

# CELEBRATING 85 YEARS OF GYMEA BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL





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# Acknowledgement of Country

Our school resides on Dharawal Country. We live and breathe on a patch of Earth that was inhabited for tens of thousands of years by the Gweagal. The 'fire people'. This mob kept our special place alive, pristine and flourishing with all the unique plants and animals that we find in abundance today. **To the Gweagal, we say thank you. We acknowledge you. We honour you. We are grateful that your relationship with country evoked values of sustainability and respect for the lands upon which we live.**

Our hope that this idea of 'country', the special relationship that Aboriginal people have with the natural elements of our world, is something that we at Gymea Bay Public School can connect with and live out in our daily lives.





A background image of yellow flowers, possibly mimulus, with green leaves, is visible behind the text.

# Acknowledgements

Gymea Bay Public School holds many fond memories for students, teachers, staff, parents and community members. Rather than present an entire 85 years of historical chronology, we hope to share with you just some of the amazing things that have happened here at our school up until now. It is a celebration of who we are and where we have come from. (Anything we have missed we will add to the next book in 15 years time!)

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this book. For all of you who have kept old photos and memorabilia and shared stories on social media or with me personally - thank you!

Special thanks to Colin Burgess who has been so helpful in sharing his knowledge and memories about Gymea Bay PS in the early years and allowing us to use his school photos, newspaper clippings, old programs and report cards! Most of the text regarding the history of our school, the start of the Gymea Lily Festival and how the school Sport Houses were named has been written by Colin.

I would also like to acknowledge local historian, Kim Hatherly, for all of her research and content that she provided us with.

Assistant Principal, Melissa Bird was first given this project to start collecting information two years ago and I thank her for her organised contribution as well.

We hope you enjoy this special edition book and look forward to more epic adventures in learning in the years to come!

Sarah Kauffman



# Foreword from Principal Hendrika Green

## **Gymea Bay Public School - 85 years on**

Gymea Bay Public School celebrates its 85th Anniversary on 17 August 2020. From its small and humble beginnings, originally situated at what we now know as Old School Park, our school today has developed into a large, modern facility, which focuses on the digital world we now find ourselves in. It promotes an inclusive environment that fosters successful learners, with a growth mindset and willingness to undertake new learning challenges, to be forever flourishing.

This very interesting history has been compiled by Mrs Sarah Kauffman, a classroom teacher and technology mentor with a passion for sharing our story. Her work encompasses valuable archival, historical documents and research by, and with, community members.

This snapshot of time will be a valuable school treasure of the celebration of this special year of GBPS history, in the time of the global pandemic of COVID19.

Gymea Bay Public School has thrived on the dedication and leadership of its many principals, the tireless work of its numerous varied and talented staff, together with the support of its community and the wonderful enthusiasm of its students, who have ensured that each day has brought new experiences, of which no two days have been the same.

Happy Anniversary GBPS!

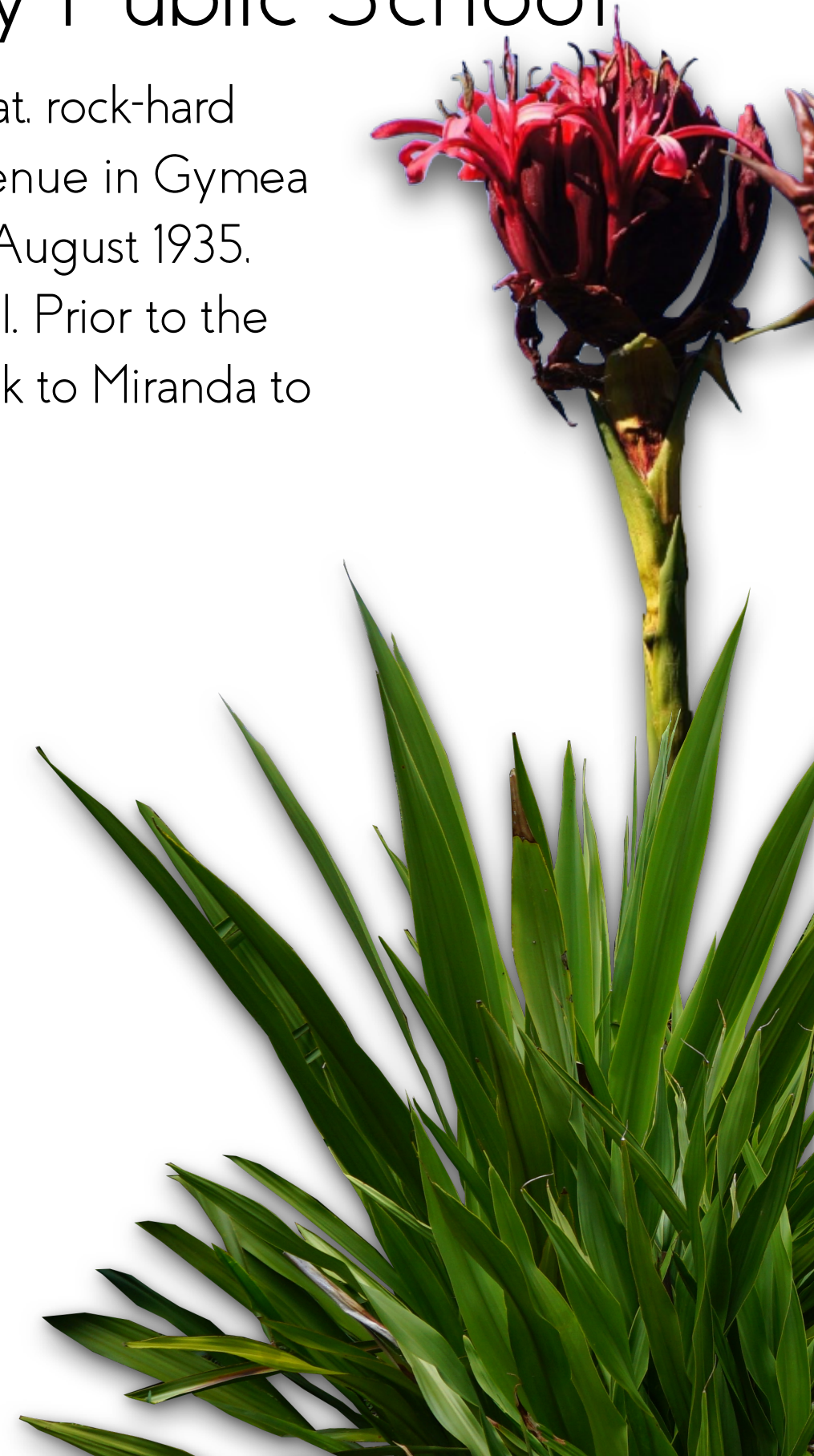


# The Early Years of Gymea Bay Public School

The original or 'old' Gymea Bay Public School occupied a flat, rock-hard swathe of dirt a few steps north of the corner of Vernon Avenue in Gymea Bay Road. By the time of the official school opening on 17 August 1935, about 63 pupils and two teachers were registered on the roll. Prior to the building of the school, children in that area either had to walk to Miranda to attend classes or catch a bus into Sutherland.



**The earliest photo we have of students at the old school site.**  
Dorothy Dunmore bottom left (born 1929) - Kathleen Bakewell behind her -  
Bruce Surman is the tall boy in back row (born 1925).





The area around Gymea at that time was dotted with dairy farms, occupied by families who were snapping up fertile land where the Stapleton family once ran an extensive slaughter yard on President Avenue, midway between Gymea and Miranda. Gathering 63 children together in such a scattered farming community seems to have been a mighty effort for those pioneering days. Plans for the building of the school were initiated in 1933, followed by two years of untiring agitation by local identity Mrs J. Coates, along with the support of Sutherland Shire Councillor Cecil 'Joe' Monro, MLA. In July 1934.

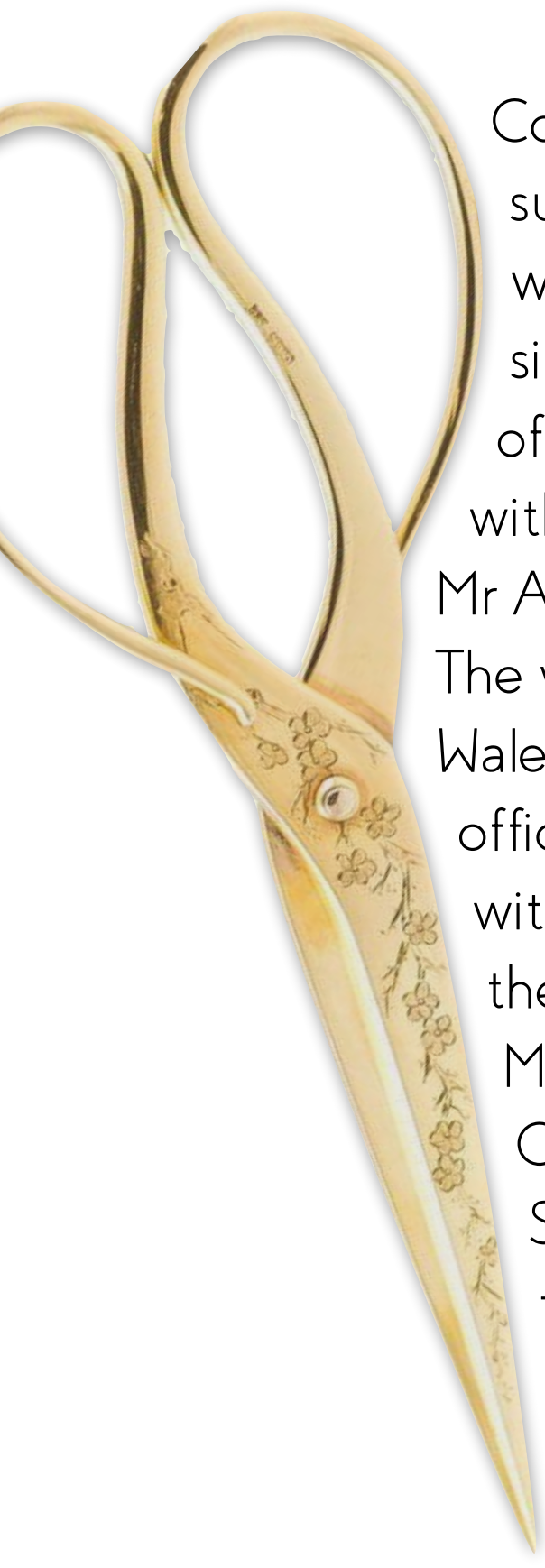


Aerial Shot 1930 Shire Maps



Aerial Shot 1955 Shire Maps





Councillor Monro reported that the Education Department was securing "a suitable site for a public school in the Gymea Bay district." The chosen site was on Gymea Bay Road and initially, only one building was erected on the site, comprising two classes and a hat room. On opening day a large number of local parents and children made their way to the school for the festivities, with the newly-appointed president of the Parents and Citizens' Association, Mr A. Atkinson, acting as chairman of the event. The wife of Mr G. Ross Thomas, the New South Wales Director of Education, had the honour of officially opening the school and was presented with a pair of gold scissors. Speeches were then made by Director Thomas, Councillor Monro, first headmaster Mr R. Williams, Councillor and Shire President Seymour Shaw. To the delight of the children present that day, was radio personality 'Uncle Frank' from 2GB. Shown here in his WW2 army (welfare officer) uniform. Pupils then performed some hastily-rehearsed songs.

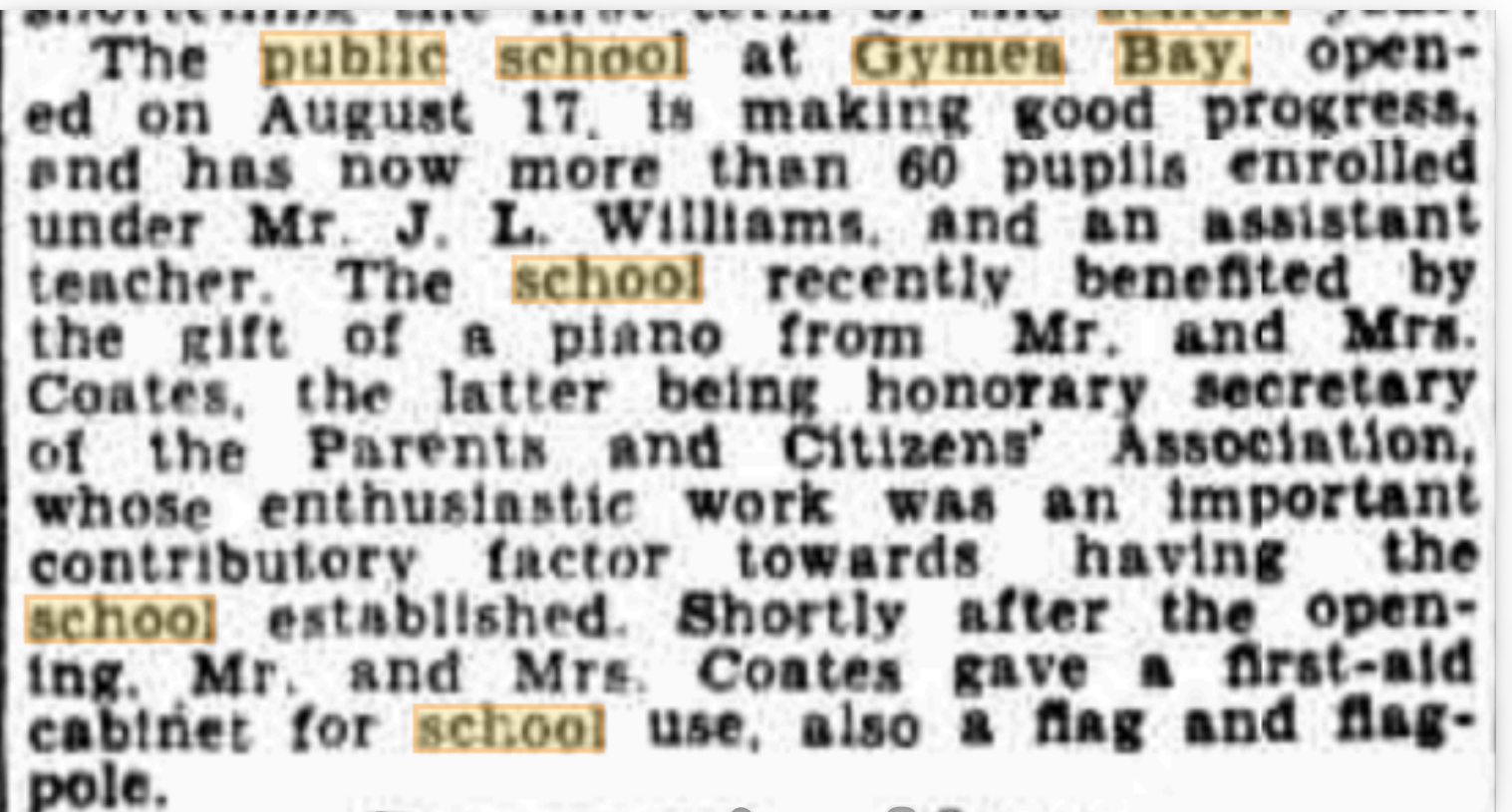






To further mark the occasion a tree was planted on the school site by Mrs Hunter, one of the first P&C members and a tireless worker for the school. The tree was nestled into a prepared hole behind an inscribed plaque, which was also unveiled. At the conclusion of formalities a bazaar that had been organised by the school's P&C fledgling committee was enjoyed by all.

Two weeks later, on 3 September 1935, the school began full-time operation with its initial intake of students. Headmaster Williams taught the children along with a single assistant teacher, Miss Thomas, who left the school soon after, to be replaced by Miss Love. Sadly the first headmaster died within months of taking up the position and was replaced by Daniel Cahill, a veteran of the First World War.



The **public school** at **Gympie Bay**, opened on August 17, is making good progress, and has now more than 60 pupils enrolled under Mr. J. L. Williams, and an assistant teacher. The **school** recently benefited by the gift of a piano from Mr. and Mrs. Coates, the latter being honorary secretary of the Parents and Citizens' Association, whose enthusiastic work was an important contributory factor towards having the **school** established. Shortly after the opening, Mr. and Mrs. Coates gave a first-aid cabinet for **school** use, also a flag and flag-pole.



