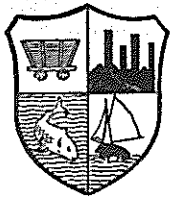


BOOLAROO PUBLIC SCHOOL

SEVENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY 1975.

BOOLAROO PUBLIC SCHOOL



EN AVANT



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

BECAUSE OF ITS FORMER SIZE AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHERN END OF LAKE MACQUARIE, BOOLAROO SCHOOL IS ONE WITH WHICH I HAVE BEEN PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED. IT IS REMARKABLE THAT - SO MANY PEOPLE I MEET CAN SAY, "I WENT TO BOOLAROO SCHOOL."



They are people from all walks of life and from many different areas. It is a product of the days when this school served the area between Cardiff on the one hand and Warners Bay on the other.

Many of the former pupils of this school have done very well in their chosen spheres. It would not be polite to mention names because it is so easy to slight someone by omission. Suffice it to say that the school is proud of them, and I hope their feelings towards their former school are tinged by affection - and loyalty.

The cover of this magazine pays tribute to the foresight of earlier principals and the dozens of pupils who can lay claim to having planted trees in our play ground. If you ever get the opportunity to stand on the hill above the town - ship and look down on Boolaroo you will not fail to notice that the school grounds are marked by a grove of trees in an area that is otherwise relatively - bare of greenery.

I offer my thanks to all those ex - pupils who made a contribution - by the act of planting a tree.

The compilation of the magazine was an extremely interesting endeavour. I must thank all those parents, citizens and staff who assisted. Particularly I wish to thank the pupils whose contributions have made the magazine possible. More particularly I have to thank the sponsors who lightened a tremendous - burden financially.

The true test of the value of this commemorative booklet will be in its long - term interest. If it makes good reading now that will be something. If it proves useful as a reference in the years to come that will be more to the point.

-A. TREDINNICK, B.A., PRINCIPAL.

WHEN IS A SCHOOL OLD?

A SCHOOL IS NOT A PRIVILEGED INSTITUTION EXEMPT FROM THE DECAY - AND WITHERING OF AGE BUT IT DOES HAVE THE ADVANTAGE THAT IT IS CONSTANTLY REVITALISED BY THE STREAM OF NEW LIFE PASSING THROUGH ITS DOORS.

For seventy-five years young citizens have passed through Boolaroo School each new crop renewing its vitality.

Those of who enjoy the healthy climate of understanding in parent - school - community - relationships today, owe a debt to the pupils and teachers of the past.

In less enlightened times they lent their wisdom - and dedication to the worthwhile principles which guide us - today. The traditions of the school are carried on by the new generations.

We can only hope that, despite the inevitable changes of the future, this heritage will be valued and nurtured in the years to come.



- R. AMBROSE, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL.

NEW ENROLMENTS AT BOOLAROO SCHOOL -1975



All the faces in this picture belong to new 1975 enrolments at Boolaroo. The only discrepancy is that four of them were new enrolments in the year 1905. Because this is the seventy fifth anniversary year of the school some of the first enrolments were invited to come along and be photographed with the new Kinders. In this picture you may recognise Mr. Albert Hawkins M.B. E. who grew up with the district and was active in making it grow. With him are Mrs. Florrie Herbert, Mr. Sid Ebbeck, and Mr. Harold Wardley who graciously gave their time to be photographed with the little ones.

GAINSBOROUGH PHOTO..

Boolaroo School Band



At the beginning of 1975 the school was fortunate to have Mr. Ken Muir appointed to the staff. An accomplished clarinetist, himself, he was eager to start a military band similar to the one at Speers Point School. Having the future in mind, he decided that his first band members should be drawn from second and third class children under his care. By the time they leave the primary school for high school they will have had at least four years of band training.

Though considerable expense was incurred we were fortunate enough to get most of our instruments through the Department of Education at no charge. It is hoped that additions to the stock of instruments will also be at the Department's expense, though the situation for 1976 does not look promising. When you consider that each instrument costs at least eighty dollars, and that the most expensive could be valued at more than a thousand dollars you will understand that the formation of a band is a formidable undertaking.

