lucelle engaged in extended discussions and debates.

Joseph and Lucelle had six children: Mary Blanche, born in 1878; William Ironside Ashley in 1879; Hannah Elizabeth Guest in 1880; Margaret Emma in 1883; Edith Josephine in 1884; and Gertrude Swinnerton in 1887.

Joseph made the momentous decision to migrate to Queensland with his wife and four small children, arriving on the 'Darra' in Brisbane in December 1883. They travelled as paying second class passengers, rather than 'Bounty Immigrants' who constituted the vast majority of those aboard the 'Darra'. Two more daughters were born later in Queensland.

A key consideration in this decision was Joseph's wish to take advantage of opportunities for advancement in Queensland where he aspired to go into business. However, given his teaching qualifications and experience, it is not surprising that the Queensland Education Department wanted his services after he arrived in Brisbane. His wife's fragile health and escaping the prejudice in England at the time against Methodism, to which he and his wife staunchly adhered, could also have been factors prompting their emigration.

Joseph's first assignment was as a teacher and then Head Teacher at the Copperfield State School near Clermont in remote Central Queensland from 1884 until 1887. The school was established primarily to cater for the children of workers at the "Great Copperfield of Peak Downs". From official accounts, he served with distinction in this position, highlighted by his promotion to head the school.

It is hard to imagine the multiple challenges Joseph and his family must have faced moving from a lush country village in England to the frontier existence of teaching mostly miners' children in Copperfield. Joseph's teaching skills and experience, religious faith (he laid a foundation stone for Clermont's Methodist Church in 1886) and community engagement would no doubt have helped.

At short notice, Joseph Beet was summoned by telegram to transfer urgently to Townsville as the inaugural Head Teacher of the West End State School (WESS), a post which he occupied from 1887

to 1898. To take up this appointment, Joseph had to take a train from Clermont to Rockhampton, and thence a steamer to Townsville.

WESS was established to meet the needs of the rapidly developing western part of the township, recently connected to the colony's railway network. An ongoing challenge for him proved to be keeping up with this area's burgeoning population and thus school enrolments.

When he arrived, he discovered the new school was not ready for its scheduled opening with regard to teachers, educational supplies, and buildings. He quickly set about addressing these problems, including making urgent representations to the Education Department in Brisbane.

Only two assistant teachers had been assigned to the new school, but Joseph expected enrolments of 200, and considerably more according to the school's committee. These predictions proved conservative. After the end of the first week, 330 were enrolled at the school, and 610 by the end of its first year of operation. He therefore sought Education Department approval to recruit six extra assistant teachers as a matter of urgency, including local women, preferably with relevant experience. He was particularly concerned the two assistant teachers appointed to the school could not sing, a role he felt he could not perform in conjunction with his other duties. He deemed it "absolutely necessary" to have two assistant "thoroughly musical" teachers.

Water had not been connected to the new school buildings which had sustained damage and thefts. There was no bath in the bathroom, nor cooking range in the school house. The playground had not been fenced, which enabled wild goats to run free there. Joseph thus had to set about chasing elusive contractors to rectify the situation. A challenge he never overcame during his tenure at WESS was to stop local undertakers persisting in preparing, in the school yard, for West End Cemetery next door.

He seems, overall, to have achieved success in relation to school presentation and upkeep. An 1894 article in the Bulletin declared that "no school and grounds in the colony (of Queensland) had received more attention from a Head Teacher than West End State School". Joseph and his School Committee were tree planting pioneers, beginning this endeavour in 1887, three years before Arbor Day was officially established in Queensland.

On the occasion of the school's 50 year jubilee in 1937, he recalled spending "happy years in Townsville, being blessed with very energetic and happy staff". The brochure published to mark this event noted that he "ruled Townsville West by kindly persuasion rather than the stern rod, but he could not tolerate "wagging", and woe betide any truant". He also "had the fine art of working with scholars, teachers and Committee alike", which greatly enhanced the good accruing to the school.

Joseph enrolled three of his children, William (Ashley), Hannah and Emma (Margaret), in this new school. William and Hannah later remembered aspects of growing up in the frontier settlement of Townsville in the late 19th century, including Cyclone Sigma during which their father's school sheltered many homeless families; and the local Chinese settlers proceding to the nearby cemetery, accompanied by drums and incense.

Another constant preoccupation was managing burgeoning school enrolments with static space in aging buildings. Funding was a key constraint. The Queensland Education Department insisted that its financial contribution to new classrooms and other buildings required significant counterpart funding from local communities. WESS became adept at raising money from its community, including holding a successful bazaar during Joseph's time as Head Teacher and then by staging very popular Gilbert and Sullivan musical productions.

In 1899, Joseph Beet was transferred from Townsville to Coorparoo State School as Head Teacher. This was a period of rapid growth and evolution, not only for Coorparoo, but also the newly federated Australian nation.

Joseph took a pay cut to make this move. He hoped Coorparoo would provide better living conditions for his wife who continued to be in poor health, and presumably also for his son and daughters.

Unfortunately, however, the cottage provided was poorly constructed, dilapidated and unsanitary, having no bath and proper drainage for kitchen wastewater. The school inspectorate accepted his complaints, approving additional expenditure on the house, and then allowing Joseph to move out to a house he had purchased in Clayfield, with related salary adjustment. Sadly, Lucelle died suddenly in 1909.



Once again, Joseph had to deal with other aging, defective and inadequate school buildings, especially given surging student numbers as the local population grew. In 1888 and 1889, the School's Committee, and then Head Teacher respectively, had made successful representations to the Under Secretary of Public Education in Brisbane about the imperative of building space to accommodate another 100 students at the school. However, it took 27 years to secure further approvals for additional building to accommodate the school's continually expanding enrolments.

In 1915, the School Committee again appealed to the Education Department to approve construction of a new infants' school building to accommodate 200 children. Average daily attendance was then 140, but only 70 - 80 children could be accommodated indoors. The Committee also suggested that consideration be given to building an entirely new up-to-date school rather than making continuing additions to existing, aging structures. Following a positive

Education Inspector's report, this project was approved and a new Infants School building was completed in 1916.

While this additional space must have been welcomed by Joseph, the challenge of accommodating students continued as Coorparoo's population expanded rapidly through the WWI period, partly as a result of new tramway access. Joseph's successor reported in 1921 that four classes were being taught in the open due to inadequate accommodation in the school houses.

Joseph retired from Queensland Government service in 1920. The following year, a silver tray was presented to him by the Coorparoo community in recognition of his significant contributions both to the school and wider community. As an example, he served as the treasurer of the committee established in the 1920s to erect War Memorial Gates in Langlands Park. A street in Coorparoo is also named after him.





In retirement, he actively engaged with the Methodist Church community, including serving for two years (1926-1928) on the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) Council. This body oversaw the running of the churches' schools in Brisbane and elsewhere in Queensland. He was a member of a small committee which recommended in 1927 that Rudd's College (later called Clayfield College, and now Brisbane Boys College), relocate from Clayfield to Toowong. He was also involved in establishing Somerville College, a private girls' boarding school in South Brisbane where his daughter Hannah taught briefly.

Joseph lived in Clayfield for many years with two of his unmarried daughters Margaret and Edith, who both pursued teaching careers.



Joseph loved being with children and would often ask them to spell words or respond to riddles. Joseph's granddaughter, the late Josephine Quinn (nee Paton), recalled that he once asked her to respond to a riddle: "Four dilly danders, four still standers, two lookers, two krookers, and a wig-wag. What is it? A cow!"

A passionate gardener, he was proud of "Argyle", his iconic Queenslander in Victoria Street, Clayfield. He was always well dressed, even wearing silk shirts when trimming the hedges. He passed away in Brisbane in 1946, surrounded by his family at the age of 93.

As mentioned, an important part of Joseph's legacy is the major contribution his children and later descendants have made to Queensland and Australia.

By way of example, his son William "Willy" Ashley Beet became a highly respected general practitioner in Beaudesert, contributing in a major way in the first half of the 20th century to providing and developing medical services in this town and region. At his retirement ceremony, he was presented by the local Indigenous community with a boomerang as a sign of respect and appreciation for his care of them, and as a symbolic invitation to return to Beaudesert.

Three of his daughters served as teachers in Queensland, including Hannah who had excelled academically, especially in algebra and Latin, as one of only four girls attending Townsville Boys Grammar School in the 1890s. She matriculated in 1898, later topping her nursing training course at Brisbane General Hospital in 1909. I and other grandchildren remember Hannah drilling us as school children on Latin and algebra, even though she was well into her 80s.

Joseph's grandchildren include some notable Australians, including Hannah's daughter, Dr Clair Isbister (nee Paton), who became a prominent, groundbreaking paediatrician in Sydney, and William's granddaughter, Virginia Cuppaidge, who became an internationally renowned artist. Other grandchildren and great grandchildren include a number of doctors, teachers, a dentist, a pharmacist, a social worker, and diplomats among other professions and callings.

Chapter 5

1921 – 1938

Gustav Hinrichsen

Mr Beet was replaced by Mr Gustav Henry Hinrichsen, who had entered the teaching service as a pupil teacher at Milton school in April 1889, later being appointed as Assistant Teacher at the same school. After this, he went to Townsville West and then as Head Teacher to Brandon, Mungar, Clermont, and Ipswich North Brothers, and finally to Coorparoo in 1921.

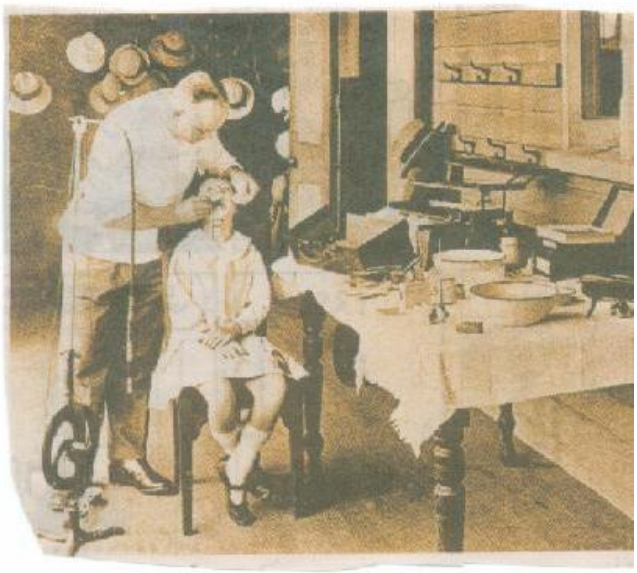


On taking up his appointment, Mr Hinrichsen advised the School Committee that four classes were now being taught in the open – two in the playshed and two under the Infants' annexe. This was very unsatisfactory, especially with the approach of winter. Although the Committee reported this to the Department of Public Instruction, these unpleasant working conditions for both pupils and staff continued for some time.

One hundred and eighty new homes had been built in the district so the number of pupils at the school continued to grow. However, it was not until 1924 that the fifth and last extension was made to the wooden school.

It was 49 years after the opening of the school that the first extension to the grounds was made. In July 1925, the school acquired from the Misses Beet, four and two-thirds perches of land adjoining the lane leading from Cavendish Road together with their interest in the land, at a cost of £1,000.

In the mid 20s, the school children had their teeth checked regularly by the visiting dentist.



Thoughts were that a new school, in brick, should be built, and initial steps in the scheme occurred on 18 August 1926, when Mr J H Pampling, Secretary of the School Committee, wrote to the Under Secretary of the Department of Public Instruction regarding the need for additional accommodation, and made the suggestion of a new brick building.



In 1927, 12.6 perches of Mr Mather's property adjoining to that bought from the Misses Beet, was transferred to the Education Department at a cost of £100. These properties later formed the site for the swimming pool.

No satisfactory response was received regarding the new brick school until December 1927, when approval was received and the first section (now the office area) was opened in 1928 to house 320 pupils. It is interesting to note that the new school was also constructed in five stages.

Also in that year, the pool was constructed at a cost of £850 with an extra cost of £158/10/0 for a concrete wall and steps and a path leading from the steps to the dressing shed and pool. Coorparoo was one of the first schools to acquire a swimming pool. Its design has remained the same since the time of its installation.



The School Pool Committee 1928

With the increasing enrolment, the Committee was looking for more available land for the play area. The next extension to the grounds was made in September 1928, when the Department of Public Instruction acquired 32 perches of land from the City Council in return for land held by the Department at Coopers Plains. It was adjacent to the old Shire Hall on Cavendish Road.

Still more ground was needed and in June 1929, the Department was able to purchase Mr Collin F Wolff's house and grounds which faced Cavendish Road for £1,400. The School Committee, in negotiation regarding the purchase, offered to pay one-third of the cost provided they were allowed the proceeds of the sale of buildings on the property.

The offer was accepted and on completion of the sale, Mr Wolff donated £50 and another £50 from his wife and a further £50 from his children, as a mark of appreciation of the Committee' s splendid work in the interests of the present and future pupils of the school. The School Committee, being deeply appreciative of the public-spirited action of the Wolff family, decided to perpetuate their

name by designating the acquired property “Wolff Park”. They left the grounds free and open after the house was sold, thus creating a spacious playground.

Almost two years after permission had been granted for the first addition to the new school, work was in progress. On 4 August 1930, Mr E M Richards, Secretary of the School Committee, was notified that tenders for £2,087 had been approved. This section was completed early in 1931, and was opened by the Hon R M King MLA, on 1 April. Together with Mr F C G Wiltshire, Chairman of the School Committee, the Head Teacher, Mr Hinrichsen, Mrs Hinrichsen, and members of the Committee, the visitors inspected a guard of honour in school uniform. Mr King, who is an old member of the School Committee, said that “ ... when the whole scheme was complete, the school would be one of the finest in Queensland”. The new wing was a handsomely designed two-storeyed building in brick and rough cast. The structure stood as a memorial to the self-denial and strenuous efforts of the children and their parents, Head Teacher and Staff, and Committees.



The School Safety Patrol started on the afternoon of 17 June. The entire school was assembled on the parade ground and Mr Rees, Vice President of the RACQ and Mr Jones, Secretary of the Club, addressed the children. The Patrol was lined up in front of the stage, members raising their right hands and pledged themselves “... to do their duty at all times, to be courteous and honest, to protect lives, think clearly, act wisely and chiefly direct children safely across the street.” They also affirmed that they believed the Golden Rule (“Safety First”). The children were advised to cross the road as quickly as possible after making sure no cars were coming and to obey the signals or orders given by the officials, keeping in mind that they were there for their protection.

Miss Rhyll Hooper ATCL, LTCL, was the Elocution Mistress at the School and offered speech training, voice culture, and elocution. Miss Hilda Hastie ATCL, LTCL, a past pupil and teacher at the school, had a special juvenile class on Saturday morning at the School of Arts.

During the year, there was a record attendance of 1,331 in spite of the fact that several new schools had been opened in the district.

A very old friend of the Head Teacher, Mr William Payard, donated the bell which called the children to parade. However, the little kettle drum "...whose rhythm directed their footsteps to allotted places" was purchased through their own efforts. It was recognised early in the year that the percentage of children wearing the school uniform was increasing. It was gratifying to parents who, in the days of depression were finding it difficult to clothe their children, that with the introduction of the uniform the children needed one-half of the clothes previously used. Also, there was less washing and the children certainly looked more business-like.

The uniform for the girls was a navy pinafore with a square yoke, three box-pleats front and back, and a cream fugi blouse with a high collar and long sleeves. They wore a blue-lined Panama hat with a band of black and gold. The tie was black and gold diagonal stripes and the blazer was a dark, navy flannel with gold binding and a monogram on the pocket. Black shoes and stockings were worn. Their sports uniform was a square-neck navy tunic with white trim and the basketball uniform was a maroon dress with a white pique collar and cuffs, white socks and sandshoes. A triangular headpiece with CSS stamped on the front was also worn.

The boys wore grey shorts and shirts and a dark navy cap inscribed with a monogram. Their blazer, tie and hatband were the same as the girls. These uniforms remained the same for many years.

There was keen rivalry to see who would gain the Domestic Science Scholarships. The winners would be entitled to free tuition in cooking, housewifery, laundry work, and needlework during one full day in each week.

The School Ball was held on 29 August at the Hibernian Hall, Fiveways. It was the "Annual Plain and Fancy Dress Ball" which was held to raise funds for school improvements. It was a great success, and the Committee was congratulated on the splendid work they had done, also the staff who lived up to the best traditions of the service.

The first issue of the School Magazine was produced in December. The aim of those involved was to "... uphold the traditions of the school, to support educational improvement and to maintain pride in all honest endeavour." It was hoped that they could depend on the support of parents and pupils, both past and present.

Wattle Day, Arbor Day and League of Nations Day were enthusiastically celebrated with guest speakers. Armistice Day was observed with due solemnity – the school joining the rest of the nation who remembered and honoured the dead.

In the early part of 1932, the school was partly closed owing to the epidemic of Infantile Paralysis, so the necessity for patrolling the road was not so pressing, and the School Safety Patrol was disbanded. However, later it was reformed and became as strong as ever, with the help of

emergency officers who were available as patrols as vacancies occurred. Much valuable work was done on the road and also with discipline in the school grounds.

At the triennial meeting of the parents, which was held in March to elect a new Committee, competition was keen. The result was Frederick Charles Wiltshire, Chairman; Herbert Quaife Boyes, Secretary; James Watt, Treasurer; and others Edwin Richard Greenup, Herbert Robert Luke, Ernest Morgan Richards and Vincent John Clarke. Mr Greenup later left the district and Allan John McCallum was elected as his replacement. All incoming members were congratulated, especially Mr Wiltshire, who had been a committee man of the school for 19 years and had always done his utmost for the welfare of the school. Later, Mr Boyes went to Mt Isa and Mr E J Wruck was chosen to succeed him.

During a school fete on Saturday 29 October, the third section of the rebuilding scheme, another wing in brick, was declared officially open by the Member for the District, R M King MLA, who, it was felt, had a great deal to do with the erection of the new school and with the new septic system which was being installed.

The first issue of the School Magazine was very favourably received, with certain copies finding their way to the remotest places of Australia, while others went overseas. Although the general topic of the day was the Depression, and unemployment was rife, it was decided to continue the production with further issues.

Great changes had taken place in the school grounds owing to the work during the year of a number of intermittent relief workers. An outfield for cricket was almost complete, an additional tennis court had been excavated adjacent to the existing court, and a new basketball court was being made. All these improvements were of a great benefit to the children. Later, concrete walls surrounded by fences were to be built to protect the banks.

Mr Garret coached the drummer boys during the year and they showed a great improvement under his guidance.

During this year, 1932, the school established a world record, having four pairs of twins in one class. A pair of boys was admitted on the first day of the second half of the year and on the following Monday, three pairs were admitted- a boy and a girl, two girls, and two boys.

To make room for the next extensions, three wooden buildings – the original school built in 1875, the first addition of 1885 and the second of 1887 – were demolished in 1933. The little old school that had begun 58 years before on two acres of school grounds was no more. Its beginning was a landmark in the early history of the district. It was a sad moment. However, with the disappearance of the old buildings, a beautiful new brick building arose.

