

Interview with John Lydiard of 2 Rocky Pt Rd, Eraring
Ph: 73.1265 . Interviewed by Anne Britt.

George Gelagin (Principal) put out a call for help through the kids for a design for a school badge. John drew designs for 2 badges, one of which was chosen. He did the diamond shape with the propeller on it. Barry McGee designed the "spirit and truth" logo which was placed above the propeller. The children voted on all the designs submitted and his two designs won.

John has always had a great fascination with planes and drawing them. In 1978 John Leishman (Principal) asked him to do the four drawings of the planes for the houses. These are the pencil sketches hung on the back wall of the library. As these drawings are now faded, he is going to re-do them and put them into black frames which show up the pencil drawings more effectively.

His two children, Sheree and Steven Lydiard, attended Rathmines P.S. in the 1970s. His first wife Beth Lydiard did a lot of work for the canteen when it was outside the Kindergarten room. She was buyer for the canteen for a year.

George Gelagin was the first Principal he can remember. The school just consisted of the top row of wooden buildings. There were no demountables then. His wife Beth went to see Alan Beard (Area Director of Education) several times to try and get more classrooms. The classes were too big.

It was always a great little country school. John Leishman kept that feeling of a small school. He was always good to the children and had a special interest in the area's history.

John can remember a puppet-theatre made by his father-in-law out of wood for the school. John painted a picture of Pinocchio on the front. He is going to try and find

a photograph of it.

His brother moved to Buttaba in the early 1960s and his children came to Rathmines P.S. John and Beth moved to the area in 1970 and their children started at Rathmines P.S. John's step-children by his second marriage also attended this school. Rheanna Riley attended in the late 1980s and her half-sister Jade Mitchell is presently in second class.

He can remember the Mothers' Auxiliary was very social. They used to take coach trips to Polkolbin Vineyards every year.

He can remember plays put on at Christmas time in the community hall every year by the children. They ceased when Mrs Miles came. He can remember the boy of Rae singing "Tommy the Termite"

His ex-wife has photos of sports days and Easter Bonnet Parades. She lives up Tamworth way now and he is not sure if he can get them.

John did the painting of the back-drops for the Catalina Players for about 4 years. They were very popular. He used to miss out on tickets because they sold out so quick. He left when a lot of the original players left - the Caultons (Lyn & ?), Jack and Nancy Gill. Jack did a lot of the carpentry work. Richard Homer died of cancer; he was only in his 40s. He was a very good actor.