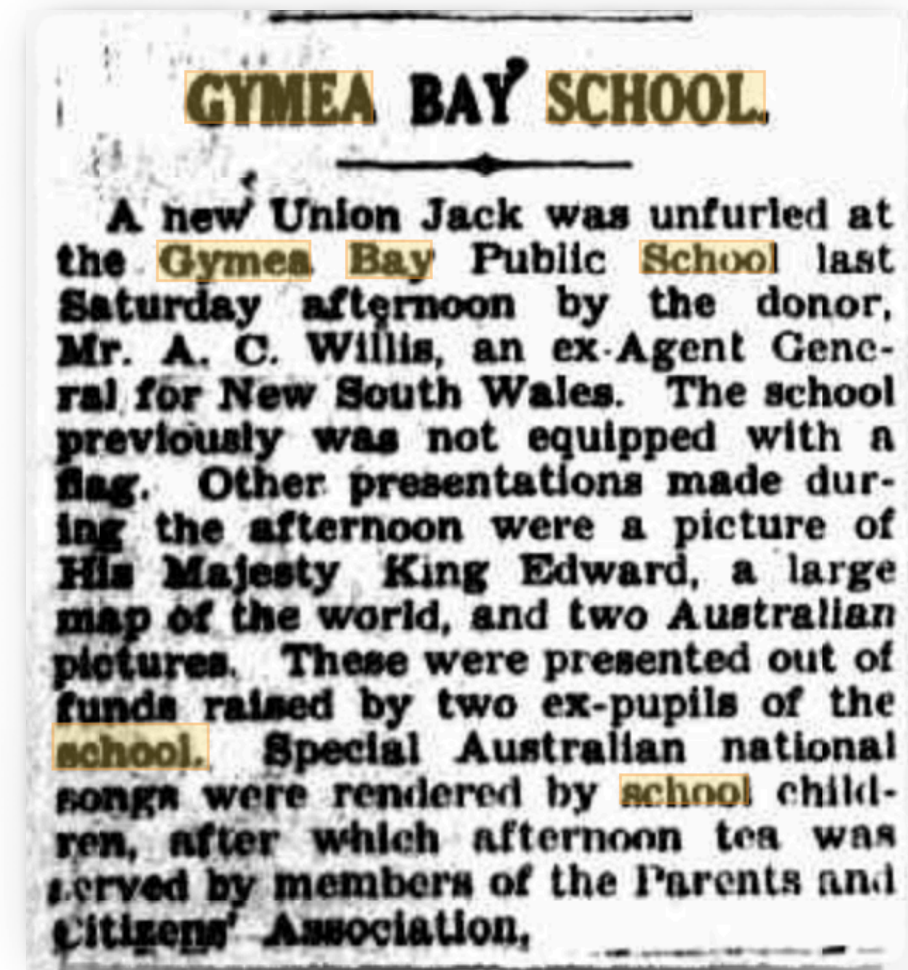
The original school enrolment stood at 63 students: however by year's end a total of 77 students were listed on the school roll.

#### BOYS (40):

Gordon ALLEN. Thomas ALLEN. Roy ANDERSON. Leslie ANDERSON. Ross BAKEWELL. Robert BARNES. Maxwell BARNES. John BOSS. Robert BRINSLEY. Keith CLARK. Dudley CLARKE. Norman COOPER. Alan CRAVINS. Lenard CRAVINS. Arthur DALLIMORE. Alfred DENNIS. Thomas DUNMORE. Darrel HORNE. Harold HORNE. Leonard HURST. Keith HUNTER. Samuel HUNTER. Leslie HYSLOP. Colin LAWLER. Christopher MORTON. George MERRIMENT. Neville MERRIMENT. John PULLEN. Stanley READ. Leslie RITCHIE. Neale SANDERS. John STROUD. Bruce SURMAN. Keith SURMAN. Jack SWIFT. Allan TIERNEY. Allan TIPTON. Robert TIPTON. Donald WATSON. Arthur WOOLLER.

#### GIRLS (37):

Kathleen BAKEWELL. Betty BARNES. Olive BARNES. Hazel BATEMAN. Doreen CASEY. Valey CANNON. Mavis CARRON. Winifred CARTER. Sylvia CASEY. Edith CLARKE. Bessie COOPER. Dorothy COOPER. Phyllis COTTERELL. Mary DALLIMORE. Nola DAVIS. Gwen DICKSON. Dorothy DUNMORE. Constance EUGENE. Margaret EUGENE. Dora GRANSHAW. Pearl GRANSHAW. Edna GRIFFITHS. Dorris HATTE. Elsie HORNE. Edna HURST. Grace HYSLOP. Joyce KELLY. Lyal KELLY. Alice KENNINE. Kathlene McKINNON. Barbara NILSON. June PULLEN. Mary READ. Josephine RITCHIE. Joyce TIRTON. Kura WANSTALL. June WOOLRIDGE.



The Propeller Thurs 6 February 1936 p8







Gymea Railway Station under construction 1939 Sutherland Library

With the passing of years, and as ever more children were enrolled at the school, their parents felt it their duty to become actively involved in the P&C. Evening meetings were held, with Mrs Cassell acting as president, Mrs Kerr as secretary, and Mrs Catly as treasurer. The area was still remote as far as public transport was concerned, but substantial progress was made in 1939 with the opening of Gymea station on the railway line to Cronulla.



First electric train from Sutherland to Cronulla Dec 1939 Sutherland Library



In 1941 the great global conflict of World War Two was hardly at the portals of Gymea Bay Public School, but headmaster Cahill organised the school's parents and pupils in the mighty effort of digging an air-raid trench, which bisected the school grounds. This wasn't a unique reaction to the war, but was in fact part of a parallel campaign in other local schools. The finished trench, according to information located in the Sutherland library, was apparently 40 metres long by about a metre wide and deep. After the initial excitement of claiming this magnificent trench from the stony soil it slowly and inevitably found a new calling as a play area for pupils' war games. Eventually, concerned that some child might accidentally suffer a premature burial, the prudent decision was made to fill it in.



### **Early Principals**

- Mr Joseph Lawrence Williams 1935 (died 8 Jan 1936)
- Mr Daniel Joseph Cahill 1936-1940
- Mr James Andrew Brawn 1941-1945
- Mr Alfred James Sheldrick 1946-1948
- Mr Colin Esbert Keightley 1949-1953
- Mr Victor Lawrence Spongberg



# Historian Kim Hatherly reflects on Mr Cahill...

From the beginning, students at Gymea Bay Public School were encouraged to learn about and take an interest in native flora and fauna. They participated in Arbor Day activities and planted trees along the roadside at the front of the school. Headmaster Daniel Cahill was an avid gardener and involved the children in establishing and caring for attractive garden beds in the grounds.

Mr Cahill worked closely with the P&C as they organised fancy dress balls and other fund-raising activities to help build up a fine library and acquire a piano and other equipment to enrich the children's learning experiences. In November 1940, just prior to Mr Cahill's retirement, the students participated in a combined shire schools' concert to raise money for the war effort, with two performances at the Sutherland and Miranda picture theatres. Gymea Bay students presented a character number, "Our Farm".

## GYMEA BAY

Presentations and farewells to the headmaster, Mr. D. J. Cahill, on the eve of his retirement marked the annual speech-day of the Gymea Bay school during break-up week. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cahill, the latter being teacher of the sewing class, received numerous gifts from the children. Prior to the speeches the children were entertained at a monster party by the Parents and Citizens' Association. They later gave a concert programme comprising the singing of Christmas carols, verse-speaking, plays, and patriotic anthems. In his annual report Mr. Cahill traced the progress made at the school since its establishment a little over five years ago, with the assistance of the Association. In the five years pioneering work had to be done until now it was well-established with good equipment. Attractive gardens had been planted and laid out. 'The children had been kept busy with war efforts during the year, having established a war savings certificate group which was flourishing. All candidates who sat for high school entrance examinations had passed. In presenting the prizes Councillor C. J. Monro, M.L.A., paid tributes to Mr. Cahill in building up the school through its early years to its present high standard. Presentations were also made to Miss Gordon (assistant) for training the pupils for concerts. Awards were as follow:—

Hetty Keeley (Monro dux medal), 6th class: Betty Keeley, June Thomas, Dorothy Dunmore. 5th class: Joy Bakewell, Robert Weston, Patricia Cockburn. 4th class: Joan Bakewell, James Cockburn, John Sharpe. 3rd class: Nita Thompson, Estelle Brinsley, Emily Brinsley. 2nd class: Robert Fitzgerald, Valerie Bakewell, Max Duck, Eric Procter. 1st class: Misha Gale, Norma Still, Ray Smith.



**At Gymea Bay three teachers provided for 141 children. The kindergarten and first-class, totalling 61 children, were in one unsealed, iron roofed classroom.**

**If the school gets another teacher she will have to take her class in a weather shed.**

The Cessnock Eagle and South Maitland Recorder  
Fri 3rd Feb 1950 p7

After Mr Cahill. Mr James Andrew Brawn was the principal throughout the remaining war years and retired at the end of 1945. Mr Sheldrick took over the role of headmaster in 1946. at the same time teaching pupils in Fourth. Fifth and Sixth classes. together with the assistance of Miss Bee. who taught Kindergarten. First. Second and Third Classes. Even as the local population swelled. the school was still only deemed to be a two-teacher operation by the Education Department.

For a short time the school had a temporary headmaster. Mr Dunlop. while Mr Sheldrick was overcoming an illness. In 1948 a new headmaster. Mr Keightley. arrived at the school. which was now operating at maximum capacity. For a time he endured the same class arrangements until the enrolment again grew and a kindergarten teacher. Miss Wilkins. was finally appointed. A portable army hut was erected on the school grounds and used as the kindergarten room. Gradually. as the school population increased. two new classrooms were built and more teachers were appointed. However the population of the Gymea-Gymea Bay area had also grown rapidly. and it was time for the small school to expand.



One of very few photos we have of the old school site



# The New School

The new Infants' School came about through the efforts of local residents Arthur and Eileen Moroney. As a newly-married couple after the Second World War, they had purchased two blocks of land in Gymea. Like many other couples in the post-war era they built a temporary residence while Arthur scraped together enough scarce materials to construct a permanent home. Meanwhile Eileen, whose first child Gordon was born in 1945, had become very active in the local community. Together with other interested parents she began petitioning Sutherland Shire Council for some family amenities in Gymea and Gymea Bay, including a request for the grant of an area of land that would be set aside for the construction of an infants' school. She was the one selected to stand up at a council meeting and make the case for some suitable land at the corner of Gymea Bay Road and Coonong Road to be allocated to that purpose.



Eileen pictured in this photo circa 1950



The grant was supported, and the Gymea Bay Kindergarten Committee undertook the erection of a suitable building. A monetary grant of £313 toward the cost of materials was approved by Council, and work began in 1953.

The Infants' School was mostly built by volunteer labour, and young Gordon Moroney became one of the original pupils at the brand-new school. In the meantime, Mr Keightley transferred to Grays Point Primary School and Victor Spongberg was appointed as the school's new headmaster. At the time that the new primary school was being built, cheap land was becoming even more readily available in Gymea, and a whole flood of Housing Commission houses had just been erected. As a result, the population of the area began to surge and undergo change. More families began arriving on the scene, building their dream, three-bedroom fibro or weatherboard houses on the plentiful, cheap blocks of land around Gymea and Gymea Bay.





## GYMEA BAY SCHOOL

### Annual Prize-Giving.

Instead of the usual speech day and prize-giving being held in the local hall at Gymea, children of Gymea Bay School were treated to a picnic at Gunnamatta Bay Pleasure Grounds, Cronulla, prior to the school vacation. Buses free of charge were provided by the proprietor, Mr. Allan Small, and conveyed 232 children to and from the grounds. The outing was arranged by members of the Gymea Bay Parents and Citizens' Association, who provided the school children with milk, cream buns, ice cream, sweets and soft drinks. The headmaster, Mr. Keightly, assisted by Mrs. E. Hunter (a life-member of the P. and C. Association) presented prizes won during the year to successful pupils. Success of the outing was due largely to the President, Mr. G. Monk, and Mrs. G. Dale (Social Secretary) assisted by members of the association. Following are the prize-winners: Special prize and dux of the school, Wendy Horne; sportsmanship prizes, Jack Perry and Lorna Bakewell; social activities prizes, Noel Monk and Barbara Swift; manual work, N. Frogley 1, G. Hamilton 2; best work books, M. Johnson 1, S. Johnson 2; improvements 3rd Class, R. Dixon, 1B, Judith Best 1, R. Shorter, M. Armour, and R. Burgess tied for 2nd place, J. Perry (most improved); 1A Helen Kramer, Lynn McGill, Merylin Higgs, Carol Clayton; 2nd Class, Sheila Emerson 1, Moira Perry 2, Christine Webb and Marlene Cockburn most improved; 3rd Class, Helen Horne 1, Graham Wickham and Russell Hannah 2, Carol Gray 3; 4th Class, Grahame Shorter 1, Rodger Phillpot 2, Wally Randolph 3, most improved, Tom King; 5th Class, Graham Gray 1, Frances Dicken 2, Brenda Savill 3, Grant Mort most improved; 6th Class, Wendy Horne 1, Graham Perry 2, Ken Roberts 3, most improved, Sylvia Fisher; sewing, Helen Horne 1, Bette Jenkins 2; Noel Monk and Barbara Swift were the recipients of sportsman's badges to be attached to the blazer coat; certificates for full year's attendance, D. Kelly, R. Kelly, I. Kops, R. Neville, D. Gray, G. Perry, G. Marlz, R. Higgs, G. Clarke, and F. Walsh.

## GYMEA BAY SCHOOL - Annual Prize-Giving Jan 1953

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## GYMEA BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL - Headmaster Farewelled Jan 1954

'For the second year in succession Gymea Bay Public School celebrated its "breaking up" for the Christmas vacation with a picnic at Gunnamatta Bay pleasure grounds. Special buses conveyed teachers, scholars, and friends to the picnic grounds, where an enjoyable time was spent by all. A sports programme arranged by the headmaster, Mr. Keightly, was carried out by the staff, after which lunch was served. A special feature of the day was the presentation of prizes won by scholars during the year. Of special mention was Sylvia Fisher, dux of the school, who received a silver medal suitably inscribed. Dennis Perry also received a medal for regular attendance at school, not having missed a day throughout the year. He also received a silver trophy for being the cleanest player of school sports. During the day Mr. Keightly informed the gathering that, after five and a half years at the school, he was being transferred to another school. Following on this announcement by the headmaster, members of the Parents and Citizens Association arranged a social and presentation at the School of Arts on December 16th. This function was largely attended, and a good orchestra provided music for dancing. Success of the social was due to the work of the president, Mr. Monk, and social secretary, Mrs. G. Dale. During the evening a presentation of a wristlet watch, suitably inscribed, was made to the departing headmaster, Mr. Keightly, by Mrs. Dale, who expressed regret at his departure, and thanked him on behalf of parents and scholars for what he had accomplished during his oversight of the school. Mr. Keightly expressed thanks to all concerned for the gift and for the kindly thoughts so ably conveyed to him. He said that, during his stay at the school, many obstacles had to be surmounted. However, he had made the best of a bad job, and had not failed in his duty as headmaster to give satisfaction to teaching staff and scholars alike. He thanked teachers and members of the P. and C. Association for their cooperation at all times, and said that Gymea Bay School could hold its own with any other for the high standard of work being done. Mrs. Dale presented a smoker's set to Mr. Monk for his work with the association; and he in turn presented Mrs. Dale with a glass cake dish on behalf of members. Square dancing was indulged in by the young folk and enjoyed by all.'





# Official Opening of the New Infants School 1954

The infants' school was officially opened on 22 October 1954 - a momentous occasion for the school, with official guest the Honourable R.J. Heffron, MLA, the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education. Others in attendance included Vic Spongberg, the president of the P&C, Mr G. Monk and P&C secretary Mrs G. Malthouse. On the day of the opening, the school had 378 pupils, while Mr Spongberg had nine assisting teachers. Four primary classes were still occupying the old school site with the eventual intention of transferring them to the new school.

