

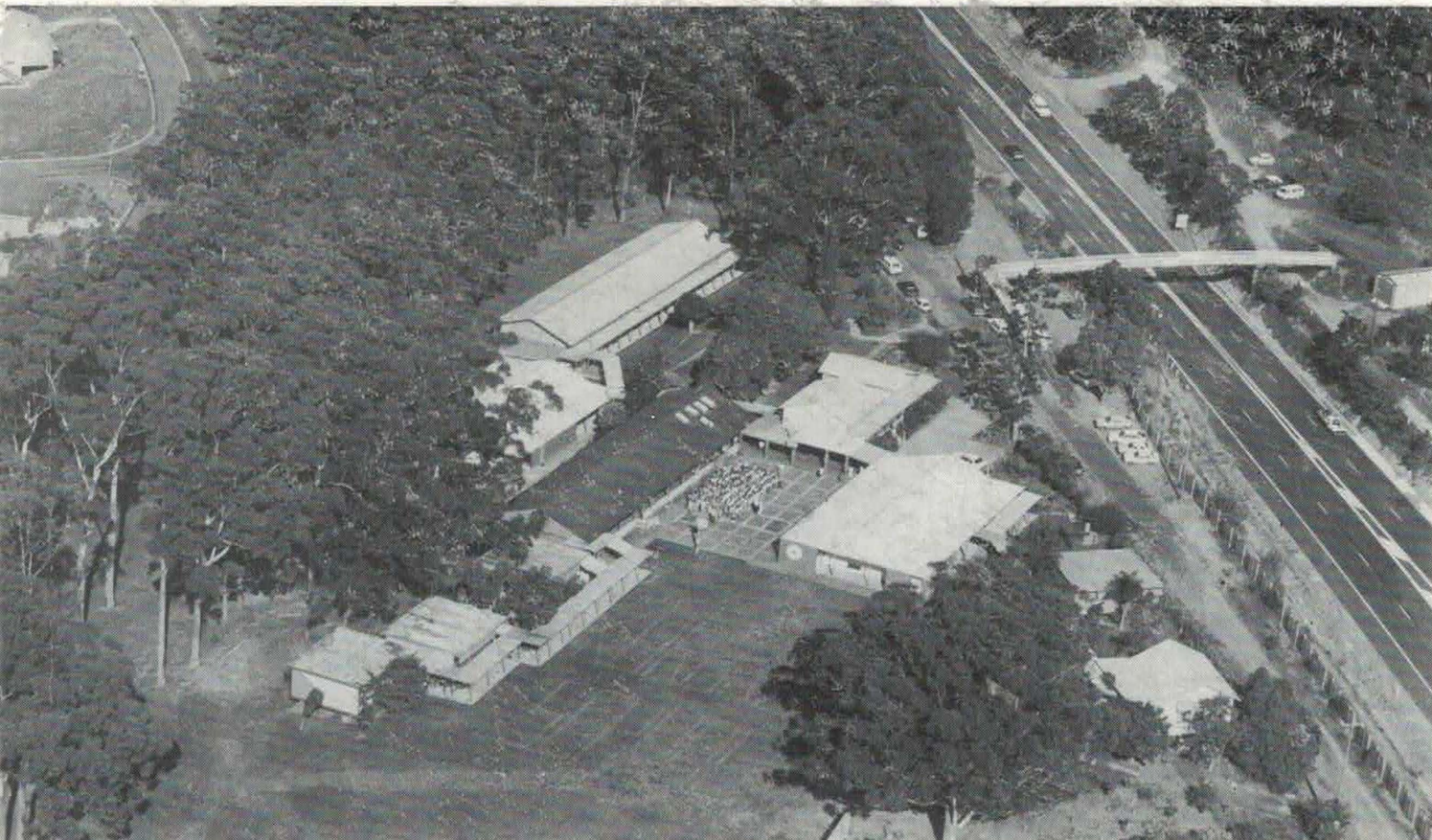
KORORO

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Centenary Book

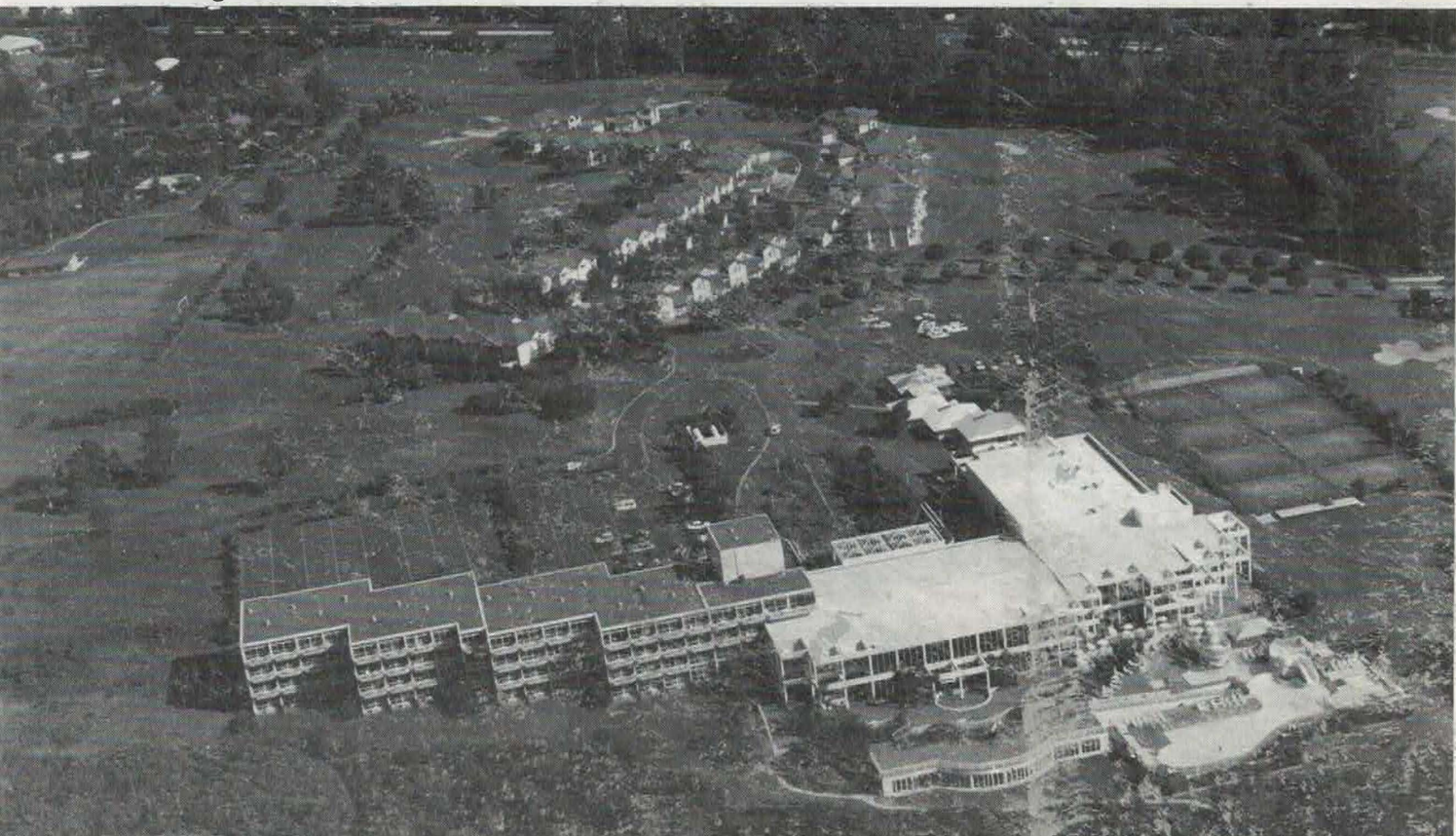


1893 - 1993



Kororo School taken from a helicopter, with the students at assembly, just before the helicopter flew over to take the cover photograph.

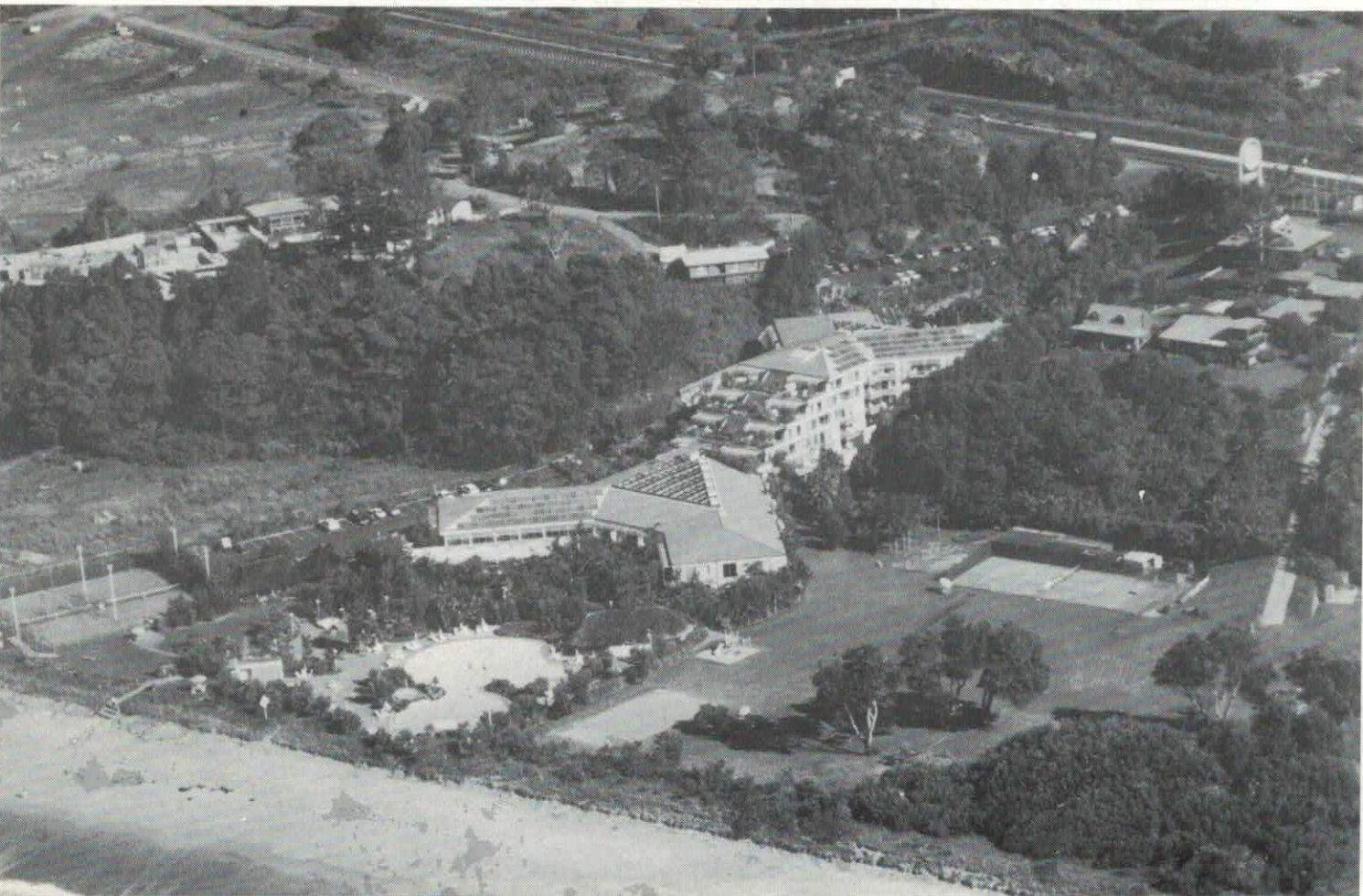
On the right is the Pacific Highway, the pedestrian over bridge and the Kororo Volunteer Bushfire Brigade tanker shed, near the crossing. On the left top is part of James Small Drive.



