

MANNERING PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

1961



1986

Silver Anniversary

FOREWORD

Mannerling Park Public School is celebrating its first quarter-century of service in the interests of the young people who live in one of the most beautiful parts of our State.

Like many local schools it had its origins in the concern of local parents who articulated a proper and persuasive belief in Education. That same strong belief has characterised its Principals - I have very fond memories of stimulating educational discussions with the late Bert Sandercock, Peter Pritchard and more recently with Tom Weeks - and its teachers. I have reason to believe that parents have felt and continue to feel as those pioneer parents felt - the support which parents have given and continue to give to the school is proof enough.

I am confident that Education will continue to be equally well served by the school, its teachers and its parents during the next quarter-century. I anticipate that many of its past students will ensure that it does.

Best wishes for your celebrations and your future.

R.G. Nicholls
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

MESSAGE . . .

from R.T. Weeks, School Principal

I am delighted that it should be my privilege to be the Principal of your school on the occasion of the Silver Anniversary Celebrations.

At this time my thoughts turn not only to my years with you but to the many Principals and teachers who have served this community over the past twenty five years.

There have been many occasions, when, in silent contemplation, I have tried to imagine the experiences of my early predecessors.

There most certainly were difficulties to overcome and it is very much to the credit of these teachers and the people of the Mannering Park community that they have been able to do this.

The magnificent setting would have changed little, nor I suspect, the warmth of the residents. One thing that has changed is the school enrolment and the associated increase of school buildings, mainly in demountable form.

There is, however, a common link between present staff and teachers before us - the personal and professional satisfaction of teaching at Mannering Park and being a part of the community that the school serves.

Let us be thankful for past achievements, carry on worthwhile traditions and enter the future with thought, understanding and confidence.

Best wishes to you all now and in all the years to come.

A HISTORY OF MANNERING PARK SCHOOL

Contributed by Mrs Cass Sandercock

The first settler in the Garth's Point area, which was later to become Mannering Park, was James Vinrace Vale, who, in 1911 took up 640 acres of land purchased for £320. His original home was built where the barbecue stands in the playground, a permanent home, which was destroyed by fire in 1926, being built some distance away later. The name, Mannering Park, was given to the property by Vale's wife— there was already a Mannering Creek and Mannering Bay in the area. No school amenities existed for the children of the people who settled around the foreshores of the lake in the ensuing years and they travelled to either Kanwal or Munmorah for their education.

When a decision was made to build a power station on Vale's Point it was evident that school facilities were necessary for the children of the residents and the large number of workers arriving to start the project. A temporary school was opened in the C.W.A. Hall on 12th September, 1961, the Teacher-in-Charge being Mr G. Jackson. Twenty two pupils were registered and the infant school was named Mannering Park Primary School, catering for Kindergarten and 1st grade pupils. Mr Jackson was replaced by Mr R. Sharp in 1962 and the school's enrolment increased during that year.

In 1963 the Progress Hall came into use as a second classroom and the year began with Mr A. Sandercock as Principal, teaching grades 1 and 2 while Miss D. Moss taught Kindergarten, there being a total enrolment of 54 pupils.

The Department of Education purchased the land previously owned by James Vale and work commenced on the present school on 28th July, 1963. The school, a contemporary building of white brick veneer, consisted of a four classroom building and a separate office-staffroom section and was built by W.A. Wenham Builders, of Newcastle, for the contract price of £25,000.

Classes commenced in the new school on 28th January, 1964 with 109 pupils, many being grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 returning from Kanwal School. The staff was: Mr Sandercock (Principal), Miss D. Moss, Miss R. Mudie and Mr I. Morris.

The official opening of the school was performed by the Minister for Education, Mr E. Wetherell, on 16th October, 1964, the enrolment at that stage being 120.

A dedicated P. & C. Association, formed with the opening of the original school, had completed the landscaping of the playground, planted lawns and set out gardens with shrubs donated by residents and business houses.

Enrolments increased during 1965-66 to reach 137 when the first change in the staff was made. A fifth teacher was appointed in 1968 and a new classroom erected.

In March 1974 Mr Sandercock retired due to ill-health after a term of 12 years. Mr H. Gartner acted as Principal until the end of the year, during which time, Mrs M. Briggs was appointed as a Clerical Assistant.

In 1975 Mr P. Pritchard became Principal with a greatly changed staff and 137 pupils. Numbers increased rapidly during the next two years as the area grew and a sixth teacher was appointed. Accommodation problems became pressing and in 1977 the first demountable classroom was erected, office extensions were carried out and a weathershed and storeroom constructed.

Mr P. Newman replaced Mr Pritchard as Principal at the beginning of 1978 and major changes took place in the school. A demountable library was provided, a Librarian appointed, staff changes occurred and Mr Newman relieved of classroom duties.

1979 saw a great influx of families to the area as the second section of the power station was being constructed and the enrolments reached 200. This resulted in another classroom being erected and the staff being increased to seven. It was at the end of this year that the school was re-classified to become a Second Class one.

Mr Newman was replaced as Principal by Mr T. Weeks in 1980 and the first Deputy Principal, Mrs R. Keevers was appointed. Later in the year another teacher joined the staff as well as a Teacher's Aide, while yet another demountable classroom was placed in the grounds.

The further increase in enrolments during 1981 led to another demountable classroom arriving and a demountable Food Service Unit being made available.

During 1982 school enrolments reached 242, two more demountable classrooms were erected to cope with the influx as well as a demountable staffroom and a new Administration block complete with offices and storerooms.

With the completion of work on the power station families began to move again and in 1983 one teacher was lost from the staff and one classroom removed.

In the last several years there have been fluctuation in enrolments at the school with 1986 showing 220 pupils. The staff consists of 10 teachers, a Teacher-Librarian, Resource Teacher and a Relief Teacher from face to face teaching as well as four ancillary staff.

ORIGINAL PUPILS

Register No.	Date of Admission	PUPIL'S NAME	Sex (M. or F.)
1/61	12-9-61	Anthony John STyan	M
2/61	12-9-61	Julie Lynn STyan	F
3/61	12-9-61	Kerry Lyall Noble	M
4/61	12-9-61	Allen John Bampton	M
5/61	12-9-61	Lorraine Pearl Bampton	F
6/61	12-9-61	Catherine Micallef	F -
7/61	12-9-61	David Micallef	M -
8/61	12-9-61	Lorraine Lynette Mills	F
9/61	12-9-61	Phillip David McKewen	M -
10/61	12-9-61	Rebyn Shirley Wynn	F
11/61	12-9-61	Iain Mark Fullick	M -
12/61	12-9-61	John William Wendt	M
13/61	12-9-61	Allen John Bridge	M
14/61	12-9-61	Ian Craig Bridge	M
15/61	12-9-61	Larry Clifford Graham	M -
16/61	12-9-61	John Vincent Burnett	M
17/61	12-9-61	Steven Mark Day	M
18/61	12-9-61	Catherine Jane Whitbourne	F -
19/61	22-9-61	Laura Suzanne Graham	F -
20/61	13-9-61	Norman Glyn Jones	M
21/61	18-9-61	Stephen John Dennis	M
22/61	20-11-61	Julian John Hall	M

TEACHERS-IN-CHARGE

Mr G. Jackson 1961 (1 term)
Mr R. Sharp 1962 (1 year)

PRINCIPALS

Mr A. Sandercock 1963-1974
Mr P. Pritchard 1975-1977
Mr P. Newman 1978-1979
Mr R.T. Weeks 1980-