## Infants School Staff

Kindergarten: Miss S. Jackson

Transition: Mrs. M. Mangelsdorf

1B: Mrs E. Taylor

1A: Mrs J. Humphrey

2B: Mrs T. Giles

2A: Miss J. Morison

## Primary School Staff

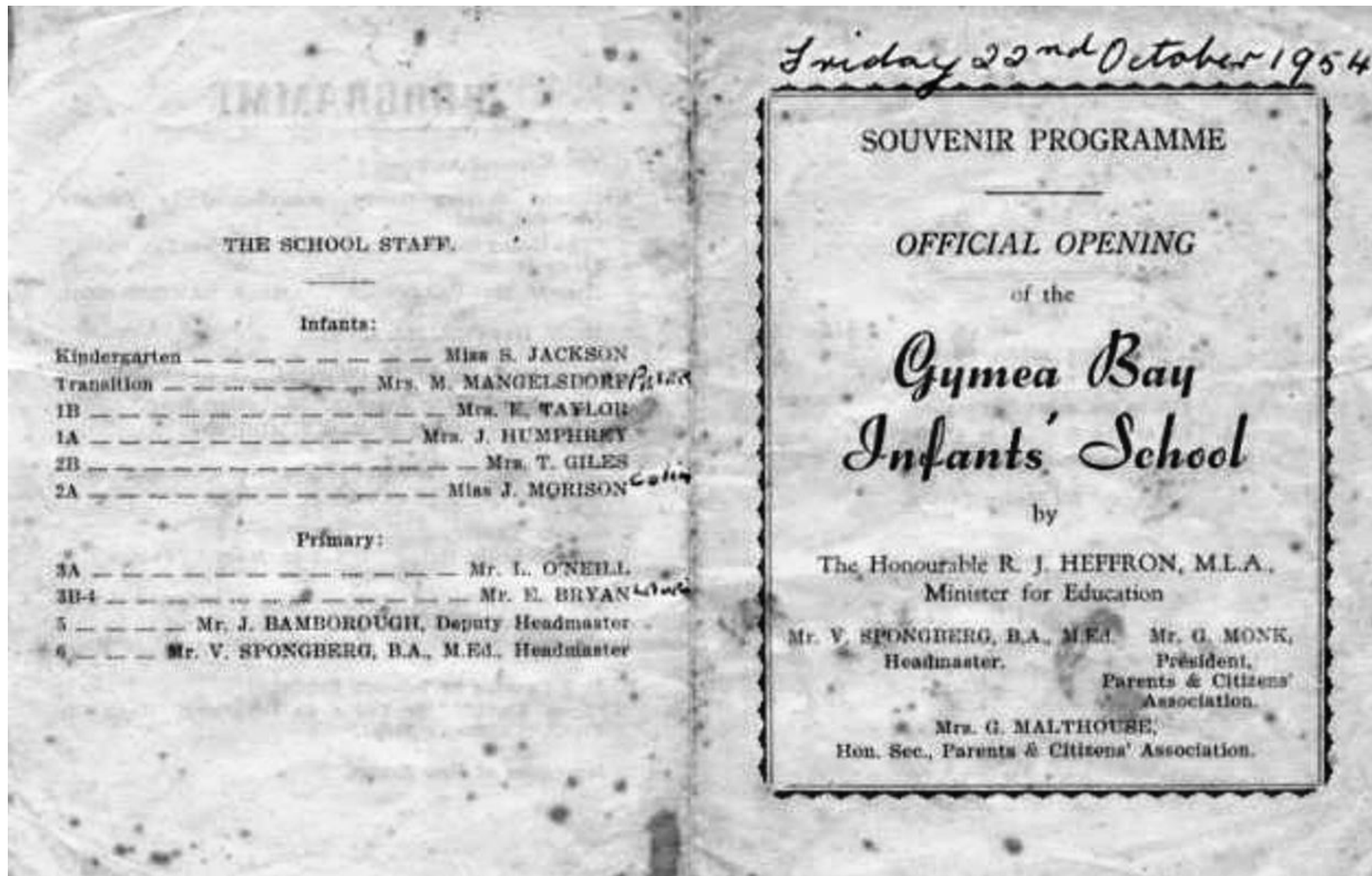
3A: Mr L. O'Neill

3B-4: Mr E. Bryan

5: Mr J. Bamborough (Deputy Headmaster)

6: Mr V. Spongberg (Headmaster)





According to the official programme for the event, the younger students participated in infants' singing games ('The Grand Old Duke of York', 'The Paw-Paw Patch' and other songs), while the pupils of 2A presented some "Verse Speaking," conducted by Miss Morison.





The Hon R.J. Heffron M.L.A. Minister for Education officially opening the new school



Two years later, in 1956. Miss Cook became the Mistress of the Infant's School and also taught Second class.



Miss Norma Cook Headmistress of Infant's School





After the new school opening things were quickly becoming organised. The P&C began to formulate plans along with Mr Spongberg for a school fete. to raise money for the building of a school assembly hall. As this was happening the school was rapidly undergoing further changes. Miss Frost was appointed Primary Girls' Mistress (the first time the school had been segregated in the Primary section). made up of a Teaching Mistress. eight assistant teachers and 240 girls. In the boys' section. Mr Spongberg taught Sixth class and had a total of eight teachers and 256 boys. The Infants' Department stayed the same. with Miss Cook as Mistress and eleven assistant teachers looking after 226 boys and 188 girls.

**Gymea Bay Parents and Citizens' Association**

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**ANNUAL FETE**

to be held in the

**Infants' School Grounds**  
(Corner Coonong and Gymea Bay Roads)

On

**Saturday, 28th September**  
2 p.m.—10 p.m.

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*Fun For All!*

STALLS, HOOP-LA, ROLL-DOWN, LUCKYDIPS,  
PUPPET SHOW, FILMS, COCONUT SHY,  
Items by School Children,  
DARTS, DRINKS, TEA & SANDWICHES, TUG-O-WAR,  
ICE CREAM, HOT DOGS & SAUSAGES.

**School Basketball Competition.**  
**Gents' Sponge Cake Competition.**

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The S.C.A.M. Printery, East Parade, Sutherland.



# The Gymea Lily Festival

In 1959, Vic Spongberg helped inaugurate the 'Gymea Lily Festival', which was always a marvellous occasion - when it didn't rain, that is. The festival was the original brain-child of Joe Storrie, a former Sutherland Shire councillor and secretary of the Architect's Association, who at that time was the president of the Gymea Bay School's P&C committee. Funds were needed to construct an assembly hall at the school, and he put together a creative idea for a large festival to provide capital for the building. Mr Spongberg in turn set out the cultural aims of the festival and parade, namely that residents should be made vividly aware of the identity of their local community, and in a wider sense more appreciative of their native land through a better knowledge of the indigenous people, its pioneers, and its flora and fauna. The inaugural Lily Festival saw Gymea shopping centre transformed into a bushland setting at springtime, and thousands witnessed what would be the first of many massive annual parades wending a path between the shopping centre and the school. It was given the name 'The Festival of Wild Flowers'. A float carrying the Festival Queen, Nereda Davies, had been lovingly decorated by her mother Lil with Gymea Lilies taken from her own property. Some children were made up as Aborigines who carried posters announcing each float as they approached, and later held a corroboree at the school.



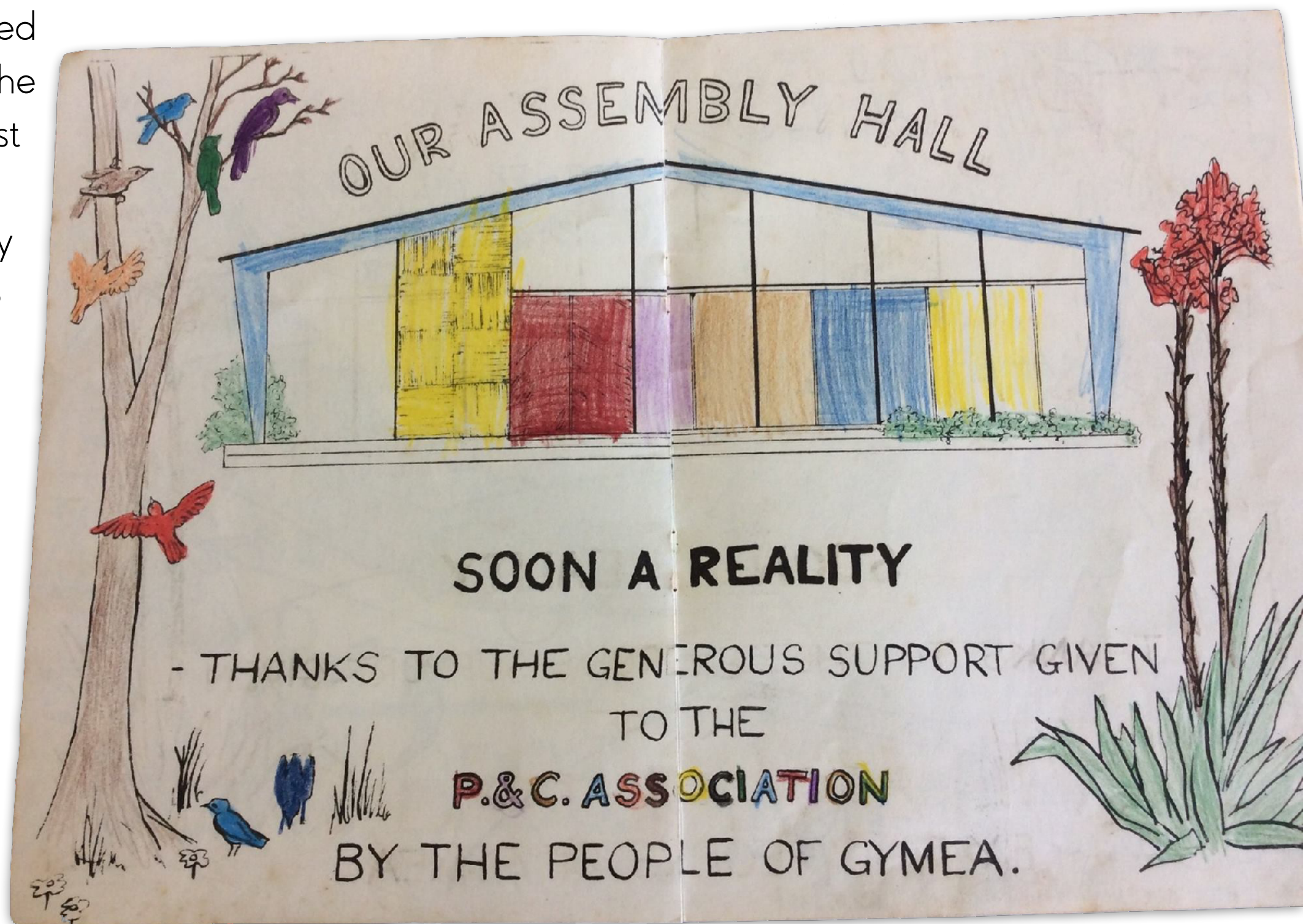
Channel 2 was there to record the event for television, and children eagerly lined up to get the autographs of such celebrities as 'Captain Fortune' and Reggie Quartley and a singer named Ross Higgins, who later found greater fame as Ted Bullpit in the TV comedy series, 'Kingswood Country'. This parade soon become the biggest annual event in the Sutherland Shire, with people flocking from everywhere.



This newspaper clipping from 1968 explains how the Lily Festival would raise money to turn the old school site into a nature park in order to foster the growth of native plants in Gymea Bay. It was Principal Sponberg's hope that people would take a greater interest in local and plants and wildlife. Any left over funds would go towards buying new televisions sets so that every classroom would be able to watch lessons recorded by Gymea Bay teachers in the school's closed circuit TV recording studio.



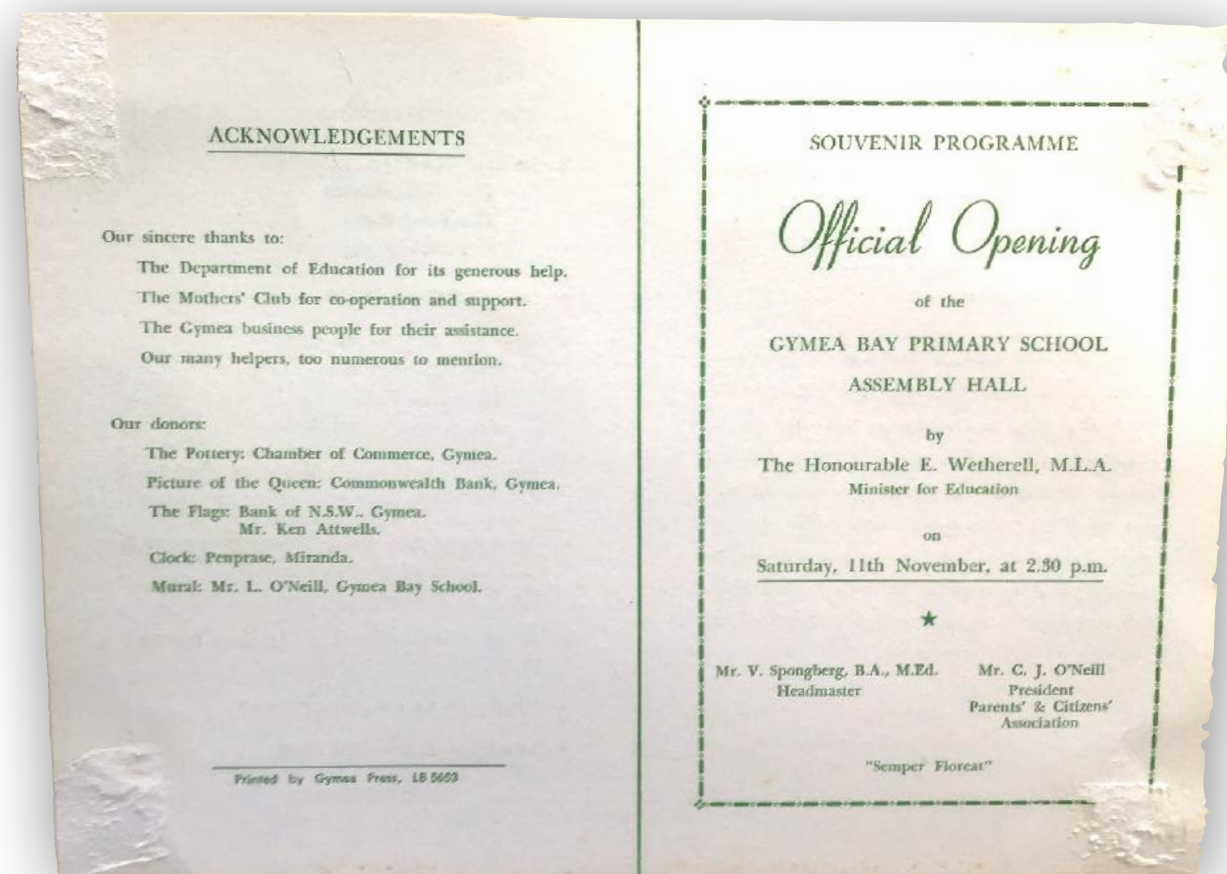
Needless to say, the necessary funds were raised, and the assembly hall eventually built. The official opening of the new hall by the Minister for Education, Ernest Wetherell, was held on 11 November 1961. Costing £9,000 (\$18,000), the hall was a tribute to the hard work and commitment of the P&C. In less than a third of a year, they had raised the £3,000 (\$6,000) required as their share of the building cost. Most of the money came from weekly collections of two shillings (20c) from parents and residents and the proceeds of the festivals.



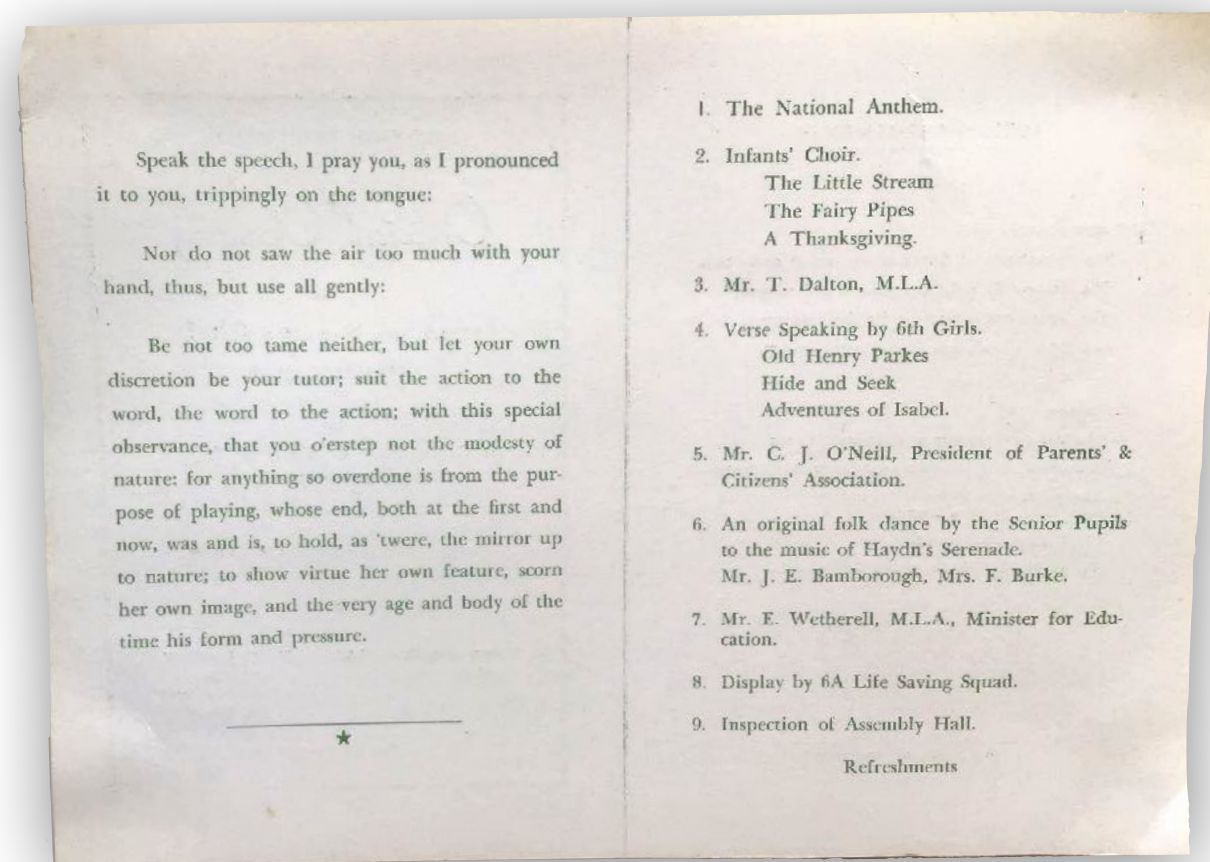




School Hall 1968



School Hall 2020





# School holding Bird Festival

By MARY GILMORE

THE public school at Gymea Bay is to hold a festival, not on the Gymea lily this time, but as a "ceremony of the birds".