Opal Cove Resort, which is built on the site of the old Banana Bowl Caravan. On the middle left is the sport ground where Kororo students play soccer.



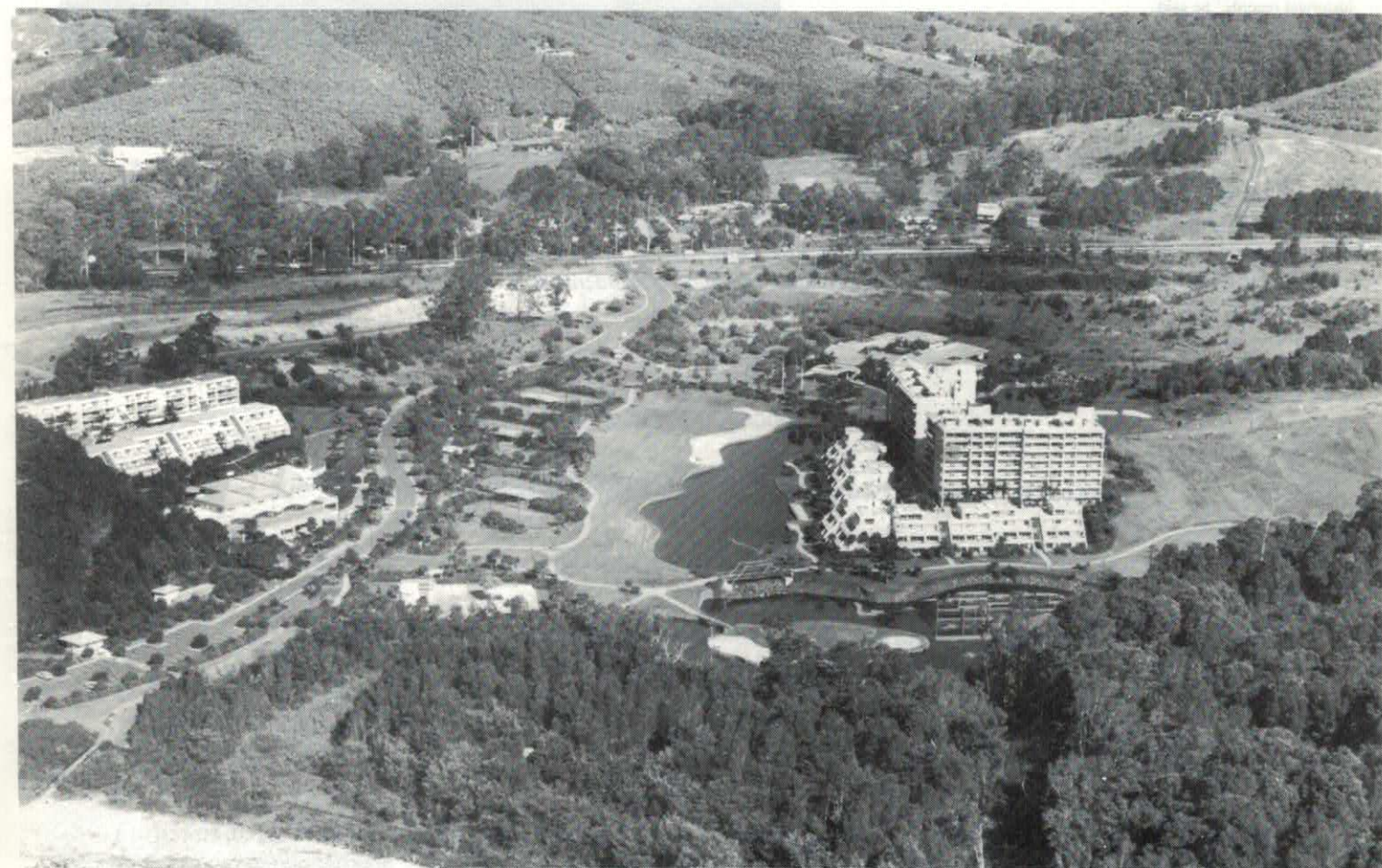
Mid Sapphire Beach and on the far left is Sapphire Pines Apartments.



Pelican Beach Resort, Mid Sapphire, looking back west to the Pacific Highway.



Sapphire Headland, to the right North Sapphire and the left Mid Sapphire.



Charlesworth Bay foreground, with the yet to be opened Pacific Bay Resort, centre and West Korora in the background

Centenary worth smiling about

The Kororo Primary School is gearing itself up for its centenary year. The school's centenary committee has planned a 'day to be remembered' on September 25, when the school will officially celebrate 100 years of schooling.

Its chairman and the school's executive teacher, Mr Jim Plunkett, said his committee already was in the advanced stages of planning the school's 'big day', which was about 19 weeks away.

'The centenary committee has been meeting and planning this event for more than a year,' Mr Plunkett said. 'We hope to have a crowd on the day of past students, present students and members of the community, many of who have had or in the future will have children at Kororo school.'

'We have sent out invitations to former students living all over Australia as well as a few living overseas, hoping they will be able to attend.'

'We have a special centenary week planned. On September 23, there will be a barbecue lunch from 1pm, which will precede an open afternoon at the school.'

'On September 24, there will be a lunch from 11.30am followed by an old-fashioned games afternoon for students and their families.'

'On September 25, celebrations will begin with morning tea and an inspection of the school at 10.30am, followed by lunch at 11.30am and the official ceremony at 1pm, which will include displays by the students.'

'At 2.30pm, there will be an official cake-cutting ceremony and the school again will be open for inspection. At 3pm there will be a special assembly into decades.'

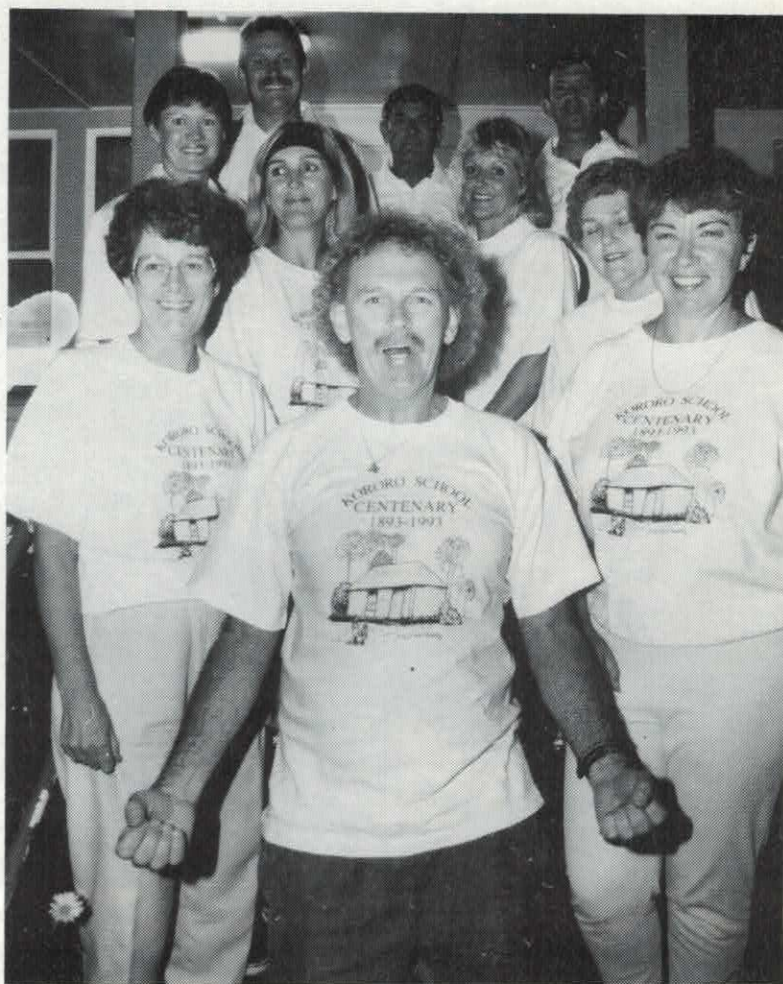
Mr Plunkett said a special reunion dinner would be held at Opal Cove Resort in the evening. This was open to anyone, on a first booked basis.

'One of the features of the celebrations will be a photographic and video display of more than 500 photographs of classes and special school events, as well as some old photographs of lifestyles in earlier years, which have been specially restored for the school's permanent historical records,' he said.

'The school is already selling centenary souvenirs and is offering special pre-order prices.'

For further information, an invitation, or orders, contact the school on 53 6201.

(An extract from the Advocate - Northern Beaches Extra May 13, 1993)



The members of the Kororo Primary School centenary committee get excited over coming events to celebrate the school's centenary.

Centenary Committee Members at the time of printing:-

Pictured (back row) Mr. Will Randall (principal), Mr. Jim Plunkett (executive teacher), Mr. Jim Coleman (assistant principal); Middle row, Mrs. Judy Matten (parent), Mrs. Robyn Hanrahan (parent), Mrs. Debbie Dovers (parent), Mrs Ros Rogers (school clerical assistant and artist (see page 6); Front row, Mrs. Judy Farrell (school clerical assistant), Mr Robert Mill (parent and book editor), Mrs Leone Woodcock (past Parent and president school P&C 1992), not in picture Mr. Michael Bowen, Mr. David Bowen (see page 149).