To mark the occasion of the demolition, a committee of past pupils comprising Messrs L Hawley, C Dickinson, H Coates and Misses Hilda Hastie, Gwen Becconsall, Margery Myers and Heatherbell Hinrichsen, organised a great Reunion Dance in the old room on Friday night, 28 July 1933.

The bells were rung to assemble the “school”, and the pupils danced under a canopy of black and gold streamers, to the music supplied by C Wiltshire’s Orchestra. There were over 300 people present and later in the evening they sat down to an enjoyable supper served in the basement of

the hall and supervised by Mesdames P J Barrett, C P Theaker, K A Lemon, F J Clifford, F Firkin, and J Huch.

The original idea of the committee was only to bring together past pupils in a social evening. However, the Sports Fund of the school benefited with £5 generously donated by the past pupils.

The whole of the available yard space was now graded, the main playing area was surrounded on two sides by a high concrete retaining wall, and the other two sides were being constructed. Three broad flights of steps led down from the parade ground to the main playing area. At the head of each of these stairways was placed a tubular arch, especially designed by the Head Teacher, Mr Hinrichsen. The second tennis court and the new basketball court had been completed and were in constant use. Many flower beds and hedges of hibiscus had been laid out and a special thanks was extended to Mr Tincknell, whose vegetable and flower plant nursery was in Shire Street, off Cavendish Road, for his generous gift of plants for the school gardens.

The rear building of the brick project was completed in 1933 with the addition of another wing. This fourth section cost £1,922 and the total cost of the scheme to that date was £11 513 and accommodated 800 pupils in 20 classrooms. It was opened on 30 September by the Member for the District, Mr R M King MLA. A "Queen Competition" was inaugurated by the Head Teacher to augment the School's Improvement Fund, and around August 1933, one "princess" was selected to represent each grade, and she then chose her attendant. In the first place, the princesses were nominated by their parents, but as there were more than seven nominations, a ballot was held, and one princess was selected to represent her grade. After working for three and a half months, the competition was closed, the winner declared and a crowning day fixed.

On 22 November, at the Roxy Theatre, the "Lord High Chamberlain", portrayed by Master Brian Luttrell, attended by Masters Gordon Dicks and Fred Johnson as Heralds, ascended the platform and read the Royal Proclamation, and to a fanfare of trumpets, announced the attendance of the first Princess – "Princess Deslea Wruck". The princesses then proceeded, accompanied by music, to their allotted seats on the platform and the Queen was crowned, surrounded by her attendants.

A handsome amount of £330 was raised and contributed to the fund, and the competition was repeated in other years.

With a membership of 24 boys, the Mouth Organ Band commenced practice on 3 April 1933 under the instruction of Mr H G V Edmonds. They made very good progress and in August, appeared at the Norman Park Eisteddfod, gaining second place and only one point behind the winners.

That same year, Mr Davies was transferred and the choir was handed over to Miss I C Webb, who found it difficult to recruit members, especially boys. Eventually numbers grew. The work of the choir continued in 1934 and the Department inaugurated a State School Eisteddfod. Coorparoo was placed second out of 37 in the Unison Choir section.

It was hoped that the final section of the school would soon be completed.

However, with the harsh effects of the Depression in the early thirties, the Government was forced to adopt drastic economies in all departments. Government building was drastically reduced.

Another 51 perches were acquired to enlarge the school grounds. The Education Department bought a house and land to the left of the school facing Old Cleveland Road from Mr M W Thompson for £1,206. One third of the cost was provided by the School Committee. The house was sold and demolished but the beautiful shade trees were retained.

The opening of the school year in January 1935 marked the beginning of the use of what was known as "Thompson's Property" as playground for the Infant School pupils. Part of the ground was graded and several flowerbeds developed to improve the area. The shady section was later named "Hinrichsen Park" after the Head Teacher in whose time the area was acquired.



Thompson's Property—New Kindergarten Playground

The original fence dividing the property and the existing hardware store next door, is still standing.

In August, the Committee purchased, at a cost of £75 paid from school funds, another 17 perch allotment from Mr A J Carter, adjacent to the Infants' new playground. Thus, in nine years, nine additions of land had been made to the school grounds.

The Committee, on the eve of their retirement, had much to be proud of. As well as the previously mentioned improvements during their term of office, other works had been carried out, including the erection of a pergola (£43), provision for a new lead floor in the shower room (£22), garden seats (£7) and a pedestal and sundial in Wolff Park (£15), and several other minor works. Money had also been spent on library books (£10) and assistance in the purchase of sporting materials.

Parents and guardians were invited to attend a meeting at the school on 5 March 1935, to elect the new Committee. However, the old members were re-elected and the same positions conferred upon them.

During the year, it was thought advisable to elect a Grounds Sub-committee comprising Messrs Watt, McCallum, and Clarke who periodically inspected the playing apparatus and the grounds, reporting anything that required attention.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the draining of the tennis courts. This matter was attended to, and other small purchases were made – an additional museum cabinet (£13/10/-), a roller for the courts (£11/8/4), an extension ladder (£3/15/-), and a barrow (£1/12/10).

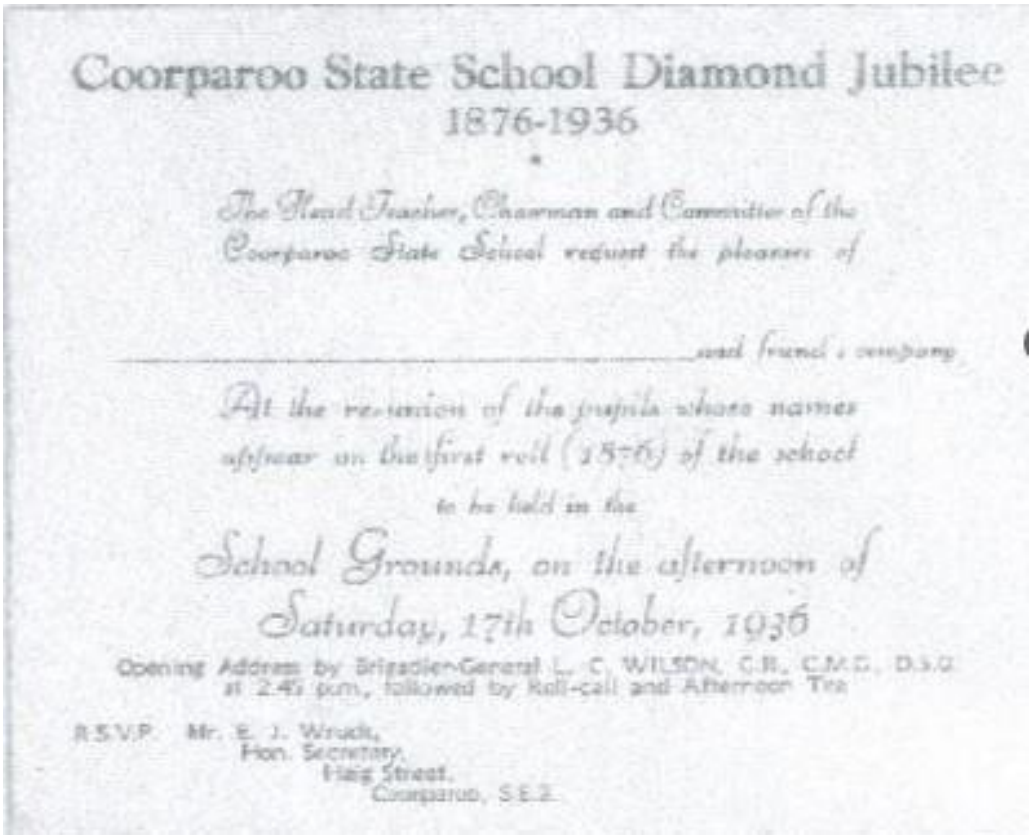
An Auxiliary Committee was set up and consisted of Messrs J Rodger, E H Frost, C W Shillington, J McFarlane, W J Trouton, V Blank, W H Shearer, D J Joll, F W Firkins, W Clarkson, A G Weeks, A D Wright, V J Clarke, H H Bayliss, G E Carrier, W G Cheyne and H T Callinan, and H Irwin (Secretary).

With so many children using the playground, groups, as far as possible, were allotted their respective play areas. However, although each group was supervised, accidents did happen – gravel rashes, cuts and bruises were the most common. An up-to-date First Aid cabinet was necessary and it was through the generosity of the local chemist, Mr A D Young, that stock was replenished whenever necessary.

At the beginning of the school year of 1936, the choir was divided into two separate divisions, a Girls' Choir and a Boys' Choir. Preparation was in progress for the second Queensland State Schools Eisteddfod. Interest of the boys was not sufficient so the two choirs eventually combined under the baton of Miss Webb. The work was arduous and although not successful in gaining a place, interest and activity of the choir was maintained.



This was the Diamond Jubilee year of the school, and it was somewhat remarkable that during the 60 years there had been but four Head Teachers; the first being J C Towell, followed by W H Halstead, J F Beet and the then present Head Teacher G H Hinrichsen. All connected to the school, they were somewhat disappointed that the rebuilding scheme had not yet been completed.



Coorparoo State School Diamond Jubilee
1876-1936

The Head Teacher, Chairman and Committee of the Coorparoo State School request the pleasure of

_____ and friend, company

At the reunion of the pupils whose names appear on the first roll (1876) of the school to be held in the

School Grounds, on the afternoon of Saturday, 17th October, 1936

Opening Address by Brigadier-General L. C. WILSON, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. at 2.45 p.m., followed by Roll-call and Afternoon Tea

R.S.V.P. Mr. E. J. Wruck,
Hon. Secretary,
Haig Street,
Coorparoo, S.E.2.

All first-year pupils had received invitations to a reunion to be held on 17 October, and the organisers hoped for a good response. However, the paths of these boys and girls had taken them in all directions, "... beset them with joy or sorrow, fortune or misfortune". Many of the thousands of pupils of the school had worked their way to prominence. The school was decked with flags and bunting and a brass band welcomed all. A dais was erected for the Head Teacher and official guests and another for the first-year pupils who managed to attend. The fete in the grounds was officially opened by Brigadier-General Wilson, a first-year pupil, and Mr Hinrichsen took the Roll Call. Geoffrey Stevens, the great-great-grandson of the donor of the land, held the ink-well into which the Head Teacher dipped to mark those answering the call. There were 28 present, as follows:

DATE	PUPIL NO	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	MARRIED NAME
31.3.1876	4	JONES	Elizabeth	FROST
	5	GREEN	Sarah E.	YOUNG
	9	FAUST	Margaret	McCANN
	10	LUTZ	Mary	LENNING
	11	WILSON	Lachlan C	
	17	CONOR	Judge John	
	19	McCANN	William	
	20	McCANN	James	
	23	ROBINSON	William	
	26	ROBINSON	Alice	TUCKER
	32	ROSSITER	Albin	
	33	ROSSITER	William	
1.2.1876	40	ROSSITER	Charles	
	43	HOLLAND	Fred	
	45	HOLLAND	Sophia	McLENNAN
7.2.1876	50	HARDING	Albert	
	52	FAUST	Mary	FOSTER

	56	HARRIES	Kate	
	57	HARRIES	Maud	
9.2.1876	59	EBERHARDT	Frederick	
28.2.1876	72	NICKLIN	George	
	73	NICKLIN	Alice	HORSLEY
2.3.1876	75	NICKLIN	William	
14.3.1876	76	STEVENS	Laura	FARNSWORTH
20.3.1876	77	LADE	Lucy	

The Committee had decided to take the opportunity of adding to the school's historical records with the photographs of the four head teachers who were in charge during the 60 years and the unveiling ceremony was conducted by Mr J I Brown MLA. The Committee donated the frames.

Mr and Mrs Hinrichsen entertained their invited guests at afternoon tea. A pleasant feature was the place card, which consisted of a picture of the original school, tied with the black and gold school colours.

The names of first year pupils of the Coorparoo School are in several cases perpetuated in well-known streets and suburbs, such as Holland Park, Stephens (Shire), Robinson Avenue, Nicklin Street, Klump Road and Lade Street.

The year 1937 marked the commencement of the establishment of a Government Circulating Library of Supplementary Readers in Primary Schools – 150 well-chosen books found their way into the school each month. Grades V, VI and VII were first to receive them and they were much ' appreciated.

The old duplicator needed replacing and was traded in by Mr Hinrichsen for an Ellams Rotary Duplicator.

Coorparoo School had, from the beginning, encouraged keen sportsmanship and was represented in Australian Rules, rugby league, tennis, basketball, cricket and swimming in all grades; also athletics. The Sir John Goodwin Cup was donated for competition among Metropolitan Schools in Girls' Sports which included basketball, tennis, swimming, vigoro and athletics. Scaled points were allotted for places in Premiership Finals. Coorparoo, being Premiers in tennis and runners-up in basketball, scored eight points and were awarded the trophy by the Queensland Schools' Association. They held that for that year 1937.

A coronation picture of His Majesty King George VI was purchased for the school.



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BACK ROW—
Left to Right
Fred Johnson (Herald)
Dulcie Boger
Daphne Shelley
Ivy Jones
Edith Blair
Princess Joan
Kathleen Campbell
Joan Gibson
Olive Aitken
Gordon Dicks

SECOND ROW—
Laurie Wyatt
Estelle Blank
Princess Shirley
Edith Hodge
Bruce Fletcher
Mervyn Reid
Brian Luttrell
Ailsa Cory
Audrey Irwin
Princess Betty
Gwendoline Hall

THIRD ROW—
Joan Luke
Noel Abbott
Gwendoline Reeve
Greta Stanford
Ann Smyth
Joyce Forsky
Gloria Hollyman
Eunice Young
Joyce Shearer

FRONT ROW—
June Luke
Princess Dulcie
"Billy" Wyatt
Princess Vulma
Joan Holdaway
Joan Herman
Queen Norma
Maxine Readip
Jean Otago
Princess Winifred

SITTING—
Pat Cranitch
Donald Kay
(Pages)

THE CORONATION GROUP

Repairs were made to the steps of the old school, the parallel bars and the swimming pool. Lattice-work and a boundary fence were erected, and the pergola was treated for white ants. Alterations were made to the irrigation system, garbage bins were purchased and arrangements were made for servicing. A groundsman was employed.

At certain times during 1938, the Grade VI girls had a weekly deportment class, which was held on the parade ground by their teacher. They formed a large circle and walked about erectly, receiving instructions on correct posture.

After school indoor sports, for threepence per week, were supervised at the Coorparoo School of Arts, Cavendish Road. "Self-respect – as shown to others" was a ground rule and these activities were enjoyed and appreciated by all who took part in them.

A nurse paid annual visits to the school and later, during 1938, the Department of Health sent a team of nurses and doctors to immunise the students against diphtheria.

Unfortunately, Mr Hinrichsen died suddenly on 17 March 1938, while still Head Teacher. He was the fourth in succession of the Head Teachers of the school and had served the Department and the parents of Coorparoo for 17 years. He had been a fine administrator and gave dignity to the school and the children attending it. He saw the school grow and part of the new building scheme completed, and did his utmost at all times to uphold the best traditions. He was suddenly taken, and of him it could be said that "…he lives in the hearts of many – very many – of those he left behind". Mr French was appointed Acting Head for six months until another Head could be appointed.

Chapter 6

1938 - 1944

Alfred McCahon

Mr Alfred Edward Archibald McCahon came to Coorparoo in August. He had been a former pupil of the school (No. 1819 in the admission Register on 6 July 1891). He came from a teaching family. His father had been a Head Teacher and his two brothers also were teachers. On several occasions, his mother served in the Department.



He had a wide and varied experience in the Department and his work had helped in the establishment of Rural Schools in Queensland. He was a pupil teacher at Glencoe and Charleville before becoming an Assistant Teacher in Charleville where he served for five years before taking up the position of Head Teacher at Cedar Creek, Leyburn, Springsure, Boonah Rural, Ross River, Townsville West, Toowong, and Nundah, before Coorparoo.

At a meeting on 15 March 1938, to elect the School Committee for the next three years, Messrs A J McCallum and E M Richards made known that they did not wish to seek re-election. Messrs Wiltshire and Wruck were re-elected and the other members were Messrs V J Clarke, R H Luke, H M McKay, and H J Frost.

Much work was achieved during the year. A rockery and water system were installed. An arris fence was erected with a pergola and steps leading down to the Infants Area. Lawns were established, also flower beds. Two long beds also had been prepared for experimental plots in which wheat, barley, oats, maize, flax, and other crops were to be grown. Forty roses had been planted, and each was in the charge of a child for its care and cultivation.

A fountain had been erected in Wolff Park and was surrounded by three circular flower beds of phlox and petunias.

A telephone was installed inside the school, a typewriter was purchased, pictures were attended to, Educational Gazettes bound, and more sporting material was purchased. Every endeavour was being made to make Coorparoo School second to none in Queensland.

Morning bell rallied the children to parade where they stood to attention under the flag while the band played "God Save the King" followed by a straight march into classes, girls first! This became a daily ritual.

School banking started at Coorparoo School on Monday 10 October 1938. Four hundred and fifty-two accounts were opened and a sum of £43/10/6 was banked.

Good use had been made of the Government Circulating Library of Supplementary Reading, and a new Reading Room was being planned, which would welcome books, magazines, and periodicals.

The school had a much-used radio and it was proposed to install a loud speaker in each room of the upper school. Departmental Heads spent considerable time examining various types of film projectors, particularly sound-on-film projectors, silent-movie projectors, and silent still-filmstrip projectors, wherever electrical current was available. These projectors were of particular interest because they provided spoken descriptions and dialogue, which the children had become accustomed to through experience.

A film library, from which film material would be available for hire, was to be established by the Department and would be ready by February of the next year.

A movement was afoot to provide a fitting memorial to the late Mr Hinrichsen. A suggestion was that a decent gate be erected at the main entrance prominently displaying the initials GHH.

Mr McCahon gave much encouragement and help to the Choir and their leader Miss I C Webb. With the entry into the Norman Park Eisteddfod, the boys and girls began to take more interest and regularly attend bi-weekly practices, resulting in gaining third place on the day and also top marks for the "own choice" piece.

The "Boomerang Mouth Organ Band" was reorganised this year (1938) under Mr V Edwards. There were 105 mouth organists, divided into three bands, the Senior, the Junior and the Infants. The former had the pleasure of broadcasting from 4BC in the sessions conducted by "Eddie the Mouth Organ Man" every Tuesday from 5:00pm to 5:15pm.

On 15 January 1939, at the Valley Metropolitan Baths, during the Queensland Swimming Championships, one of the school's pupils, Nancy Lyons, won the 50 metres Senior Women's Breaststroke Championship of Queensland and was the proud possessor of a first gold medal.

A series of lectures, given each month on subjects of interest, was introduced in 1939 for the benefit of pupils in Grade VII who intended to sit for the Scholarship Examination at the end of the year. These talks were conducted, where possible, on the last Friday of the month. The parents were invited and the various lecturers were Messrs Dr A Petterson, F Cross Manning, Holle, Chandler, Kidd, Eagers Limited, Jordan, and Ketterns.