The pupils are to dedicate themselves as custodians of little birds. A bird sanctuary and a drinking font will be provided for in the school grounds.

Each "house" in the school will adopt a little bird on its banner. As the banner is raised to the mast-head the Gymea Lily will be sung (I wrote the words for this several years ago).

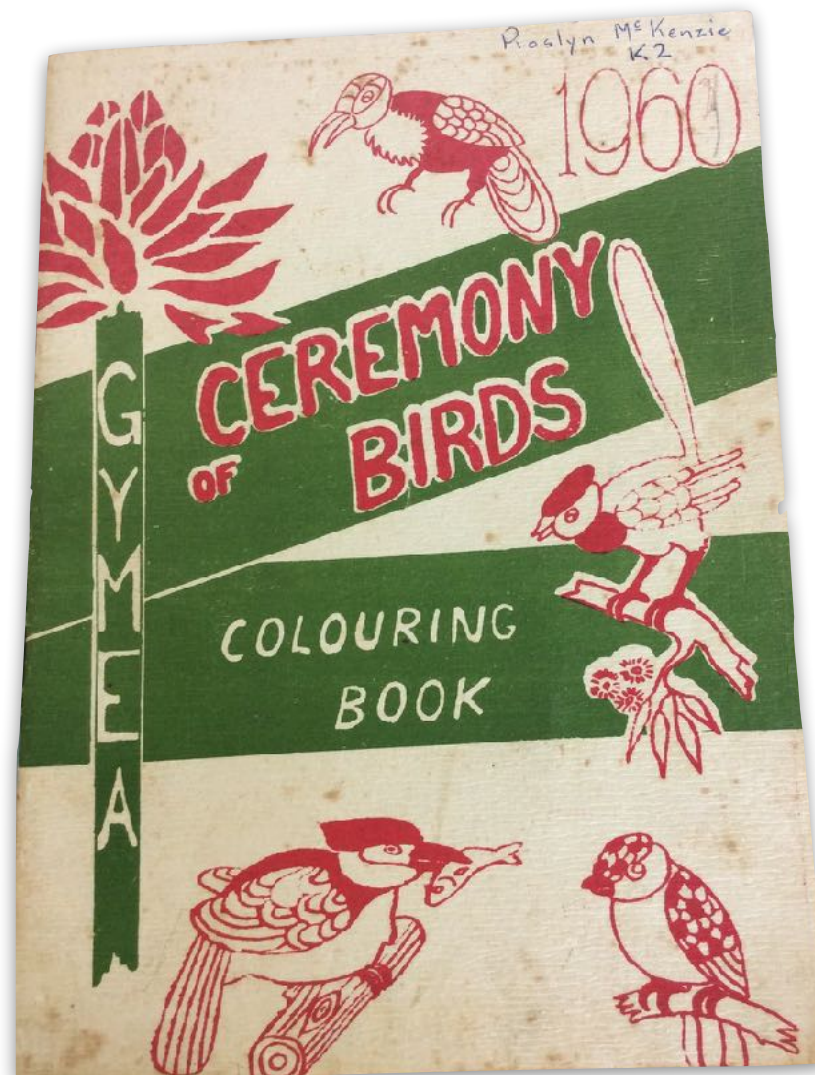
Following this, there is the Blessing of the Birds ceremony and the dedication of the sanctuary and the font.

The Gould League has done good work for years and years for birds in general and especially those near schools.

Actually the League and many schools work together. But the adoption of a bird on the house-banner and a ceremony to emphasise the work is, I think, an innovation by the Gymea Bay School.

All Australian towns and shire councils should consider the lead given them in this way.

The second Gymea Lily Festival had a focus on native birds. Famous Australian author and journalist, Dame Mary Gilmore, reported this in the Tribune magazine. Wed 27 July 1960 p7.



1960 Gymea Lily Festival souvenir booklet presented by the P&C



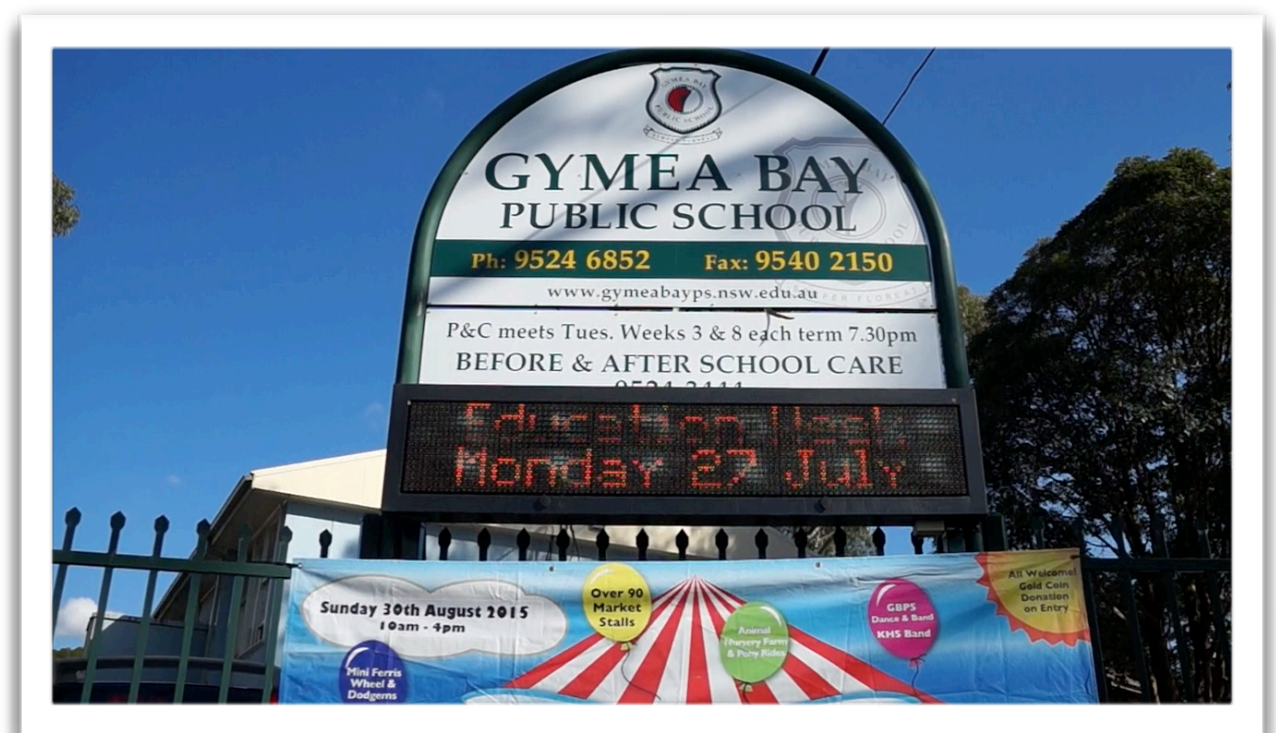
# Photo Gallery of the Lily Festival in Early Years







Today the Gymea Lily Festival is still one of the biggest community events in the Sutherland Shire. Separate from the Gymea Village Fair, it is a major fundraising event for Gymea Bay Public School and raises tens of thousands of dollars each year. The festival is organised by the P&C Association with Kylie Hewitt having put in a huge amount of work as the festival's Coordinator for a number of years in the 2000s.



Student Advertisement for the Gymea Lily Festival 2015



# School Uniform and Emblem



In 1956 the school uniform made its first appearance and the symbolic emblem of the GyMEA Lily (Doryanthea excels) was introduced with the school motto 'Semper

Floreat' (Forever Flourishing).

The suburb names of GyMEA and GyMEA Bay officially resulted from a name proposed by government surveyor William A.B. Greaves in 1855.

He in turn took the name GyMEA from the local Eora Aboriginal people, who used that word to describe the tall stalked lilies in the area.





Today, all students are expected to wear full school uniform, including a school hat. The school policy is 'No hat, play under the COLA'. Jewellery is not to be worn to school with the exception of watches, sleeper earrings or studs. School Leaders wear blazers on special occasions such as ANZAC Day and other ceremonies and events.



Sport uniform



Summer uniform



Jumpers



Winter uniform



## GYMEA LILY ANTHEM

written by Dame Mary Gilmore  
music by John Antill.

Grant us oh Lord  
To tend with care  
This lily of our land  
So fair, so fair.  
Help us to hold  
It as the crown  
For Gymea School  
And Gymea Town.



# Gymea Bay School Song

The original school song was written by one of Australia's most famous literary figures and a founding member of the Fellowship of Australian Writers. She was active in organisations such as the New South Wales Institute of Journalists and the Aboriginal Australian Fellowship. A highly popular and celebrated public figure, Dame Mary Gilmore, appears on our current \$10 note.



Principal Spongberg wrote to her sometime after the opening of the new school and asked for her help with a school anthem. She responded immediately and wrote the first verse, suggesting that pupils organise a competition to compose the rest of the song.



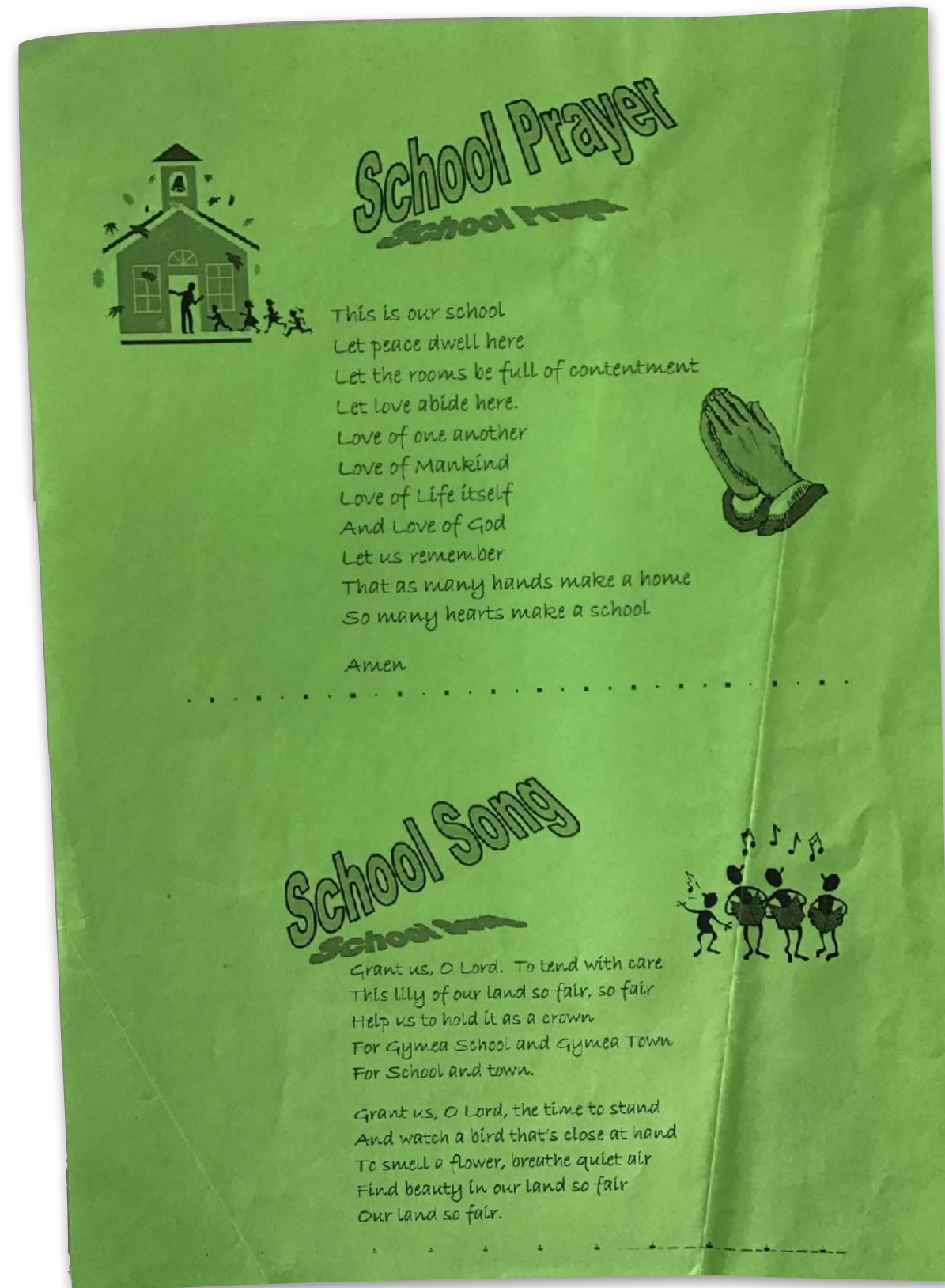
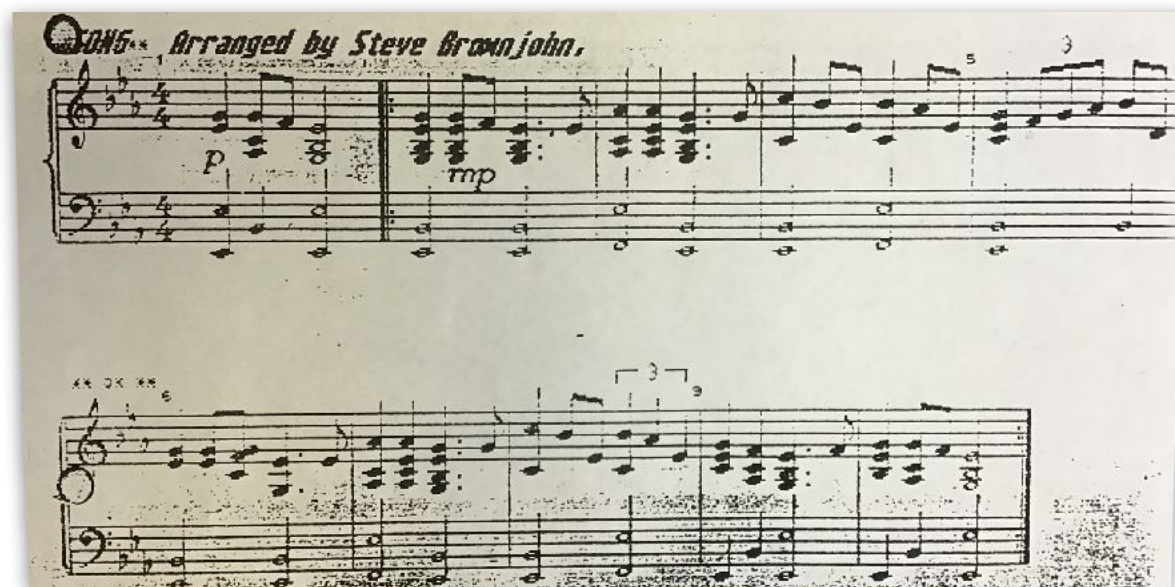
The winner of that competition was year 5 student. Russel Read. John Anthill, one of Australia's finest composers, then wrote the music.

### Verse 1

Grant us, O Lord, to tend with care  
This lily of our land so fair, so fair  
Help us to hold it as the crown  
For Gymea school and Gymea town.

### Verse 2

Grant us, O Lord, the time to stand  
And watch a bird that's close at hand  
To smell a flower, breathe quiet air  
Find beauty in our land so fair  
Our land so fair.





In 2008 the School Song was changed and we trialled two songs. One was to the tune of 'Joy to the World' (Jeremiah was a Bullafrog) and the other was the song that we chose and sing today to the tune of 'True Colours'. The song was written by teacher. Gaylene Millar.

### **Verse 1**

We are a great school.  
We've cultural groups and a sport or two.  
Opportunities.  
A chance to succeed  
In all we believe and say.  
We value our school.  
It belongs to you.

### **Chorus**

If you want to do your best.  
Let your light shine through.  
GyMEA Bay is the place for you.  
To achieve your goals  
And show you care.  
We're the school for you.  
We will stand true.

### **Verse 2**

We are a great school.  
We all want to learn and grow.  
To enrich our lives.  
In a world that's before us.  
We just want to show the rest.  
United together.



# Origin of the Sports Houses

Our school has built an excellent sporting tradition and reputation. We have a fine collection of trophies from inter-school competitions. Rivalry between the four 'houses' of the school continues to be just as strong. The sporting houses were originally formed by past Principal. Mr Spongberg and the students. The houses were given Aboriginal names for Indigenous birds. They consulted a number of Aboriginal dictionaries at the time and came up with the words Tywan (lyre bird). Thirrie-Thirrie (willy-wagtail). Kiara (white cockatoo) and Wonga Wonga (native blue pigeon). These names remained in use until recently when they changed to names based on Australian marsupials.





Somewhere along the line before 1985. Wonga Wonga was shortened to Wonga. Thirrie Thirrie was abbreviated to Thirri and the emblem for this house became the magpie.





# New House System

In 2019, as a result of student voice and votes from staff and community, the school houses were renamed using Dharawal words for native animals. Artist and parent of the school, Mrs Brooke Gill, designed the new mascots. The new House System was launched in 2020. The students are divided into the four houses based on the first letter of their last name.