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Introduction

By the editor Robert Mill

When I first volunteered to write this book, I never realised just how much history could be tied into one single school, nor did I realise how the book would become a part of me; an obsession I could not put down until I finished it.

Now it has been completed and the two hundred or so photographs in place, I can comfortably say the past year and a half has been a really wonderful and rewarding experience.

Having only lived in this area for the past five years has made writing the book a fantastic learning experience too, it became a history and geography lesson in one for me.

I have met (and interviewed) some really wonderful people and I have received assistance and information from many others.

My fellow book committee members have been most helpful and offered guidance wherever and whenever possible.

The book is a history of Kororo Primary School and the district surrounding the school, though it is not really a history book, it is a gathering of facts and information from a number of sources.

It has been written from information volunteered to me and this information with little exception has had to be assumed to be correct.

The Department of School Education archives records, which I researched in 1992, gave some insight as to the "early years" of schooling at Kororo, but most of the pre- 1980 information in this book has been reproduced from information supplied by ex students.

Read it, enjoy it, have a few laughs as I did, it is your history students and ex students, friends and families of Kororo Primary School.

Foreword

(By the principal Will Randall)

I recall as a young child the awe that 100 installed in me.

This gigantic three figure number seemed to be the biggest number in the world.

As I grew it still retained its mystique and attractiveness as we strove to score the ton in cricket and read about our senior citizens who received a telegram from the Queen when they turned 100.

Later our currency changed and was based on 100 cents to the dollar.

Now 100 has a most significant effect upon **Kororo Primary School**.

We have evolved from a single room on top of "Amos's Hill", to a school with 300 pupils and 15 teaching staff.

The process of change has also played a significant factor through growth, yet our focus for change has remained consistent - "children".

Schools are for children and children are our future.

This publication highlights the past yet ends with direction for their future.

Our century of development can be looked to with confidence.

Through love and understanding, nurturing our children and creating a safe, secure and trusting environment, our children will grow as future citizens.

They will evolve into responsible, enterprising, constructive, co-operative, communicative, caring and responsible members of society.

It is up to each of us to ensure that our children may live to create this positive future world for the many generations to come.

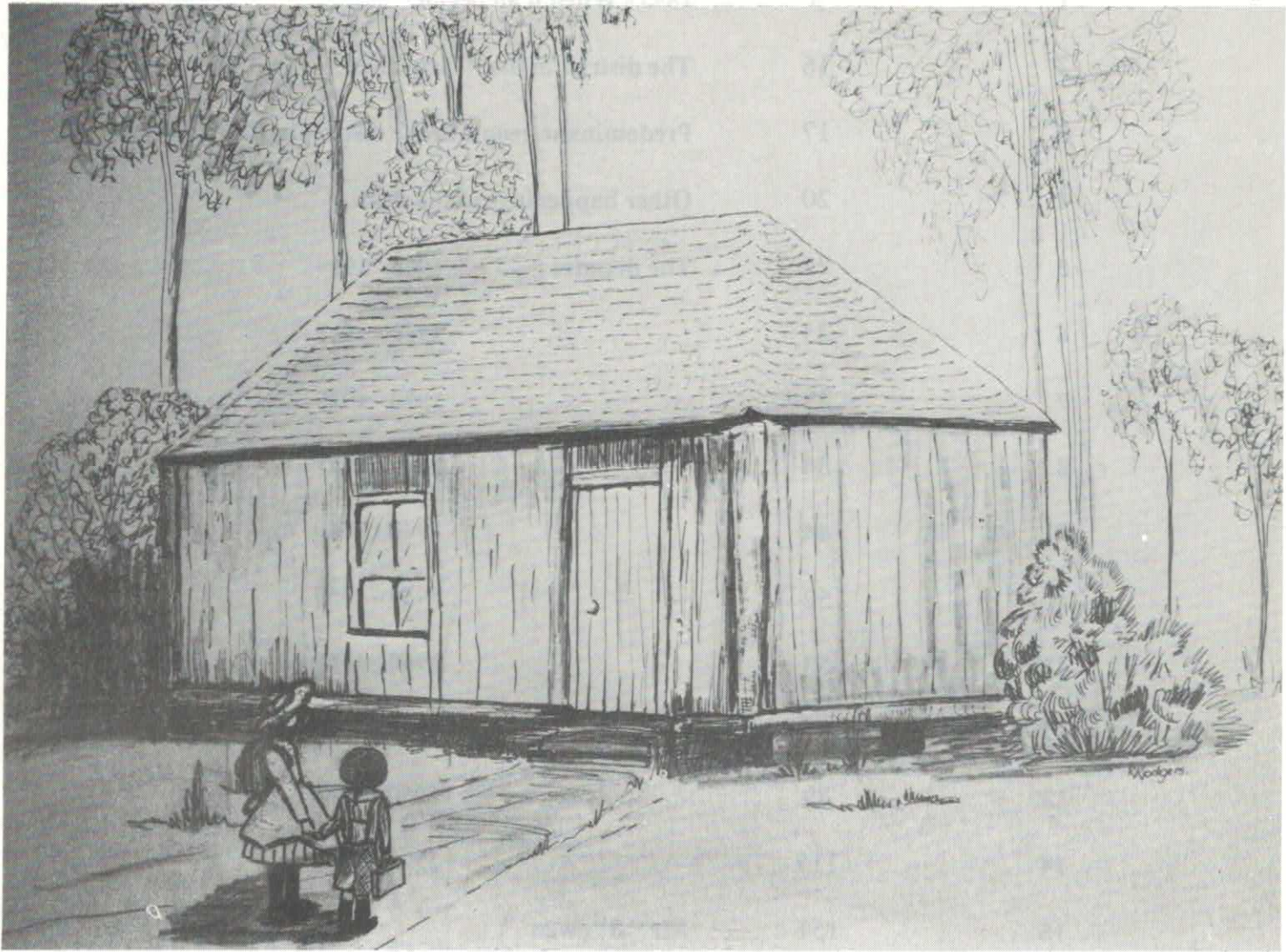
A great many people have been involved in making our centenary a memorable celebration.

An enthusiastic Centenary Committee has been tireless in its efforts.

To you all, I am most grateful.

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The original school building as described by Mr Doug Jordan and drawn by current school staff member Mrs Ros Rogers.

Chapter 1

1893 - When it all began

The school

An application was granted on November 3 1892, by the then Department of Instruction for a "half-time school" (see following pages for description) to be built at Korora on land acquired on the intersection of Grafton Road and the northern boundary of what was then known as the Neuhaus family selection number 95; later called Amos's Hill.

The actual location of the first school at Korora was on a property about one kilometre south of the present school.

It's only significant landmark being today is an old banana packing shed, at the southern end of James Small Drive; and a letterbox showing the current landowners name - Sippel.

The original school was built on a two acre block, which had a reserve of eight acres and the school building was constructed by Mr William Neuhaus in late 1892, with the help of neighbouring families.

The building construction was described as "cedar slab and shingle type - vertical pit sawn timber building, which comprised of a single room, with a timber gabled roof, slab floor and it was complete with a water tank and timber floor.

The approximate dimensions of the room were 12 feet x 8 feet x 6 feet.

The school, with an initial enrolment of seven boys and three girls, was eventually opened as a "half-time school", with Coffs Harbour Public School in January 1893.

On August 31 1895 the school was closed, due to low pupil enrolments and it re-opened as a "house-to-house" school with Moonee Creek School in 1897.

In September 1909, the school was made a "half-time school" with Moonee, (a different school to Moonee Creek).

In 1914, Kororo was made a "provisional school", Moonee School was closed and Kororo was finally raised to "public school" status on July 20 1914.

The present school site of three acres, was acquired by government grant on July 28 1915 and the new school building was erected in the same year at a cost of pounds 198 and an additional block 2.75 acres adjoining the southern side was added on September 5 1924.

On December 16, 1915, the new school was finally made ready for occupation.

Later in 1935, a total of 1.25 acres was either given up for a road or surrendered to the Lands Department.

In 1959 a new school building was erected by the Amos Brothers for the sum of pounds 5075.

SUPERVISING OFFICER'S COPY.

2



NOTICE.

IMPORTANT — This Specification must be returned to the Architect, Department of Public Instruction, Sydney, by the earliest post after 2 o'clock on
This instruction should be strictly adhered to.

SPECIFICATION.

Kororo

Provisional School

New School Building

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
ARCHITECT'S BRANCH,
SYDNEY.

AUG 1 1915

CONTRACT SIGNED

00596 4-JUN-1915

E. F. Leggo

1915

(SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK.)

54

Specifications for Kororo's new school building, 1915

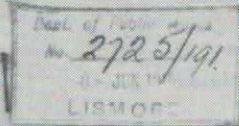
(Over £50.)

Department of Public Instruction,

Architect's Branch,

Sydney,

4th June 1915.



NOTIFICATION OF CONTRACT.

MEMORANDUM to

THE DISTRICT WORKS OFFICER,

Lismore

The following particulars are herewith forwarded for your information in connection with a Contract entered into by this Department, and which you are requested to supervise. The Supervising Officer's copy of the Specification has already been forwarded to you.

Particulars:—

Name of School or Work

Kororo

Nature of Work

New School

Name of Contractor

E. F. Leggo

Contractor's Address

Brook St. Leggo

Amount of Contract, £

198

No. of Contract

596

Contract period commenced

4. 6. 15

Contract period expires

13. 8. 15

Rate of Fine per week, £

1

The Contractor has been requested to place himself in communication with you.