The young people pictured with Mr. Muir gave their first outside performance for the old people at the C.A. Brown Homes, Booragul, on Monday November 24. Their second performance to the public was given at the school concert on Wednesday, December 3. In the two terms they have been at work the members of the band have given up half of each lunch hour every day for practice. The fact that they can now follow music and produce the required notes is a tribute to their enthusiasm and application.

The formation of the school band is a fitting way in which to celebrate our seventy fifth anniversary.

CLOWN

Once, when I went to the Circus my dad introduced me to a clown. His name was "Abbot", I said "Hullo Abbott", and he answered me. He had a rather yellowish face and he stood about four feet high. He had broad shoulders and long lanky arms. His fingers were short and stubby, and he reminded me... somewhat of my perfume bottle at home. He was rather plump.

His clothes were bright and suited his bright red nose. On his feet he had curly looking moc-casins. Other characteristics he had that I really liked were his friendly manner and jovial looks. He was always making jokes. Once he admitted that he knew he was good natured. Really, he was a modest fellow.

This clown had an ability for eating - that was excellent. I am sure he would be quite capable of eating everything he could put his hands on. He told me he had to eat so much to keep up his plump figure.

- Debra Pateman.

BUS AND BUSTLE

It's hard for the people of to-day to imagine a time when there were no cars or very few cars. Yet for many years Boolaroo School was a 'bus school' for teachers and pupils alike. As its numbers grew so did the bus services. In the early 1950's a bus left Hamilton each school day at 7.40am. It was called the school bus because it carried so many teachers and children but there were other workers among the passengers. Council employees in particular, swelled the passenger list. They were headed for the Council Chambers at Speers Point but there was a long stop at Boolaroo School as teachers and pupils alighted.

Pick-up points for the school started from the Workshop Road area and continued along the way as far as Argenton. In those days there was only a ribbon development along the bus route but the bus was quite full by the time it reached the school. Another bus brought children from the direction of Warners Bay, children who would these days attend either Speers Point or Speers Point East Schools.

In the afternoon the set-up was slightly different. School hours were adjusted so that children could leave at 3.15pm, but the teachers caught the ... 4.20pm. bus in the direction of Newcastle. In those days staff meetings must have been easy to organise. It isn't quite so easy to-day. Working mothers make up a bigger percentage of school staffs and they have heavy commitments after school hours. They also have the advantage of private transport.

You can judge the size of the school at the time by the range of classes. There were two Kinders, two firsts, two seconds, and so on up to sixth. In addition there was a remedial class taken by the relief teacher based at the school whenever he was available. Mentioning only numbers of classes could be misleading. Actually class sizes were very great. The luckiest teacher on the staff was a Mrs. Preston who had 1B. She was fortunate enough to have only forty eight pupils enrolled. Most of the classes were well above the fifty mark.

Mrs. Mitchell was a long serving member of the staff during this period. She remembers so many of the teachers through the years - Bess Brownlee, Athol Parker, Len Kay, Frank Selman, Russ Cochran, Jack Kerr, Eric Morgan, Steve Turner, Maurie Davies, Ray Griffiths, Jack Smith, Lora Johns, Donna Wallace, Mrs. Bateman, Joan Ryan and Joyce Atherton. Deputy principals over that period included Sid Grant (24 years), Fred Bowers, Joe Simons, Don Robinson, Ken Moncrieff. In fact there have been only two other deputies in the intervening period, Harold Ladd and Ron Ambrose.

She was also associated with the two Infants mistresses who held positions at the school over the twenty seven years that there was a separate department. Miss Brown, the first continued in the job for twenty-four years and her only successor was Miss Tooze who spent three years at Boolaroo; then numbers dropped to a point where a separate Infants department could no longer be sustained.



EACH YEAR FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS BOOLAROO CHOIR HAS PAID A VISIT TO THE C. A. BROWN HOMES AT BOORAGUL TO PERFORM FOR THE OLD FOLK. THE CHILDREN DO NOT GO EMPTY HANDED. THEY HAVE A PRESENT FOR EACH OF THE AUDIENCE, SIMPLE GIFTS BUT MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE OLD PEOPLE.

TREE SHROUDED SCHOOL



A tree shrouded school offers welcome shade in heat wave conditions and
obscures the busy traffic of Main Road.

THE P. AND C.