**A-D** Possum - Guruwara

Goo (like Good) Roo Wara (like Waratah)

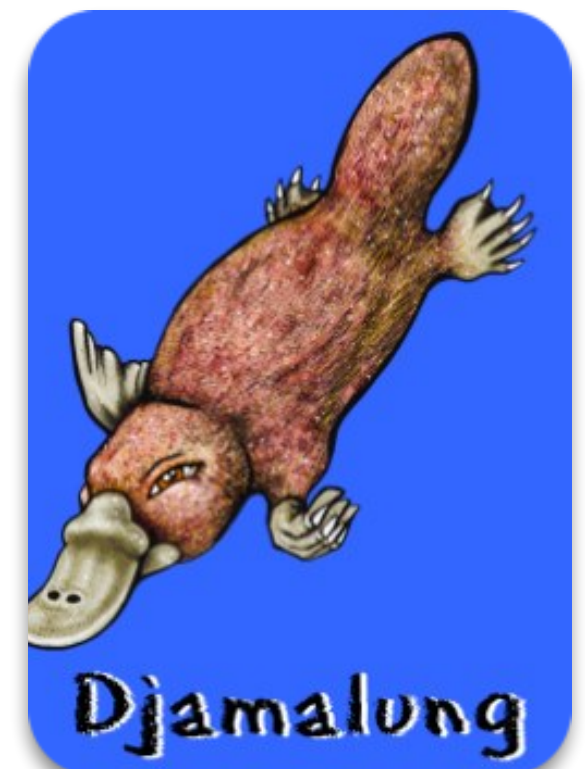
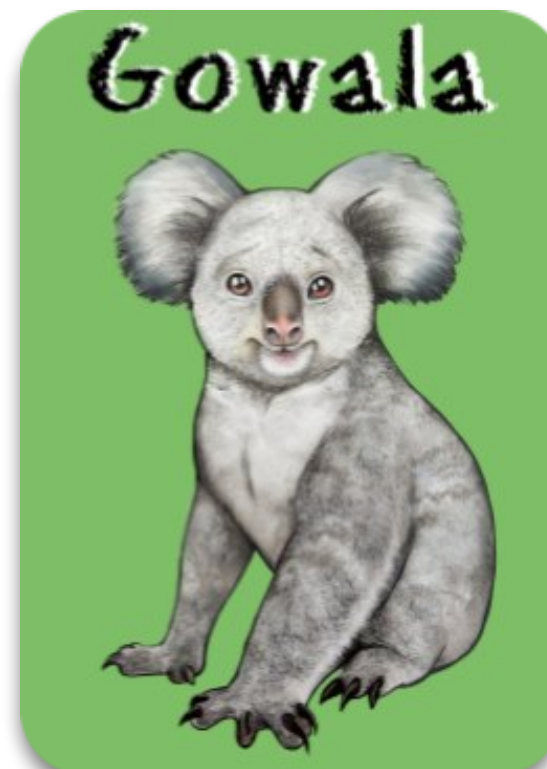
**E-K** Kangaroo - Buru

Boo (like book) Roo

**L-Q** Koala - Gowala (rhymes with Koala)

**R-Z** Platypus - Djamalung

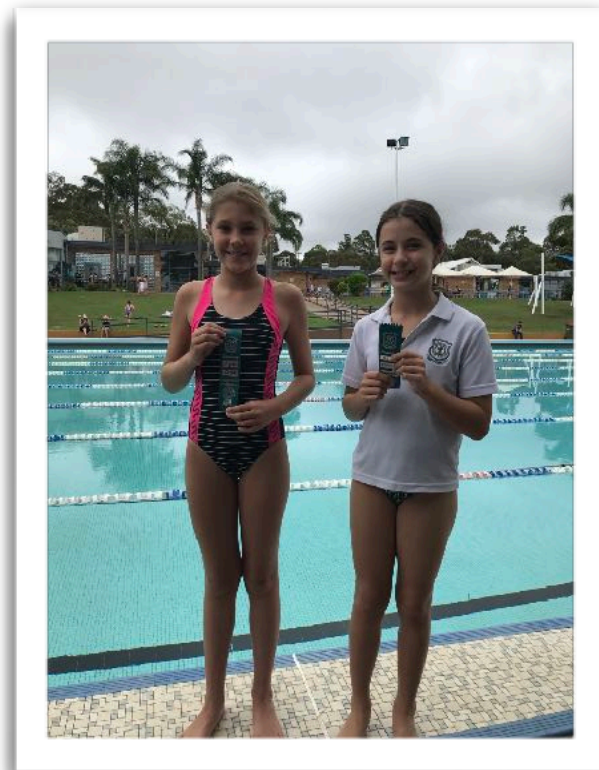
Jama (like pyjama) Lung





# Sport

Each year, G.B.P.S. runs three sporting carnivals to find out who are the champions at our school in Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. Winners of these events qualify to represent our school at the Cronulla Zone carnivals. If students are successful at this level they can go onto represent our school and Zone at the Sydney East regional level, NSW state level and then onto the Australian Championships.



Just recently we have run our school Cross Country Carnival and Ryan H. and Jack R. each broke long standing records from 2002 and 2004 respectively and each by more than 20 seconds! What an amazing achievement! One for the history books!





Some of our swimming stars from this year's Swimming Carnival





As well as our three carnivals, sport for all students takes place each week. Students are expected to wear the specified sports uniform. In K-6, students participate in a fundamental movement program aimed at developing coordination, fitness and the skills for games and sport. In Years 4-6, programs include team and representative sports conducted as part of the Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA). Positions for these teams are always highly sought, with many more students trying out than there are available places. Selection is at the discretion of coaching staff. The school participates in inter-school PSSA competitions in soccer, rugby league, softball, netball, basketball and cricket. Students are also involved in various gala days and knockouts.



Boys Knockout Hockey 2018



# White Ribbon Ambassadors

We are part of a local, regional, and national White Ribbon community of over 500 schools committed to strengthening respectful relationships. Our Gymea Guardians and White Ribbon Leaders programs provide opportunities to students for learn leadership skills and engage in initiatives to model and promote respectful relationships. On 23rd November, 2018, our White Ribbon Leaders and Gymea Guardians attended the annual Sutherland Shire White Ribbon Walk from Wanda to North Cronulla, raising awareness about and supporting the prevention of violence against women.



A selection of photos from White Ribbon Day walks and assemblies



# Gardening Team



When the last year 6 class moved over to the new school site mid year in 1955, they talked their teacher into letting them clear the two hectare grounds of eucalyptus tree stumps and putting them in them a huge pile so they could have a bonfire! Apparently you could see the smoke from Sutherland! Later that year, the students planted new trees along the Gympie Bay Road boundary.

Above are the Gardening Team helping to clear a bunch of large sticks from the playground with Mr Craddock after a wild storm at the end of 2018. They found so many they decided to try and recreate some traditional shelters for a bit of fun.



# Technology

Gymea Bay Public School has always been recognised for its innovative use of technology and is a leader in using digital learning tools, equipping young people with the skills and capabilities they need to thrive in a rapidly changing, globalised world.



Winners of the 2018 Technology 4 Learning (T4L) award by the Department of Education's annual CIO's Technology in Schools conference.

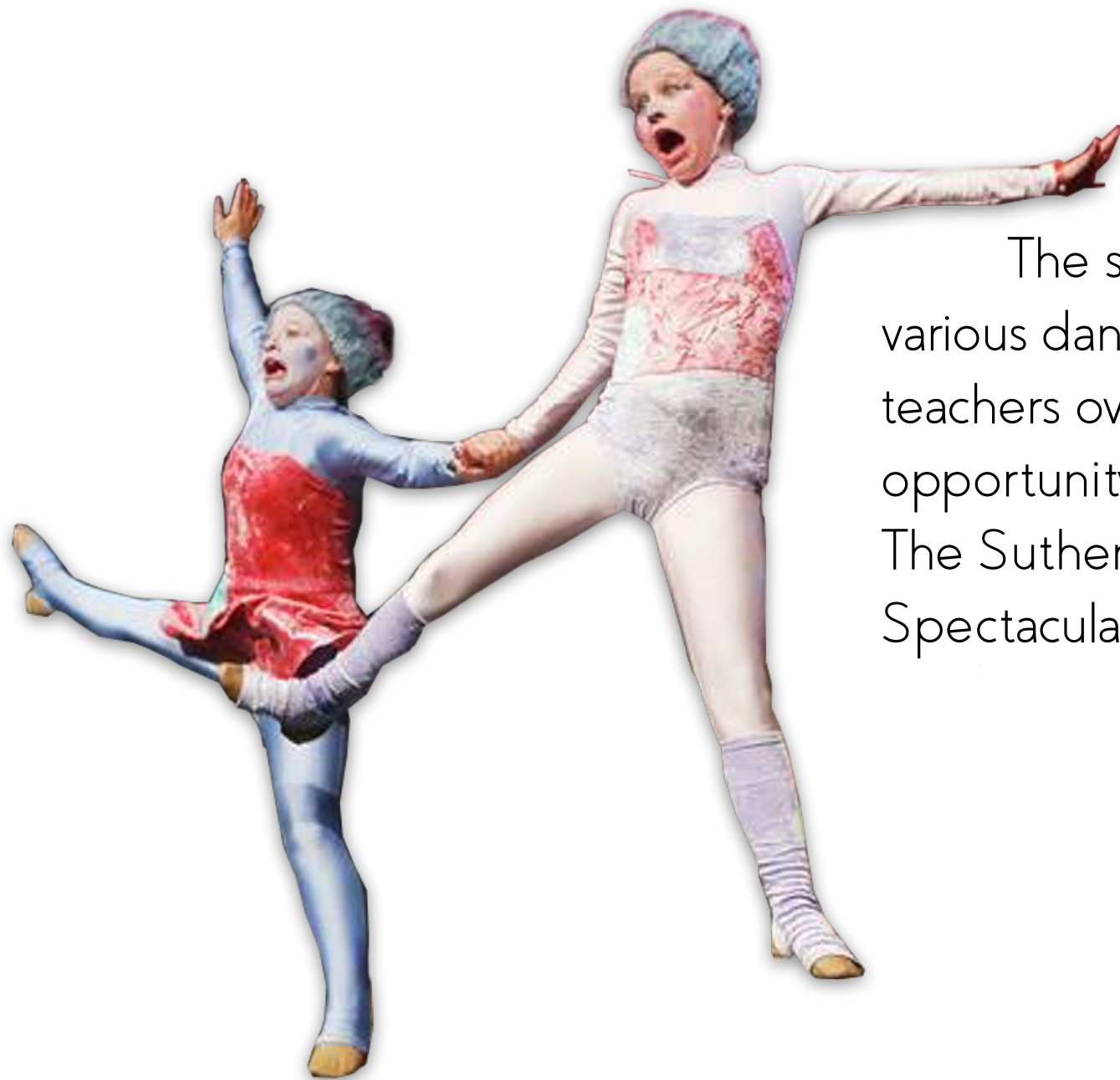


Perhaps the most far-sighted innovation introduced during Mr Spongberg's time in charge was the onsite television studio, where students produced and broadcast current affairs and other subject-related programmes to each classroom via a closed circuit network. In 1967, barely a decade after the debut of commercial television in Australia, it was a ground-breaking educational initiative. Students honed a wide range of technical and creative skills in producing these programmes, and staff were able to share the teaching of units of work across their respective

grades. With a television set in each classroom, the students in 1969 were also able to watch man's first steps on the moon during class time. - Kim Hatherly







# Dance

The students at G.B.P.S. have long enjoyed various dance programs run by many dedicated teachers over the years. Dance groups have had the opportunity to perform outside of school at events like The Sutherland Shire Music Festival, J Rock, School Spectacular and Wakakirri.

**‘GREAT STORIES CAN OPEN  
HEARTS AND MINDS AND INSPIRE  
CHANGE.’**





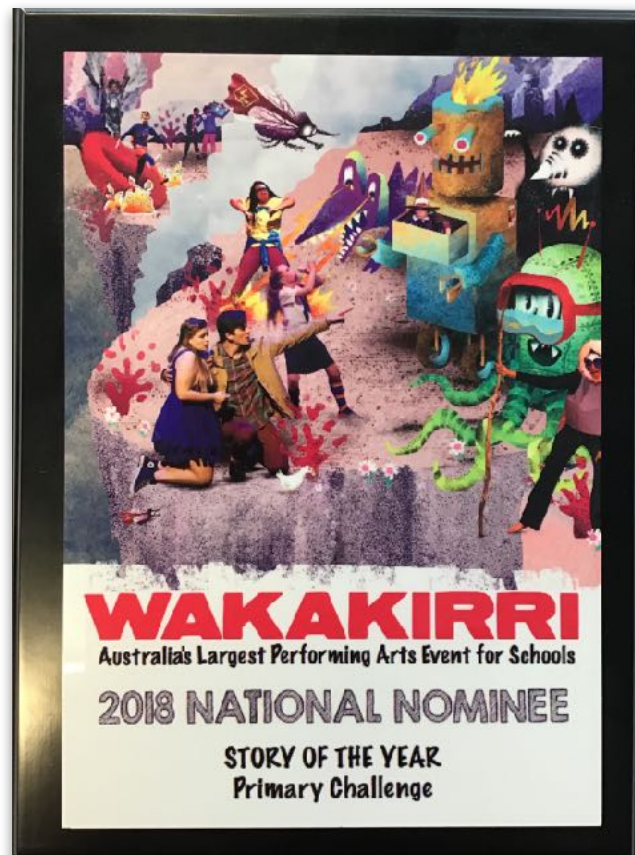






In 2018, the dance teaching team headed up by Deputy Principal Robyn Beck, and supported by Natalie Ettingshausen and tutors from her dance school, were presented with an award by the Australian College of Educators in recognition for their efforts and excellence in teaching the Performing Arts.

Natalie Ettingshausen has been teaching dance at our school for 27 years and worked with teacher Robyn Evans, until 1999 when Robyn Beck started teaching at G.B.P.S. and took on the role of the school's Dance Coordinator, which continued for 20 years.



## Bugserella wins for Gymea

GYMEA Bay Public School became champion once again in the Wakikirri Super League for NSW, the largest national performing arts event for primary schools.

Yowie Bay Public School came in second – a step up from their third place last year.

Both schools received their awards on September 19 at the Sydney Entertainment Centre, where about 20,000 students representing 325 schools gathered from around Australia.

Deputy principal Belinda Perih said this was a rare accomplishment for Gymea Bay as it was also finalist last year.

Staff, students and parents were "absolutely elated" as they had



**TALENTED . . .** The team from Gymea Bay Public School celebrate their win.

worked hard since January on the story of Cinderella from an insect point of view. The production was a big community effort as 125 students from Year 2 to 6 practised during

holidays while parents helped to make costumes and props, Ms Perih said.

Yowie Bay staff, students and parents are also proud of their own performance, "A Simple Life - Live in Peace," based on Tarzan and Jane.

Assistant principal and dance ensemble coordinator Robyn Evans said the production involved 72 students from Years 5 and 6.

Productions of both Gymea Bay and Yowie Bay schools were choreographed by Natalie Ettingshausen of the Dynamic Arts at Kirrawee.