Talks were on many subjects, e.g., Leisure, Health, Law, Thrift, Trade and Commerce, the Imaginary World, Travel and its Advantages, the Telephone.

At the beginning of the 1939 school year, the “House System” was introduced in order to promote a spirit of healthy rivalry in all schoolwork and games, also to induce the children to work for their house and promote a high and good school spirit.

The four houses which the school was divided into were Melba, Turner, Wentworth and Barton, and the colours of each were blue, red, white and purple respectively. Weekly competitions took place and Prefects and Captains were appointed.

Presentation cups were donated by Mr J I Brown MLA in connection with school sports.

Interhouse athletics were usually held at Langlands Park and the entire school, in house order, marched from the school, along Old Cleveland Road to the Park, with house pennants flying at the front of each group.

The Interstate Basketball Queensland versus South Australia was played on September 13th. The Ladies Committee entertained six players and 24 officials. Two pupils of the school, Harrold Skennar and Gordon Baird, had been selected to play in the Sydney Bruce Tennis Competition in October 1939. Money was raised for their fares, hats and blazers plus a little pocket money.

At the end of the day, the Bill Brown Sports Cap was presented to the boy who gained most points for his house. It was similar to a Cub/Scout cap but had a gold tassel attached to the crown. Bill Brown owned a sports store in the city and was a notable cricketer.

The playground games were seasonal but changed at times because the children became bored with them. The girls played beam – throwing a ball onto the rafters or beams of the cycle-shed. Skipping was an all-time favourite, also hopscotch. The boys played French cricket where the batsman stood firm and could not move his feet, putsy, where wickets were drawn on a concrete wall with no stumps used, and many varieties of marbles games.

Red Rover and many other popular games of the day were usually played by the lower grades. The upper years of Grades VI and VII concentrated more on schoolwork during playtime if they wished to pass the Scholarship Examinations which were the entry into Secondary School. Without it, it was difficult to obtain a job. Many pupils repeated Grade VII in order to obtain a good pass. At that time, leaving age was at least thirteen.

The Air Citizens Committee had received permission from the Department to hold meetings, once a fortnight, in number one room at the school. A request from Mr Brown, officer commanding the Coorparoo Branch requested that lights be installed in the room. However, as the old building was soon to be demolished, permission was denied. The League was advised that there were other places in the area available for hire such as the Scouts Hall in Harries Paddock. The group remained at the school and continued to pay one shilling per meeting.

Request was made to the committee to have accommodation provided for bicycles. At that time there were only 30 racks for 45 bicycles and pumps, lamps etc had been stolen because the bicycles were in an exposed position. Provision could be made for further space by battening between the stumps under the old building and the placing racks therein.

This year, the school had possession of a Visual Education Machine which was of great benefit to the children and was used daily. A deposit of £44 had been placed on a filmsound machine. Other

items also were purchased – porphyry, granite, etc. for a brick wall and basketball courts (£56), display panels for the school (£12), sports material (£110), printing, binding and stationery (£12), telephone rental and calls (£8), table covers (£5), labour in grounds (£5), and sundries (£15).

Miss Webb had left the school and Mr C W Edwards took control of the choir. Three separate choirs – Boys, Girls and Mixed were entered into the Easter Jubilee Eisteddfod. They received two certificates, of which they were justly proud, and with this encouragement, they entered the Norman Park Eisteddfod in November, winning first place in the Junior Choir Section.

During the War years, pupils were enrolled at the start of the school year and again in July of the same year for those who turned five years of age in the latter half of the year. Each term of Prep I to Prep IV was of a duration of six months. Later Prep I and II were amalgamated, also Prep III and IV, after which the pupils in the latter graduated to Grade I.

During these years, the girls from the Commercial High School in the city came to Coorparoo and had their lessons, shorthand, typing, and bookkeeping, in the buildings in Wolff Park.

At the beginning of 1940, an application was made to the committee from the Chief Air Warden to hold meetings, once a month in a school room for Air Raid Precautions work. Permission was granted.

As there was no tuckshop at the school, lunches were occasionally organised by the mothers who operated from the girls' shed. However, the children were permitted to go out to the local shops nearby where lovely food was available – pies and mushy peas, cream buns and vanilla slices from two bakeries in Old Cleveland Road. There was also a fish and chip shop in Old Cleveland Road. Sugarcane sticks and penny or threepenny icecreams were available from the shop directly opposite the lane. Sweets such as conversation lollies or lollies to be twisted on a stick from Bib and Bub at the end of the lane could also be bought. There was a bakery across Old Cleveland Road, opposite Mr Young's chemist shop. Unfortunately, most of these shops have long gone.

The school museum case was located on the second floor in the hallway between the two buildings. It contained shells and stones and some Aboriginal artefacts. This, unfortunately, was badly neglected.

Prep I to Prep IV had their own parade/assembly area which was located between two buildings. Each morning, an Australian flag was suspended horizontally from the second-floor hallway for this parade and another Australian flag was also suspended horizontally from the window of the central classroom on the second floor facing the main parade area.

The school bell once stood opposite the swimming pool on the corner of the small playground and was operated by a hand lever. Eventually, the bell tongue either broke or wore out and was replaced by a hand bell which was rung by a student on the half-hour to denote the end of the subject period. It was also rung prior to the start of school to let the pupils know it was time to assemble on the playground.

Unfortunately, the harsh effects of the Depression in the early 30s had serious effects on the reduction in school staff, supplies, and the provision of necessary amenities. Government funding was reduced to the minimum. However, the Coorparoo community had never relaxed in its efforts

to have the whole brick school project completed and at a school fete in June 1940, the Hon Mr J I Brown MLA, Member for the district, stated that work would be undertaken during the financial year 1940/1941.

Because of the War, there was no issue of the school magazine for 1940. However, publication resumed the following year.

During 1940, a public address wireless installation was set up in the school free of debt. The cost was paid for with monies received from the fete organised by the Ladies' Committee and from the King and Queen Competition. Ten classrooms had a speaker installed and a microphone. There was a gramophone attachment which enabled marches to be played. The wireless set enabled children and teachers to listen to the speeches of King George VI, Princess Elizabeth and President Roosevelt.

There were 12 males and 19 females on the staff to assist Mr McCahon.

The Prefects for the year were Joe Craghill (Wentworth), Peter Lyons (Barton), Luke Foreman (Melba) and Leslie Askin (Turner).

With the improvement of the economy in the 1940s, and after years of agitation through Members for the district, approval was received in January 1941 for the erection of the final fifth section of the brick school, comprising two floors with a play area underneath providing accommodation for 370 children. The Head Teacher's room was to be situated on the ground floor with staff rooms on each floor, fireproof stairs, cloak rooms, etc. Four classrooms on the ground floor were separated by folding partitions. The new building was to be connected to the existing building at ground and first floor levels by means of covered ways. The estimated cost was reported to be £17,252 and would replace three existing wooden buildings, two of which were to be removed to a suitable site in Wolff Park, where, after alterations, it was intended they would be used as Domestic Science and Vocational Classrooms.

Dr Pye, of The Brisbane and South Coast Hospital Board, advised that Coorparoo State School had been selected as a Dressing Station and Ambulance Post, to be staffed by a local doctor and a number of trained first aid workers with the supply of drugs and dressings for the injured, should any air raid take place. A letter setting out the requirements at each post was duly received and it suggested that voluntary transport by private motor car, motorcycle or push bike be organised. A meeting was held in the Lecture Room of the Brisbane General and South Coast Hospital. Messrs Watt, Luke, Frost, Mc Cahon, and Wruck attended to get the view of the other five committees which had been formed. The school was officially approved as a combined Decontamination and First Aid Post and a trial run of Motorcycle Medical Service Corps for South Brisbane was to be carried out. They were also advised to obtain staff for the Coorparoo First Aid Post. Eventually, Mr Sully was appointed Station Officer and Mr Blair was his deputy. Originally, the First Aid Post was to be set up in one of the old school buildings but eventually installed in the basement of the new building with beds and medical supplies. An air raid siren was mounted on an electric light pole outside the school in Old Cleveland Road. Air raid practice was carried out at the school. Slit trenches were dug around the small playground area facing Old Cleveland Road and sandbag trenches were made along the Wolff Park fence. All windows were crossed with sticking tape.

Unfortunately, the difficult years of the War had begun and delayed, for a while, the Government's promise.

As more monies were needed to pay for the Visual Education machine, it was decided to conduct another King and Queen Competition with representatives from the Infants, Middle and Upper schools.

At the appointed hour on 5 December 1940, at the Roxy Theatre, the Royal Proclamation announced Margaret Guthrie and Graham Freudenberg of the Infant School, Beryl Holdaway and Kenneth Gailey of the Middle School, and Joyce Cummings and Charles Mossop of the Upper School as the chosen princesses and princes. They were crowned with pomp and ceremony.

The Triennial Elections of the School Committee were to take place in 1941. However, sufficient numbers to constitute a meeting according to regulations did not attend, so those of the old Committee who were willing, were once again re-elected. Five were prepared to continue on. However, Messrs Frost and Clark did not wish to be re-elected, and their places were filled by Messrs Hastings and Lyons.

Two more females were added to the staff during 1941 and prefects for the year were elected. They were Gordon Sondergeld (Wentworth), Sean Aitken (Turner) Les Winton (Barton) and Elaine Weigh (Melba).

Many visits were paid to interesting and educational places during the year- Brisbane Museum, under the direction of Mr Bevington (a former inspector); the Flour Mill where the children were very interested in the treatment of various grains; a visit to Parliament House while in session, which gave the children first-hand knowledge of the mechanics of parliamentary procedure and process; and the Exhibition, to see the Cavalcade of Transport which was of particular interest to the boys.

Since the outbreak of the War, at morning parade, the children observed a half-minute's silence in honour of those boys who had been killed. "God Save the King" was then broadcast while they stood to attention.

During this time, knitting for "Our Boys" replaced the ordinary needlework. This work, scarves and socks, was distributed to relatives of pupils on active service abroad. Refugees received five rugs.

The Junior Red Cross Association was formed at Coorparoo School in order to do some War work. Under the direction of two of the teachers, Miss Wilson, assisted by Miss Edwards, they met on the first Saturday of the month. Their work consisted of knitting and sewing for the boys overseas and two very large parcels were sent to the Red Cross Headquarters. These were gratefully received.



Coorparoo Junior Red Cross Circle – Brisbane – 1943 (A Head)

The members of Barton House were the winners in the house system, with Turner a very close second. The winners of each week's "House Test" received 10 marks, second 5, third 3 and last 1. Barton House proved itself in the scholastic field if not on the sports field. "As in sport, so in work".

In February 1942, Mr Wiltshire, Chairman of the Parents Committee, was approached by Major Crawford and two other military officers who requested the use of the grounds and swimming pool for the Australian soldiers who were recuperating at Loreto Convent which had been taken over by the Australian Army as a hospital. Major Crawford assured the chairmen that those using the pool would be responsible persons. The matter was referred to the Director of Education and approval was given.

A special meeting was held in June to consider a request by Kodak, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, for the loan of the sound projector to the US Army with the assurance that it would be returned in good condition. Contact was made with Director of Education and, as the projector was not being fully used on account of the staggered school hours, permission was granted. It was also decided that it would be a fine gesture if it were made a loan from the children.

Mr McCahon was a great believer that "... the environment plays a big part in moulding character, especially in young children", and beautifying the grounds was one of his aims so that they would compare favourably with the new wing which was being erected. Little could be done while work was in progress. However, this would be undertaken at a later date.

At a meeting of the Parents Committee in May 1943, Mr Wiltshire (Chairman) and Mr Watt (Treasurer) announced their resignations. At a later date, it was decided to show the appreciation of all who had worked with them, with the Committee arranging for two Honour Tablets to be prepared to be hung on the walls in the porch of the main entrance of the school. Batstone and

Sons were commissioned and two designs were drawn up. Writing in script design was not recommended as this type was not suitable for persons living. Italian white marble tablets were chosen 24" x 17" x ¾" with lettering cut in and finished in ivory black. These were to be unveiled at the day of the opening of the last section of the school.

Finally, the last section was built in 1943 and opened on 22 October of that year by the Hon. A J Jones, Minister for Public Instruction. The project, which had been initiated 17 years before, had now been completed and a handsome brick building now graced the grounds where 67 years before, the little wooden bush school had first opened its doors to Coorparoo boys and girls.

The Department had been asked to concrete under the new buildings, level the ground, batten in portions underneath, providing seating accommodation, and provide facilities for drinking water. All hopefully would be done at a later date.

During this era, rugby league football was not played at Coorparoo because of the unavailability of teachers and contact was made with the Coorparoo High School about coaches. Soccer was the game.

A request had been made by the Director General of Education, through the Honourable Secretary of Queensland State Schools (Boys) Amateur Swimming Association, for the use of the pool one day a week in furtherance of the National Fitness Campaign. Thursday was set aside as the day for the use of the pool.

The Lilley Medal was awarded to the student with the highest scholarship mark in Queensland. Ian Egerton Cary, a student at Coorparoo School, won this prestigious award in 1944, bringing glory to himself and his school.

The continuous problems of the extent and condition of the school grounds became more accentuated and, in an endeavour to alleviate the situation, the school committee sought the assistance of the Member for the District in State Parliament, Mr T A Hiley MLA. In his reply of 31 January 1945 to the Committee, the Member suggested an elaborate and expensive program. Two of the main proposals were:-

"(1) To try to obtain some additional area for the school grounds by securing a portion of the back area of the Alexandra Home property next door to the school.

"(2) To have the playing field in the school ground re-surfaced."

Mr Hiley also warned of the difficulty that they would most likely encounter in having these and other proposals accomplished, as, with the termination of the War, great demands would be made on the Government for homes and materials and manpower would be needed for these, with public works having to take second place.

Regarding the suggestion of the Alexandra Home, it is interesting to note that earlier overtures had been made to the Church organisation regarding securing some of the property as additional school playground, but without success.

The struggles to have the improvements made dragged on for years and continuous approaches were made to the Home authorities. These were unsuccessful as far as purchase of the land was

concerned, but the Home authorities did grant permission to use some of the grounds for the purpose of sport and other activities at stipulated times.

Mr McCahon was appointed Acting Inspector of Schools for terms in 1944 and 1945 as a reward for his years of conscientious service.

In March 1944, Leonard Charles Unwin was appointed as Acting Head Teacher until another Head was appointed.

Mr Unwin made alterations to the house system. Previously, it extended down to the second grade only. He extended this to the Kindergarten and embraced sports as well. When a child entered the school he/she was allocated a House and stayed there throughout his/her school career and worked and played for the allocated House.

The trenches were to be filled in, but the Department advised they would not provide the labour or meet the cost. A working bee was organised by the committee.

The infants needed more seating during their lunch break, so eventually in September 1944, the First Aid Post was dismantled and the area cleaned. Improvements were made providing a clean shady area with seats for the little ones.

Chapter 7

1946 - 1956

Artemus White

Mr Artemus White took over in January 1946. He had a rather unusual entry into teaching, being appointed Head Teacher in Yeeam in 1912 before joining Toowoomba East staff as Assistant Teacher. He was appointed to Greenview, Richmond, Kilkivan, Dalby, and finally to Coorparoo as Head Teacher.



A. White, B.A. - Head Teacher,
1946-1956

Mr White obtained his Arts Degree as an external student. Much of his study had been done in remote areas under very difficult conditions. He was a keen mathematician, but his great love was literature.

In 1948, Mr White, to his great satisfaction, established a fine school library of 1,700 books in a well and suitably furnished room. Unfortunately, because of accommodation problems, it later became necessary to use the library room for teaching purposes and the books had to be distributed as class libraries.

The Committee for 1949 was H M McKay (Chairman), J Wruck (Secretary), W E Armstrong (Treasurer), R Evers and C Phillips.

In September 1950, bicycle racks were installed. The enrolment for that year was 1,167.

Mr Wruck retired after 16 years as Secretary and his place was taken by Mr J P Miller. Mr R Evers became Chairman.

The Library was officially opened in 1951 and notice boards were erected. Also that year, a shelter was erected for the children.

Work on the playground still dragged on and was only finally completed in 1955 at a cost of £760, with the school paying half the cost on a £ for £ subsidy.

Another Coorparoo student, Heather Vivian Thomsen, brought renown to the school in 1955 by winning the prestigious Lilley Medal.

Pupil numbers kept rising and it was necessary to erect a wooden structure in Wolff Park in 1956. This became the Infants' School.

Mr White left Coorparoo on 30 June 1956, but it was not the end of his teaching career. He had a great love of his profession and was later re-admitted into the service as a temporary Assistant Teacher at East Brisbane and later at Cavendish Road High where he taught until he resigned in December 1958.

Chapter 8

1956 – 1964

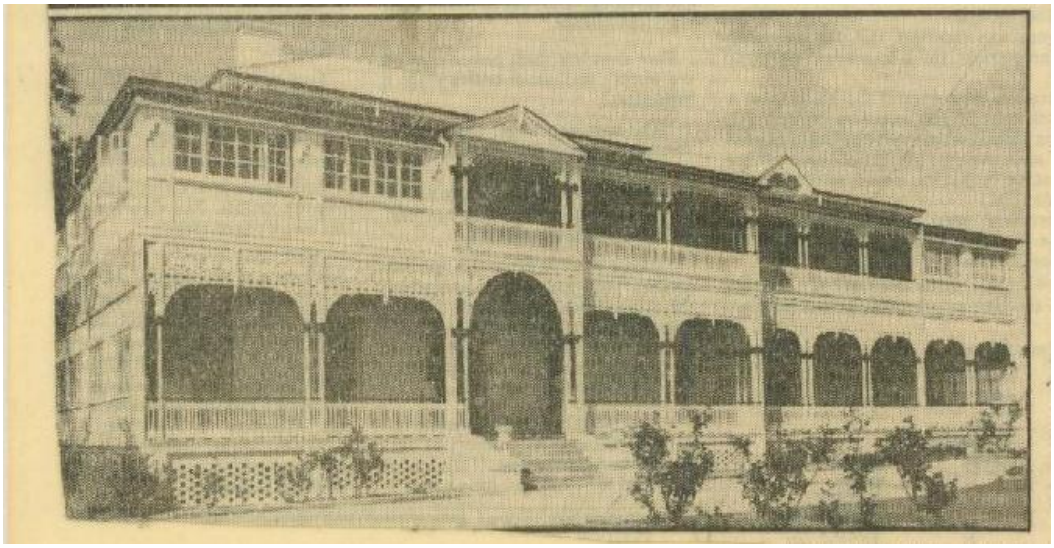
Leslie Carey

Leslie Thomas Carey replaced Mr White. He had commenced teaching at Dutton Park and Woolloongabba before serving in the Navy during World War I. On his return to teaching, he was appointed as an Assistant Teacher at Junction Park and later was transferred to the Central Practising School, which, at that time, was situated adjacent to what had been the Normal School. It occupied the old North Brisbane National School building and other wooden structures and extended from Adelaide Street through to Ann Street. While he was still on the staff, the school was demolished to make way for Anzac Square (1927). The pupils and staff were transferred to the Leichhardt Street School, later named the Central Practising School and much later becoming Brisbane Central. Mr Carey later had many positions and was Head Teacher of Maryborough, Clifton, Caboolture, Cairns North before coming to Coorparoo.