"I am loyal to my school!" is part of the children's pledge. They could not have a better example of loyalty than that offered by the ladies of the P. and C. The President, Mrs. Dunn, the Honorary Secretary Mrs. Harding and the Honorary Treasurer Mrs. Sweeney are pictured.



MRS. DUNN

They are the executive of the organisation but behind them are the many mothers and friends, who give devoted, dedicated service through the canteen and the many functions organised for the benefit of the children.



MRS. HARDING

It is some years now since Mrs. Harding, Freda to her friends, had a child at the school but her enthusiasm for the work that inevitably falls to her is undimmed. She is not the only woman - who has continued to volunteer her services after her children have departed to other schools. We have had several good workers on the canteen,

who fall into the same category.



MRS. SWEENEY

Though the work is hard it has its rewards. It must be a source of great satisfaction to the women that the school is so well equipped today. It is largely through their efforts that teaching aids have been acquired. Perhaps the children do not realise how lucky they are or how much they owe to the dedicated band of workers. The staff does and the teachers who have had experiences - of numerous P. and C. groups in their other appointments are full of praise for the efforts of the Boolaroo P. and C.

DRAMATIC CHANGES IN EDUCATION

Can a change be dramatic if it takes seventy five years to accomplish? Well judge for yourself.

Perhaps the most important change in education over the seventy five years since Boolaroo was founded is the reduction of class sizes. Boolaroo School, has had only one or two classes over thirty-five enrolment in the past five years. Present class sizes average only thirty. Yet in the 1950's it was common to have classes of fifty and over. There were a few whose enrolments exceeded sixty and it was rather a bonus for any teacher to have a class under 50.

Another important change is in atmosphere. It is difficult to measure the change in terms of numbers or results but it is vital to modern education. Over the past twenty years in particular there has been a tremendous decrease in pressure from the top. Inspectors are no longer the bogey men they once were. Concurrently and directly related to this easing of pressure from the inspector there has been a significant change in the role of the principal. He is now considered to be a member of a team rather than a dictator. Consequently teachers work in a more relaxed atmosphere and more important, so do the children.

The system which prevailed up to about the end of the fifties tended to brutalise teachers and children. Teachers may still be essentially authoritarian but their authoritarianism is tempered with tolerance and compassion for the pupils.

The old authoritarian system led to abuses. Most readers can remember, that the instance of stuttering and stammering among school pupils twenty to thirty years ago was quite high. It is a rare occurrence to-day. If children, do not spell as well or compute as well on the average that is the small price we have to pay. While that may be true I feel sure there are fewer non-readers than there were leaving primary school. Certainly there are pupils with problems in reading and spelling but there are none who cannot read at all.

Boolaroo School has an excellent bank of equipment both for teaching and for administration. Although the P. and C. has always worked hard to provide equipment for the school's needs the past two years have produced a tremendous boost through government grants. For instances there are three television sets and a videotape recorder. An ink duplicator and a spirit duplicator are supported by three special-purpose copying machines. There is a new 16 mm projector, an overhead projector and two strip film projectors. That is to mention only some of the more valuable items of equipment available, to teachers in the school today.

There is a philosophy of education much held in the 1970's that facts, as such, have little value. This is having an impact on schools. In particular, it shows in Social Studies. Facts are not considered vital because they can, and will be forgotten. Modern teachers stress the importance of learning how to inquire, how to gather knowledge through books, through statistics and through resource studies.



The library is the heart and nerve centre of a school. Boolaroo is extremely fortunate to have such a well-stocked library. The prints lining the back wall above the bookshelves are part of a large stock collected over the past six years.



Another view of the school. The front porch, partially obscured, is the main entrance through which thousands of children have passed over seventy five years.

THE SWAN D. Britton.

The swan is floating gracefully on the silver pond
Its eyes are like crystal balls, feathers like softest
satin.

Its neck is bent so prettily upon its glowing body.
And everywhere the swan floats past
Every single head will turn in wonder.
At its amazing beauty.

THE YACHT D. Britton.

The yacht sails elegantly on the silvery sea.
Its flashing white sails are like pure white doves.
As the foamy waves spring up at its graceful
motion

They shall not do it any harm.
It has a charm about it.