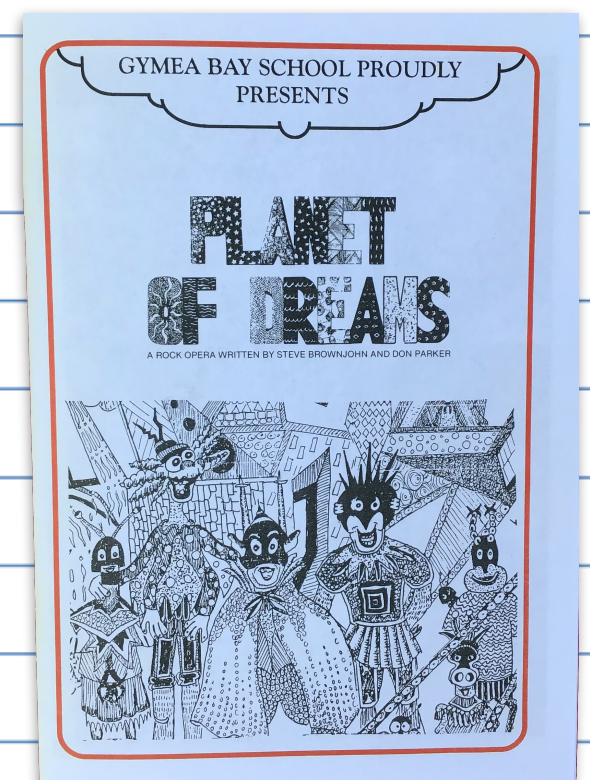
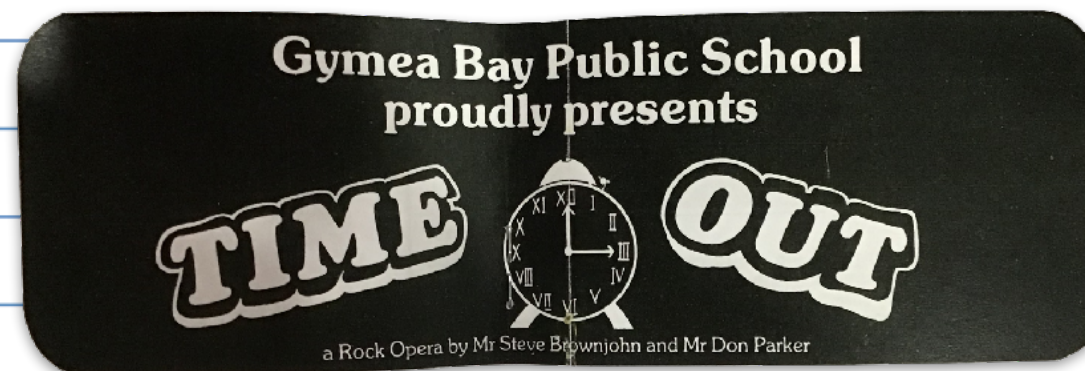
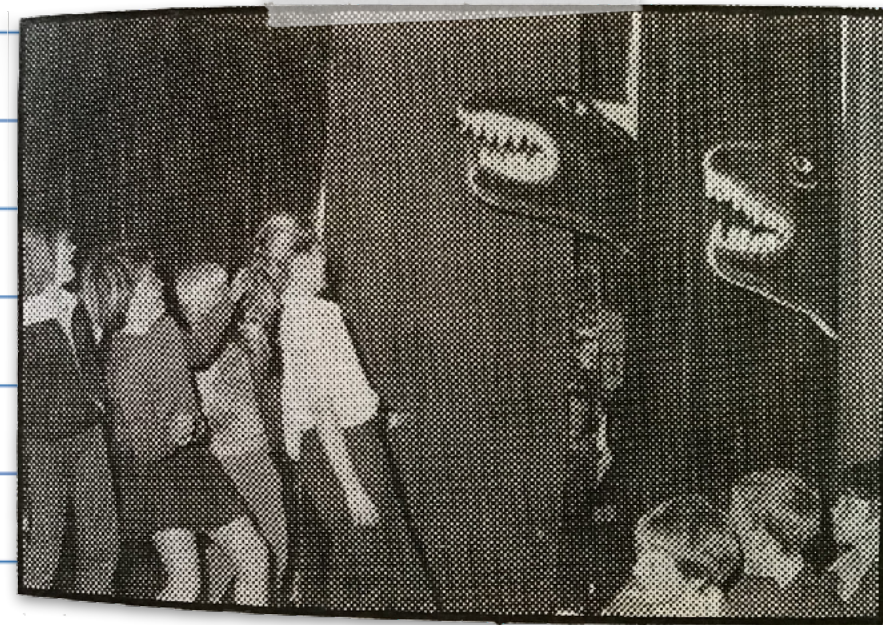
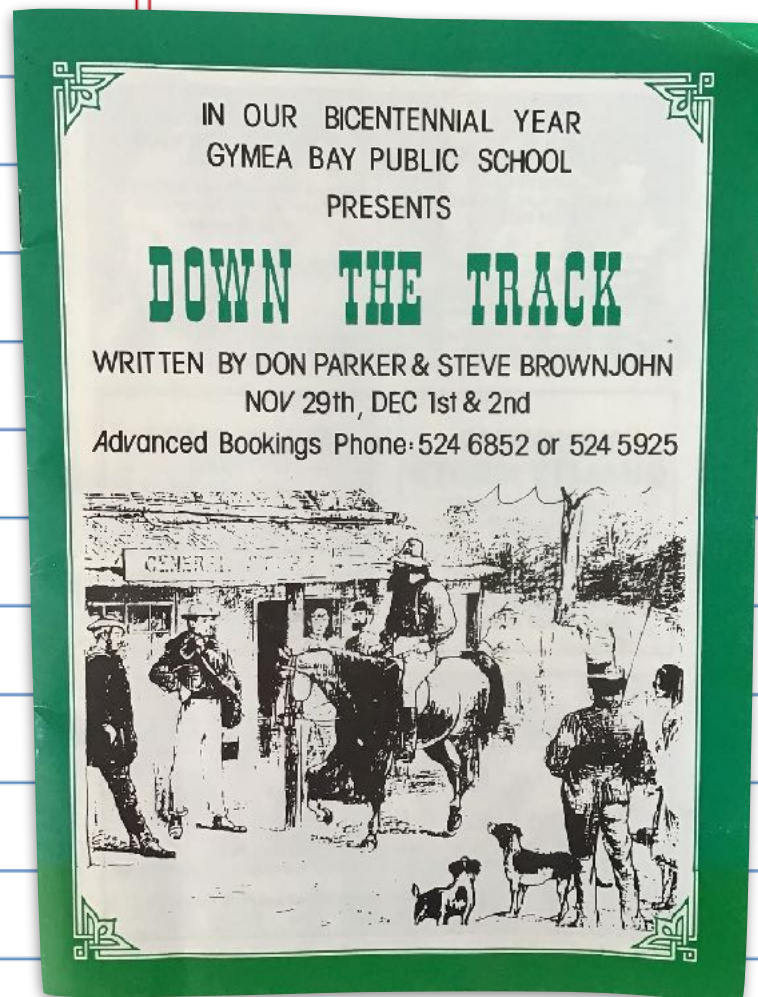
# Dance Gallery





# School Musicals

Original productions were written and produced by GyMEA Bay teachers. Mr Steve Brownjohn and Mr Don Parker created these musicals so that as many students as possible could be involved. The first rock operetta was written by Don and Steve as part of an assignment in order for them to graduate from the Sydney Teachers' College at Oatley. The musicals were first performed in the 70s and then were spruced up and back by popular demand in the 80s.







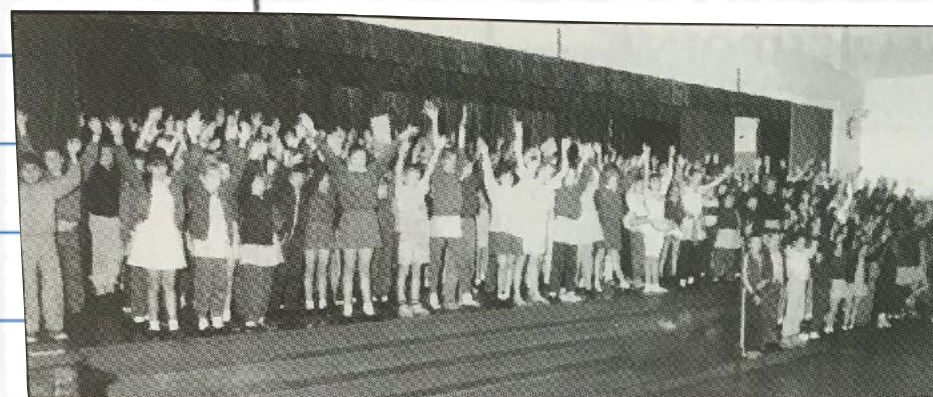
## Reproductions

*1984 - Planet of Dreams*

*1986 - Time Out*

*1988 - Down the Track*

*1990 - Delicate Balance*




GYMEA BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

# DELICATE BALANCE

Programme

INTRODUCTION: A Kensett  
CIRCUS: L. Jones




**LET'S HAVE A STORY**  
"Are you a member of this club sir?"  
The Chameleons (Sally, Sarah, Sarah, Brooke),  
Liam Tierney, David Burt, Storybook dancers

**GANG DANCERS**  
"Close your eyes now. Come on! Hurry up!"

**GET YOURSELF TOGETHER**  
"You can be just like us.  
Look at us we're cool."  
Link, Jonathon, David, Noridah,  
Alison, Robert and the Gang

**SPOOKY**  
"Creepy old place isn't it.  
Been abandoned for years."  
Liam, Ryan, Gang members,  
Chameleons and Spooky dancers



**BUSINESS**  
"Money, money we love that sound!"  
Zoe, Gavin, Sarah Smith, Adam, David,  
Brett, Chameleons, Choir and  
Fashion dancers

**ADVERTISING**  
"What is truth? What is real?"  
Katie, Brad, Megan, Brendan,  
Helen, Chameleons and Choir

**FASHION**  
"No matter what the cost!"  
Andrew Hazleton, The reporters,  
Choir, Chameleons and Fashion dancers


**THIS IS THE END**  
"Goodbye my friends!"  
Derek, Amy, Alison and Robert

**FINALE**  
"We've got one more chance to survive!"  
ENTIRE CAST

IN OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR  
GYMEA BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
PRESENTS

# DOWN THE TRACK

Programme




**KIDS OF TODAY**  
"The world is full of comedians Smith.  
Unfortunately you are not one of them."  
(Blake Beattie, Rebecca Harper  
and Year 6)

**GET TO THE TOP**  
"You've been up to it in sanitation and  
now I'm pleased to say you're down in  
the drains with me."  
(Rebecca Harper, Peter Myers, Brooke  
Bostock and Stephen Bartolo.)

**SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA**  
"A little spirited intervention"  
(Renée Opperman and Justine Turnbull)

**THE SHIP, THE SHIP**  
"Excuse me Gov' nor but Smith here  
can't hit high C. (thump!)" (The Cast)

**LISTEN UP YOU CONVICT SCUM**  
"We'll whip you, beat you, till your life  
is through." (Jane Holdsworth and our  
all boy chorus line including 1st and  
2nd row of the football team.)



**JUSTICE**  
"Give me freedom Yeah. Give me  
freedom." (Rebecca Harper,  
Craig Allsopp, Derek Adams, Matthew  
Petterson, Caroline Allen, Dancing  
Magistrates and Soldiers)

**ON THE FARM**  
"Goodnight John Boy"  
(Rebecca Harper, Matthew Petterson,  
and Eminta Tellegen)

**GOLD**  
"There's lots of it to be found"  
(Rebecca Harper and Cast)

**BANJO AND HENRY**  
"Long to feel the bridal leather tugging  
strongly in the hand" (Rebecca Harper,  
Renée Opperman, Justine Turnbull,  
Glenn Ross, Craig Allsopp)

**TEST RESULTS**  
"Smith D, well at least you're consistent."  
"Australia" (Entire Cast)

INTERVAL (15 minutes)



# PLANET OF DREAMS

A ROCK OPERA WRITTEN BY STEVE BROWNJOHN AND DON



GYMEA BAY  
PUBLIC SCHOOL  
Proudly presents

## *Planet Of Dreams*

The Rock Opera, "Planet of Dreams" was conceived by Steve Brownjohn and myself to fulfil the need for a musical work that could be performed by Primary school children with the option of supporting a large cast.

The story concerns Elmo, the Earthling, a very concerned young man, who through his quest for knowledge, travels to the Planet of Dreams where he meets many interesting Aliens and Imagene, who becomes his mentor. He returns to Earth with new hope for our future.

Steve and I wish to thank all those who have taken part or assisted us in this production and we hope you enjoy the performance.

Don Parker  
Producer





# A note from Mr Parker

G.B.P.S's longest serving teacher - 37 years!

My first memory of teaching at Gymea Bay Public School was watching 800 plus children file in silence into the hall for the weekly assembly. I watched as the Choir Mistress gestured them all to sit. 'Very impressive', I thought. At the conclusion of the meeting she announced that I was to lead the assembly in singing the National Anthem. I was mortified but there was no turning back. I gave the hand gesture and everybody stood and so



Photo: Lisa McMahon. The Leader

I announced "Now we will all sing our National Anthem, Advance Miranda Fair!" Thankfully the music started and I just waved my hands like I knew what I was doing. But deep down I was wondering how long it would be before I got the boot!



# Music Groups

Band at Gymea Bay Public School has been a long standing tradition. Presently, students from Years 4-6 develop musical knowledge and learn to play an instrument. Band has been and continues to be a place of community, enjoyment and team work. In recent events, the G.B.P.S. bands have placed Gold and Silver in Bandfest competitions. Attending Bandfest, Bandtastic, Band Camp and performing at PAN and school events is a long standing tradition for Gymea Bay Public School with strong hopes for another 85 years!

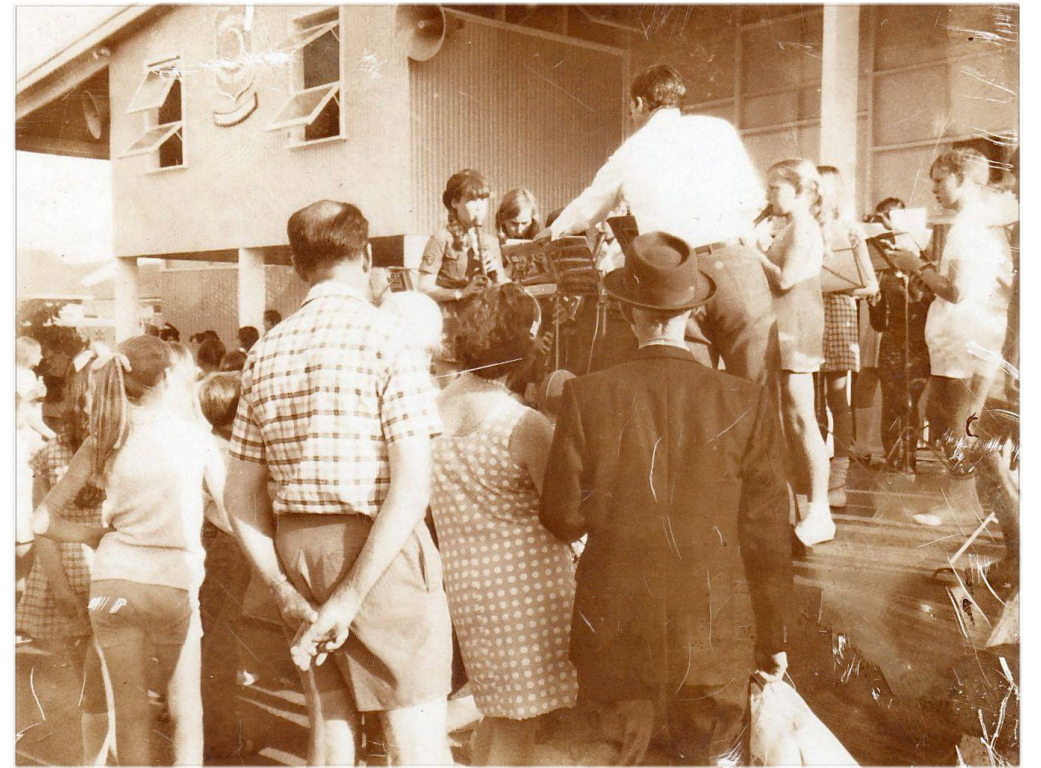


Leaving for Band Camp 2018 with Miss Bigeni





School Band playing at the Lily Festival 2015



Recorder Ensemble playing at the Lily Festival 1970



The Sunshiners circa 1970s



School Band playing at Awards night



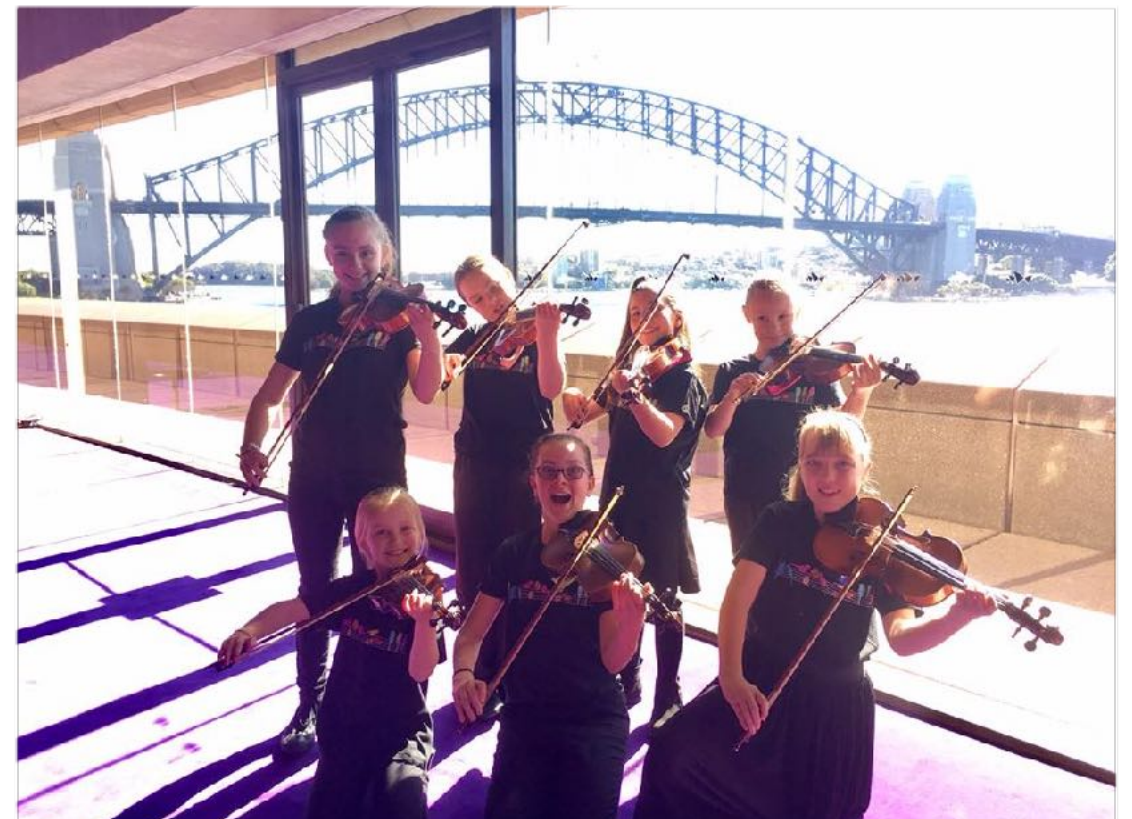
Our violin musicians are part of the 'Strings' and 'Stringles' groups. Former student at G.B.P.S. and now specialist Music teacher, Miss Emma Graham, leads these groups where they have performed at many events including the Sydney Opera House. Every year they busk at Gymea Village Shops to raise money for a chosen charity.



