

NOTES TAKEN FROM DISCUSSION BETWEEN MRS. LOUISE PARKER AND MRS. LORRAINE SOLEMN (NEE SMITH) OF 63 ALKRINGTON AVENUE, BALMORAL ON MRS. SOLEMN'S RECOLLECTIONS OF RATHMINES PUBLIC SCHOOL FROM 1959 TO 1966.

The canteen was where the steps on the main building are situated now. It was weatherboard and it is the building they are standing in front of in the school photos of 1965. It operated one day a week - Monday - Mrs. Solemn took lunch on other days. It served pies, sausage rolls, sandwiches etc.

Mrs. Solemn can remember getting milk supplied to the school in small glass bottles, unfortunately, it was usually hot and she took "Quik", etc., to flavour it.

The toilets at the time, were situated around the vicinity of where the office demountable is currently situated.

Mr. Clark's office was in the middle of the building and the steps were situated closer to the lake, there were washsheds under.

The uniform was introduced with Mrs. Solemn was at school. She can remember it being double breasted with four buttons, pale grey in colour and she wore either a white or blue shirt underneath. It had a normal "A" line skirt. They were trying to introduce it so only a few pupils had them. She thinks it was introduced in 1965/66, however, a check of photos from 1962 shows at least one child wearing the above described uniform. Mrs. Solemn can't remember a boys' uniform.

George Stanton replaced Charlie Clark.

Sport - Mrs. Solemn remembers doing long jump and running on the oval where it is now. She may have had carnivals at the football field in Toronto.

The painting was at the school then.

She remembers doing "There's a Hole in the Bucket" with Stephanie Frew (nee Brown) for Book Week.

Lorraine usually wrote in capital letters in Primary School and she remembers being blamed for writing "MR. STANTON IS A ....." in capital letters in the washsheds - Mr. Stanton had the whole school write "MR. STANTON" in capital letters and Lorraine was picked out and blamed - she didn't do it!

Lorraine remembers learning poetry from scrolls which were unfurled down the blackboard and hung on a piece of string - they had to read, learn and recite. Remembers Henry Lawson. This was when George Stanton was teaching 5th and 6th.

Over the years, her teachers were: Mrs. Viney, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Gibson then George Stanton.

The school grounds were rough. There was only grass on the oval. She can remember always falling over and having grazes all over her knees.

She remembers the magpies attacking them on the way to the toilets and being scared to go.

Lorraine can't remember sporting banners and houses.

She went to Sunday School at the Chapel at the R.A.A.F. Base.

Lorraine remembers the P. & C. running Doll Shows and Fetes to raise money.

Lorraine put me on to a Mrs. Kirkup (who helped the school) who is a long time friend of the Reed's who owned the shop.

Lorraine remembers the Clarks retiring but doesn't remember anything about the day.

She remembers the Base removing the buildings and thinks the Fennell Bay Hall is one of them.

Lorraine is going to chase up more photos (even though she has already supplied a considerable number) and will be speaking to her parents, younger sister and older brother to ascertain further information for us.

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