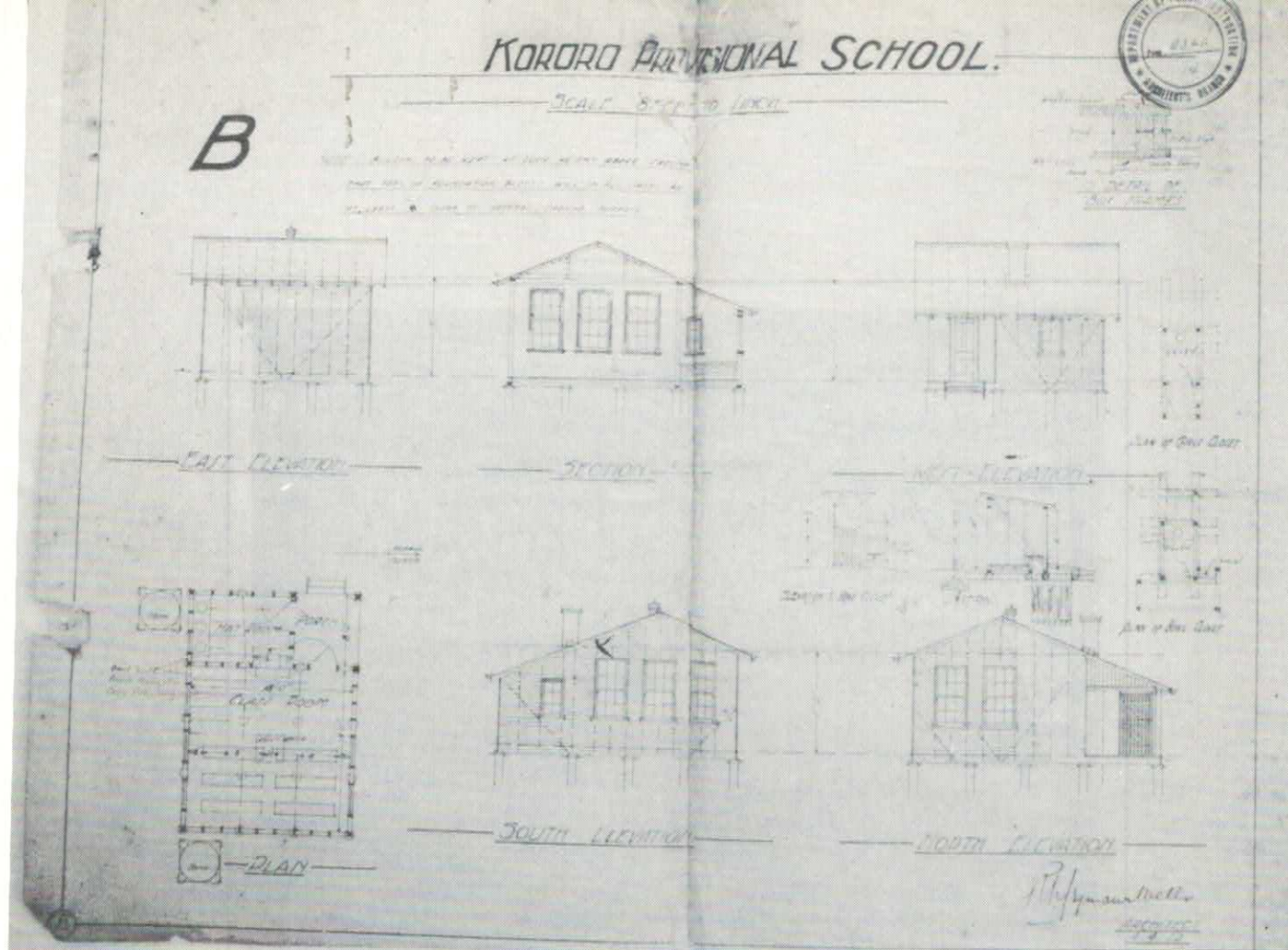
R. M. S. WELLS,

Architect,

per

W. H. H.

Contract for the construction of the new Kororo School in 1915.



Plans for the new school building, as drawn up in 1912.

The “new building” consisted of a timber classroom, office and storeroom, which was occupied on November 2 of that year.

Further accommodation was added in :- 1969 and 1991 - when the new four classroom block was added to the James Small Drive (eastern) end of the school grounds.

Unique Terminologies used in this book to describe the types of schools referred to in this book.

HalfTime School

This was a school which shared a teacher with another school.

Students attended their school one week; Monday, Wednesday, Friday and the second week; Tuesday and Thursday, alternating with the second Half-Time School.

The “teacher in charge” would then have to teach three days at one school, then two days at the other school.

Students had “holidays” on their “non-teacher school days”, which were in addition to the normal school year vacation periods.

House to House School

Teaching stations were set up, where an itinerant teacher would visit and teach the basic subjects.

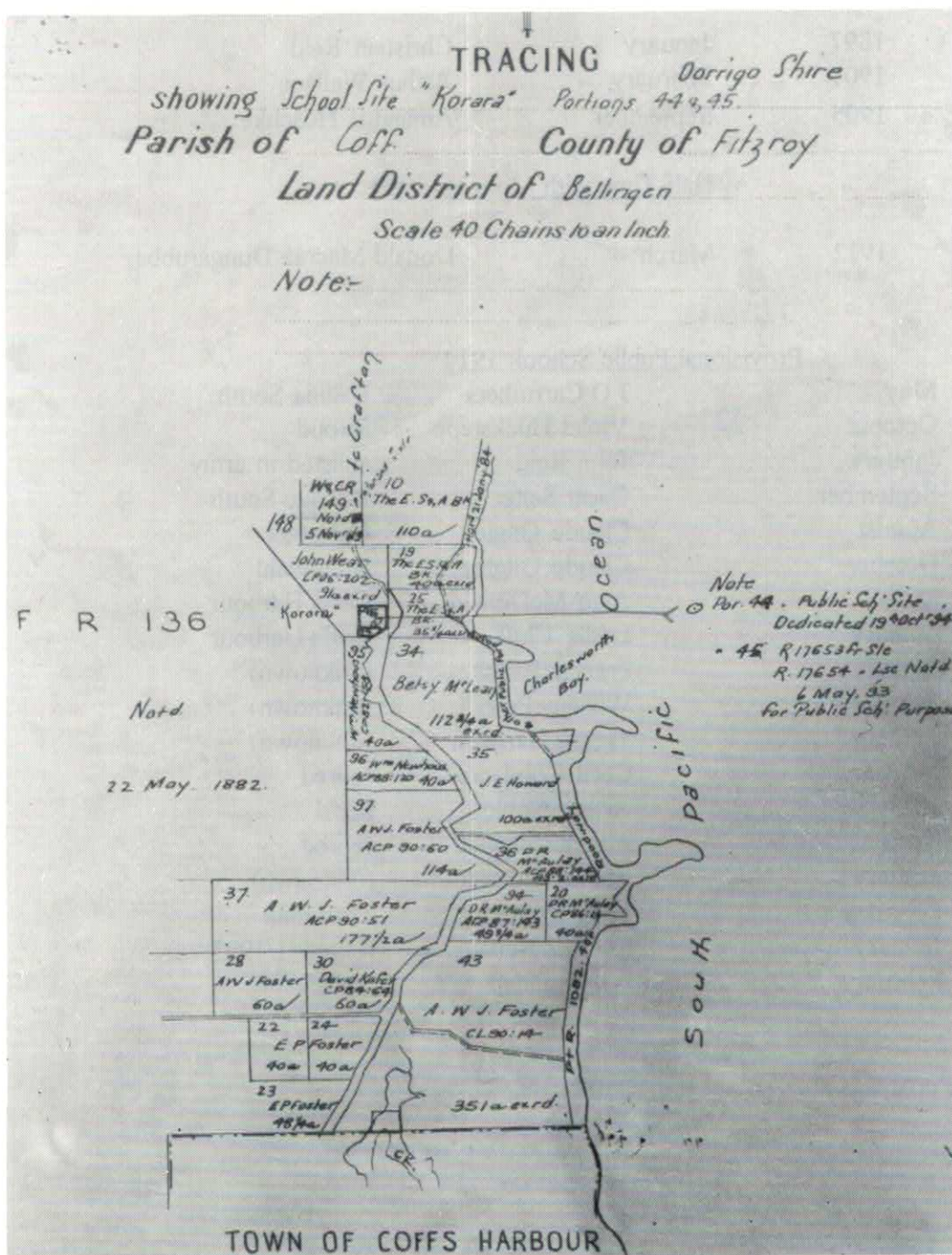
The teachers involved were usually untrained or of the lowest teaching classification and often there was no school building from which they could teach.

Provisional School

These were established in areas where there were 15 students minimum, but less than 25, as required for a "public school".

In Provisional Schools it was left to the parents to provide the building and furniture, while the then Department of Instruction paid the teacher and supplied the books and equipment.

Although there were provisions for the Department to provide all or part of the cost of buildings parents often met most of the cost, a situation which continued well into the 20th century.



Map showing Old School Site - "Dedicated" 19th October 1894

List of Principals

Year and Month appointed Teacher Transferred to:

Half-time with Coffs Harbour Public

1893	January	John Larmer
1893	July	Duncan Martin
1894	March	Alfred Brewer

House - to- House with Moonee Creek

1897	January	Christian Reid
1901	February	Arthur Wallace
1905	September	Amandus Hoschke

Half-Time with Moonee 1909

1912	March	Donald Macrae Dungarubba
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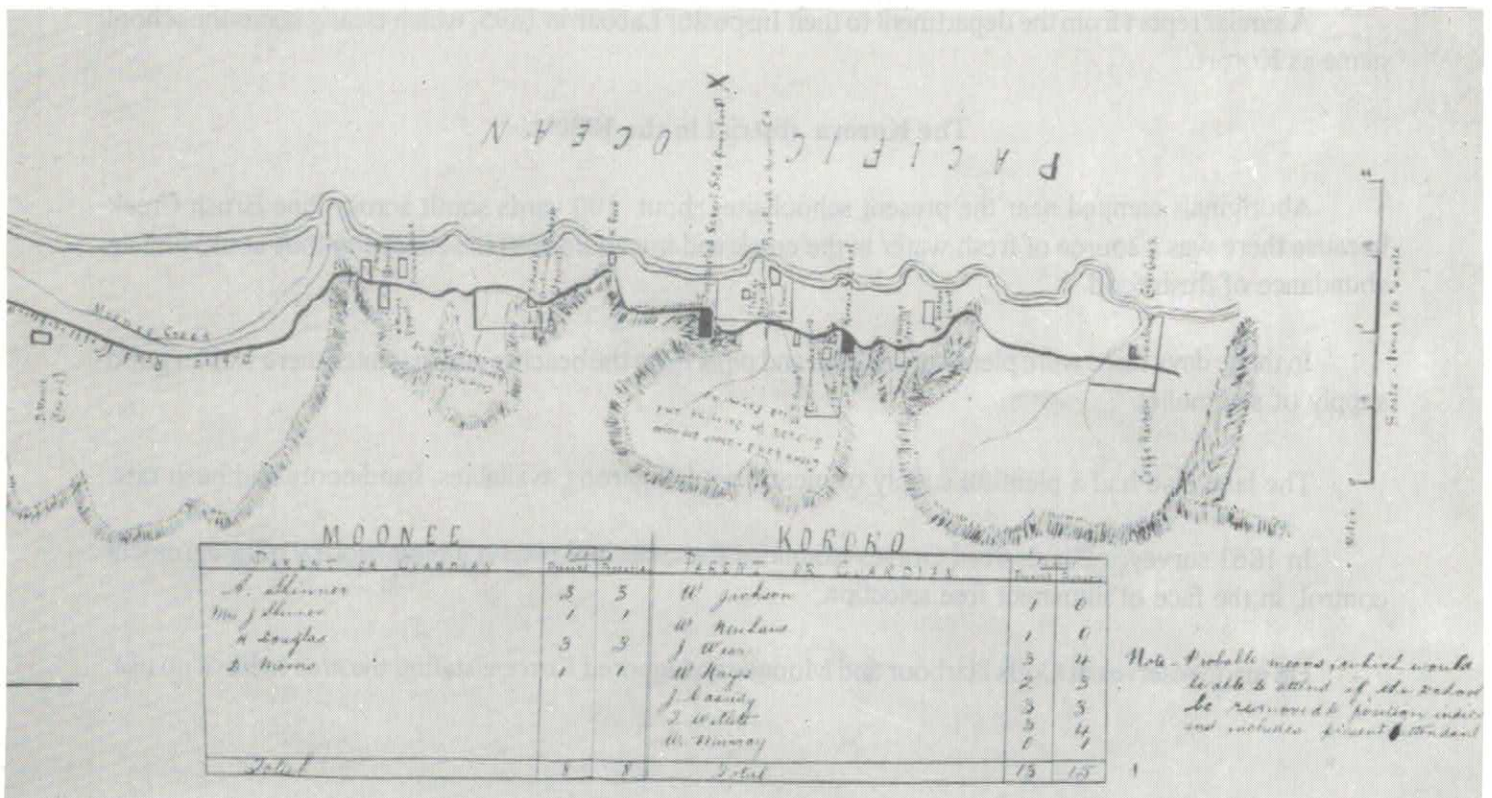
Provisional Public School 1914