Performing at the Gymea Bay Nursing Home



The Strings group busk at Gymea Bay Rd shops to raise money for charity. November 2019



Opera House performance 2018





Our very talented conductor. Mrs Jacky Styles



Combined singers and strings groups perform for parents



Education week performance 2016



2020 Education Week Performing Arts Video



# Films

A small collection of films and videos made over the years.



The Hairy Toe by 3H 2012



First episode of Bay News 2015



The Haunted House by 3P 1977



49 Fishes by Jolt Drama group 2015





# More Films...



The Trapdoor by 3H 2007



Lost Fish by Jolt Drama group 2015



A Principal's Job for Bay News 2015



Gynea Guardian movie 2015



1K Our Secret Holiday 2015





# Year 6 Memories

For many students at Gymea Bay Public School, Year 6 is always the most memorable. A year of making lifelong friends, enjoying new privileges, going on school camps, being involved in performances and sporting competitions, learning about the 'birds and the bees', taking on leadership roles, the year six farewell and savouring every last minute of primary school because... School days are happy days!



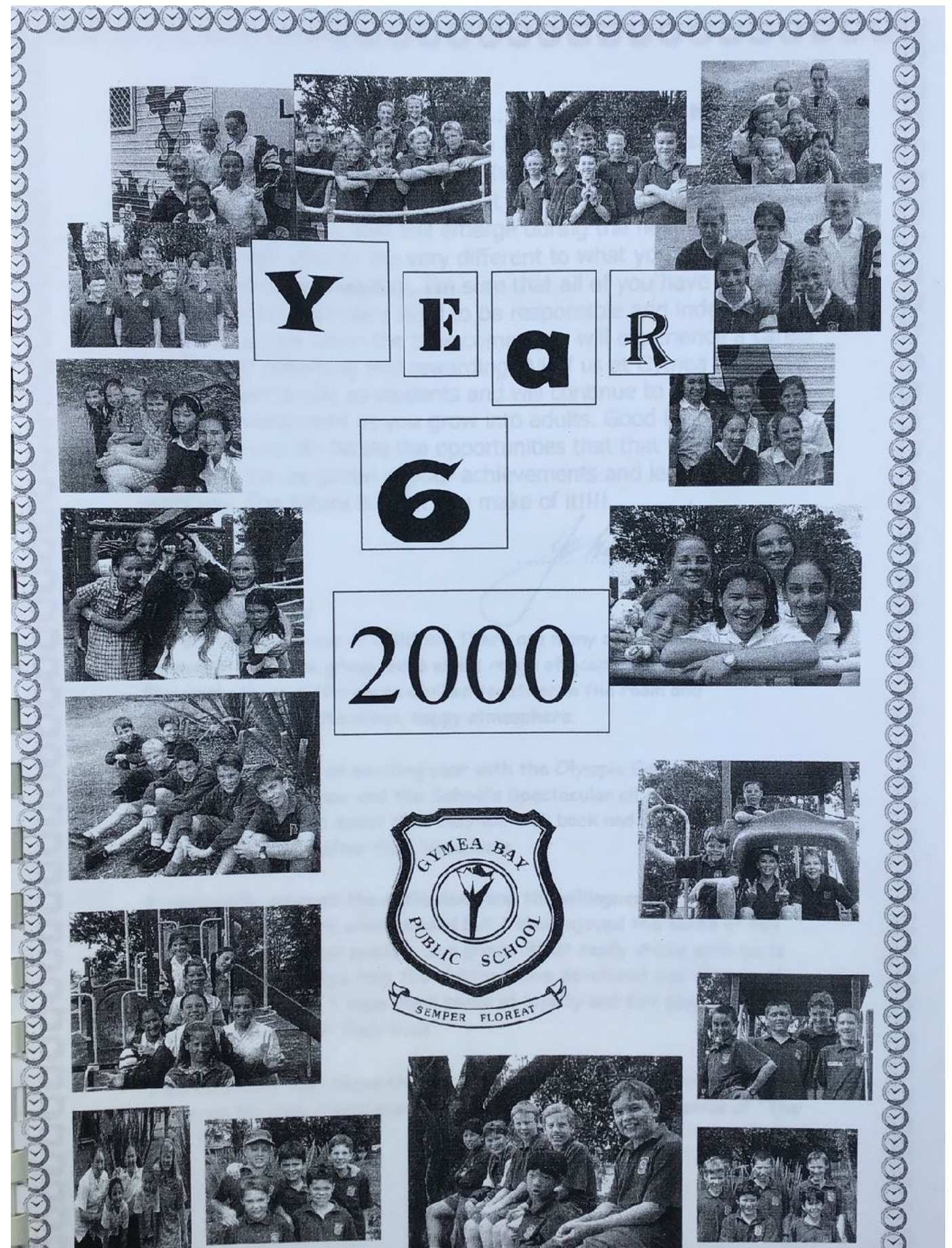
Famous Year 6 teacher, Mr Don Widenstrom, taught for 33 years at GBPS



End of Year 6 Tradition



# Photo Gallery of Year 6 Memories and Year Books





# CLASS MADE A FILM ABOUT CONSERVATION

**FORTY** primary schoolchildren recently spent a week in a N.S.W. State Forest as part of their conservation studies, then made a movie of the experience.

The 11 and 12-year-olds, from Sydney's Gymea Bay Public School, filmed their visit to the forest, taped interviews with foresters, recorded the involuntary gasps of awe and the deafening crashes as they saw trees felled, then came back to school to edit the film and soundtrack.

"They asked advice, of course, but the children did all the work," said their teacher, Mrs. Betty Callaway, who took her class to Bellangry State Forest, near Wauchope, to encourage the children's appreciation of the bush.

The children had just completed a term's course on ecology, with emphasis on forestry conservation.

During the last Christmas holidays, when Betty Callaway was in the area on holidays with her husband, Bill, and their three children, she approached the Forestry Commission, asking if she

could bring her class into the forest for a new learning experience.

"The local forester had wanted for some time to interest the Forestry Commission and local authorities in allowing the area to be used for field studies and educational purposes," said Mrs. Callaway.

It was an easy decision to make a film as a record of the trip. Gymea Bay Public School has, since 1967, given many lessons over closed-circuit television, and the school has a fully-equipped, soundproof studio.

Its pupils are accustomed to working with microphones, tape recorders and movie cameras.

## Taped sounds

With their microphones, the children recorded the sounds of fire, sirens, graders moving along the slippery roads and birds in the trees.

"Everywhere we went, people had microphones stuck in their faces," Mrs. Callaway said. "Children are terrific at interviewing. People warm to them pretty quickly."

Six boys took turns operating the movie camera,



*MRS. BETTY CALLAWAY and some of her sixth-formers who became film-makers.*

recording the class's exploration of the forest, their trip to Herons Creek Sawmill (believed to be the largest hardwood mill in the Southern Hemisphere), visits to a milk and cheese factory, and to a veneer factory.

Mrs. Callaway said that at the sawmill the children were disturbed to find that about 80 percent of the logs there were sent to Broken Hill as mine supports. "The children thought there should be a better end for such beautiful timber," she said.

At nearby Huntingdon school (22 pupils strong), the Gymea children planted a blackbutt (the most important commercial timber tree in the Bellangry forest) to commemorate their visit.

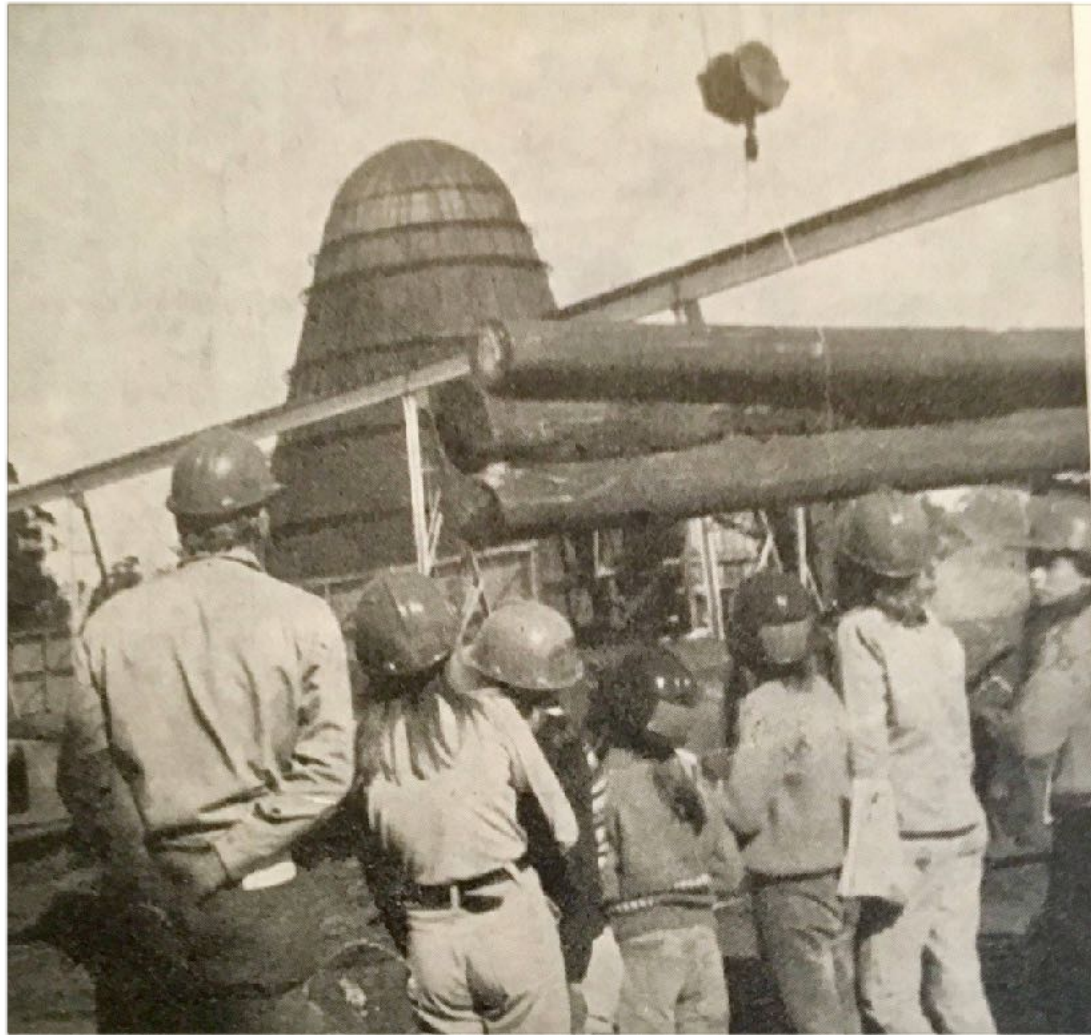
While in the forest, the children wore hard-hats borrowed from local firms.

The film (20 minutes in length, and with the popular Scott Joplin jazz music as the basis for the soundtrack) was viewed with interest by officials of the Forestry Commission of N.S.W.

In 1974, Year 6 teacher Mrs Betty Callaway ran the first of her annual class trips to Bellangry State Forest. While Gymea Bay students had for many years visited Canberra to witness the workings of parliament and Cooma to study the Snowy Mountains scheme. Mrs Callaway's week-long excursion drew on the students' familiarity with cameras and recording equipment to have them tape interviews with Forestry Commission workers, film the felling of trees, the workings of the saw mill, and visits to veneer and dairy factories, then create a 20-minute film to complete their term's environmental and conservation studies. An article on their achievements appeared in the Australian Women's Weekly.

By Kim Hatherly - Historian





Wendy McCarron

The Principal, Staff and Gymea Bay Parents & Citizens' Association wish to congratulate you on successfully completing your Primary School career.

We hope that you have enjoyed your stay at Gymea Bay Primary School and in the years to come look back to those school days with very happy memories.

We know that you are looking forward to High School and we hope that you achieve success there.





# Then and Now



Emma Graham student at G.B.P.S.  
1996 - 2001



Music and Classroom Teacher Miss Graham  
2013 - present





Libby Jones student at G.B.P.S.  
1996 - 2002



Miss Jones Teacher at G.B.P.S.  
2015 - 2019





Gone are the days of slate boards and chalk.  
 The ink pots and inkwells and quills.  
 Gone are the pen nibs and blotters of old.  
 And Jelly pads and gestetners to copy some work.  
 Gone are the punishments of the cane, and the dunce's cap.  
 Writing of lines and missing out on lunch.  
 Gone are the desks and chairs of wrought iron and quality timber.



G.B.P.S. classroom in the 1960s



And the rows of students in classes of up to the sixties.

Our tools of learning have changed. we've biros, and pencils, whiteboard desks,

ipads, interactive boards and screens, computers and multimedia -

We've photocopiers, and shared digital spaces in the cloud

Which allow learning through being accessible anywhere, anytime.

Our rooms no longer have chalkboards and dust, but are rather filled with colour.

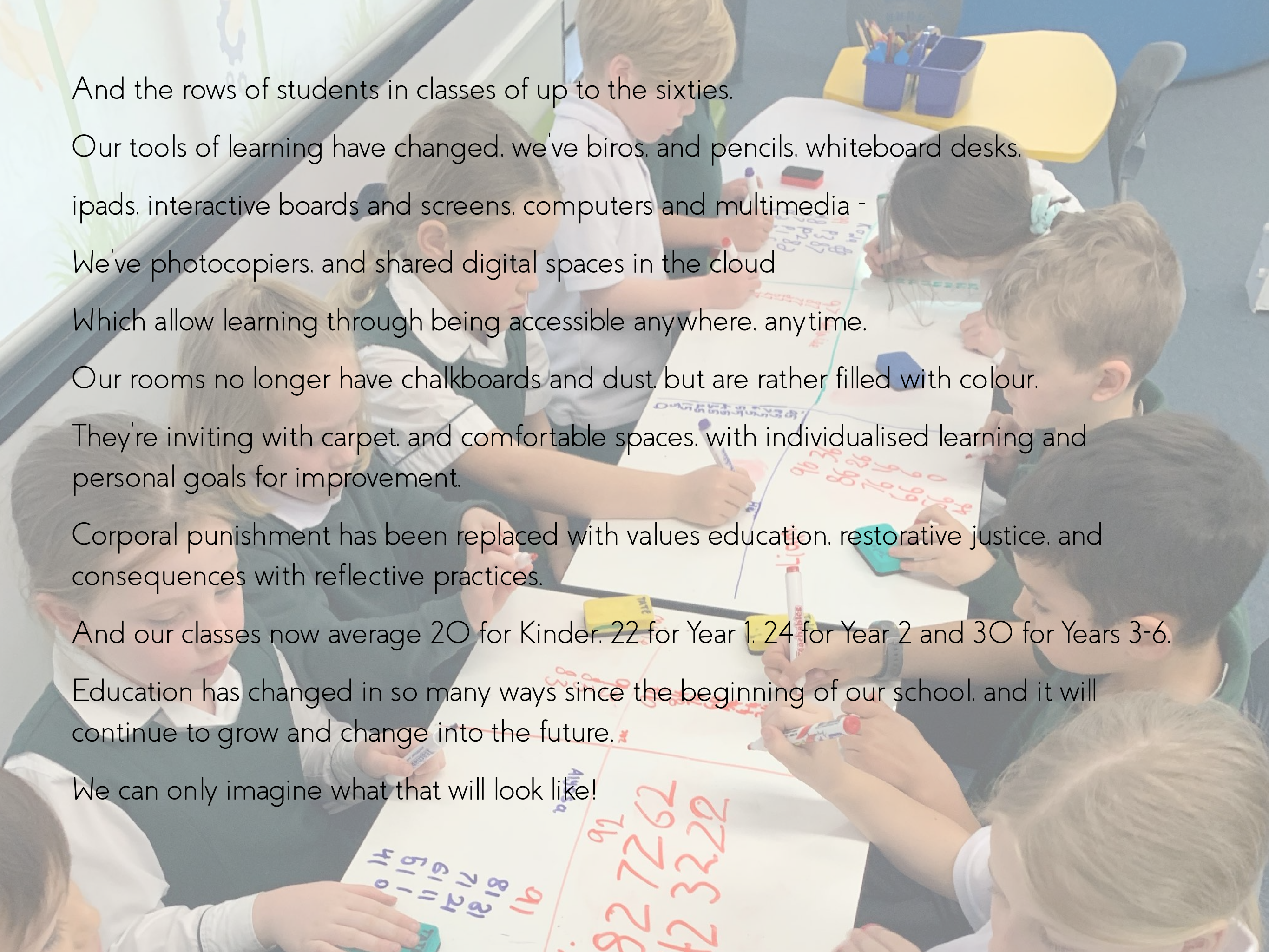
They're inviting with carpet, and comfortable spaces, with individualised learning and personal goals for improvement.