By the late 1950s, a high percentage of students were proceeding from primary to secondary school and the Department embarked upon a policy of establishing a ring of high schools in the suburbs of Brisbane. The existing Brisbane high schools would have been unable to cope with the rapidly growing numbers.

In that year, 1958, school enrolment was 1,600 and the efforts to obtain the land at the rear of Alexandra Home continued. At that time, the Methodist Church changed its policy on childcare from institutional homes to group family homes and negotiations with the Trustees for the sale of the home, land, and buildings, were finalised in October 1958.



Mr William Benjamin Postle, who had been a teacher at the school before joining the RAAF during World War II, had returned to Coorparoo and was appointed as Deputy Head Teacher in 1959.

Eventually, on 29 May of that year, the Trustees of Queen Alexandra Home advised the Superintendent that monies had been paid by the Minister of Education entitling him to possession of the unimproved portion of the land forming part of the property, comprising five acres at the rear of the Home.

On 25 June, the Secretary of the School Committee, T T Burnheim wrote to the Hon T A Hiley MLA, Treasurer and Minister for Housing, requesting his assistance regarding the clearing and grading of the land. By 7 October, the land had been cleared but no grading had been done, nor had a shed, which belonged to Alexandra Home, been removed. Another request was made to Mr Hiley by Mr D G Williams, the present Secretary of the State School Committee, to make representation on behalf of the Coorparoo School to the appropriate Minister, to have the area converted to a sports centre similar to that being constructed at the Buranda Boys School.

Two months later, in December, the Acting Minister for Education advised Mr Hiley that the Main Roads Department had completed clearing and grading the grounds but pointed out that the levelling of areas for sports was not the responsibility of the Education Department and that it would not accept responsibility for any further work and that " ...should the School Committee have prepared details of the work involved in the formation of a sports area and forward them to my Department together with an estimate of cost, the payment of subsidy, 50% of the approved expenditure, will be considered by my Department."

Owing to the fall of the land from north to south, a considerable amount of earth works was necessary before the area could be used. The Department had refused to level it and then did not offer a £ for £ subsidy if the Committee was prepared to do the work. The Committee felt that the Coorparoo School should receive the same assistance in creating playing fields as other primary schools had received, particularly as it was one of the largest primary schools in the state with one of the worst and smallest playgrounds at that time.

Unfortunately, the cost involved was well beyond their means and, once again, Mr Williams approached Mr K Hooper MLA, Minister for Transport, for assistance with this matter. In his letter

of 11 July 1960, he also requested that an approach be made to the appropriate authority "... to give to the school that piece of land lying between the Halstead Street footpath and the south boundary fence of the land under discussion, in order that this boundary could be moved south of the southwest corner in line with the existing school boundary and thus continued eastwards until it absorbed all the land not being part of the footpath." The land was to be used by the children, and it therefore would not be necessary for the council to be responsible for mowing.

Eventually, on 7 October 1959, permission was received for a new Infant School and on 29 August 1960, the infant classes, with their teachers, moved down the road to their new premises. The Acting Head was Miss Clatworthy who was replaced by Miss Mills for the commencement of the following year. The move helped to relieve the accommodation difficulties experienced by the remainder of the school.

In the 1960s, the Education Department had a policy of terminating the employment of some married women teachers at the end of each year to place teaching graduates into schools. This also saved the Department paying them holiday pay, long service, and sick leave.

The year 1962 saw the last of the Queensland State School Scholarship Examinations and in this year, 20 pupils from Coorparoo School gained marks higher than 90%. Alan Burns with 95% and Donna Randall with 94.5% were presented with prizes including the last award of the Graham Burden Bursaries.

A satisfactory reply was eventually received for the development of the area behind Queen Alexandra Home and in 1963, the Hon Mr Hooper, Minister for Transport, was able to present to the Committee plans for the development of the area. However, some time elapsed before tenders could be called.

The last children to move out of Queen Alexandra Home departed on 9 September 1960, and the building was developed as part of the Technical and Further Education (TAFE) College.

The school had kept up with modern requirements in its grounds and the matter of the filtration plant for the swimming pool was raised at a School Committee meeting on 5 March 1963.

Up until then, the water was changed twice weekly and treated chemically. However, 24 hours after filling the pool, it was impossible to see the bottom. Murky water could have been a threat to lives. The pool was used for 14 weeks each year.

The filtration plant was designed by architect William J Job and was installed in September 1964 by W G Utting and Co at a cost of £3,870.

Each year, on the first Friday in December, school parties with dancing and supper were held in honour of the departing Year 8 and Year 7 classes and had been most enjoyable. These parties had become a tradition in the school, and their success was due in great measure to the co-operation of the Ladies' Committee who, as usual, provided treats for children on Breaking-up Day.

There was always close co-operation with the Police Department, especially in the Camp Hill area; the Traffic Commission; and the Brisbane City Council regarding school transport and kerb space for picking up children on the streets adjacent to the school.

In 1965, during the school holidays, two classrooms at the Cavendish Road end were burnt down. Later these were rebuilt and taken over by the TAFE College. Typing classes were taught there for a couple of years before the area was returned to the school. However, it was eventually taken over again by TAFE and classes in sewing and cake icing were conducted there.

With the movement of Grade VIII pupils into secondary school in 1964, and with the opening of the separate Infant School, much more room was available within the school's walls for the development of very essential cultural activities.

After eight years at Coorparoo, Mr Carey retired in December 1964. He had been keenly interested in the academic life of the school but never lost sight of the physical needs of the pupils in their sport and play.

Chapter 9

1965 – 1974

John Trim

Mr John H Trim followed as the next Head Teacher for the following year, 1965.

He first came to the school from the Teacher's College as an Assistant Teacher in 1926 and three years later was transferred to Camp Hill. He began his many years as Head Teacher in the Mary Valley at Belli Park before going to Atherton, Miles, Rainworth, Richlands, Kelvin Grove, and Serviceton before Coorparoo.

Mr Trim was a descendant of Gottleib Klumpp, who was one of the first settlers in the Stones Corner area. Klumpp's son, John, was No 71 on the first roll of the Coorparoo School. Mr Trim's great-grandfather came to Australia in 1857, and his great-grandmother was killed by Aborigines at Logan Crossing.

Tenders were finally submitted for the playing fields and completed in 1965, soon after Mr Trim came to the school. To honour the man who had been Head Teacher almost throughout the development of this outstanding project and who had worked so hard to have it completed, the fine sporting ground was named "Carey Field".

During Mr Trim's time at Coorparoo, Mr Ken Noon was Deputy Principal.

The bush-covered two acres of land on which the original little wooden school had been built had grown to five acres of valuable property surrounding an imposing school set in the heart of the busy suburb of Coorparoo.

A new cricket pitch was laid at the eastern end of the field in 1965.

In 1966, Miss Guivarra came from Mt Gravatt where she had been an Infant Teacher. She came as a Music Specialist to a school steeped in musical traditions and worked closely with the choir and the Coorparoo Music Makers under the baton of Mrs Keith Christiansen. Many students became members of this choir, including Simon Gallaher.

Apart from the monthly contribution card sent to each family, no other financial requests were made of parents, so most of the fundraising was done with raffles, fetes, carnivals, balls etc.

Additional sporting facilities were provided in 1968 with two new basketball courts, topped with an "all weather" surface, at a cost of $12,615. The girls' playground was developed, tennis courts and parade ground resurfaced. Balconies were enclosed and additions were made to the ablution blocks. Also, the swimming pool was re-fenced and Carey Field's surroundings developed.



During Mr Trim's term, many changes were made in the syllabus, and he took an active part in this work when he was appointed a member of the Departmental Syllabus Committee.

The new Music Syllabus encouraged the development of instrumental music in the school. This gave Coorparoo an opportunity to lead as, with Mr Trim's encouragement and help, a small group grew to 100 children who were able to acquire instruments and be given tuition.

Four groups, percussion, string, woodwind and brass, were formed. Many learned violin, clarinet, trombone, trumpet and French horn. $7,000 was spent on musical instruments.

The Music Department was enlarged and had its own permanent section where instruction and training was carried out for those interested pupils. Also, the Music Teachers Choir was based at the school and had use of the room.

Five specialist teachers visited the school each year and gave tuition in the various instruments. All pupils were able to learn the recorder and the school had a Fife Band with eight members, also a Drum Band.

The Concert Band program, which is part of Instrumental Music, started in 1972 with Ken Begnel, Peter Berry and Ces Shaw.

Patricia Mallon came to the school in 1974 and introduced the Instrumental Music String Program.

Patricia was given three violins to use at eight schools. However, because it was impossible to share so few instruments between a number of students, interested Coorparoo parents bought their children their own instruments. In 1974, Coorparoo State School turned over $10,000 with students buying their own chosen instrument so as to enable them to be involved in the program.

With instrumental music, the basic requirements are to form either a String Orchestra or Concert Band within the school and for students to attend a group lesson once a week.



In the early stages of the program, Patricia Mallon and Peter Berry established an Area School String Orchestra and Concert Band so children could have ensemble experience. However, as the programs developed, each school was able to form its own String Orchestra and Band.

In 1975, the first Metropolitan Residential Instrumental Music Camp was held at Alexandra Headlands and students from the Coorparoo School were invited to attend.

At the end of the first year of the program, the school had a concert at the Coorparoo Secondary College.

The Instrumental Music Program has, over the intervening years, grown to be the enormous part of our school life that it is today. Patricia Mallon is once again supervising the String section of the program.

In 1971, equal pay was brought in for both sexes. Prior to this time, male teachers received a higher salary than women.

A library complex was developed from four classrooms, a spacious area painted, carpeted and a tiled work area was incorporated. The Education Department provided the furniture and the P&C paid for the lighting.

This project was completed in 1973 and housed 5,000 books, together with an abundance of audio-visual equipment.

A full-time teacher/librarian was appointed in January of that year and in the following year, 1974, a library aide was appointed.

A local resident, Henry Chadwick, made a gift of a complete set of goal posts with flags and protective padding.

The Coorparoo Lions Club, in a tree-planting project, planted 23 flowering trees around the school oval.

Mr Trim retired in 1974 and hoped to spend many happy hours pursuing his hobby of carpentry, turning out items he hadn't time for whilst Head Teacher.

One of the many highlights of his stewardship had been his care for children with learning difficulties. At the school, there were five classes which aimed at removing blockages in a child's learning process.

His dedicated drive brought the school to the forefront in culture and sport. Over the years the school cricket, football, tennis and swimming stars had their share of success.

Before a new Head was appointed, Mr Ken Noon was Acting Principal for six months.

Chapter 10

1975 – 1978

Hugh Quinn

Mr Hugh Quinn was appointed in 1975. He had two years teaching at the Kelvin Grove Teachers' College and was Acting Teacher at Charleville before being placed in charge of a small school at Beecher prior to joining the 2nd Machine Gun Battalion in the Armed Forces in 1940. He was taken prisoner at El Alamein during the North Africa Campaign on 27 July 1942 and was released on 5 May 1945.



Upon returning home, he rejoined the Department and was appointed as an Assistant Teacher at West End before going to Wheatlands as Head Teacher, then to Benowa, Slacks Creek, Newmarket, Maryborough West, and finally to Coorparoo as Principal in January.

He was very conscious of the school's great heritage and soon endeared himself to the pupils and all who served under him.

Up to the year 1975, teachers had separate male and female staff rooms. Finally, in this year, one room was provided for the staff.

In 1976, there were 828 pupils at the school from Grade III to VII and there were 24 ordinary teachers now on staff, with nine specialists. These comprised Principal, Deputy Principal, five part-time instrumental teachers and a music specialist, together with a physical education teacher.

Mr Noel Baker was Deputy at this time.

This was the school's centenary year and preparations for the celebrations on 10 April, were in progress. Mrs H Zemit, the Secretary of the P&C together with the committee, staff and parents, were working very hard to make it a successful time.

Invitations were sent out and acceptances from the past students to attend the celebrations had been received from as far afield as Victoria.

Festivities planned included art and craft exhibits, gymnastic displays, a merry-go-round, and four sideshows. A Centenary Booklet of the school's history from 1876 to 1976 had been compiled and was to be for sale. Commemorative t-shirts were printed and refreshments and a get-together of the oldest former pupils were planned.



A silent movie of a normal day at Coorparoo in 1943 was featured during the celebrations.

Recordings of the school choir, photographs and magazines were provided by the past pupils, and historical items of interest were collected.

Due to ill health, Mr Quinn had been working under extreme difficulties. However, his admirable qualities of leadership ensured the continuation of all that was traditional at Coorparoo. His enforced absence during preparations was most unfortunate and regrettable. Mr Ken Noon was Acting Principal during his absence and remained as such for six months until a new Principal was appointed. Mr Noal Bahr was Deputy during this time. The Director General of Education, Mr W. L. Hamilton, opened the ceremonies at 2pm.

Chapter 11

1978 – 1982

Pat Behm

Mr Pat Behm came to Coorparoo in 1978. He had begun his teaching career in NSW and his first school in Queensland had been Calvert. In 1974, he was appointed as Principal at Maleny and then at East Brisbane before taking up his appointment as Principal of Coorparoo State School.

ouse a shocker

Schools were rough, 45yrs ago . . .

Telegraph. 16th Dec. 1982

By PAT McGUINNESS

School teacher of 45 years, Mr Pat Behm, laughed when asked about teaching conditions at the beginning of his long career.

"My first department-provided school house at Calvert would be condemned these days," he said.

"The walls were a foot lower than the roof. My wife Marie and I used to lie in bed at night and watch the rats run along the beams above us.

"There wasn't any bathroom, we had no power, and the kitchen was only partly connected to the rest of the place.

"It was our first home in Queensland after moving from New South Wales, and we weren't sorry to leave it."

Same methods

Pat Behm retired this year as principal of the Coorparoo State School.



Retired school teacher, Mr Pat Behm, at home with his flowers.

With a career of teaching children year after year in 15 schools all over Queensland, Mr Behm has seen "a world of changes".

"The equipment, accommodation and money are now far superior, but as far as I'm concerned kids are pretty much the same today as they were back in the '30s," he said.

Special gift

"I think good teachers are using the same methods of education now as they were back then.

"A good teacher will almost always know how to help a child cope with his problems."

As Mr Behm sat in the lounge room of his Camp Hill home, he proudly displayed a basket of flowers — the parting gift from his Coorparoo State School students.

The previous year, enrolments were 570 but during the 12 months and at the beginning of 1979, numbers had decreased, which reflected the changing face of the Coorparoo area. Once one of Brisbane's middle zone suburbs, it had become an inner suburb. High rise residential was taking over and young married couples and families were being pushed into the outer suburbs.

Two classrooms were set aside in Wolff Park for COSMOS (Centre of Social Studies, Multiculturalism and Other Services). This was developed there by Barbara Petersen. Three Year 3 classes had the remaining classrooms, and the groundsman had his room under the building.

In 1981, Joan Fischle came to COSMOS and conducted seminars there and throughout the schools for principals and teachers. Early in 1982, the new syllabus introduced new strategies of TASK (Thinking, Attitude, Skills and Knowledge), four major objectives with emphasis on teaching ways to enhance the objective.

After teaching children year after year in 15 schools all over Queensland, Mr Behm left the school in 1982. During these years, he had seen a "world of change"...."Equipment, accommodation, and money were now far superior", however, " ... the children are much the same ..." as they were in his early days of teaching. "Good teachers are using the same methods of education now as they were back then. A good teacher will always know how to help a child cope with his problems." For a short time, Mr Behm was at the Regional Office, Mt Gravatt, before retiring to his home at Camp Hill.

Chapter 12

1983 – 1990

John Grey

Mr John Cecil Grey was the next Principal to be appointed, in 1983. He had begun his teaching at Anakie (Rockhampton), then Taringa and Parramatta before Coorparoo. He felt strongly that children needed to feel wanted and cared for.



There was no name calling in the school – manners were paramount. He instilled mutual respect as a Golden Rule and believed that "... if you have respect for children, they will respect you. It is the philosophy of caring and sharing that is so successful."

On 15 February, a new playground was prepared for both boys and girls, doing away with separate areas.

The President of the P&C authorised the development of a Computer Club during 1982 and Harry Milne, who was interested in computers, became inaugural Chairperson in 1983.

Substantial funds were provided by the P&C and, through the Club's efforts, enough monies were raised to purchase a Tandy System Network and Printer.

The club met on Saturdays and during the week the school had use of the computers. Mr Milne was Chairperson for four years until, in 1987, the Computer Club was disbanded.

The playground at Wolff Park had two separate areas – grass and cement. The grass section was the most popular, so the children changed around each week so that all benefited from their chosen area. At that time, these children were the youngest in the school. Year 4 shared these playgrounds.

In 1983, the teacher/librarian, Kathleen Holyoak, introduced "Children's Book Week" into the school. As some parents were not in a position to hire or make costumes, the children were requested to wear everyday clothes that portrayed their chosen character and as far as possible to conduct themselves (walking, talking, and mannerisms) in a similar fashion to the book character they were depicting. Each child had to wear a tag on which was printed the character's name and title of the book from which he/she had been taken. This was to encourage the children to read the book.



This proved to be a most successful activity, which was continued for many years. It was, however, discontinued for a time, but has now been re-introduced.

Leisha Harvey, the State Member for Greenslopes at that time, was a past pupil of Coorparoo State School. On 5 April 1984, at the School's Swimming Club's first presentation night, hosted by the foundation members of the Club, Ms Harvey presented the award for the highest aggregate points to Stephen Buchanan.

Through the initiative of the Principal, Mr Grey, and the members of the P&C Committee, the School was opened on a weekly basis to the community to provide an enjoyable venue for all to meet and mix.

The first opening was on 21 June 1984, with a flea market. Leisha Harvey presided at the official opening. The flea market was to be held every Saturday from 8:00am.



Just Scratching around

For Leisha Harvey, MLA (Greenslopes), there is nothing quite as fascinating as a flea market.

So, when Leisha attended Coorparoo State School's Flea Market she proved to be just as enthusiastic a bargain hunter as the crowds of parents and locals who browsed through the colourful stalls as the school band played.

In opening the market, Leisha congratulated school principal, Mr John Grey, and the P and C committee for their initiative in opening the school on a weekly basis to the community and for providing a fun venue for all to mix and meet.

"The actions of the school organisers I am happy to say are in keeping with the overall Coorparoo citizens keenness to promote community participation and awareness," Leisha said.

The Flea Market will be held every Saturday from 8am.

Pictured enjoying themselves at the Coorparoo State School Flea Market are Leisha Harvey (centre) with school principal Mr John Grey and local trader Olive Ashworth.

The actions of the School Committee were in keeping with the overall Coorparoo citizens' keenness to promote community participation and awareness.

During the 80s, there was a large Greek community in the area, and children of this nationality attended Greek language lessons at the school after hours.

Swimming Club members came from Coorparoo State School, Coorparoo Infants, Coorparoo High and Cavendish Road High Schools, as well as Our Lady of Mt Carmel and Church of England Grammar.