1915	May	J O Carruthers	Ballina South
1916	October	Violet Huckstepp	Stroud
1917	January	John Reid	enlisted in army
1918	September	Oscar Salter	Dorrigo South
1920	August	Claude Ongley	Coramba
1927	October	Claude Ongley	Bungwahl
1936	May	Alan McDonald	Coffs Harbour
1938	January	Leslie Cluff	Coffs Harbour
1946	January	Francis Evans	(unknown)
1946	February	William Perry*	(unknown)
1949	January	Trevor Harrison	(unknown)
1954	February	Cecil Goodacre	retired
1962	January	Arthur Noble	dec'd
1970	April	Albert Chappell	retired
1976	January	Aubrey Barnier	(unknown)
1979	February	Tony Youngman	Toormina
1986	January	Eleanor Newmarch	retired 1/1993
1993	February	Will Randall	current

(* William Perry was an assistant principal)

School Enrolment Figures

Enrolment:		Enrolment:	
1893	10	1931	21
1894	10	1932	19
1895	6	1933	30
1909	20	1934	39
1910	14	1935	35
1911	7	1936	37
1912	21	1937	25
1913	22	1938	22
1914	22	1940	50
1915	21	1941	47
1917	20	1945	59
1918	22	1950	unavailable
1919	22	1955	unavailable
1920	24	1960	101
1921	16	1965	103
1922	16	1970	110
1923	20	1975	174
1925	24	1980	316
1926	23	1985	308
1927	11	1990	351
1928	18	1991	353
1929	13	1992	347
1930	27	1993	330



Map showing the Original School Site and the 'Proposed Site' c:1912

Chapter 2

THE DISTRICT

What's in a name?

Was it - Korora or Kororo or in fact - Kurrawa

The origins of the name Korora (Kororo) stems from the aboriginal word Kurrawa, meaning “**rough sea or seas**” (an extract from :- Aboriginal names and Places, A W Reed 1977).

Many variations have been made of this meaning, such as:- “sound of the waves”, “roar of the seas”, - but the basic meaning is still there - “**rough sea**”.

In the early days, Aboriginal camps were located a few metres south west of the present school and one line of thought as to why Korora is spelt as such is that when the early settlers to the area enquired of the local aboriginals what the place was called, they were told Kurrawa.

A possible misinterpretation of the correct name occurred and spelling was assumed to be K-o-r-o-r-a.

As to how **Korora** became “**Kororo School**”; it can only be assumed that a probable written error occurred somewhere in the mid 1880's, when the copperplate style written Korora, become Kororo.

(In the school inspectors report dated 28/10/82, which accompanied the original school building application, in the first page it refers to the district as **Korora** and the second page as **Kororo**).

A similar report from the department to their Inspector Labban in 1895, which clearly states the school name as Kororo.

The Korora district in the 1880's.

Aboriginals camped near the present school site, about 100 yards south across Pine Brush Creek because there was a source of fresh water in the creek and it was close to the coast and they could find an abundance of fresh food.

In those days there were plenty of shellfish and pipis from the beaches and in winter there was an good supply of sea mullet.

The land also had a plentiful supply of meat from kangaroos, wallabies, bandicoots and bush rats.

In 1861 surveyor Braylesford Graves examined the coast and reserve points worthy of government control, in the face of imminent free selection.

He made reserves at Coffs Harbour and Moonee and ignored Korora, stating the area to be of no use.

Chapter 3

Predominant people in the district during the early days

James Small

Attracted to the area in the early 1880's by the fine strands of pine trees, a Mr James Small squatted there with his wife and two sons.

Although Small had no title to the land he was "well established" when a party of farmers came down from the Clarence area, acting on advice from a Mr William Sare, to inspect the land at "Coffs Creek Basin", (Korora Basin) in 1880.

Afraid his well found land would be "selected" by newcomers, Small hurried off to Kempsey and secured his title of 190 acres.

Small's selection extended south almost to Charlesworth Bay and north to the top of the "low hill", (just north of where Opal Cove is today).

In later years, (as reported by Mr Small's son) his father drew a million feet of cedar and pine from the area surrounding **Pine Brush Creek**.

When the timber finally ran out, Small's family turned to growing and milling sugar cane.

A newspaper report dated May 27 1886 stated:-

'In contrast to the long accustomed sound of the surf thundering on the beach, echoing through the primeval scrubs and forests, a new sound has emerged on the horizon - that of the hissing and whistling of the new steam engine of the new sugar mill at Korora.

'The new sugar mill, the creation of a Mr James Small and was given it's first working trial today.

'Everything worked smoothly and it seems to be of substantial character.'

Though there were some doubts expressed about the possible success of the mill, again reporting from the same newspaper:-

'It is hoped the new venture will be successful, but the sugar cane in the vicinity where they propose to erect the mill is liable to attacks of frost, being further up on the creek than Mr Newport's whose cane suffered severely last year.'

The mill was ready for the end of year harvest.

Small's sugar mill was one of modern design and was operated by a sixteen horsepower steam engine and during the crushing season the mill employed 20 hands.

The area under cane was expanded to about 40 acres and five other local farmers supplied cane from their 25 acres to the mill, with the best cane coming from the lower slopes of the hills.

With such large numbers of sugar cane workers to cater for, it was necessary for Small's family to kill their own beef and the surplus was sold off to the local farmers at three pence per pound.

Bread was also baked by Small's family and spare loaves were sold to local housewives who preferred the bought bread to their own baking.

Small's house was a fine home of pit-sawn cedar and pine, with a shingle roof of red mahogany and forest oak and he named it "Korora House", which soon became the centre for the district; with its mail depot, butchery and bread making.

There was always a spare room for visitors and the house became well known as a convenient stopping place for travellers and for a number of years Small's house operated as the official post office for the area.

Local landowner and South Australian - German newspaper journalist and correspondent **Mr Herman Reick** gathered much of his district news at Small's every afternoon, when the men of the area gathered for a gossip.

In 1885, the road to Grafton which was on a line about half a mile inland and named "the Old Coast Road", was finally completed.

Not long after the road's completion, a large party of tourists attracted by the reported beauty of Korora, came to see for themselves.

They arrived on horseback, sulky and wagonettes, but before they could even pitch their tents, it rained.

Small accommodated the tourists in his house and in the plantation workers' huts.

Shipping sugar cane soon provided difficulties for Small.

He tried to ship his sugar on a cedar log raft through the surf, but he had difficulties in keeping the sugar dry.

Then he tried hauling the sugar to the Clarence River, but the cost proved too high.

Small then worked hard to have the jetty at Coffs Harbour built and when it was later completed when he and other growers sugar cane went by ship, having been loaded direct at the jetty.

Eventually Small went bankrupt, but his son managed to gather enough money together to keep the family house and farm.

Alexander Hermann

Polish immigrant Alexander Hermann later bought Small's farm and initially made sugar cane farming his main interest.

Some time later, Mr Hermann started an illegal distillery, using brown sugar and molasses, which were by products of the sugar vats, which otherwise were mill waste products.

The tall brick chimney which stood over the boiler was fairly wide and an exit tunnel was dug to the nearby Pinebrush Creek bank.

Ingredients were taken through the tunnel to the still which was at the base of the chimney, which provided an ideal hideaway.

After too close a brush with the law, Hermann closed the distillery and sold his farm - to a gentleman called Rottger but all too late Mr Rottger realised the sugar industry was dying and he went bankrupt.

Finally the well known Coffs Harbour store keeper William T Hill bought the property.

Hermann Henrick Reick

Almost a year after Small squatted, another newcomer Hermann Henrick Reick saw the land from a little ship anchored off the coast and promptly went to the Kempsey land Office and acquired four acres.

Reick had a private income from his family's publishing business in Germany and could afford to experiment with various types of crop growing.

For six years Reick lived between the buttress roots of a huge fig tree, using sheets of bark, he covered the space between the spurs and set up a home which contained one bedroom, a kitchen and a store room.

Reick initially tried growing tobacco, bananas, papaws, cotton, coconuts, maize as well as common vegetables and later he tried coconuts, but without success.

But it was Reick's work with bananas which made him famous.

Bananas introduced by him in early 1881 produced huge bunches the following Christmas.

Frost did not affect them, nor did the flying foxes attack them.

Later, in 1891 Reick introduced genuine Fiji Viemana bananas and later Cavendish bananas and planted six acres of them.

Reick sold his bananas to the locals, as well as the miners at Beacon Mines and to passing ships, which were met by local fishermen with their boats laden with plentiful supplies of bananas.

In his notes titled "**reflections of my life**", written by **Mr William Neuhaus**, in 1948, when he was then in his 83rd year, Mr Neuhaus wrote 'Reick was credited with doing more for the district than anyone before him.

'Being a journalist and correspondent for the German newspaper in South Australia, he wrote frequently, promoting Coffs Harbour as the new N S W sugar district.

'Mr Reick's letters brought many settlers to the district.'

Chapter 4

Other happenings affecting lifestyles in the district

The end of sugar cane

In 1900/01 the George Reid government cancelled the five pound sugar bounty paid to N S W sugar growers, causing all small mills in the area, as well as in the northern rivers to close.