Corporal punishment has been replaced with values education, restorative justice, and consequences with reflective practices.

And our classes now average 20 for Kinder, 22 for Year 1, 24 for Year 2 and 30 for Years 3-6.

Education has changed in so many ways since the beginning of our school, and it will continue to grow and change into the future.

We can only imagine what that will look like!





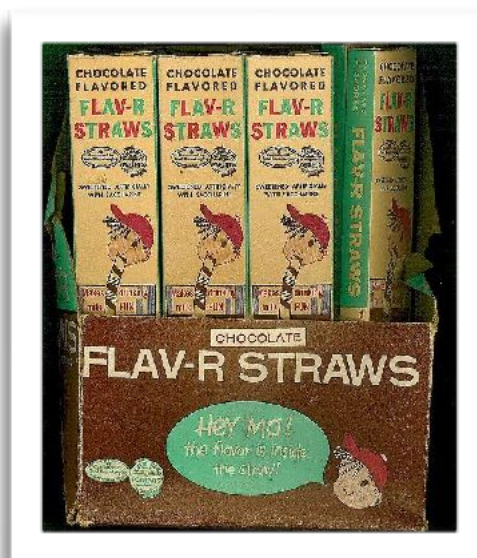
# Student Monitors in the 1950s and Now

In hopes of creating model citizens, our teachers would try to allocate daily school duties to as many students as possible.

**Blackboard Monitor** - This student's sole obligation was to use the little padded wooden 'duster' to clean the large blackboard every morning, ready for the day's lesson.

**Milk Monitors** - Another task was to go to the front of the school before interval and bring in the class's crate of milk from those stacked there, which was a mandatory "health" drink. By this time - particularly in summer - there was a serious clot of cream on the top of these little one-third pint glass bottles, and the sun really gave the milk a sour taste, which my wife and some of my colleagues remember to this day. But I do recall that every bottle had to be consumed before we left the classroom, so some of us would have to sacrifice ourselves to the gods of stomach problems by forcing down a second bottle.

Some kids even brought along waxed paper straws that could be purchased in shops, which had powdered chocolate impregnated into the inside flute.





**Lunch Monitors** - Their job was to walk to the school's little tuck shop (canteen) and pick up all the lunch orders. Earlier, another monitor would have written down any lunch orders and delivered them to the little tuck shop. Lunches would be supplied in brown paper bags bearing the student's name. Hot pies were available, but there was very little meat in them, just a lot of red-hot gravy that used to spill onto our clothes.

**Inkwell Monitor** - This entailed going to the storeroom where there was a jar of powdered Quink Ink. I'd mix a measured amount with water, and then with a glass eyedropper fill the little removable inkwell in the top right-hand corner of each desk. Back then biros were just starting to be sold in stores, but we weren't allowed to use them. We each had a wooden pen, shaped like a small paintbrush, into which we inserted a nib. If your family was rich you would have your own Platignum fountain pen, but these were scarce in our school. Each day we had to practice our writing with these nibbed pens, with the repeated chant of "Light on the upstroke, heavy on the downstroke."

- Colin Burgess -



CLASSROOM JOBS TERM 1	
Line Leaders	MIA + COREY
Lunch Orders	TOM + KAIDEN
Art Helpers	SHARNE + HARRIET
News helpers	EMMA + KIRILY
<del>SPORTS</del> <del>HELPERS</del>	XAVIER + CHARLOTTE
Messengers	FLYNN + AVA
ELECTRICIANS	OSCAR + ANASTASIA
Cleaning Monitors	JAMES + CHARLIE
TECH EXPERTS	NATE + ALEX
WINDOWS	TYLER + JACOB
Book/Paper Helpers	JOSH + GIANNA

Classroom Responsibilities 2020





# Gallery of Class Photos 1950s





# Gallery of Class Photos 1960s





# Gallery of Class Photos 1970s





# Gallery of Class Photos 1980s



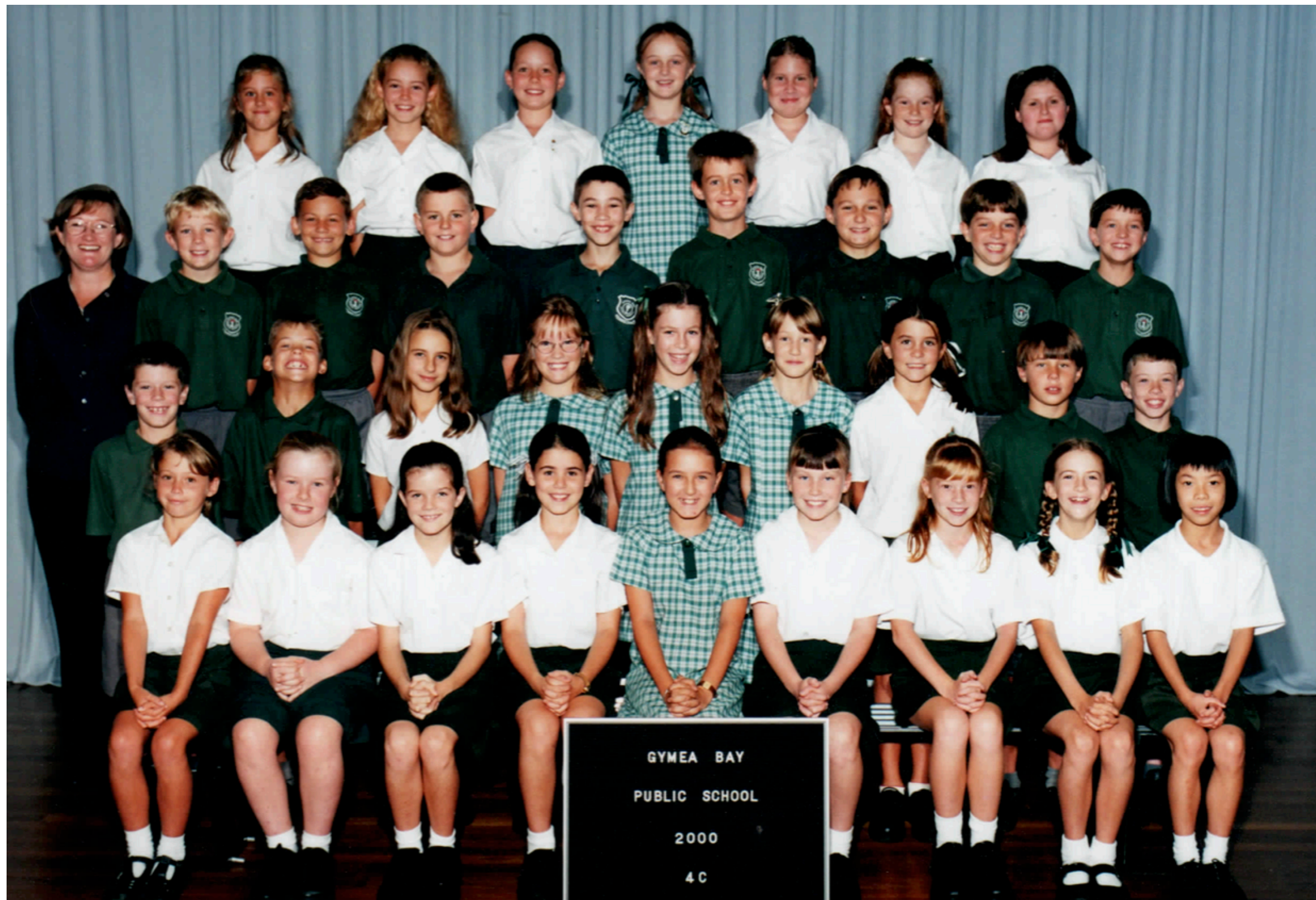


# Gallery of Class Photos 1990s





# Gallery of Class Photos 2000s



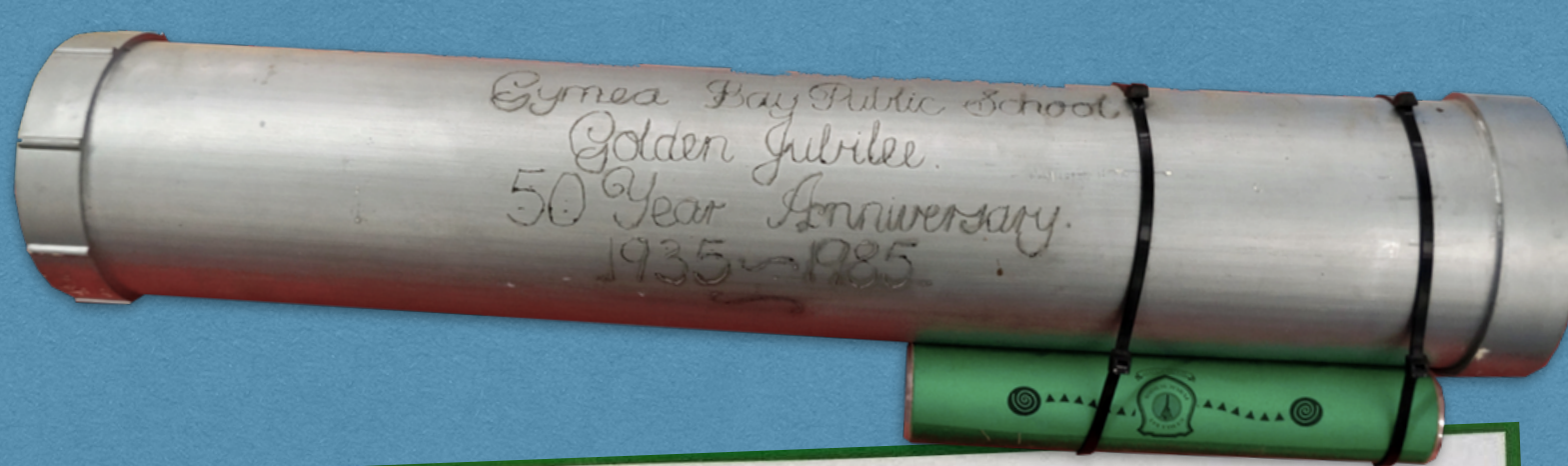
GYMEA BAY  
PUBLIC SCHOOL  
2000  
4C



# Gallery of Class Photos 2010s







*You know you went to Gymea Bay Primary School in the 70's and early 80's if you remember:*

- Standing on the steps and ringing the bell in infants
- The Gymea Lily Festival (and its parade through Gymea Shopping Centre)
- Being a Gymea Lily Princess (or better still the Gymea Lily Queen)
- A school TV show called SCOPE
- Mr Caesar telling scary stories in his audio visual room
- Peanut butter on crusts from the canteen (God forbid)
- Milk served every morning
- Red and green mats to lie down on to have a nap in kindy
- Stickle bricks to play with
- The craft block (which burnt down in the 70's) and Mrs Mawsby fiddling with her glasses chain
- Making macrame pot plant holders in the craft block, and pressing leaves into clay to make ashtrays for our parents
- The good old gravel rocks in the playground - ouch
- Playing cocky-laura on the grass where the play equipment is now
- Going to the infants principal's office to read to her



## Gymea Bay P. & C. Assn.

### 1st ANNUAL BALL

The above Association held their 1st Annual Ball at the Log Cabin, National Park, on 28th August, 1954. The hall was packed to capacity and those who attended had a wonderful time. The music was supplied by Sid Highett's orchestra, and a very capable M.C. in Mr. Bill Hawkins. Thank you, Bill, for coming along, also for that rendition of "I'm in the Mood for Love," which was well received by the early arrivals. Another artist who wasn't allowed to sit down till the 6th encore was Mrs. Beryl Gordon, who is always a popular singer at our evenings.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Monk, President, entertained at the official table. Mr. and Mrs. G. Whitlam, Mr. and Mrs. Dalton, Mr. and Mrs. L. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. V. Sponberg (Headmaster). He was ably assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Malthouse, Secretary.

During supper, "Happy Birthday" was sung to Mrs. Horne, Mrs. Kelso, Mrs. Fisher; congratulations, girls.

The evening seemed to end all too soon and from what we hear everyone is eagerly awaiting the next ball. Thank you all for making the night a huge success. A special mention for our social secretaries, Mrs. Dale and Mrs. Clarke, who worked especially hard beforehand.

Don't forget to be at the new school on Saturday, 25th, at 1.30 p.m. Roll up and make it another great day.

J. FISHER,  
Act. Publicity Officer.

*You know you went to Gymea Bay Primary School in the 70's and early 80's if you remember:*

- The office was in the infants section
- Mini hotdogs from the canteen
- Paddle pops were 12c and packs of twisties were 8c
- School dance meant doing the barn dance and that sort of thing (with a partner)
- Wearing JC sandals to school in summer
- The school nurse used to check kids' heads for lice
- Getting the cane - ouch
- Singing God Save the Queen in the school hall as the National Anthem
- Being slapped across the hand with your own ruler (possibly in 4G)
- Teachers walking around the playground smoking
- Mrs O'Naines and her platform shoes (and she could still show you great netball moves)
- The metal climbing grid on which many an arm was broken (and no one was sued)
- Elastics, skipping ropes and jacks in the playground
- Miss Reynolds - short American librarian - married tall, skinny Mr Caesar
- Mr Deller and his sweaty "comb over" hair
- **Mr Parker - oh that's right- he's still here.....**



# Memorabilia from Past Anniversaries



# Old Report Cards

## GYMEA BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL

### Progress Report

NAME D. Jones Class 5A Date Nov. 67

Subject	Mark	Out of
READING	61	100
COMPOSITION	60	100
SPELLING	78	100
WRITING	60	100
ARITHMETIC	116	200
ENGLISH	129	200
SOCIAL STUDIES	92	100
TOTAL	596	900

Remarks David has worked well and results are pleasing especially Social Studies. Well done.

Class Teacher H. Ferguson  
Parent D. Jones Headmaster T. Thompson  
Good lad.

## GYMEA BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL

### Progress Report

NAME Colin Burgess Class 5A Date Nov. 57

Subject	Mark	Out of
READING	73	100
COMPOSITION	80	100
SPELLING	93	100
WRITING	55	100
ARITHMETIC	152	200
ENGLISH	81	100
SOCIAL STUDIES	55	100
TOTAL	589	800

Remarks Colin is inclined to be careless at times - with more care he could do very well.

Class Teacher H. Ferguson  
Parent B. Burgess Headmaster T. Thompson

## GYMEA BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL

### Progress Report

NAME COLIN BURGESS Class 4A Date November '56

Subject	Mark	Out of
READING	80	100
COMPOSITION	85	100
SPELLING	80	100
WRITING	75	100
ARITHMETIC	53	150 *
ENGLISH	79	100
SOCIAL STUDIES	70	100
TOTAL	522	750

Remarks Colin is capable of better work. Tables must be learnt at home.

Class Teacher H. Ferguson  
Parent B. Burgess Headmaster T. Thompson  
This Arithmetic mark is a disgrace to a Burgess.

NAME Geoffrey Lauritzen CLASS Yellow

Attitude to Work Conscientious worker always striving to improve.  
Social Adjustment Cooperates happily in work and play.  
Language Expresses himself confidently.  
Ability to Listen Follows directions well.  
Muscular Control Good muscular control.  
Reading Geoffrey has worked hard and his efforts have been clearly indicated in this subject. Reading at grade median level.  
Written Expression Can construct sentences correctly. Uses expressive language.  
Spelling Good. Has taken care with homework.  
Mathematics Understands numbers and numerical processes.

Well done Geoffrey. A successful year.  
Class Teacher Carolyn Gifford Mistress D. McMillan  
December 1975



# Kindy Classes Celebrating 1000 days at G.B.P.S.





# End Note

Since commencing in 2018, it has been my pleasure to be the principal of Gymea Bay Public School, a school of which we can all be very proud.

Throughout these three years it has been a journey of profound change within the school, as a result of the reforms embraced by the Department of Education.

The ever changing landscape of our society impacts our learning environment: new skills and capabilities are needed to prepare our students for the world in which they will seek to gain employment. They need to be creative, collaborative, problem solvers who can think critically and communicate effectively through a variety of media.

Our school has a focus on improvement for every student, every staff member and our school and community partnerships, to grow our school as a whole. We want every student and staff member to be known, valued and cared for.

The story of our school commenced 85 years ago, and it has been moulded and shaped by the multitude of students, staff, families, P and C committees who have attended and nurtured with care, together with its partnerships with its wider community. Their stories too have been forever changed in having been part of the GBPS story that is collectively ours. Each have helped to shape the school into what it is today.



Just as the GyMEA Lily, which is our school emblem, is tall and has a majestic presence in our landscape of the shire, we want our students and staff to stand tall in confidence and with pride in their efforts and achievements as respectful, responsible, collaborative learners, who remain forever flourishing.

For all our future school community members we hope you too can flourish in this supportive environment of which we are proud to call 'ours'.

Hendrika Green  
Principal.







# School Pledge

In our hands lie the future of this great land.

If we all work together, doing our best for the common good,

there is no limit to what we can achieve.

