

Mrs. Marian Parker:

I came to Rathmines Public School in 1977 as a part-time Clerical Assistant working 15 hours per week. I worked for three hours each Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Mrs. Anthea Bolton was my predecessor and she also assisted with the Library as there was no such luxury as a Librarian! The Library was located in the now Infant's Mistress (A.P.I.) Office!

In 1977 there was the Principal, Mr. George Gelagin, who taught Years 5 and 6, Mrs. Val Young, Kindergarten, Mrs. Colleen Jones, Years 1 and 2, Mrs. Kerrie Grenell, Year 3 and Miss Ruth Brand, Year 4.

The Cleaner was Mrs. Thelma Gibson, who was at the School for many, many years and did an excellent job, often far beyond her duties, especially when there was a Fete or Concert held. The School was "spic and span" by the time all the stalls were cleared away and the rooms vacated.

The Parents and Citizens Association was very active and supportive of the School. The Canteen was conducted three days per week from a small storage room where the demountable toilets for the Infant's Department now stands. The P. & C. also conducted many fund-raising activities such as bus-trips; Fetes, etc, and had regular "working bees" to tend to the School grounds and gardens and any other repairs that were requested of them.

The Government Stores supplies (Annual Requisition) was usually attended to at week-ends by the Principal and his wife, Mrs. Beverley Gelagin, who was also the Casual Relief Teacher as well as teaching the girls basic needlework.

In 1978, Mr. John Leishman arrived as Principal to succeed Mr. George Gelagin who was transferred to Upper Orara Public School, near Coffs Harbour. An increase in enrolments brought another Teacher Mr. David Robertson.

In 1979, as the enrolments increased still further, two more teachers arrived, namely Mrs. Robin Royle and Mrs. Linda Zugai, as well as 2 "support" teachers, Mrs. Anne Humphries as Librarian P/T and Mrs. Frances Sneddon who taught craft for about three hours per week. Mr. Leishman was transferred to Llandilo Public School at the beginning of 1980.

Increasing enrolments resulted in Mrs. Beth Miles arriving as Principal, non-teaching, in 1980 as well as Deputy Principal, Miss Joy Fox. Principal's office was Deputy Principal's office and Clerical Assistant had front office.

By now, my position became a full-time one and I attended five days per week, and we also had a Teachers' Aide appointed in 1981, namely Mrs. Judith Fowell. Several more teachers arrived including Mrs. Pamela Bunn, Mrs. Dawn Van Koeverden and Mrs. Roy Lazarevic. Mrs. Robin Williams was appointed part-time Librarian and her Clerical Assistant part-time was Mrs. Gloria McDougall. 8 module Library constructed and 4 module Admin block.

1982 saw the arrival of Mr. Dallas Blatchford, Mr. Dennis O'Hearn and Mrs. Annette Corlett. Mrs Beverley Meldrum was Craft Teacher part-time and Mrs. Anne Fordham was also appointed.

Following the death of my mother in 1981, I had 12 months off on L.W.O.P. during 1982/83 and returned in mid 1983.

Further increasing enrolments saw the arrival of Mrs. Patricia Hilder, A.P.I., Mrs. Julie Rayner, Mr. Grahame Casey and Mrs. John MacMillan in 1984.

Several demountables arrived over the years, including the 8 module Library, a 4 module Administration Block. the original Staff Room was the A.P.I.'s Office (as well as being the Library!) and then was part of the Admin block as it is to this day. A new multi-purpose building, which included a Food Service unit was constructed in 198...

Mrs. Betty Richards was appointed as a Part-time cleaner with her mother, Mrs. Thelma Gibson in

In 1985, Mrs. Helen Robinson was appointed as well as Mrs. Allison Pearson and Mr. Iain MacPherson, Mr. Mal Davidson was School Counsellor and Mrs. Penny Peck was a "special" counsellor/teacher.

In 1986, a new Teacher's Aide arrived, namely Mrs. Mora Wilson. Mr. Emil Rudyi (sic) was also appointed.

In 1987, Mr. John Leishman returned to the School as Principal, non-teaching, as well as an increase in teaching staff, namely Mrs. Helen Thomas, Mrs. Adrienne McGeachie and Mr. Noel Harrison. Mrs. Anne Britt was appointed as Librarian, with Mrs. Brenda

In 1988, our Bi-centennial year, Mrs. Karlene Franklin was appointed, as well as Mrs. Julie Healey and Mrs. Karen Bashford conducted our School choir. This was also the year that I resigned from the Department of Education.

There was a General Assistant appointed, Mr. Mike Caponas, as well as part-time cleaners, Mr. Bill Osmond and Mr. Rex Schofield, and Mrs. Wendy Cousins ?? and Miss Annette Gavenlock.

In 1988, the Minister for Education, Mr. Rodney Cavalier arrived by helicopter to officially open the new multi-purpose building and food service unit which has been a welcome facility for the whole community.

The School Brass Band has always been "special" to me and Mr. Dennis O'Hearn has given many hours to children over the years in giving them the basics to brass instruments which also requires much self-discipline by the pupils. Some pupils went on the Championship Competitions with Toronto Brass and Concert Bands and the Marching Koalas.

The P. & C. Association, Ladies Aux. and Canteen Committee have always been loyal to the School and provided thousands of dollars to provide equipment for the pupils and staff. Many business houses and Service Clubs have always been most supportive as well as the Ministers' Fraternal and local Parliamentarians.