It was proclaimed a black day for the Coffs Harbour area.

Although dairy farming started soon on the rivers, the Korora area lacked suitable transport and roads and the area was at a standstill.

The settlers who had worked hard for three to four years, finally expecting their first return, received nothing.

Many left the area disheartened and broken, leaving cattle and bullocks let to graze on the land where the fine strands of sugar cane had once grown.

Those who stayed on “existed” by doing road works in the district; there was considerable hardship in those post sugar cane days.

With the sugar industry now idle and with a great deal of land also laying idle, Rieck said “this will not do”, so he sent one pound, to a friend in Toowoomba and asked him to send a few Cavendish banana plants back to him.

With those few plants the great banana industry of today started in Coffs Harbour.

In 1913 John B Hill bought Hermann’s property and in the same year sold it to a Mr William Perry.

A ship sinks nearby

In 1886, the well known river trader ss “Helen Nicoll” of about 300 tons rammed the larger vessel ss “Kielawarra”; with the latter going down with the loss of 30 lives.

Only one body was washed ashore and it was later buried at the foot of a pandanum palm, in front of what was then the Bananabowl Caravan Park (now Opal Cove).

Pine Brush Creek

Pinebrush Creek is the creek which flows through an area of coastal rain forest (brush) and down through the sand hills and Hills Beach Reserve (Korora Bay Reserve) and into the ocean (at high tide).

As the creek’s name suggests, pine was more important than cedar to the area.

In the brush grew a large number of pine trees, known as Hoop Pine and Colonial or Dorrigo Pine and a few specimens can still be seen today at Pine Ridge Sapphire.

Pine, along with smaller quantities of ash and silky oak could float and this was important, as the cut logs had to be shipped out.

Logs were drawn through the surf to the small vessel ss "Jane" which anchored a few hundred yards offshore to load it's timber cargo.

Initially the logs were hauled out under the lees of Capps Rock, later they were hauled to Charlesworth Bay (so named because a Captain Charlesworth used that bay to shelter), and the "Jane" would stand in closer and shelter off Diggers Headland, when a southerly blew up.

Living standards of the era

All transport was by foot, packhorse or bullock team and supplies everything had to come in either from Grafton or Bellingen, over the roughest of roads.

There were times when food was short, often because of bad weather delays and more than once the last 25 pounds of flour had to be shared out amongst three or four families.

Most families during those times would have to go without milk and butter for months on end and they lived on only what they grew.

All cooking and baking was done over an open fire and housewives boiled their washing in kerosene tins, placed over an open fire and during long dry spells and they carried their washing a mile to the nearest water hole.

Used flour bags after they had been washed out, were made into children's underwear.

The harsh conditions ensured families and neighbours kept close, always helping the other out and giving each other a couple of days work here and there, so as to make ends meet.

Most of the early settlers lived mainly in bark huts, with split slab sides, split shingles and earthen floors.

All the district's land applications were kept at the Kempsey Land Office and to make an application for land everyone had to travel to Kempsey by horse or on foot.

As many people did not own a horse, the trip took three days by foot to Kempsey, then three days back again!

Chapter 5

THE DECADE

1900 - 1909

Teacher Mr A Wallace, who taught the “house to house” school in 1901 had to travel by bike from Kempsey to take up his new appointment at Kororo.

Mr Wallace was paid a gross yearly salary of pounds 88 in addition to a yearly forage allowance of pounds 10 (to feed his horse).

Schooling at Kororo in the early days usually meant a long walk to and from the school, or for the few fortunate ones, a ride on horseback.

In May 1901, teacher Mary Hill applied for the mid-day recess to be reduced to one hour, so she could dismiss the school at the earlier time of 3.30pm.

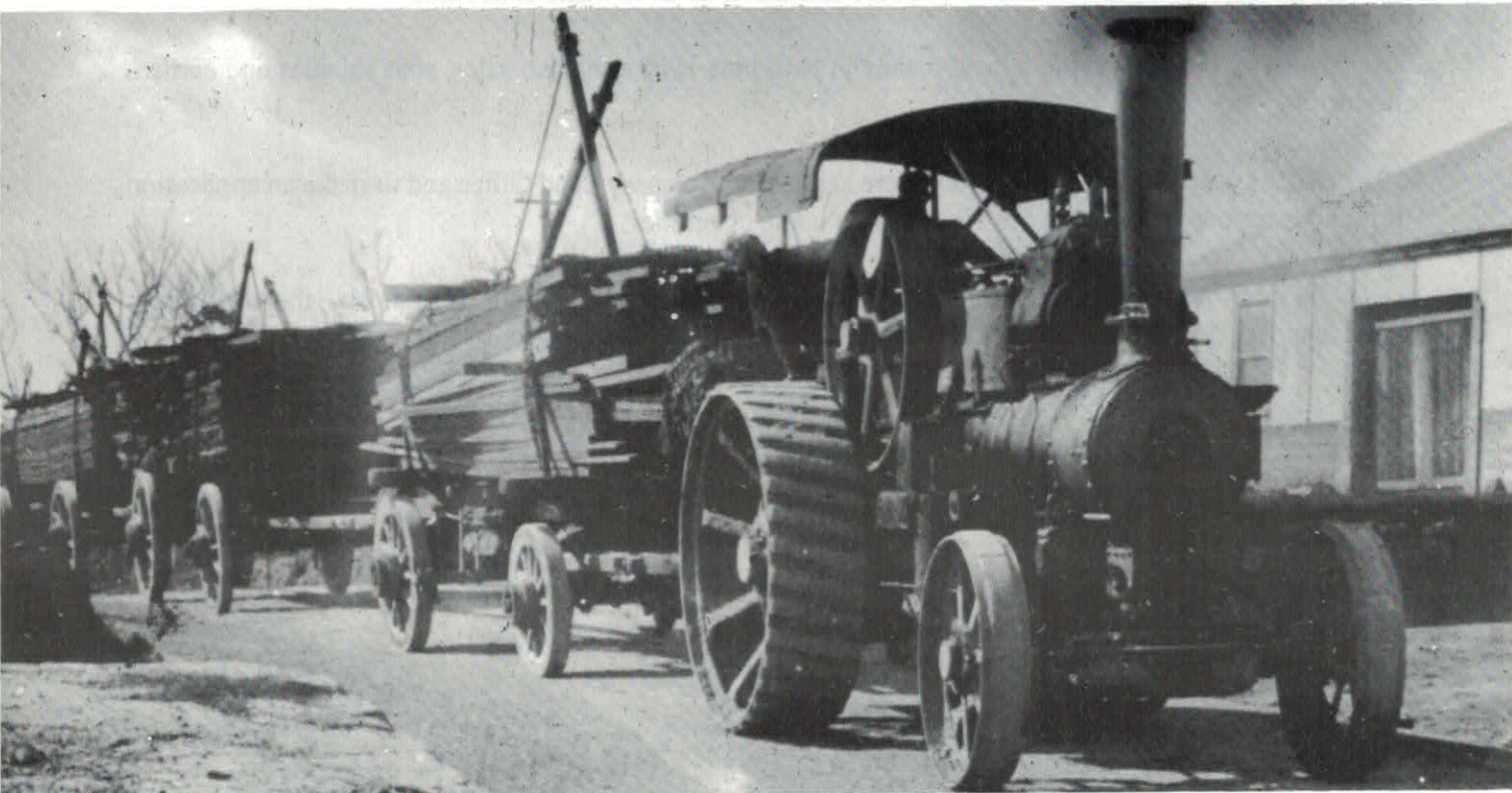
This was so the students who lived a distance from the school could get home to do some of their chores in daylight hours.

In 1908 a tramline was built to a collecting point near the creek just north of the Big Banana.

Teamsters hauled logs to down to this point from the Korora forests.

Then the logs were then taken by the tram to the B.A.T sawmill at Coffs Harbour Jetty.

In 1914, the tramline was extended to become part of the main road to Bucca.



A glass plate negative reproductions of lumber hauling, by Fordson tractor

Chapter 6

1910 - 1919

After World War One, an attempt was made to release some of the state forest which covered most of the hills in the Kororo Basin area, as farming land for ex-servicemen.

The prime mover in this attempt was a Mr William Hardy, who had often gone with his family for picnics to the hills in the West Korora Basin area.

Hardy urged his son in law to seek a portion of the land when it became available for general selection after 1921.

A Mr Stan Gordon and Mr Vic Allen were two of the successful early applicants for five of the blocks.

Gordon had secured sucklings of a new variety of bananas called the William Hybrid variety, which were introduced by Dalmahoy (Dal) Campbell, who had earlier purchased Hermann Rieck's farm.

Allen took the lead in cultivating bananas long before the collapse of plantations in the northern rivers area, which sent growers south looking for new land for banana growing.

Allen also did considerable experimental crop work and attracted the interest of officers of the Department of Agriculture.

By 1926, the demand for banana land was so great in the area, efforts were made to have the western slopes released by the Forestry Commission.



The official opening of the new school building 1915



Students inside and outside the new school building, 1915.

Initially this was without success, but the Commission finally relented and Korora became the major fruit producing area of the district.

Mining in the area

Korora also lies in a line of copper, which stretches from the Solitary Islands to Mt. Brown and through to the copper deposits on the eastern part of Dorriggo.

Local landowner, Dal Campbell spent much of his time searching for gold in the area and he found several small reefs, the nearest being just across the road from the school.

Promising pieces of quartz were found on the headland south of Charlesworth Bay and a large number of bags were taken to the crushing plant at the Beacon mines, but the yield was too low, to make it a worthwhile long-term proposition.

Despite this, miners still dug a 30 foot shaft into the headland, without striking the gold bearing reef - hence the name Diggers Headland.

The School Observation Book

(This was a book completed by the school area inspectors during their regular visits to Kororo school). Items quoted directly from the book are in parenthesis (“”).

In 1910 an entry in the observation book of the ‘half-time school’ noted “the classroom is clear but the number of pictures is still somewhat limited.”

In 1911, the teacher was Mr A L Hoschke and the observation book noted “notwithstanding the rough structure of the building, the room is neat and attractive.”

A 1912 report on the condition of the school was “the shingles are dropping from the roof and in wet weather the floor is damp and remains so for a considerable time after, making the building dangerous to health.

“The children who have to sit on the damp floor are getting colds and flu.”

In 1913, a note was made “the school is unfit for occupation, but the decorations are in good taste, lessons are quite limited though - to English and Maths.”

In response to a request from the department, Mr Neuhaus quoted pounds 2/10/- for temporary repairs to the school building and work was carried out immediately.