PLANNED COMMUNITY

The growth of Boolaroo School over its first fifty
four years was associated with two main factors.
First there was the growth of the big industry called
'the Sulphide Corporation'. Second there was the
school bus.

The Sulphide Corporation was incorporated in London
in 1892. They were pioneers in industry, pioneers
because it was the first big industry in Newcastle.
When they set up business at Cockle Creek in 1896
they chose the site because of its isolation from
population and its suitability for their purposes,
ample coal, ample water and rail access. They were
careful to avoid an area with houses in the near
vicinity because, even then, they were aware of
possible dangers to people living in its environment.

That part of the firm's planning was defeated by
the influx of hundreds of workers who camped close
to the boundary of the industry in what we now call
Second and Third Streets. There were people from
all over Australia and, indeed, the world. They
flocked to Boolaroo and Argenton in the hope of
employment. You must remember the 1890's were
depression years, the hard years we read about in
the short stories of Henry Lawson, and his contemporaries.

The planned development of Boolaroo followed -
because there was no other option. In 1899 there
was a huge sale of land arranged by auctioneers,
Creer and Berkeley. Two hundred and fourteen
building blocks were offered for sale by the Sulphide
Corporation on a deposit of 25% and the balance
repayable over 6, 12, 18 and 24 months. The
interest rate was 4%. Blocks could be obtained for
\$5. What is now called First Street was then known
as Government Road. Main Road, Boolaroo, was
also known as Government Road. The plan set aside
the present school site for that specific purpose.
Mr. A. F. Hall did the survey for the Sulphide
Corporation. Apart from blocks adjoining First
Street and Main Road each allotment was an exact
rectangle with an area of 32 perches. Boolaroo
was one of the first fully planned suburbs of Newcastle.

One interesting feature of the original plan - is
that there was provision for a lane at the back of the
school grounds running parallel with Main Road.
That lane no longer exists. Presumably it was
gobbled up when the school's numbers grew to seven-
hundred and space was at a premium. Perhaps
there is a resident of Boolaroo who might remember.

BOOLAROO FIRSTS

The seventy fifth anniversary for a school has significance beyond the school itself. The school and the community grow together. Among the landmarks in the history of Boolaroo are some which have been vital to the welfare of the school.

AMBULANCE... The Boolaroo Ambulance Station, established in 1919 was the first in the Newcastle area. In the fifty six years since that time it has been used by many children injured in accidents at the school. There is a close liaison between the school and its officers. Old timers may recall the first Officer-in-Charge was Mr. Hitchens.

PROPERTY... The first land purchased in the Boolaroo area belonged to Mr. William Brooks. He was given 1,280 acres (two square miles) which he named "Lochend" (the end of the lake). That was way back in 1828, nearly a hundred and fifty years ago. A Mr. Speers later acquired his property ... hence Speers Point.

COLLIERY... Many of the children who have attended the school over its seventy five years were sons and daughters of coalminers. The first colliery, was opened by Mr. Brooks in 1840.

BUTCHERY... The first butchery in Boolaroo was situated opposite the school. It was owned and run by a Mr. Foster.

SERVICE STATION... The first garage in Boolaroo was situated where the Shell Service Station (Virtue's) now stands. It was opened in 1932 by a Mr. Davies. Up until 1948 it was purely a service station but Mr. Davies sold his first car in 1948 a Holden.

FIRE STATION... The first fire brigade in Boolaroo started duty in 1910. For sometime the fire station was situated in the laneway now incorporated in the school playground. The first firefighting vehicle was horse drawn. Perhaps the biggest fire fought in this area was the one at Waratah Golf Club which required six brigades.

BANKS... The first Bank in Boolaroo was the Bank of N.S.W. which opened fittingly enough, on 1st July, 1937. Its manager was Mr. A. J. Shriver, (perhaps also fittingly enough) and the first customer was G. Hawkins and Sons.

The Commonwealth Bank opened its doors for business on 30th August, 1955 and was managed by Mr. N.T. McBeth. Its first customer was Mr. C. B. Odgers, a name still well known in the district.