On 22 May 1986, two talented swimmers received trophies from Leisha Harvey MLA, State Member for Greenslopes.

Anne Tweeddale won hers for backstroke, breaststroke and all four stroke performances. Alexander Robey received awards for freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and medley performances. He also won the overall President's Trophy.

Mrs Harvey presented $455 to the Club from the State Government Department of Sport, to be used to assist families with funding for swimming coaches.

The 1986 Committee comprised Mrs S Buckenham, President; Mr J Baker and Mrs A Mills, Vice Presidents; Mr J Kelly, Secretary; Mrs M Bremner Treasurer; and Mrs D Cross, Assistant Treasurer.

In December, work commenced on a tuckshop in B Block and staffroom facilities were moved to the old male staffroom upstairs. Also in December, the P&C provided $160 for marking out bitumen for hopscotch, compass, and Jack and the beanstalk.



Over the years, there had been a few changes in the school uniform. The original girls' uniform was a navy pinafore with box pleats coming from a square yoke under which was worn a white blouse. Fourteen years later, a more fitted tunic was introduced with a white trim around the neck, with a navy cardigan and white Panama hat with blue trim. The boys wore grey shorts, grey shirts with the school colours – black and yellow – as a trim on the sleeves. Socks were grey with the trim.

The girls' uniform changed again to a yellow blouse under a Coorparoo grey-check, belted, gym tunic, while the boys' uniform remained unaltered.

In 1997, the following school uniform policy was introduced.

BOYS' FORMAL UNIFORM

Grey shirt with Coorparoo colours;

Black shorts;

Grey socks with Coorparoo colours;

Black enclosed footwear.

BOY'S SPORTS UNIFORM

Gold and black Coorparoo School sports shirt;

Black shorts;

Grey socks with Coorparoo colours;

Black enclosed footwear.

GIRLS' FORMAL UNIFORM

a) Grey Coorparoo check all in one dress, OR

Grey Coorparoo check overblouse with black culottes;

b) Plain gold socks;

c) Black enclosed footwear;

Hair accessories should be in school colours (black, gold and/or grey)

GIRLS' SPORTS UNIFORM

Gold and black Coorparoo School sports shirt;

Black culottes or black netball skirt;

Plain gold socks;

Black enclosed footwear;

Hair accessories should be in school colours (black, gold and/or grey).

WINTER UNIFORM FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

During the colder weather, the above uniforms are supplemented by a track suit, comprising:

Black track pants with COORPAROO printed down the leg in gold;

Grey track top with black trim;

An OPTIONAL black and gold Taslon jacket.

SWIMMING REQUIREMENTS

Swimming togs;

Swimming Cap;

Shirt for sun protection.

SCHOOL HAT

The black, broad-brimmed school hat is to be worn at any time the students are out of doors, including:

To and from school;

At parade;

During recess and lunchtime;

When running messages;

On excursions.

The SCHOOL HAT is automatically included in all variations of the uniform detailed above. The rule "NO HAT NO PLAY" applies to all students.

Whilst the school uniform is not compulsory, it is felt that the wearing of it greatly contributes to the tone of the school. The school encourages students to take pride in the school and in their appearance. It also identifies the pupils outside the school. The school uniform shop, operated and staffed by volunteers from the school community, operates daily from 8.00 to 9.00am.

For eight months in 1987, Coorparoo School played host to a Japanese Primary Teacher, Yoko Yoshinara. She conducted classes for Years 1 to 7 in Japanese language, culture, traditions and art, and taught the oriental art of flower arranging. She was invited to Australia as part of the International Internship Program. Through the program, teachers and other interested people visited countries to work with school children and promote a better understanding of Japan. The program operated throughout the USA, Canada, and Britain.

At the P&C AGM on 10 February 1987, the following were elected as office bearers:

Bruce Wilson (President), Ken Baker and Jill Thompson (Vice Presidents), J Kelly (Secretary); Marion Bremner (Assistant Treasurer). There were no nominations for the position of Treasurer.

Coorparoo State School Year 6 children and their families were privileged to experience a cultural learning evening on 23 April 1987. The Kia Ora Kiwi Club Inc of Ipswich gave their time to demonstrate the art of putting down a hangi, the Maori oven in which food is steamed over hot stones in the ground.

The children witnessed firsthand the values and traditions of another culture in the manner in which learning from books could never equal.

After being without a tuckshop for 111 years, it was a great day for celebrations when one was officially opened on 14 May 1987, by the Minister for Works and Housing the Hon Ivan Gibbs, assisted by Leisha Harvey, State Member for Greenslopes.

The Infant School enrolment had been falling steadily for years and both parents and administration felt a need to amalgamate the two schools. Coorparoo area was suffering from the inner-suburb syndrome and had become an area too expensive for young couples.

Permission was given by the Minister for Education for the Infant School to once again be part of the primary school, and this took place at the beginning of the second semester in 1987. However, both schools remained on separate campuses. Miss Dorothy Kerlin was the Infant Principal at the time and later transferred to East Brisbane Primary.

A Competition was held to rename “Stoney Field” which lay between the shed and Halstead Street. It was conducted throughout all grades and 6B were the winners with the successful entry being submitted by Kate Reilly. The winning entry was “Kijini Oval”. Kijini is an Aboriginal word meaning “playground” so was an appropriate choice, as it is one of the main school playgrounds, and Coorparoo itself is also an Aboriginal name. At a P&C Meeting on 17 February 1988, it was announced that from then on, the field would be known as “Kijini Oval”.



New office bearers were elected at that meeting – A Deutscher and Peter Stevens were nominated as Joint Vice Presidents, both accepting; Bruce Wilson and Marion Bremner accepted second terms as President and Assistant Treasurer respectively; and Val Salter and Lyn Ure took on the positions of Secretary and Treasurer.

On a Saturday during Expo in 1988, 32 Year 7 primary students showed Expo audiences what fun, Maori style, was all about. Under the direction of their teacher, Tricia Helford, they had learned the finer points of the haka and having donned Maori dress, entertained New Zealand Pavilion visitors. The Poi Action song was also performed.



In January 1989, approval was given for access paths to be laid from the Halstead Street Gate and for entry to Talbot Street, from the school.

Kijini Oval was established in January/February and additional playground equipment added to the existing metal ones at a cost of $6,226.

Ray Park was elected President of the P&C at the AGM on 22 February of that year. Paul Stevens and Steve Carney were elected as Vice Presidents, Margaret McCann as Treasurer and Juleia Regan as Assistant Treasurer. Val Salter remained as Secretary.

The number of pupils enrolled increased within the next few months to 433. Smoking was banned in all schools and surroundings on 1 July.

The school leaders for 1989 were Sonia Deiric and Andrew Caltmill as Captains, with Michelle Gear and Andrew Trigg as Vice Captains.

Weekly newsletters were instituted in May and most of the principal's reporting was done through this avenue. This provided a link between the school and home which was necessary for both to work together for the benefit of the children. All school events were communicated through this newsletter.

The first trip to Japan for 20 children was held on 10 July 1989. It was organised by a teacher, Noel Madden, and accompanied by his daughter, teachers and two Japanese language students from Queensland University.



Marvellous Japanese jaunt

A VISIT to a Soroban (abacus) school and a ride on the famous Bullet Train were highlights of a first-hand Japanese lesson for 20 Coorparoo Primary School pupils.

Teacher and group leader Noel Madden said the two-week jaunt to the Land of the Rising Sun was "marvellously successful".

"We were amazed at the calculating speed of the kids at the Soroban," he said.

"Our pupils learned about cultural and school life by going to school and living with Japanese families, rather than just seeing the sights.

"Their Japanese has improved, too. They can pick up more of what's being said."

Mr Madden's daughter Cathryn , who speaks Japanese fluently, helped chaperone the group.

One of two groups of 10 pupils went to the Nagano primary school, the other attended Kanariya Nishi. Both are in Yokohama.

The trip to Tokyo took almost two hours in conventional trains. The return ride took 15 minutes in the Bullet.

Mr Madden began teaching Japanese at Coorparoo five years ago.

Pupils from any Year can take part in a one-hour lesson after school.

Japanese children may visit their new Aussie friends next year.

• Teacher Noel Madden (far left) and souvenir-laden pupils after their trip.

They spent two weeks in the 'Land of the Rising Sun' and the pupils learned about culture and school life by living with host families and going to school.

One of two groups of ten pupils went to Nagano Primary School and the other to Kanariya Nishi, both in Yokohama. They paid a visit to the Soroban (abacus) school and had a ride on the famous Bullet Train.

On 27 September, work began on filter system which was to be inserted in the swimming pool. Safety rails were installed around the pool and new starting blocks were built at a cost of $59 each.

As Australians became more aware of the need to protect themselves from the hot sun, a large shelter shed was approved for construction and work commenced. Children were given certificates for wearing hats, so it was appropriate when Mr Grey was given one.

Margaret McCann and Julia Regan (Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the P&C) were the only two members of the previous P&C Committee to accept re-election for 1990. Ian Triggs was elected President, Barry McCann and Anne Landsberg Vice Presidents, and Steve Eldridge Secretary.

Instrumental music gained a stronger footing in the early 90s. Music 'Proms' at Queen Alexandra Home were organised. However, the venue later became too small and was moved to Coorparoo Secondary College. The performances of Junior and Senior Bands, Choirs, String Orchestra and ensembles, Fife Band and Recorder Groups, were of an increasingly high standard.

On 16 May work began on the Amenities Block.

On the last day of June 1990, after seven years at the school, Mr Grey left, having been promoted to the position of Principal of Redbank Plains, a Class 1 school.

Chapter 13

1990 – 2000

Matthew Heard

Mr Grey was replaced by Matthew Heard in July of that year. His first appointment had been to Ironside State School and then to Healy, Maxwelton (near Richmond), followed by Principal of Mt Marrow (near Marburg), Mungallala (near Mitchell), Elimbah (near Caboolture), Theodore and Bulimba, before Coorparoo.



A music specialist was appointed in that year, 1990, the first in 14 years.

All Year 7 students were given the opportunity to write a persuasive speech as part of the election process for the positions of school leaders. The positions were boy and girl School Captains and Vice Captains, together with six House Captains (three boys and three girls). All these positions were voted for by the Year 7 students. Since 1999, these elections have been carried out among the Year 6 children at the end of the year, so that those elected are in position for the start of the new school year.

Major political changes around 1990 saw the closure of the South Regional Departments and smaller District Offices were set up. Fewer consultants were available and emphasis placed on funding in different ways.

1991 saw the closure of COSMOS and the two classrooms were returned to the school and much work was done to the buildings and grounds.

In December 1990, a group of 20 Coorparoo students aged 10 to 11, together with a group of parents, travelled to Italy. They stayed with host families in Noceto, a town close to Parma in northern Italy, and attended classes in the town's Middle School. After Noceto, they took two bus

trips through the north, including Venice, and had three days in Rome where they visited the Vatican and museums before returning home on 16 December.



In 1991, language students were entered in the Italian Primary Choral/Speaking Eisteddfod.

Four of the previous year's P&C Committee were re-elected at the AGM on 20 February 1991. The two new office bearers were Mr R Landsberg as Treasurer and Ms Kerry Daly as Assistant Treasurer.

An exchange program with Coorparoo's Japanese sister school, Nagano Public, was consolidated, and a tour was made in 1991. A warm and enduring friendship developed between the two schools.



Every second year, students from Years 6 and 7 travelled to Japan for a two week visit and every alternate year visiting Japanese students and parents were hosted by Coorparoo School families and staff.

The school Honour Roll was begun in 1991, and the boards hang in the school foyer opposite the office.

More changes occurred at the yearly P&C Meeting. Beth Gordon was elected President for 1992, and Kerry Daly was elected Treasurer. Robyn Miller took over as Assistant Treasurer.

In 1992, Coorparoo Primary School received a "Highly Commended" in Category 4 (Schools with more than 500 pupils with a groundsman), in the "*Tidiest School*" Awards.



In 1992, the LOTE (Language Other Than English) program was introduced into the school, and both teachers of Italian and German came under the jurisdiction of the Education Department.

At the time, the educational rationale for learning LOTE was:

Learners achieve competence in a language other than English and they also learn how language works, thereby extending literacy skills;

Learners develop general knowledge about other countries;

Learners develop transferable cognitive thinking skills.

German has long been recognised as one of the world languages, the language of culture and philosophy, spoken by millions as their mother tongue. German is an official language in seven European countries. Of all languages taught in Australian schools, German is the most closely related to English and so many German words are easy to understand. German forms part of the Australian cultural heritage having been the language of many early settlers. Many areas of Queensland were first settled by German people, (e.g, Nundah, Rosewood, Wide Bay, Fassifern and Brisbane Valleys).

Italian and English are related languages as they both belong to the Indo-European family of languages. English has borrowed from many languages including Italian and Latin. Many Italian words are international in fields such as architecture, music, food, fashion design and banking. A knowledge of Italian provides easy access to other languages such as French and Spanish. Italian

people and people of Italian descent comprise approximately 30% of the modern Australian population, which indicates the extent of previous Italian settlement in this country.

The Italian language was taught in Years 1 to 3, and German in Years 4 to 7.

On 20 July 1993, Coorparoo School children took part in a procession of some 200 - 300 school children. Street theatre style, they marched under police escort from the Botanic Gardens to the Southbank Plaza, where the Mosaic Festival was opened by the Executive Director of the Metropolitan East Region, John Fitzgerald. The Gala Presentation Night was held at the City Hall on 17 August, and featured school bands and orchestras. The Coorparoo Choir performed and each member received official certificates. The function was compered by Ethan Arnow, Music Regional Director, and Glenn Taylor from Channel 10. "Mosaic", a 'Regional Festival of the Visual and Performing Arts', provided an excellent showcase for the achievements of teachers and young people, encompassing instrumental music, art, dance, choral work etc, from special primary and secondary schools in the Metropolitan East Region.

A new adventure playground and car park were built at Wolff Park and renovations were made to the buildings in 1993. Also, a tennis court and toilet block were added at a cost of $6,906.

For the third time, the school entered the 'Tidy School' Competition. Particular emphasis was on recycling paper, aluminium cans and compost. After all the hard work, the school looked cleaner. Wolff Park, which three years ago had been a virtual dust bowl, had changed into a beautiful area full of plants, paved pathways, and play equipment. It became a most attractive area.

Bill Whale was appointed Deputy Principal during that year.

Anne Landsberg was elected President of the P&C on 20 October and Lorraine Jones Vice President, together with Beth Gordon. The Secretary was Christine Humphreys and the previous Treasurers remained in office.

At the World Calculation Championships in Seoul Korea in 1994, 100 contestants attended from many countries, including Australia, Brazil, Japan, Korea, and China. Rowan Shanke, a pupil of Coorparoo, was the only Australian representative. He was a student of the Soroban, a system of Japanese Maths and came away with a medal for participation.

A reunion of former pupils was held in 1994 and attracted over 600 people from all over Australia. A great celebration with a variety of festivities was held, including a tour of the school. Many memories were shared and never was the phrase "Coorparoo State School – A Part of the Community since 1876" better exemplified.

The P&C Committee remained the same for this year.

A larger corridor, which ran along the entrance of the school to several classrooms, was converted into an art gallery. Paintings by pupils were selected by a school Art Committee and professionally framed. The art gallery has grown enormously, with new pictures from the students being added each year. The gallery is now situated in both the hallway running along the administration corridor and the school foyer.



Anne Landsberg was re-elected as President of the P&C in 1995. Ralph Mantell and Sue Ready became the Vice Presidents and no Secretary was elected. The previous Treasurer, Kerry Daly, and Assistant Treasurer, Robyn Miller, accepted offices for a third term.

Two teachers, Mrs Coates and Mr Quittenden, conducted after school chess classes, as extracurricular activities for a couple of years from 1995. In the second year of operation, they were very fortunate to have the assistance of Mr Ken Barker, the chess teacher from Churchie. He brought his expertise to the club, and his efforts were greatly appreciated. The children paid $2 a lesson, which went towards rental of the room and photocopy handouts. The teachers, as well as the children, benefited from these lessons.



On 19 April 1995, the Year 6 students marked the centenary of Banjo Paterson's 'Waltzing Matilda' with performances of three of his most famous works:

'The Man from Ironbark', 'A Bush Christmas', and 'Waltzing Matilda'

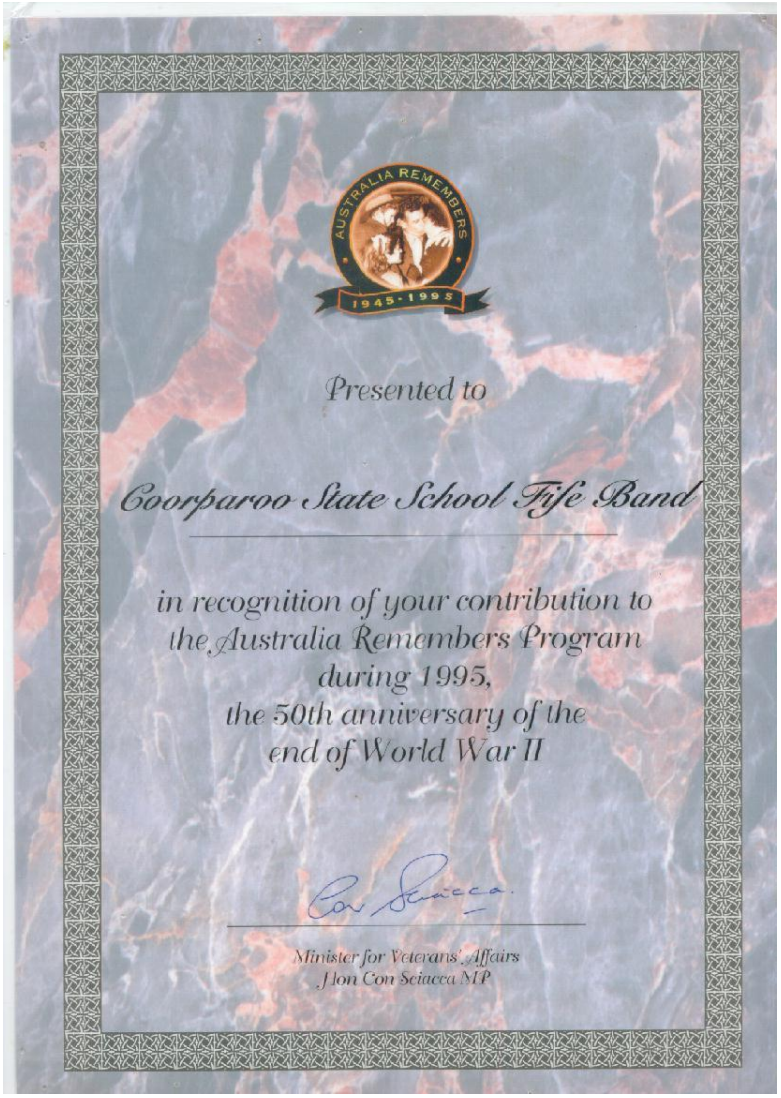
The children dressed as Banjo's characters and the school was overrun with men from Ironbark and Snowy River, swagmen, shearers, Mulga Bills and coolabah trees! The day ended with a choral presentation of "Waltzing Matilda".