On October 10 1914, it was noted “the existing school building was now safe and (temporarily) habitable, as far as weather was concerned, but there was still insufficient accommodation.”

On February 2 1914, Inspector Blumer recommended the school have a new building.

In his report, Inspector Blumer stated that “a number of new children would come to the school, if a new school site was approved, but at present the nearest school is too far - three miles away.”

On March 2 1914, landowners and residents of Korora and Moonee petitioned the Department for a new school.

On September 21, 1914, an application was made with the department of construction for the dedication of land for the new Kororo school and plans went to the school inspector on August 9 1915.

On May 5 1915, the Department gave approval for a new building capable of accommodating 40 pupils and it was to be constructed on a part of resumed land of which a Mr James Thompson of Corindi was licensee.

The successful contractor was a Mr E. F. Leggo, who quoted pounds 180.

A local resident, Mr J Wear was engaged by the contractors to supply most of the timber for the new building.

On May 22 1915 however, the average attendance at the school was reported to be down to nine, from an enrolment of 18 and on this basis the inspector suggested the original school be immediately closed down.

Teacher D G Macrae was immediately transferred to Dungarubba Primary School.

After Macrae was transferred, the inspector reported to the Department the teacher was moved under a misapprehension of local circumstances.

“The present school was not attended due to the very bad condition of the building and because it was not centrally located.

“The inspector also reported that once the new site was completed, an average of 20 students would attend the school.

He further wrote, “the closure of the school had caused serious hardships to people in the area, who now had to send their children in to Coffs Harbour, some five to six miles away, over some of the worst roads in the state.”

On August 21, 1915 the contractor Mr Leggo advised he expected to complete the new school within three weeks and he requested the new school furniture be supplied which consisted of:- three large size forms, three small size desks and forms, (all being 6 feet 8 inches long), as well a book press.

On December 16, 1915, the new school was finally ready for occupation.

On March 15, 1916 the old school building, which according to a departmental report, ‘was much eaten by white ants and was liable to collapse in a gale’, was purchased by Mr John Wear for shillings 15.

On May 3 1917, teacher Miss Mary Huckstep asked the department if the school could have a picnic on Empire Day and permission was granted for the picnic to be held after normal Empire Day functions.

On August 29, 1918, teacher Mr Reid enlisted to the War and the school was closed until September 16, until teacher Mr Oscar Salter was able to take charge, after transferring from Paupong and Pleasant View School.

Enrolments had increased by two during that year and a Gould League of bird lovers had been established, with 19 members.

There was a note "there was a shortage of toilets in the school, but few were being supplied."

A note in the observation book in 1919 said "the school was quite satisfactory but the grounds were still unfenced, however there was no necessity at the present time for work to be undertaken, in view of the fact that a new school was opening at Moonee and **Kororo school would probably close.**"

In an interview in 1992, with an 87 year old ex-pupil Doug Jordan, Mr Jordan recalled some of his experiences during in his days at the both old school (where he began his schooling in 1911) and the new school (where he finished his schooling in 1916).

Mr Jordan grew up on his parent's banana plantation, in Korora; his family moving to the area 1906.

His children as well as his children's children all attended Kororo School.

Mr Jordan recalled the school had one classroom, a hat room and a verandah.

'In the early days the school was a little "short on numbers", so my (four and a half year old brother) and the Hill's boys of the same age, were seconded to the school, to "help make up (class) numbers".'

'The teacher's girlfriend sometimes would visit the school at recess and the kids would line up along the windows watching them kissing.

'The teacher, Mr Ongley eventually married one of his students - Miss Ivy Campbell.

'Miss Campbell stayed on at the school until she was 15, then the following year married Mr Ongley and in later years, taught the girls sewing.

'The toilets were of the pit hole type, with a canvas screen around them and each afternoon it was the teacher's duty to put lime down the pits.

'One of the students one day was in a rush to get to the toilet, went straight through the planked seat and fell straight in the "pit".'

'He quickly got himself out, then went down to the creek, jumped in and washed himself off and then returned to class.

'We all had to take our own bottle of drinking water to school, which we filled from the creek on the way to school.

'There were no writing books, just a blackboard and slates, for the students.

'Everyone sat at sloped desks, with five to six students sitting at one desk.

'When books were finally used, pen and inkwells were also supplied the inkwells had to be filled up each morning or there was "strife".'

'There were no school buses and few cars, so we all got to school by walking or running and some riding their horse.

'The only way you could go to High School in Coffs Harbour was to ride there, some five to six miles away and few had horses.

'So most of us just stayed on at Kororo school until we became 14, which was the legal age to leave school.

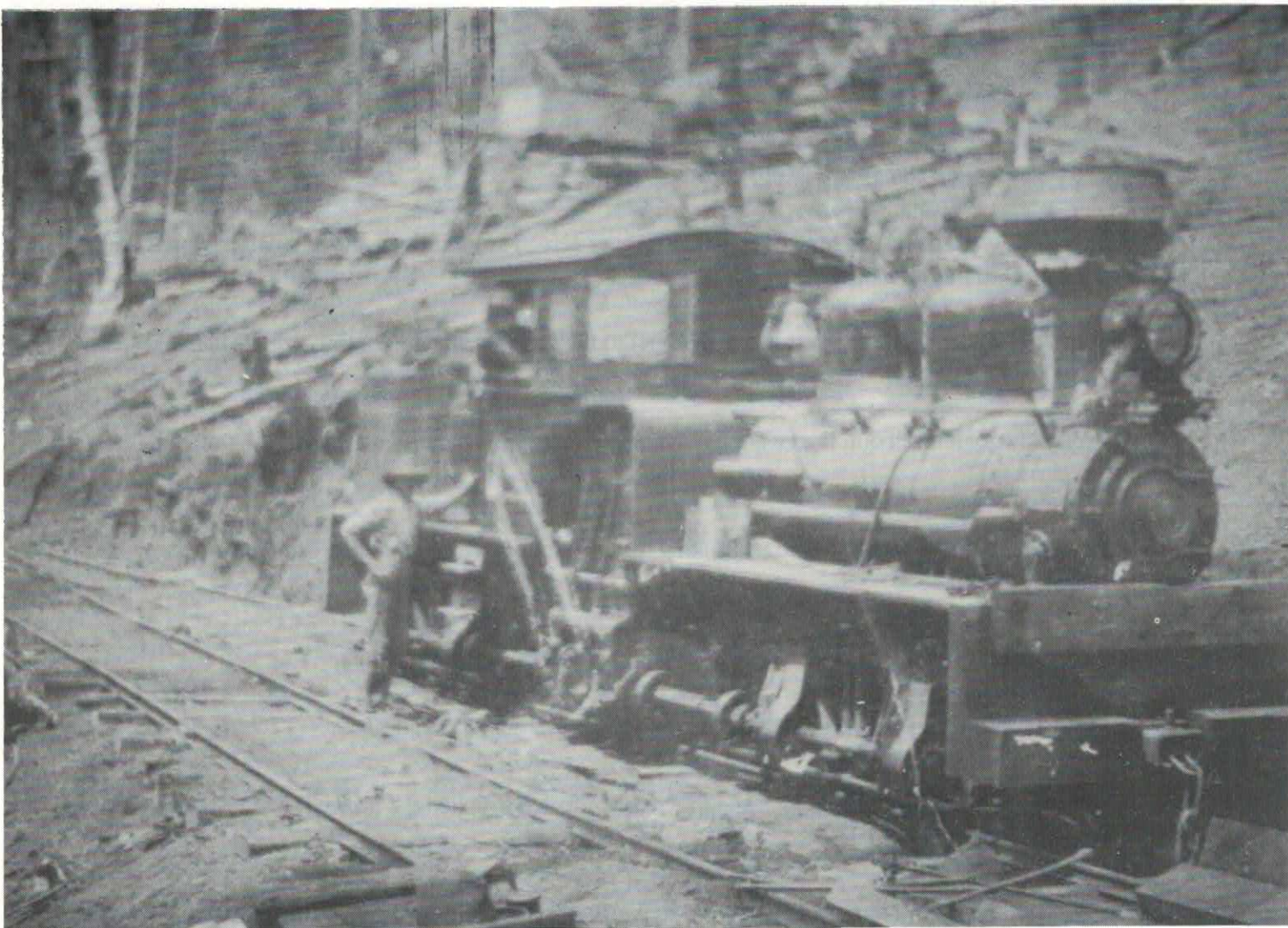
'Those of us who lived on a farm (and most did), all had to do our farm chores before and after school, which included things like milking the cows, feeding the calves and pigs.

'During the winter months, this also meant you got up in the dark to do your chores and finished them off after school, again well into the dark - then you then did your homework.

'Each school day comprised of "drill", (regimented type exercise), lessons, play lunch, lessons lunch, more lessons and home.

'Playtime included games of :- marbles (boys), Jacks and Hopscotch (girls) and hide'n'seek in the nettle bushes and rounders (baseball).

'School holidays were; one week in May, one week in September and six weeks at Christmas.'



A logging locomotive on a track which passed through the Neuhaus farm hauling timber from Bruxner Park to the Jetty

Chapter 7

1920 - 1929

Schooling in the twenties as recalled at an interview with the Berriman family:- Mrs Ruby Beggs, (who attended Kororo School in 1922), Mrs Beryl Taylor, (who attended in 1926/7) and Harry Berriman, (who attended in 1922-1925).

Mrs Ruby Beggs recalled her school days :-

‘The school had one classroom, which was of mixed grades, from kindergarten to year six.

‘The type of teaching was regimental and the older kids used to take the younger ones outside to listen to them read.

‘The school flag was raised every morning and the teacher Mr Ongley would call out “fall in”, we would form two lines, boys behind the girls and we would all sing the National Anthem - God Save the King.

‘We then had “drill” - exercises and then we would march in Crocodile style singing “Advance Australia Fair”, or “Best Wine for Children” (see in later pages).



The Neuhaus banana plantation - 1920



The Neuhaus farm - 1920

'Games played at school consisted of :- tennis, rounders, prisoner's base, hopscotch and jacks.

'We used to tidy up the school grounds and we were given dishes to fill with leaves etc, that we collected, also we all joined the Gould League of Bird Lovers.

'We celebrated Arbor Day, by planting trees in the grounds and a dignitary was invited from town to plant a tree and talk about the day and the trees.

'Empire Day was the usual half day school, followed by a picnic.

'On Wattle Day, we had plenty of Wattle blooms to mark the occasion and we used to assemble and sing "A Bush Was Grey".'

'I recall our first teacher, Mr Claude Percy Ongley, had a peculiar way in which he corrected our schoolwork.