SOCCER... The first soccer club in our district was the Boolaroo Football Club which first played in 1912. The club was reformed in 1932 as the Speers Point Football Club and reformed again in 1938 as the Lake Macquarie Soccer Football Club. The club has won State Premierships in 1946, Daniels Cup in 1954, the Newcastle Cup in 1945, the Ellis Cup in 1962, the Plummer Cup in 1962 and 1964 and the Ampol Cup in 1961 and 1962.

SHIRE COUNCIL... The Shire of Lake Macquarie was first proclaimed - in 1906. The first council meeting was held at Teralba Courthouse that year, and the five councillors were appointed by the state governor.

The first elected council met in December, 1906, again at the Teralba Courthouse. After a period when headquarters of the shire were located Cardiff the council workers moved to their base at Speers Point in 1914.



PRESENT STAFF... Back Row left to right: Mr. A. Tredinnick, Principal; Mr. I. Gorton, Mr. A. George, Mr. R. Ambrose, Deputy Principal; Mr. K. Muir. Front Row: Miss N. Barjaktarovic, Mrs. G. Morgan, Mrs. D. Scott, Mrs. R. Griffiths and Mrs. J. Rodgers (Clerical Assistant).

CLUE TO AGE



CLUE TO AGE . . . This picture framed by the inevitable trees shows a view of the chimneys which give the school something of the air of a Chinese origin. They certainly help to date the school architecturally.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

Exercise
healthy, invigorating.
jog, run, walk.
fresh, fit, exhausted, puffed.
activity.

Stephen Britton.

* * * * *

Lolly
fruity, flavour.
unravel, chew, swallow.
sweet, tangy, enjoyable, sticky.
toothache.

David Clark.

* * * * *

Dreams
Weird, exciting.
falling, screaming, laughing
terrified, petrified, relieved, relaxed.
daylight.

Robyn Hipwell.

* * * * *

Trees
stately, leafy.
bends, waves, sways.
clean, pretty, green, high.
graceful.

Debra Pateman.

* * * * *

THE SPARROW

G. Huff.

I would not like to keep a sparrow caged.
He would not eat or drink but pull at the cage.
I would lightly get it out of its gaol
And watch it in its flight.

THE CANARY

R. Stanbury.

If I was a canary I would sit up in a tree
And sing a happy song.
I would have a happy life.
If I was a canary locked up in a cage
I would stay on the perch and sing a sad song.
If I was a canary locked in a big cage
I would be as happy as ever and live for ever.

Before the establishment of Boolaroo School there was a provisional school at Argenton. It opened in 1896 with Mr. George James as teacher in charge. The average attendance at that school during the first month was twenty two. Children from Boolaroo made up the bulk of the enrolment and it was a source of some discontent to their parents that those children had to walk a mile and a half each way. Perhaps when the initial application for the school at Argenton had been submitted the position may have been different, but Boolaroo was growing fast as a feeder of labour to the big industry now known as the Sulphide Corporation.

Boolaroo residents had their way. On 4th October, 1899, the establishment of a school at Boolaroo was approved. The school building was erected on its present site the following year at a cost of approximately seven hundred and thirty pounds. The judgement of the parents and of the Education Department proved sound. By the end of 1900 the school had an enrolment of one hundred and two pupils. Initially the numbers were not expected to be quite so high. Parents in the community had spent time canvassing for enrolments, and among those pupils who were pressed into the classroom was at least one five-year-old, Albert Hawkins.

The first teacher in charge was Mr. Andrew Maloney. He was appointed in July, 10, 1900 (even in those days it took time to complete a school building). Mr. Maloney held the post for almost exactly three years before he was replaced by Mr. John McLennan. His tenure was rather longer, not quite seven years. Altogether there have been thirteen men in charge of the school, with an average tenure of slightly less than six years. But among them were Mr. D. E. McEneaney who held his position for twenty years and a Mr. F. Armstrong whose term lasted seventeen years.

For those interested in establishing the order in which the principals came, and went, the list is as follows:

Mr. A. Maloney, Mr. J. McLennan, Mr. J. Benton, Mr. J. B. Creagh, Mr. A. M. Davies, Mr. K. Gall, Mr. V. Craig, Mr. F. Armstrong, Mr. J. D. Archer, Mr. W. Hartnett, Mr. L. Bromham, Mr. D. McEneaney and Mr. A. Tredinnick.