In May, Coorparoo School celebrated the enrolment of its 10,000th pupil.

The school Fife Band had a special place at the VP Day March, through Brisbane inner city on 6 September. Coorparoo was the only school represented in the original 1946 parade.





In 1996, Helen Coman was appointed Deputy Principal of the school. At that time, computers were also secured for the Principal and Deputy Principal, two for office staff and the Finance Officer. This significantly enhanced administration technology.

In 1997, the Principal, Matthew Heard, travelled overseas for a twelve-month exchange at an English School in Weston-Super-Mare. The school's Acting Principal for the year was Ms Chris Ling, supported by Ms Helen Coman as Deputy Principal.

In 1998, the number of children at the school was approximately 520, from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. The Coorparoo area had a well-established stable population and the school itself was located in the business and administration centre of the suburb. The school enjoyed a high level of public support, not only from those whose children attended the school, but from the general community. Although the school population contained children from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, the number of non-English speakers was small. As part of a government initiative, in 1998, the school was chosen as a Leading School. A School Council was elected in October of that year.

As a Leading School, Coorparoo received a head start to its technology program through funding from the ConnectEd program. This allowed two computers in the library to be connected to the Internet. Kilometres of fibre-optic cabling were installed through the school connecting the computers with the Hub (the brain centre of the system).

Every teacher on staff received inservice training on the use of the Internet and the MALT plan (Management and Leading Technology) was finalised. The staff was involved in the Unicorn Project which involved teachers' professional development in using enrichment and extension activities in the classroom.

In 1998, a Student Council was established and students from Years 3 – 7 were eligible to be voted as councillors. Monthly meetings were held with the Deputy Principal, who was the overseer of this group. Among their aims were:

To assist in communication between staff and students;

To provide opportunities for students to exhibit leadership qualities;

To be a forum for issues of importance to students;

To allow students to develop an understanding of meeting procedures;

To assist school captains in running school functions;

To provide an avenue for fund-raising for school/student/community needs;

To develop student ownership of school activities.

During this year, an Aboriginal Teacher Aide was employed to work especially with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

A Grounds Committee was established to oversee ground development and provide safety inspections. Many landscape projects were being completed and Saturday morning working bees commenced during this year.

A number of grounds projects were completed this year, including seating on Carey Field, the 'Little House' sandpit was caged and lined at the Junior Campus, and a fence was built along the side of the Junior car park. Parent volunteers transformed the whole of the Junior School quadrangle into a garden with seating for the use of the Grades 1 and 2 children. The basketball courts at the Senior Campus were also resurfaced and a sports shed erected on Kijini Oval.

During this year, information sessions for parents were conducted on:-

Helping your child with Reading.

Helping your child with Maths.

What is a Leading School.

During Terms 1 and 2 of 1999, there were massive renovations carried out at the school.

A new tuckshop was completed, and a sub-committee of the P&C (the Services Committee) was formed to operate the Tuckshop and the Uniform Shop, now under the one roof. Both were managed on a daily basis by a convenor and a small band of invaluable volunteers.

The emphasis was on providing healthy choices for the children, so the Tuckshop became a member of the Australian Nutrition Foundation (ANF) and the Queensland Association of School Tuckshops (QAST), from which a wealth of valuable information about the application of good nutrition in tuckshops was obtained.

The tuckshop was open every day and provided both morning tea and lunch. It operated on a bag system where a child's name and order were written on the front and money placed inside. The bags were collected each day from classrooms.

The summer menu was sent home at the beginning of the first and fourth terms, and the winter menu at the beginning of second term.

In 1999, a Workplace Health and Safety Coordinator, Mrs Mary Hooper (Yr 7 Teacher), was appointed to oversee school practices and policy. A portable St John Ambulance first aid kit was supplied to each teacher, and a staff workshop was held on first aid in the playground.

Renovations featured a new administration centre to include a reception area, staffroom, offices for the Principal and Deputy Principal, a first aid Room and a health room for visiting Child Health Nurses. Curtains were fitted and plants placed in the corridors.

The building project included a computer laboratory and its accompanying infrastructure, provided a profound boost for technology in the learning environment. The networking of the lab and the connecting of the classroom computers to the internet were other great leaps forward.

A year 5 teacher, Mr Chris Kelly, took on the role of Computer Co-ordinator and provided the students with the opportunity to use the computer lab at lunchtime and after school.

In July 1999, Leontine Bolam was appointed as Deputy Principal.

In 1999, Coorparoo School became a trial school for the new Learning Technology Syllabus and involved two teachers (Gayle Healy and Sue Veal) and the Deputy Principal, Leontine Bolam, in

trialling elements of the syllabus in their classrooms and reporting the results to supervisors. A computer technician was employed for several hours a week to provide maintenance and repair.

Furniture was replaced in the Year 3 and 4 classrooms and Years 1 and 2 had their desks and chairs upgraded. Two classrooms in A block were increased in size and enhanced through the removal of a partitioning wall.

“Destination Deep”, an interactive learning tool and display, was presented to classes at the school in September by Destination Education Australia. “Mysteries of the Oceans" aimed at “ ...educating pupils on the biological importance of the oceans and its use by man, and the food chain and relationship which exists between deep-sea animals”.

Using light, sound and luminescent displays, pupils were transported to the bottom of the ocean to experience life in a world of no light or sound. One of the world’s largest mammals, the sperm whale, was set up in life-size form, towering 7m high and extending 13m long in the courtyard between A and B blocks.

Over the last few years, many changes had taken place in the Coorparoo area of which the school is a part. Many of the open spaces had been, or were being, developed with units, tower and cluster houses. The Brisbane City Council introduced the ‘City Plan, Brisbane 2000 Scheme’, which allows the creation of small lot allotments, thus bringing many more families with children into the area, which meant more enrolments for the school.

As a result of enrolment growth, and the planned transfer of AccessEd to the Queensland Alexandra Home Community Centre, it was once again necessary to consider redevelopment at the Coorparoo School. Discussion began in 1999, with a survey involving parents of Years 1 and 2 children to determine the best options.

Matthew Heard left Coorparoo at the end of first term in the year 2000.

Chapter 14

2000 – 2010

Greg Kretschmann

Mr Heard was replaced by Greg Kretschmann as Acting Principal for the rest of the year. He was appointed Principal at the beginning of 2001.



Mr Kretschmann commenced his teaching career in 1974, with appointment to the State School for Spastic Children (New Farm).

In 1978, he received his first appointment as Principal to the one-teacher school at Prairie. Promotion to higher levels of the principalship rapidly followed. From 1979 to 1981, he was Principal of Cootharinga State Special School in Townsville. Here, he undertook pioneering work in the development of curriculum for students with multiple handicaps. The Ministry of Education – Singapore implemented aspects of this curriculum in their schools. A further year was spent as Principal of Kuraby State Special School in 1982.

Appointment, in 1983, to Camp Hill Infants' State School as Principal followed. A new syllabus in Science and a new program in handwriting were implemented during this time.

In 1986, he received the challenging appointment as Principal of Aurukun State School – an Aboriginal community school on the isolated west coast of Cape York. Curriculum work continued with much effort focusing on the implementation of bilingual education programs. His work was published in *The Aboriginal Child at School*.

After three years in Aurukun he was appointed as Principal of Whites Hill State School in 1989, where he served for the next 11 years. Extensive work was undertaken during this time in the areas of school-based strategic planning and curriculum development. As a leader in these fields, he was seconded at times to the regional office to work with other schools. The Ministry of Education

– Fiji and Ayrshire Local Education Authority (Scotland) visited the school to observe work being undertaken.

2000 saw his appointment as principal of Coorparoo State School. Here, his work continued in leading the redevelopment of the school and the implementation of new syllabuses in Science and Health and Physical Education.

Not surprisingly, his abiding professional interest was in the development and implementation of school-based curriculum. He was a member of the curriculum committee of the Queensland School Curriculum Council since its inception.

A School Advisory Committee, consisting of parents and staff representatives, was formed to oversee the implementation of the School Planning Overview 2001-2003 which had been drawn up to provide strategic direction for the school.

In May 2000, the then Minister for Education the Hon. Dean Wells commissioned a redevelopment plan for the school that would provide much needed facilities. A project reference group was established to facilitate and co-ordinate the preparations of the development master plan with other representatives of Education Queensland and the project managers, group membership including the P&C President Jeanette Morris; Gary Fenlon MLA Member for Greenslopes; and the Principal, Greg Kretschmann.

The Coorparoo State School Redevelopment Project Reference Committee was set up in August 2000 by the Minister and chaired by the Principal, Greg Kretschmann. It provided "strategic direction to all school site redevelopment and master planning issues". Work began on the plan which matched the School Planning Overview 2001-2003, their vision for the future and needs of all students from Years 1 to 7, and the short and long-term facilities needed.

In March 2001, the Redevelopment Master Plan was presented by Jeanette Morris, P&C President, at the committee meeting. The Steering Committee encouraged input from community members. Information tours were organised in April to enable interested parties to " ... learn more about the details of the plan and the thinking which lies behind it."

In the State Budget announced in June 2001, money was allocated to the Coorparoo School for re-development as follows-

The first instalment will be used to build three additional classrooms created by extending and upgrading existing buildings, i.e., new amenities block and a grounds storage shed. To follow will be a new music block and upgrading the school's sporting facilities. No final decision has been made about the future of the Junior Campus.

Coorparoo School has been chosen as the AccessEd's Network school for the district and will have the opportunity to trial, assess and comment upon the latest curriculum resource material during each stage of development. The school will act as a point of professional contact for district schools wishing to view or discuss the use and application of these curriculum resources.

The redevelopment master plan has a number of features including:-

A fully integrated school by recommending the movement of the junior campus to the main school site while retaining the valued separateness of campuses, i.e., classrooms, undercover space, play space and amenities for each of Years 1 - 2 (including a new established pre-school), Years 3 – 4 and 5 – 7.

All buildings will be electronically networked with computers available for students' use in each classroom. Close physical and electronic links with AccessEd (Education Queensland's leader in curriculum resource development, multi-media production facilities and information/ communication technologies, which will soon move into Queen Alexandra Home Complex) are envisaged.

To ensure Coorparoo's place as a distinctive school in the State School system, a music block, a new eight-lane swimming pool and upgraded sports fields (each with links to renewal projects of Cavendish Road State High School and Coorparoo Secondary College) are planned.

A Networking Learning Community has been established through both school and P&C funds and computers have been placed in the library and the original ones have been moved into the Senior and Wolff Park Campuses where they are being connected to the school's curriculum network. Access to the World Wide Web is now being made available.

Information sessions provided parents with the chance to learn which class activities computers were used for, and just how computers could aid learning and teaching and provide knowledge.

In 1999, 2000, and 2001, at the request of the University of NSW, Coorparoo School hosted the Australian Primary Talent Search (APTS) EXPLORE examinations. Students taking part in APTS took the EXPLORE test developed for Year 8 students. Above level testing is an educational procedure in which a test designed for older students is administered to younger, academically gifted, students, in order to assess more accurately the full extent of their abilities.

The school continued to grow, and by 1998, there were three classes at each level except year 6 (where there were two), providing a classroom teaching staff of 21. Of these, five were in a permanent part-time situation. Specialist staff consisted of Physical Education, Music, Teacher/Librarian, Learning Support and LOTE.

The Support-a-Reader program was part of the school's learning support program. Children who were identified by the Year 2 NET Diagnostic Test experiencing reading, writing and Maths difficulties were provided with the opportunity to work on a one-to-one basis with a trained tutor.

A parent who felt that their child was in need of extra support firstly communicated their thoughts with the child's teacher. A referral form was completed by the teacher and/or the parent and presented to the weekly Special Needs Meeting. Decisions were made and appropriate support put into place.

There was access one day a week to a Guidance Officer who visited the school on a regular basis and whose role was to assist students with learning behavioural or emotional difficulties and involved consultation with class teacher, parents, learning support teachers and others. Referrals to the Guidance Officer were made through the Special Needs Committee.

ESL (English as a Second Language) also had one day a week at the school and was available to children from non-English speaking families.

One half day a week was provided by a Speech Pathologist and children were again assessed by referral through the school's Special Needs Committee. Those referred may have had problems in language meaning, grammar use, metalinguistics, social skills, speech sounds, fluency and/or voice.

All proved successful and beneficial to those who attended.

Children who took part in the National University of New South Wales Competitions in Maths, Science, English and Computer Studies, performed as a group well above national average.

The State Government school-based program provided free oral health care to schoolchildren from pre-school up to and including Year 7. This service of a dentist, school dental therapist and dental assistants was available at the Holland Park School Dental Clinic. A free bus service was provided which collected the children and returned them to school.

The staff welcomed those parents who gave their time to help in the classrooms or around the school in a variety of ways including individual reading, art and craft, swimming supervision, etc. The skills and assistance they gave and also their ideas and talents were valuable assets.

For over ten years, an Outside School Hours Care program, managed by the school's P&C Association, has existed within the school. It includes both Before and After School care, and vacation care for all school-aged children. A wide range of activities is offered and chosen with the help of children for fun, stimulation, and a sense of belonging for each child. The service operates from 7.00am to 9.00 am and from 3.00pm to 6.00 pm. Pupil Free Day and Vacation Care operates from 7.00am to 6.00pm.

One of the developments in the year 2000 was the establishment of a Responsible Thinking process. This was based on the research of Edward E Ford who stated that:

" ... For children to succeed they must believe that you care about them, that you have the confidence in their ability to solve problems, and they must experience mutual respect. The stronger the relationship, the easier it is to resolve differences. If done in a calm, respectful, environment, this responsible thinking process can help build that relationship. It also teaches self-discipline through responsible thinking."

On 15 October 2000, the school hosted its biennial festival which highlighted the many talents of our students, one of which was artwork. The students and teachers worked together to create a fabric painting on circus themes which measured 240.17m in length. An application was made to register this artwork with the Guinness Book of Records. On 21 March 2001, much to the school's delight, it was officially accepted as an Australian Record.

This year 2001, was the 125th Anniversary of the Coorparoo State School. Little did anyone think that the little wooden school erected in 1876 on two acres of bushland would eventually be replaced with imposing brick buildings, sitting amid land in the heart of a busy suburb.

Many descendants of the first pupils still live nearby and have watched the school grow to become one of the leading primary schools of Brisbane.

Those who were pupils and teachers must feel great pride in having been associated with a school which has and does offer so much. Not only is there the teaching in the Key Learning Areas but also a vast number of extra-curricular subjects are available to those who wish to participate and benefit from all-round education which will prepare them for their adult years in their chosen field.

Many dedicated people searched through papers, school magazines and records; past pupils and teachers were contacted; invitations issued and many cherished items found their way to the school and to be photocopied, laminated and mounted. Historical material, report cards, programs, photographs, a beautiful sewing sampler, and scrapbooks were assembled. Wonderful anecdotes flooded in to be compiled with a view to publication at a later date, to be kept in the school archives.

Each term, classes attended a performance or a theatrical event presented by the Queensland Arts Council. In 2001, this was supplemented by the appointment of Artists in Residence who worked with the children in creating constructions on the theme of the 125th Anniversary.

During the year 2000, the Music Department organised local tours of the Senior Choir. They performed at pre-schools, nursing homes and in public venues such as the Queen Street Mall, to great acclaim. These tours were instituted to promote the school and to give the children the opportunity to experience performance to the wider community. This program continued successfully through 2001.

Opportunities were also given to talented musicians to perform in selected groups such as the Stage Band and Recorder Concert. A Guitar Choir was also established.

For several years, Prom Concerts had been a highlight of the Instrumental Music program, giving students the opportunity to perform in front of a large and appreciative audience. In 1995, the concerts became too large to be held in the Queen Alexandra Home and were transferred to the Coorparoo Secondary College Hall, where they continue to be performed biannually.

Twilight Recitals also became a feature of our Music program and were an opportunity for individual instrumental and choral students to perform in their chosen field. This was held in the charming venue of the Queen Alexandra Home, where a glass of wine could be enjoyed while looking across at the lights of Brisbane.

Jeanette Morris was re-elected President of the P&C with three Vice Presidents – Gary Fenlon, Paul Murray and Jane Boardman. Gary Gill was elected Treasurer, with Rasty Rasmussen filling the role of Assistant Treasurer. The new Parent Liaison Officer (PLO) was Debra Hamilton.

Over the years, the school was fortunate in having a very active and supporting parent body and P&C Executive working together with the Administrative and Teaching Staff to give the children the best education possible. Everyone's views, opinions, input and suggestions have been welcome.

The members of the P&C organised fundraising events, math-a-thons, fetes, etc. The proceeds helped the school to obtain resources above and beyond those provided by Education Queensland. They sought, through sub-committees, to represent all interest groups and speciality

areas within the school, including swimming, Outside School Hours Care, the Music Program, and the Tuckshop and Uniform Shop Services Committee.

Crossing Supervisors (affectionately known as 'Lollipop' men and women) supervised crossings in Halstead and Leicester Streets each morning and afternoon. A teacher supervised the Talbot Street exit from the Junior Campus until 3.30pm during first term.

A bike racks area was available for those children who rode to school.

A seminar was held on 15 March for all volunteers and Class Parent Representatives to discuss their roles in the school.

A farewell function was held on 16 March 2001, for Mr Heard in the Senior School Staffroom. It gave parents the opportunity to say goodbye. Mr Heard spoke of his commitment to the school and of the important role played by parents in achieving a strong school community spirit.

A Book Fair was held from 26-30 March in the Senior Library. It was a wonderful way of promoting reading and also of fundraising, as the library received a percentage of all sales.

A Centenary of Federation Medallion to commemorate the official opening of the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia was presented by Gary Fenlon MLA and Councillor Catherine Bermingham to all Coorparoo students at the ceremony held at the school on 9 May.

An example of students' artwork from each class was collected each year to be hung in the 'Children's Art Gallery'. The theme for 2001 was 'Being Australian' and was in keeping with the Centenary of Federation celebrations.

Later in the year, Grades 6 and 7 students participated in a visit to Nagano Elementary School in Yokohama, Japan.

Mr Steve Luke, the Physical Education Teacher, conducted a session on general pool safety for volunteer parents who helped with swimming lessons.

Drama classes, open to students of all ages, were conducted by the Basil Grumble Drama School (John Morrison) each Tuesday afternoon at the school, and the Ridgeway School of Tennis operated a coaching clinic and tournament during the school holidays for many years. They also conducted tennis classes each morning available to Coorparoo students.

In May 2001, after an absence of several years, the school re-entered the Interschool Sporting Competition with teams in netball and soccer. Both performed well, with the soccer team becoming Gateway Champions. Seven children also entered the Gateway Zone Cross Country competition.

Chapter 15

2011 – 2014

Keith Warwick

Mr Kretschmann was replaced as Principal of Coorparoo State School at the start of 2011 by Mr Keith Warwick as Acting Principal who, in March of this year, was appointed as the new Principal of the school.



Keith Warwick was a dedicated and accomplished educational leader who served as Principal of Coorparoo State School during a pivotal time in its development. With a career spanning multiple decades and school communities, Keith began as a classroom teacher at Collinsville and Greenbank State Schools before moving into leadership roles. He led schools across Queensland, including Peek-a-doo, Springbrook, Mt Nebo, Brisbane Central, and Bald Hills, with increasing responsibility across Band 4 to Band 9 classifications.

His expertise extended beyond the classroom, having also served internationally as an Educational Advisor for Yamaha Corporation in Northern Honshū, Japan.

As Principal of Coorparoo State School, Keith restored community confidence and trust in our great school and built a fine reputation for excellence both academically and on the sporting field. A major achievement was the establishment of the SOAR program with staff and Deputy Principal, John Kennedy. This positive behaviour system is a legacy that continues today.

After his impactful tenure at Coorparoo State School, Keith was appointed Principal of Indooroopilly State School (Band 10), one of the state's most prominent schools. He later rose to the position of Assistant Regional Director, where he supported school improvement across the region. Keith Warwick passed away in 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer, leaving behind a legacy of integrity and deep commitment to public education.

Chapter 16

2015 – 2025

Dean Murphy

Mr Dean Murphy was appointed Principal Band 10 Coorparoo State School in July 2015, a position he would hold until 2025.



Dean Murphy began his lifelong commitment to public education in 1988, stepping into his first classroom at Murgon State School as a Year 2 teacher. His talent and aptitude for teaching and leadership quickly became evident. By 1989, he was leading a deliberately structured multi-age class of Years 3, 4 and 5, aligning with progressive pedagogies of the time. Under the then operational school inspector system, his capabilities were recognised, and he was formally recommended for principalship. Following a rigorous year of inspections and evaluations, Dean was successfully appointed to the role of Principal, Class 5, at Westmar State School in 1990.

This role marked the beginning of a long and impactful career as a school leader. Located west of Moonie near St George, Westmar was a small rural school serving students from Years 1 to 7. Dean's wife, Mandy, joined him at the school, teaching Years 1 to 3 while Dean took on Years 4 to 7. Together, they led the school as a dynamic teaching team, making a positive difference in the lives of children in remote Queensland.

Following several successful years at Westmar, Dean was appointed Principal of Mondure State School in the Wide Bay region, and then Deputy Principal at Nanango State School, a large primary school with over 700 students. This complex leadership role in a diverse community tested and strengthened his administrative and interpersonal skills. As Deputy, he gained experience in working with larger staffs and the complex community needs that is often characterised in low socio-economic communities, blended with farmer families and families from the township.

In late 1993, Dean's leadership journey took him to Central Queensland as the Principal of Baralaba P–10 State School. Baralaba was a uniquely challenging environment, servicing not

only the small township but also First Nations students from the Woorabinda community, who were bussed in daily along rugged, unsealed roads, due to the lack of a local secondary state school. Adding to the complexity was the frequent flooding of the Dawson River, which at times required staff to ferry students across crocodile-infested waters by boat so they could reach their buses home. Under Dean's leadership, the school grew in size and capability, earning him a promotion from Band 7 to Band 8 Principal. This period was also marked by personal joy, as Dean and Mandy welcomed their daughter, Sarah, during this time. This experience forged many deep understandings of the issues facing our First Nation's peoples. He had the privilege of regularly meeting with elders, walking on country and learning firsthand about the impact of colonisation and the stolen generations.

In 1997, Dean took on a new challenge as Principal of Kingston State School in Logan, a high-need urban school of over 700 students. His tenure was defined by impactful literacy reforms that lifted student outcomes significantly. These achievements garnered statewide recognition and led to Dean sharing his strategies with educators across Queensland.

In 2000, Dean was promoted again, this time to the Band 10 principalship of Crestmead State School. Starting with 750 students, Crestmead rapidly expanded to 1 150 under his leadership, amid a fast-growing and changing suburban population. Managing this scale of growth required robust leadership, community engagement, and a clear educational vision.

His work and advocacy for First Nations students and Closing the Gap led him to represent Queensland principals as a board member of Principal Australia QLD, and take on a national leadership role in the 'Dare to Lead' project. This project challenged Australian principals to make a commitment and work with First Nations leaders and Elders to make a difference for our children.

After four and a half years, Dean accepted the principalship of Windaroo State School in mid-2005. The school, with nearly 1 000 students, became a showcase of his passions for inclusive culture, excellence in the Arts, and sporting achievement. His dedication to music, the performing arts, and digital learning flourished at Windaroo, laying the groundwork for his next major career move.

Recognising his expertise in educational technology, in 2011, Dean was invited to apply for, and accepted, the role of Director of Learning Technologies for Education Queensland, a three-year secondment to Central Office. His responsibilities were vast and critical, covering:

Innovation in digital education

Cyber safety leadership and policy implementation

State-wide internet infrastructure and filtering solutions

The Computers for Teachers program

The Intel iTeach pedagogy program

Implementing iPads to education and ensuring compatibility across state school network

Supporting digital leadership training for principals through the University of the Sunshine Coast

Partnership development with Apple and Microsoft

Vendor management

Technology leadership and advocacy for Primary, Secondary and TAFE.

His work not only modernised Queensland's education system but also empowered leaders and teachers with the tools and skills needed for 21st century education.

In a deliberate return to direct school impact, Dean re-entered the school system post-secondment. While waiting for a metro appointment, he volunteered to lead Boronia Heights State School, once again serving the Logan community. In 2015, he was appointed as the permanent Principal of Coorparoo State School, a role that brought him full circle to a thriving inner-city school environment, continuing to build on his legacy of leadership, equity, innovation, and deep care for students and staff.

During his tenure, he was ably supported by Deputy Principals including Mark Craswell, John Kennedy and Will Windsor, with Sophia Ramsey as Head of Department and, more recently, Natalie Hemsley joining the team as Head of Inclusion. Upon Terri Piper's retirement, Katie Lilley led the school as Business Manager from 2020. Together with Dean, the school saw significant development in strategic facilities including sporting facilities and upgrades, two STEM spaces, development of the Kijini precinct and, most recently, upgrades to Wolff Park buildings.

His passion for visible leadership and connecting with families and students was evident in the school. The establishment of the school academies programs became a feature of the school and provided an excellence platform and pathways for students into secondary education. These academies have grown to now include Maths (under the leadership of Will Windsor), netball, touch football, AFL, and, most recently, Performing Arts.

Academic performance for all students with a strong inclusion focus has become a pillar of the school alongside the Arts, in particular instrumental music, choirs, percussion ensembles, performing arts and the development of the Principal's Art Prize to continue to build the student art gallery collection.

Over the ten years of his principalship at Coorparoo, the school was recognised as a high performing academic and sporting school. The Arts flourished with school musicals a feature led by parents and supported by staff. The student art gallery collection grew, and STEM flourished across the school with creative spaces and opportunities for students.

In 2015, the school was included in a group of schools that focused on the framework of Curiosity and Powerful Learning. This work, led by Wayne Craig and Prof David Hopkins in Victoria and in partnership with the University of Melbourne and Griffith University, was an action research project where initially ten schools in QLD were invited to use these theoretical frameworks for whole of school improvement. Coorparoo State School embraced this work and used this to develop our pedagogical approaches to excellence in teaching and learning. Long after the project completion, our school continues to use our developed policies and pedagogical frameworks to shape our school and continue to provide world class education.

His leadership at Coorparoo State School focused on a flat organisation with all staff being part of the leadership and shaping of the school. Believing it takes a team, he encouraged others to lead

projects and shared their passions to make a difference for students. Teachers were treated as professionals and system response was used to support and shape the collective knowledge and practice to make this a great school.

He believed that schools are about children, and that Coorparoo State School was a large family educating children together. This partnership was our hallmark for the past ten years. The school grew in diversity, now representing approximately 43 nationalities, 36% of children speaking English as a second language, and we celebrated in this diversity and flourished as one school and community caring for our children.

Dean Murphy's educational career spanned almost four decades of service to Queensland communities—rural, remote, and metropolitan. Across every role, his unwavering belief in the transformative power of public education has left a legacy of improved schools, empowered educators, and inspired learners. He retired from Coorparoo State School in September 2025.

Chapter 17

2025 -

Kym Amor

In 2025, Coorparoo State School welcomed its 16th and first female Principal, Mrs Kym Amor.



Mrs Amor brought extensive experience as both a school leader and education system leader. Her previous roles included Principal of Mansfield State School, Stretton State College, Shailer Park State School and Oxenford State School. She was also appointed as the foundation Principal of Foxwell State Secondary College, giving her significant experience in shaping school culture, leading innovation and building strong communities.

The school improvement priorities for 2025 – 2026 focused on implementing a new approach to the teaching of reading, informed by extensive research and the Science of Reading. Another key priority was strengthening belonging and engagement while building staff capability to provide effective and inclusive practices for all learners.

Building works during this time included upgrades to Wolff Park, improved classroom environments, upgraded digital technologies, a focus on outdoor learning and play spaces, and ongoing maintenance of the school pool and sporting facilities.

Mrs Amor's leadership is deeply student-centred. Her focus on belonging, inclusion and respect aligns closely with Coorparoo State School's long-held values and the development of Coorparoo Character- Kindness, Curiosity and Resilience.

She lives by her commitment to ensuring that every member of the school community feels seen, heard and valued, with students, staff and families remaining a clear priority.

As the school approaches its 150th anniversary, Mrs Amor honours the history, traditions and community spirit that have shaped Coorparoo since 1876. At the same time, she looks confidently towards the future, leading the school through a time of continued growth, change and opportunity.

From 2025, Coorparoo State School enters a new chapter – one that respects its remarkable past while continuing to prepare students for a changing world. Under Mrs Amor's leadership, the school remains committed to nurturing learners who are connected, confident, compassionate and ready to contribute to their community.

Chapter 18

Our past in our present

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE?

Just inside the front entrance to the school, there are two white marble plaques attached to the left and right-side walls. The one on the right reads:

IN HONOUR

OF

F. WILTSHIRE ESQ

IN

APPRECIATION OF SERVICES RENDERED

IN THE INTEREST OF THIS SCHOOL

DURING 28 YEARS

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

1925 - 1943



On the left-hand wall is an identical marble plaque which reads:

IN HONOUR

OF

JAMES WATT ESQ

IN

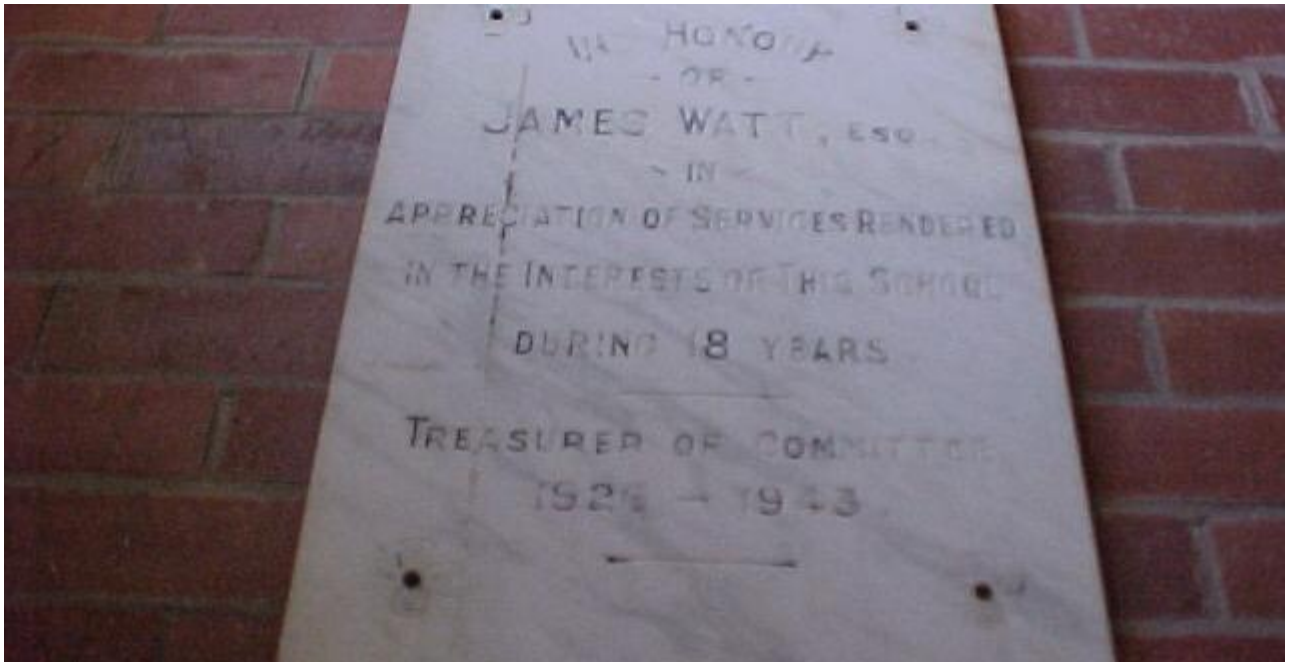
APPRECIATION OF SERVICES RENDERED

IN THE INTEREST OF THIS SCHOOL

DURING 18 YEARS

TREASURER OF COMMITTEE

1926 - 1943



Above the front door leading from the entrance to the library corridor, is an eye catching circular yellow shield upon which is depicted in black a book, two crossed cricket bats, a football and a soccer ball and two crossed tennis racquets together with the words “Coorparoo State School”. This was developed to make known some of the sporting activities encouraged at the school. It was also printed on Sports T-shirts and appeared on the front of the Coorparoo Comments (forerunner of the newsletter).

In the library corridor are two showcases which hold some interesting pieces of art and craft. These were presented to the teachers, staff and children by visiting Japanese students from the sister school of Nagano Primary and Kanariya Nishi, both in Yokohama. Above the bookshelves are more large shields decorated in Japanese style in brilliant colours, together with some very attractive fans.

On the wall in the computer laboratory there is a plaque commemorating the founder of the original Computer Centre, Harry Milne, in 1995.

In the library loft there are many more trophies to be seen. There are also some interesting pictures – a series of four pictures taken at the time of the 1876-1926 Jubilee. They are:

COORPAROO STATE SCHOOL 1876

COORPAROO STATE SCHOOL 1926 (2 pictures)

COORPAROO STATE SCHOOL 1926 (Playground)

A second picture is of the Coorparoo State School Swimming Pool Committee, which was established in 1926 to work towards having a pool installed. These members held office for two years and raised £2,000. F C G Wiltshire was Chairman, F E Fjeldsoe Secretary and Jas Watt Treasurer.

Another picture is of the original school (with a new roof—the original was shingles) before it was demolished. Its frame is of cedar recycled from the window sashes or doors.

The original basketball team can be seen in another picture.

There is also a picture of the first wing built onto B Block showing the attractive pergola – sadly now gone.

Just inside of the foyer in B Block on the right-hand wall is a framed document which reads:

COORPAROO STATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

UPGRADE AND REPLACEMENT TUCKSHOP

OFFICIALLY OPENED ON

15 OCTOBER 2000

BY

SENATOR THE HON RONALD BOSWELL REPRESENTING THE

HON DR DAVID KEMP, FEDERAL MINISTER FOR

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS.

THIS PROJECT WAS PRINCIPALLY FUNDED WITH A CASH GRANT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

The Hon Dean Wells MLA

Minister for Education

Hon Robert Schwarten MLA

Minister for Public Works and

Minister for Housing

On the right-hand side of the foyer near the exit door can be seen a small brass plaque:

COORPAROO STATE SCHOOL

CHILDREN'S ART GALLERY

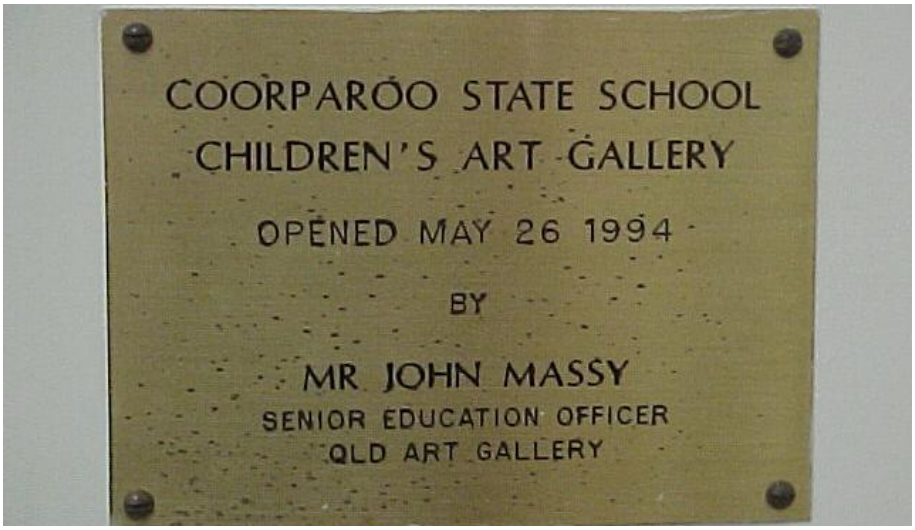
OPENED MAY 26 1994

BY

MR JOHN MASSY

SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER

QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY



Also in the foyer is a showcase containing many more trophies won by sporting teams of the school.

The most touching monument is to be found in the garden of the Wolff Park Campus. On the right-hand side of the path which leads down from the car park to the school there is a jacaranda tree under which is a small plaque mounted on a stone embedded in the garden. It reads:

IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND

AND CLASSMATE

HAYLEY SMITH

YEAR 6H

6 JULY 1993

Hayley was running on the oval when she fainted and was assisted to the First Aid Room. The ambulance was called but Hayley had stopped breathing. The ambulance officers took over, and she was taken to the Mater Hospital but never regained consciousness. Hayley died as a result of what was believed to have been an aneurism in the brain.



A little further down the path to the right, on the grassy area, is a small sundial mounted on a concrete plinth. On the top section of the brass is written:

BRISBANE TIME

and below

I MARK THE HOURS

This sundial was placed there in memory of the Wolff family from whom the land was bought in 1929, and from whom several generous financial donations were made to the school. Wolff Park is named in their honour.

There is a small fenced off area near Kijini Oval where many native trees have been planted. A small plaque has been attached to a rock and reads:

IN MEMORY OF

GEORGE SAVAGE

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS

MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

TO THE COORPAROO STATE SCHOOL P&C

AUTUMN 1998



In the Senior School Staff Room is a print of a famous Van Gogh painting, which was sent to the school by Professor William Arnold to replace the one which dazzled him when he was a five-year-old student at Coorparoo State School.

Situated in the Junior Campus, inside the downstairs foyer, is the following foundation plaque:

COORPAROO

INFANTS STATE SCHOOL

OFFICIALLY OPENED

ON THE 20TH DAY OF MAY 1961

BY

THE HON T A HILEY MLA

Design & Construction Authority *K W Hooper Esq*

Department of Public Works *Member for Greenslopes*

An interesting little paper clipping is attached to the wall in the Library Aides' Room. It says:

2 teach is

2 touch lives

4 ever

"GOOD MANNERS"

BASED UPON RULES OF THE

Children's National Guild of Courtesy

COURTESY, Politeness, or Good Manners, means kindly and thoughtful consideration for others. A Celebrated writer has said that a Boy who is Courteous and Pure is an honour to his country. Brave and Noble men and women are always Courteous. Three of the bravest and greatest men who ever lived – the Duke of Wellington, General Gordon and General Washington – were distinguished for their courteous behaviour.