During that period of seventy five years the school's enrolment gradually increased until 1957. It was in that year that Speers Point School was officially opened. Since that time the school's population has dwindled from some thing like seven hundred to approximately two hundred. The fact is that there has been little development of housing in Boolaroo since 1954. First the establishment of the school at Speers Point then the new school at Argenton, put an end to bussing to Boolaroo.

Community Leader

Master Albert Hawkins transferred from Argenton school to Boolaroo when it opened seventy five years ago last July. His first teacher was Miss Ryan, then assistant to Mr. Maloney, the first teacher-in-charge. He remembers the names of so many of the families that provided enrolments for the newly established school. There were the Ebbicks, Mitchells, Howells, Bliss-es, Friths, Johnsons, Shaws, Odgers, Wardleys and Cresseys as well as the Hawkins family. Other names he can remember are Gilbert, Denham, Briggs, Coventry and Rees.

Mr. Hawkins is certainly not the oldest surviving ex-pupil of the school, but his name is foremost among those of the very early days. He has been associated with almost every community development Boolaroo has seen, since the turn of the century. His earliest memories are of ding oes coming down from the hills above Boolaroo, the paddle steamers that plied the lake from Miller's wharf. His recent achievements have included the establishment of the Hawkins Village at Edgeworth Heights and his award of an M.B.E.

Over the period of time between 1900 and 1975 he has seen Boolaroo develop. In fact his name is synonymous with that development. The Hawkins family contributed greatly to the foundation of the first bank in Boolaroo, the N.S.W., it lent support to the growth of an ambulance service, the brigade, the Baby Health Centre and the Speers Point Pool. It has played an active part in the development of the tremendous facilities available to Soccer at Macquarie Field. The Bowling Club with its fine tradition owes much to the patronage of Mr. A. G. Hawkins and family.

Mr. Hawkins has been a member of the Wallsend District Hospital Board for over thirty years. His firm supplied the first horse-drawn ambulances, which carried patients to that hospital.

A remarkably robust and vigorous seventy eight, Mr. Hawkins was kind enough to supply taped information on the early history of the school with the assistance of his grandchild, Lisa. She is unlikely to be the last of the long line of Hawkins who have attended this school. It is hard to imagine, the school without one, but she goes to Booragul High next year and, least for a few years, there will be no Hawkins on a Boolaroo class roll.

Mr. Hawkins has never ceased to take an interest in the school. It is unthinkable that a magazine such as this should be published without some mention of his contribution to the school and the community.

LAST JUBILEE

This year's P. & C. discussed the possibility of repeating the functions held in 1950 as the basis for celebrating the latest jubilee. The general opinion was that there were things we could do, which would be more suitable to present times. For interest we publish details of the 1950 celebrations, so that you can judge for yourself whether they would have been the success in 1975 that they were then.

Sunday, 8th October, 1950 Grand Sacred Concert, Astor Theatre.

Tennis Tournament, Bowls Invitation Day.

Monday, 9th October Scooter Race, Tricycle Races, Skipping Race, Grand Children's Frolic.

Tuesday, 10th October Tricycle and Billycart Races, Minstrel Show and Olde World Concert.

Wednesday, 11th October, School Sports and Picnic, Grand Community Concert.

Thursday, 12th October Cavalcade of Song.

Friday, 13th October, Finals of Children's Tricycle, Billycart and Skipping Races. Grand Jubilee Ball.

Saturday, 14th October, Cooking, Needlework, Flower Show, Grand Street Procession, Rhythm Dancing and Maypole Dancing, Mock Wedding.

It is certainly a shame that the world has changed so much from the simple joys of even twenty-five years ago, but that must be obvious to anyone, reading the programme of 1950. However, faced with the conviction that those changes had actually taken place the P. and C. had to opt for something different. This magazine is one substitute. It is hoped that the facts and figures recorded in it will hold interest for many and that the majority of people will keep the magazine as a valued record of the history of the schools seventy five years.

Perhaps, in another twenty five years, what has been recorded here will be of value to those organising the centenary celebrations. Most likely, it will cause some condescending smiles and grimaces. That is the risk you have to run in compiling a magazine which purports to show historical movements.



ACTIVITY CORNER....Here the pupils of the O.A. class are seen at work on their activity table. Behind them are some of the products of their work, as well as charts and pictures which make the room an attractive place in which to work.

BEFORE THEIR TIME

Words like 'ecology', 'biosphere', 'environment', 'pollution' and 'preservation' have a modern ring about them. Even 'conservation' has modern connotations. Yet Boolaroo School, like so many other state schools, has a proud record of attention to the environment. In the seventy five years of its existence the school has been responsible for the planting of so many and such a variety of trees. The playground as it is to-day is a monument to the foresight of departmental officers.

Former pupils of the school look with pride at the trees they helped to plant. In some cases they have expressed disappointment that 'their' tree has disappeared. Three blue gums have been removed from the front garden, for instance. They could not survive the occasional bursts of pollution, which have been a hazard for all trees in the playground. They became dangerous to the children. Other trees have flourished, seeming to thrive on the conditions which gradually killed the blue gums. The bottle brushes, for instance, always look healthy. So do the brush boxes and the poplars. Perhaps the tallest tree in the playground, or in Boolaroo for that matter, is the hoop pine which stands in the south east corner of the playground near Main Road. It has lost some of its lower branches during gales but it keeps its distinctive shape in the higher, more resilient peak. The radiata pines, too, keep healthy. The camphor laurels never show any sign of wilting.

Anyone who should stand on the hillside overlooking Boolaroo is forced to notice the grove of trees which marks Boolaroo School grounds. There are at least seventy-five permanent trees and shrubs, one for every year the school has existed.

There is a range of twenty three varieties. Had it not been for losses due to storms and pollution the number would be even higher on both counts.

It might be true to say that the modern awareness of the ecology is due to the lessons learned in primary and high schools over the past seventy five years. The act of planting a tree is an exercise in improving the environment.

Children may not have a full appreciation of the trees about them. But they do appreciate one of their qualities. The trees are necessary - to the life cycle of the cicada. Every year about this time boys and girls alike become fired with the ancient enthusiasm for hunting, their prey - the cicada. It's about this time that containers mysteriously disappear from classrooms and stores to be found later at the foot of trees. Damp patches and small holes in the ground reveal the motives, of the container snatchers. Now that free milk has been discontinued, containers are harder to come by. More and more the hunters and huntresses are forced to bring jam tins and bottles - from home.

THE THING

Shamrock Hotel 1960
Sir John Gaflinch of the Scientific Research Centre, was in his room deeply absorbed in his work. Suddenly there

was a super-sonic-boom. He looked out the window and seemed to freeze in his position. He had seen something that was to haunt him for the rest of his life.

At that moment - the landlord came bursting in to ask him what had

happened. When Sir John turned around, his face was white, his hair on end. He pointed to the window and said, "The Thing".