Courteous Boys and Girls will always be careful to observe the following RULES:–

AS TO THEMSELVES	Be Honest, Truthful, and Pure. Do not use Bad Language. Keep out of Bad Company. Keep your Face and Hands clean, and your Clothes and Boots brushed and neat.
AT HOME	Help your Parents as much as you can, and do your best to please them. Be kind to your Brothers and Sisters. Do not be Selfish, but share all your Good Things.
AT SCHOOL	Be Respectful to your Teachers, and help them as much as you can; their work is very difficult and trying. Observe the School Rules. Do not "Copy," nor Cheat in any way. Do not Cut the Desks, nor Write in the Reading Books, etc. Never let another be Punished in mistake for yourself; this is Cowardly and Mean.
AT PLAY	Do not Cheat at Games. Do not Bully; only Cowards do this. Be Pleasant and not Quarrelsome. Do not Jeer at your Schoolmates, nor call them by Names which they do not like.
IN THE STREET	Salute your Ministers, Teachers, and Acquaintances when you meet them; they will salute you in return. Do not Push nor run against people. Do not Chalk on doors, walls, nor gates. Do not Throw Stones, nor Destroy Property. Do not Annoy Shopkeepers by Loitering at their shop doors and windows. Do not make Slides on the pavement, nor throw Orange Peel or Banana Skins there; *dangerous accidents* often result from these practices. Do not make Fun of Old nor Crippled people, but be particularly polite to them, as well as to Strangers and Foreigners.
AT TABLE	Always Wash your Hands and Face before coming to the Table. Do not put your Knife to your mouth. Look after Other People; do not Help yourself only. Do not be greedy. Do not Speak nor Drink with Food in your Mouth. Turn your head away from the Table and put your Hand or Handkerchief before your Mouth when you Sneeze or Cough. Do not sit with your Elbows on the Table.
EVERYWHERE	Never be Rude to *anybody*, whether older or younger, richer or poorer, than yourself. Remember to say "Please" or "Thank You"; "Yes, Sir," or "Yes, Ma'am"; "No, Sir," or "No, Ma'am." Before entering a room it is often courteous to Knock at the Door. Do not forget to close the door *quietly* after you. Always show attention to Older People and Strangers by opening the door for them, bringing what they require (hat, chair, etc.), giving up your seat to them if necessary, and in every possible way Saving them trouble. Never Interrupt when a person is speaking. Always Mind your own Business. Be Punctual. Be Tidy.
REMEMBER	All these rules respecting your conduct towards others are included in the one GOLDEN RULE, *"Always do to others as you would wish them to do to you if you were in their place."* Whenever, therefore, you are in doubt as to how you should act towards others ask yourself this question, "How should I like them to act towards me if I were in their place?" and then *Do what your conscience tells you is right.*

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Chapter 19

Famous and high achieving past pupils

Lachlan Wilson (Brigadier General, Lawyer & Solicitor)

Enrolment Date: 1876

Brigadier General Wilson studied law after leaving school and was admitted to the Bar in 1895.

He went into partnership with E K Tully and formed one of Queensland's leading law firms. Joining the Army, he fought in the South African (Boer) War in 1899 and at Gallipoli in 1915.

In 1917 he was awarded the Croix de Guerre, and in 1919 he received a DSO (Distinguished Service Order).

John Brown

Enrolment Date: 1888

One of the School's earliest pupils, John Brown became a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the district and Minister for Works in 1940.

Dorothy Hill, CBE, AC (Emeritus Professor of Geology)

Enrolment Date: 1912

Dorothy Hill is the most illustrious alumna of Coorparoo State School.

Dorothy Hill was born in Brisbane and completed her primary schooling at Coorparoo State School. In secondary school (Brisbane Girls' Grammar) she passed her subjects in the 1922 Qld Junior Public Examination. In her final year, 1924, she was awarded the Phyllis Hobbs Memorial prize in English and History, together with the Lady Lilley Gold Medal, the school's most prestigious academic prize.

Awarded an Open Scholarship for the highest pass in the 1924 Senior Public Matriculation Examination, Dorothy enrolled as a Bachelor of Science student in 1925 at Queensland University. She studied Chemistry, Pure Mathematics, Geology and Mineralogy, together with Physical and Inorganic Chemistry in her third year. In 1928, she was admitted to the BSc degree and awarded First Class Honours in Geology. She earned the University Gold Medal in the 1929 Scholarship for the Encouragement of Original Research.

Dorothy Hill remained at the University to work for her MSc degree and during 1928 and 1929 spent a great deal of time on field work in the Upper Brisbane Valley, much of which was carried out on horseback. This early fieldwork outlined the structure of the Mesozoic sediments and volcanics of the Brisbane Valley. The complicated structure

of this region formed the subject of her Master of Science Thesis. She graduated in 1928 with a First Class Honours degree in Geology and a Gold Medal for the most outstanding graduate of the year, the first time a woman gained that honour in the University of Queensland. It also won her a Foundation Travelling Scholarship to the Sedgwick Museum (the Geology Department) in the University of Cambridge for 1930 - 1932. Awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy from Cambridge University, Dorothy was the youngest woman (by 10 years) to be appointed a Fellow of Newnham College. Her work was recognised in 1934 in the award of the Daniel Pidgeon Fund of the Geological Society of London and in 1930, in the award of a Senior Studentship of the Exhibition of 1851.

Her interests were amazingly wide-ranging. While being a fine athlete, including hurdling and hockey, she also enjoyed music and theatre. While in England she also obtained her Class A Pilot's licence.

Dorothy Hill returned to the University of Queensland in 1937 as a research fellow and remained part of the institution from that day – as lecturer, professor and professor emeritus.

Even though administrative and organisational duties took up much of her time, research remained Hill's passion. She published over 100 scientific papers, mostly on invertebrate palaeontology (such as the fossil corals), but also on stratigraphy and the geology of Queensland. Her work on long-dead corals led her to puzzle over the mechanisms of coral growth, and she played an active part in establishing the research program of the Great Barrier Reef Committee in the 1940s and 50s. Through her research her teaching and her leadership, Dorothy Hill has played a major role in establishing the field of palaeontology in Australia. This was recognised upon her retirement, when the University of Queensland founded the "Dorothy Hill Chair in Palaeontology and Stratigraphy".

Among her many honours, Dorothy received a CBE in the civil honours for services to geology and palaeontology and an AC from the Australian Government. She was made a Commonwealth Fellow of the Geological Society of London; was awarded the Clarke Medal by the Royal Society of NSW and the Mueller Medal and the ANZAAS Medal by ANZAAS. She was also awarded the WR Browne Medal and in 1956, Dorothy Hill became the first woman to be elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and in 1958, was asked to chair the Academy's Sectional Committee on Geology and Geophysics. She was appointed to a Research Chair in Geology and Mineralogy in 1959 during her term as sub-Dean of the Faculty of Science. In 1970 she was the first, and until 2010 the only, woman to serve as its President. The University of Queensland also awarded her an Honorary Doctorate of Laws for her work in university administration.

Dorothy Hill was first and foremost an Australian and a Queenslander, though she was also pro-British in her general outlook. She spent her life forwarding the interests of the state, its university and the educational welfare of its students. In particular, she supported the view that Queenslanders should encourage their daughters to attend university, and she attempted to ensure that girls pushed as far forward into the research areas as was possible. In recognition of this particular endeavour, the "Dorothy Hill Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Young Female Australian Scientist" was presented for the first time in 2001.

Her pioneering work in coral palaeontology has gained enduring worldwide recognition.

Sir David Langland

Enrolment Date: 1920

David Langland attended Coorparoo State School from 1920 to 1923.

He was the State Parliamentary Ombudsman and was also the organiser of the Miss Australia Quest.

Reg Francis

Enrolment Date: 1924

Reg Francis was a foundation member and President of the Coorparoo Heritage Group, an organisation devoted to preserving and recording the history of the Coorparoo area.

Reg was involved in the Scouting movement and was a former District Commissioner with a strong commitment to community service.

He was acknowledged at the Commonwealth Recognition Awards in 2000 (the Year of the Seniors) as an Outstanding Example of Senior Australians who remained active in the community and continued to demonstrate their skills and value in a variety of fields.

Norman Jolly (Volunteer)

Enrolment Date: 1927

Norman Jolly was enrolled as a pupil in Coorparoo State School in 1927.

He had a lifelong commitment to community service.

In 2001, Norman received the Order of Australia Medal and was named in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in recognition for his long commitment to the City Mission as a volunteer. He began at the Mission in 1951 and served on the Committee as president, helped organise events, and written articles for their magazine during his long involvement with that organisation.

Harry Baynes (Banker)

Enrolment Date: 1929

In 1994 Harry Baynes was awarded the Order of Australia for services to the Banking Industry, Business and Community.

In 1997 he was the winner of the Queensland Division of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Gold Medal Award.

Rex Freudenberg

Enrolment Date: 1937

Rex Freudenberg became Chairman of the Brisbane Stock Exchange.

William Arnold (Professor of Biochemistry)

Enrolment Date: 1941

As a five-year-old lad, William Arnold attended Coorparoo State School where he was dazzled by a reproduction of Van Gogh's *Portrait of a Young Man,* which hung in the school's Conference Room. Upon inquiring he was told the man's name was Armand Roulin, and that he had recently died.

After leaving Secondary School he attended the Queensland University and graduated in 1957.

Ten years later (1967), he moved to the United States where he became Professor of Biochemistry at Kansas University.

In 1987 he was invited to Paris for the centenary celebrations of the Pasteur Institute and whilst there he saw Van Gogh's paintings, visited his grave and that of the painter's brother, Theo, and became intrigued by the artist, his illness and his difficult life.

After years of extensive research and many visits to Paris he wrote the book "Vincent van Gogh – Chemicals, Crisis and Creativity".

He was a special guest at the Queensland Art Gallery's Van Gogh Exhibition and wrote the introduction to the towering exhibition's impressive catalogue. Here he saw *"Portrait of the Postman"* painted in 1889. The sitter was Joseph Roulin, father of the subject of *"Portrait of a Young Man"*.

William Arnold returned to his old school looking for the picture that he so well remembered, however, it could not be found. On his return home, Professor Arnold obtained another print and sent it to Coorparoo where it now has pride of place in the Senior School Staff Room.

Ian Callinan (High Court Judge)

Enrolment Date: 1942

Justice Callinan attended Coorparoo State School from 1942.

In his last year at the school, he was captain of the Senior Cricket Team.

Upon leaving Brisbane Grammar School in 1955, he attended Queensland University to study Law. In 1978, he was appointed a Queen's Counsel. Nineteen years later, in 1998, he was appointed a High Court Judge.

Justice Callinan is the author of novels, plays, book reviews, short stories and various articles.

He is one of the elite core of judicial figures, chief judges and judges whose distinguished careers were launched from the University of Queensland's T C Beirne School of Law.

Kerry Smith (Violinist)

Enrolment Date: 1949

Kerry Smith attended Coorparoo State School between 1949 and 1957.

In 1963, Kerry won the ABC Commonwealth Concerto and Vocal Competition (String Section) and in the following year, 1964, was elected as a Fellow of Trinity College. In 1965 she won an AMEB (Overseas) Scholarship and also a Churchill Fellowship for two years' study overseas.

She successfully auditioned for the BBC London and gave many recitals in England. Kerry has made numerous appearances on radio and television.

As travelling soloist with the Queensland, Sydney, Melbourne and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, Kerry's repertoire contains over forty concertos.

Kerry is a Violin Teacher and performer at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music (Strings Department).

Darrell Douglas Brown (Architect)

Enrolment Date: 1951

Darrell Brown was born in Brisbane in 1946 and spent his early years at Coorparoo State School.

Upon leaving school, he attended the University of Queensland to study Architecture and gaining his BA (Honours) in 1969.

He won a thesis award for "Age and Design" in 1969 and the Centenary Estate Town Planning Award in 1971. He completed his Master of Urban Studies at the University of Queensland in 1972 and became a Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

In 1972, with Ron Burling, Darrell formed Burling Brown & partners Ltd and won various Architectural Awards ranging in projects from Resort Residential to High Rise Residential to Private School projects. He has also developed many Retirement projects.

His active involvement in community affairs included the Rotary Club, (as member, Past President of Nerang Branch and past District Secretary), and educational institutions.

(Maxwell) Dene Olding (Violinist)

Enrolment Date: 1964

Dene came to Coorparoo State School in 1964.

As one of Australia's most outstanding instrumentalists, he has achieved a distinguished career and been the recipient of many awards, having performed over 35 concertos with some of the world's leading conductors and orchestras.

He appears regularly as soloist with all the major Australian orchestras and has worked with such conductors as Challender, Mackerras, Porcelijn, Werner Andreas Albert and Edo de Waart. As a chamber musician, Dene Olding is well known to audiences as first violinist for the Australia Ensemble. With Irina Morozova, he is a founding member of the Goldner String Quartet which made its successful debut at London's Wigmore Hall

in 1999. He has been Music Director and Leader of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Concertmaster of the SSO (1987-1994), Artistic Director of *Mostly Mozart* at the Sydney Opera House (1996 –1998), organiser of chamber music concerts for the Sydney Festival, and, in 1998, a performer at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Townsville. In 2000, he performed with the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra, among numerous performances with the Goldner string Quartet and the Australia Ensemble.

Dene attended the Juilliard School in New York from the age of 14 as a scholarship student of Ivan Galamian and Margaret Pardee. He graduated in 1978 with the Master of Music Degree and was awarded the Morris Loeb Prize and in 1985 was awarded the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship.

He has made numerous outstanding recordings, including the chamber music of Mozart, Schoenberg, Shostakovich, Schubert and Sculthorpe.

His parents, Max Olding and Pamela Page are both concert pianists.

Donna (Basile) Sharp (Author)

Enrolment Date: 1964

Donna's first novel, "Blue Days" was published by the University of Queensland Press and was one of six finalists for the 1987 Children's Book Council of Australia Book for the Year Awards.

The book was written to illustrate the problems of coping with death. Donna wrote "Blue Days" while working full time, and it took five years to complete.

Donna is married with two children.

Simon Gallaher (Singer)

Enrolment Date: 1966

Simon was a member of the Coorparoo Music Makers and by his middle 20s had established himself as a household name in Australia. He has proved himself an outstanding singer and pianist, a prolific songwriter and a successful recording artist.

Simon first reached national recognition in 1978 when he began regular television appearances on the highly rated Mike Walsh Show which continued for four years.

A bigger break came when he was chosen as the solo act for the Debbie Reynolds tour of Australia in 1979, resulting in invitations to give concerts in the United States of America.

In 1980 he represented Australia in the World Popular Song Contest against international artists and won a prize for an outstanding performance which placed him equal second in the world. He has won many entertainment awards amongst them a Logie for Best New Talent in 1988.

He has sung in Australia's major concert halls including the Sydney Opera House and the Melbourne Concert Hall and has performed before the then Prince and late Princess of Wales, Charles and Diana.

His role as "Frederic" in the outstandingly successful production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance" presented a new challenge. So popular was this production that it returned for a final season at the Lyric Theatre in Brisbane.

Diana Doherty (Oboist)

Enrolment Date: 1974

Diana was born in Brisbane and attended Coorparoo State School in 1974. She began her musical studies at the age of five with violin lessons and then piano at seven years old. Finally, at eight, she began to learn the oboe.

After one year as a double major in oboe and piano at the Queensland Conservatorium, she completed her BA in Music (Oboe) with Stephen Robinson at the Victorian College of the Arts, where she was awarded the MENSA prize for top graduating student.

During this period Diana won the Other Instruments section of the ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition (now the Young Performers Awards) and was named the "Most Outstanding Competitor Overall" in 1985.

She was awarded an Overseas Study Grant from the Australia Council and completed her post-graduate diploma in Zurich with Thomas Indermuhle in 1989.

During this time, she took courses with Maurice Bourque and won first prize in the International Lyceum Club Competition in Bern and the International Chamber Music Competition in Martigny.

Since 1990, Diana was Principal Oboe in the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra and was, until 1992, a teacher at the Zurich Conservatorium.

In 1991, she was awarded first prize in the 43rd Prague Spring Festival Competition as well as a prize for the Best Interpretation of a Czech Composition.

She has taken part in International Festivals at Davos, Cadaques and Riva and was Resident Oboist with the Basle Chamber Ensemble.

Alexander Robey (Adventurer and Documentary Maker)

Enrolment Date: 1981

Alexander was a pupil of Coorparoo State School between 1981 and 1987. He always had a passion for the outdoors and a lifelong ambition to climb mountains in Nepal.

Alexander accompanied Duncan Chissel and Mark Auricht who were exploring the mountainous terrain of Nepal. He was filming the two South Australians as they scaled the world's highest peak. However, while fulfilling his ambition, he almost died when he was struck down by altitude sickness and had to return home. Alexander then worked on creating a documentary on mountain climbing and planned another climbing adventure in New Zealand.

Chapter 20

Our proud past, our bright future

For 150 years, Coorparoo State School has stood at the heart of its community. From its beginnings as a small timber school on two acres of bushland in 1876, it has grown into a vibrant, high-performing primary school with a proud place in Queensland's educational story.

Across generations, the school has adapted to change while holding firm to what matters most – children, learning, community and character. Thousands of students have passed through its classrooms, each contributing in their own way to the rich and continuing story of Coorparoo.

Today, Coorparoo State School continues to be recognised as one of Queensland's highest performing primary schools. Its reputation has been built through a deep commitment to academic excellence, strong teaching, high expectations and genuine care for every learner.

The school's achievements extend well beyond the classroom. Coorparoo is proud of its sporting success, its musical excellence, its performing arts programs, its quality school musicals, its strength in Mathematics, and its many opportunities for students to explore their talents and passions. From the stage to the sports field, from the art gallery to the classroom, Coorparoo students continue to shine.

Just as importantly, Coorparoo State School remains a place where people matter. It is a school that values students, staff, families, volunteers, past pupils and members of the wider local community. Its story has always been shaped by the dedication of those who give their time, skill and heart to make the school stronger.

We are proud of our staff, whose professionalism, care and commitment have educated generations of Queenslanders.

We are proud of our families and community, whose support has helped build, sustain and strengthen the school for a century and a half.

As we celebrate 150 years, we honour those who came before us: the First Nations people who cared for this land, the early families who worked to establish a school, the teachers and principals who led with purpose, and the students whose lives became part of the Coorparoo story.

The past 150 years remind us that schools are more than buildings. They are places of belonging, memory, growth and hope. Coorparoo State School has been all of these things, and more, for generations of Queenslanders.

As we look to the future, we do so with gratitude and confidence. The world will continue to change, as it always has, but Coorparoo State School will continue to nurture learners who are thoughtful, capable, creative and kind.

For 150 years, Coorparoo State School has educated, inspired, and connected its community.

And its story is still being written.