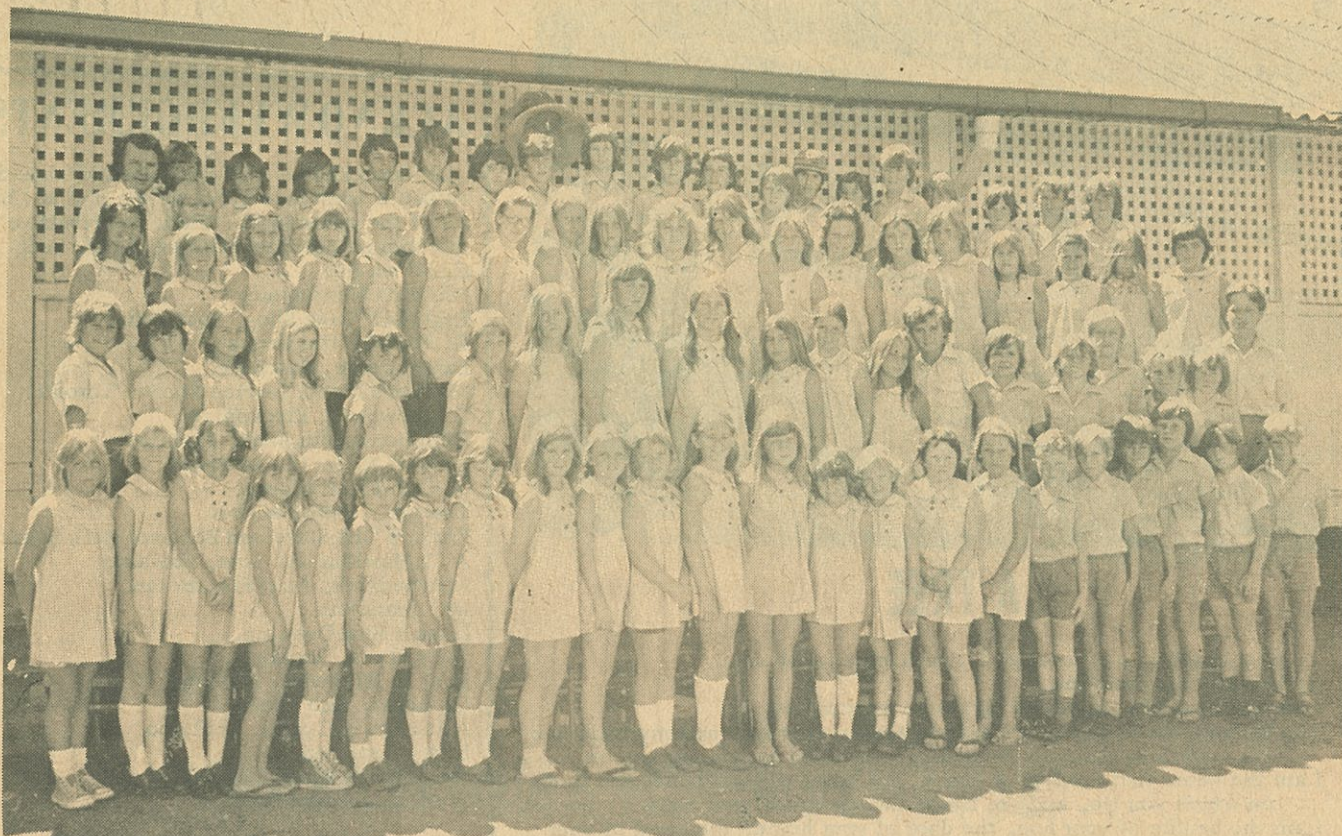
Five minutes later, after he had recovered from the shock, he rushed outside. He kept running until he eventually stopped in his tracks.

Some instinct made him turn his head. There it was again! "The Thing" - it was following him.

Meanwhile the Space Centre had received a signal, showing that a spacecraft had landed in that area. It was very highly radioactive. The Centre had a phone call asking if they had seen Sir John. "What happened?" they asked. The landlord replied that he had seen something he called "The Thing".

The two cases were linked, and later, both Mr. Gaflinch and the spacecraft were located. The craft was destroyed and "The Thing" was captured.

- Stephen Britton.



BOOLAROO SCHOOL CHOIR, 1975... This large group of children represents at least seventy five percent of the children available in the primary school. In the past five years there has not been one week of the school year that they have failed to practice. It is this constant endeavour which gives the choir polish. Children from second to sixth grade are blended under the baton, of Mr. I. Gorton.



A TREE

Ye who would pass by and raise your hand against me,
Harken ere you harm me.
I am the heat of your hearth on cold winter nights,
The friendly shade screening you from the summer sun and my fruits are
are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on.
I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table, the bed
on which you lie, and the timber which builds your boat.
I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your home, the wood of your
cradle and the shell of your coffin.
I am the bread of kindness and the flower of Beauty.
Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer,
"Harm me not - I am a tree".

THE SPARROW S. Gilbert.

Once I had a small brown sparrow
That fluttered here and there.
I put him in a small gold cage
That he didn't like at all.
So I let him out again
To fly as he did before.

THE SWALLOW G. Bradley.

The swallow flies to and fro from its nest
And flutters through the air.
It flies over skyscrapers, schools and water
Where it can see its own reflection.
It's such a beautiful sight, a swallow
Why don't you go and look at one.
Look at it flicking everywhere.

THE SWAN B. Bradley.

Look at that bird.
It's a swan, I'm sure.
To see it land, proud and noble.
Just the sound of rustling along the shore
Will set it off up into the clear blue sky.
It will not come down until the sound has passed.
And even then it's cautious.
So do not try to harm him.
Let him glide with elegance
And let him be our heritage.

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