'He would get us to stand by his right, while he checked our work and when he came across an error, he would slap us across the back of our leg with his right hand and then he would continue checking.

'Father Van Reil used to come by the school sometimes and as soon Mr Ongley saw his familiar horse and cart coming, he would go out and chat with the father for an hour or so.

'That's when us kids used to "muck up".'

'We did not wear shoes to school, we just used to go in bare feet.

'The boys just wore shirts and shorts - (no singlets or underpants) and us girls wore a smock and undies made from used flour sacks.

'There was always a Christmas tree at the school, which was located under the new Pine Trees planted in 1922.

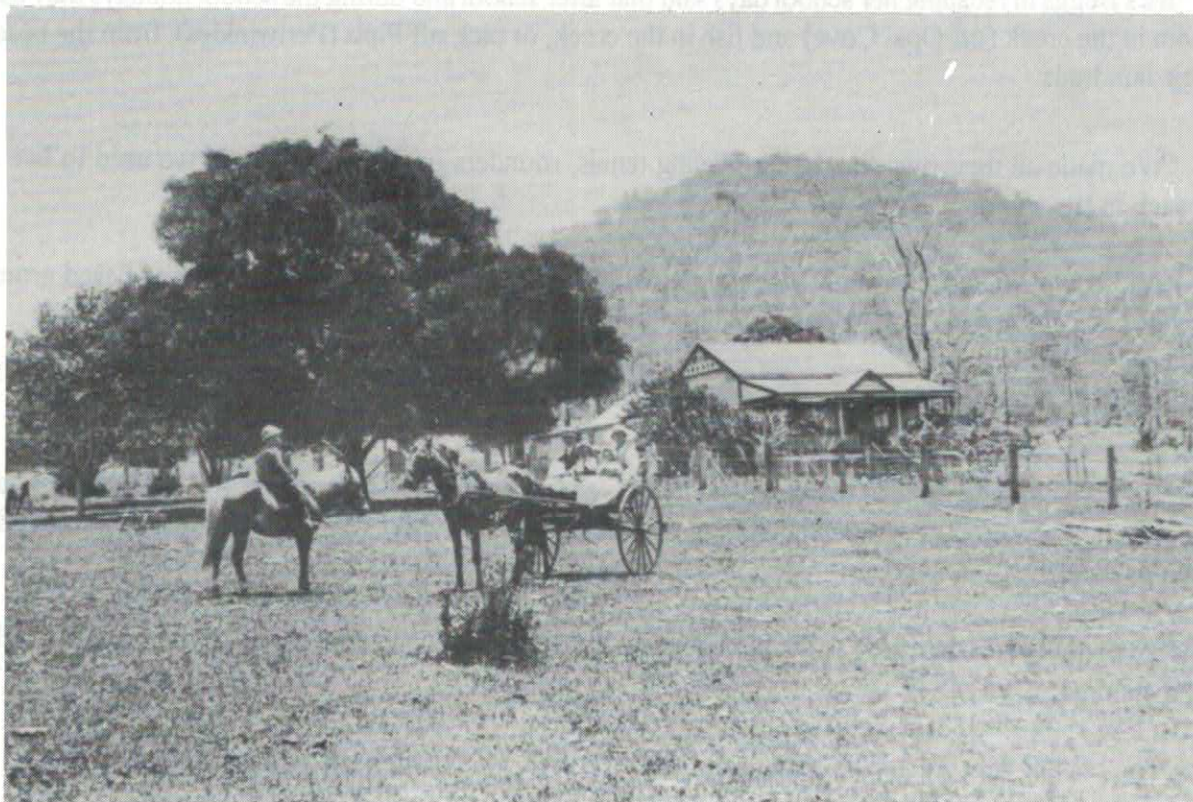
In the 1920's there was one building; the main building, which finished at the end of the eastern wing where the Principal's office now stands.

The area in the twenties was mainly dependent on timber; bananas only became prominent later.

During those days there were only a handful of families in Korora, all dependent on saw milling, the Roses, Crumptions, Berrimans, Williams, Hills, Hammonds, Butlers and Jordans.

The saw mill, which our father used to manage, was located where McQuilty's round house now stands in the Basin Road.

After leaving Kororo School, Harry Berriman spent only one year at Coffs High and left school at 14 (the then common age to leave school) and joined his father at the timber mill, starting on the docking saw.



The Buckler family home 'Korora'. Outside is Mr William Neuhaus and Mrs Margaret Mary Neuhaus (nee Earls).

Mr Harry Berriman recalled;

‘After a year riding my horse into school at Coffs and back was, it was enough for me and I left school!

‘There were some bananas being grown then; Tom Jordan had the first on the Old Coast Road.’

When we were at school, my mates and I used to go out and pinch bananas, eating the ripe ones and taking the green ones home.

‘One of my mates one day got caught by his mother, who told my mother, who then told my father.....and I got a leathering for it.’

Mr Berriman also recalled that during the war years, many people feared for their safety - from possible shore landings and they moved away from the area.

‘The nearby beaches were secured with barbed wire fencing.

‘Convoys sailed up and down the coast, one in particular with a ship carrying bagged sugar, which had been bombed.

‘From the shore we saw all the bags of sugar on deck, as the ship was going down by the bow.’

Mrs Beggs, who has lived opposite the school for 40 years, (except for the war years), said she recalled the small post office and telephone exchange, which was also located opposite the school in what was called Cooper’s Shop.

‘The shop was just about where the Kororo Volunteer Bushfire Brigade shed is now.’

Mrs Beggs in recalling her school days said that after school and during the school holidays they used to swim in the creek (off Opal Cove) and fish in the creek, or pick off Pipis (Periwinkles), from the beach, in their hundreds.

‘We made all their own fun, either playing tennis, rounders or fiddlers base and we used to live on the beach in the summer.

‘As “town” (Coffs Harbour) was too far away - all our entertainment was local and based around the school, except for the Coffs Show, which was held at the Coffs Harbour showground.

‘To go to the show meant a once a year walk there and back.

‘To get shopping done in the twenties (there were no phones or supermarkets), a grocery store and butcher’s shop representative would come by and take down our order which would then be delivered to us two days later.

‘Everything was delivered to the kitchen table and when the bill was paid, they gave us a bag of lollies for the children.

‘The reason why we had so many schools in the area, was the lack of transportation.

‘Horses were our only transport and few had one.’

A favourite song sung at school in the twenties :-
'The best of wine for children'
(The 'wine' was pure stream water from the surrounding Korora hills).

(Sung to the rhyme of Advance Australia Fair)

*The best of wine for children
It is the pure white wine
It gushes from the mountain
Where on the sunbeams shine
It flows through wood and meadows
Where birds and insect play
It gives no child a headache
Drink deeply as he may
And it is best for children
As all good people tell
Me thinks it must be wholesome
For grown up folks as well
For many have been rescued
From illness and from pain
The day they took to drinking
The pure white wine again
Sing again.....*



Charlesworth Bay 1920, with Mr William Buckler, in the foreground

Chapter 8

1930 - 1939

On October 20 1930 a Mr Louis Wake was granted an extension of his lease for the old school land - for grazing and banana growing.

Further items from observation book (again, quotations in parenthesis ‘’) :-

In 1932, “the tennis court was restored and a new school fence had also been completed and a Progress Association had been formed, though the chief interest was the tennis court they used.

“The Gould League was functioning and most pupils were members.

In 1934:- it was noted “the school buildings needed extensions and plans and specifications had been prepared and the 80 gallon water tank on the Eastern side of the school was reported as rusted and leaking.”

A report from the Department of Instruction’s Inspector Wilcock on February 6 1934 noted the following findings about the current status of the school as:-

“The school the has 33 pupils, with seating accommodation for 24, additional desks are there, but the building is too small to accommodate more desks.

“Had there been more accommodation, there would be more pupils attending the school.”

Inspector Wilcock further noted in his report that 11 more children could attend the school, if there had been the accommodation for them.

On June 12 1934, a departmental letter was sent to the local member for the area Mr R S Vincent, who had written to the department following representations made to him by the Korora Basin Progress Association, with regard to repairs to the school building.

The department confirmed that urgent repairs to the school building in addition to an extension of nine feet was to begin immediately.

The sum allocated for this work was pounds 171/14/5, however the request for also a weathershed was turned down - due to a lack of funds.

Finally in 1935, the school building was enlarged and renovated.

Mr Claude Ongley took long service leave and a Mr Alan McDonald was appointed temporary teacher in charge in Mr Ongley’s absence.

Mr McDonald introduced swimming lessons in Pine Brush Creek on Friday afternoons, however this was on the basis if any children misbehaved during these lessons, the students would spend their time on the beach doing silent reading, recitation, tables and spelling.

In 1938, a new principal Mr Lesley Cluff was appointed, who replaced Mr Claude Longley, who had been at the school for almost eighteen years.

Mr Cluff asked the department's permission, (which was granted), for his wife to take sewing lessons, for the 11 girls at the school, who were aged between 8 and 11.

An inspectors report later that year noted, "the school is on an upgrade and it is anticipated that each year a higher standard will be inspected."

In 1939, it was further noted "the tone of the school had decidedly improved since the present teacher (Cluff) had taken charge, relations with the school are most harmonious and some pupils who were formerly difficult, have become very socialised.

"Response is vigorous and a fair degree of independent and self-activity was found."

Mr John Hill who finished his primary school education at Kororo in 1932, recalled the following, during an interview in 1992 :-

'My father Norman owned all the land between what is now Pacific Bay Resort and the dividing line between Pelican and Nautilus Resorts - on the eastern side and west to the old highway (the Old Coast Road).

'There were two excluded parcels, the school land and the 'Villa Nova' land, (the Villa Nova is now known as Korora Bay Village).

'Our family owned in total 430 acres, which included 150 acres, north of the highway.

'The area was all bushland and as kids, we went on special occasions, with mum's home made hot scones and a billy tea to Korora Bay and picnic there.

'A treat was always a picnic down to the beach - which was a big event.

'Dad was fond of "brushing" and he would be there brushing a pass through for the cows to graze.

'About 15 - 20 people lived in the Basin area, at that time.

'One was the Boyden family and one of them was an airline pilot who landed his aircraft on the beach, which was then 80 metres further to the sea, since reclaimed by the sea.

'At one time during a drought in the depression years, sheep were brought in to the coast to graze, from out west, during the depression years, to the coast, to graze.

'This did not work out, as the sheep got foot rot and a number of them died.

'We used to stow the bales of fleece in the lofts of our huge barn.

'The golf course was there fairly early in the piece too and was located on the, land where Opal Cove is today and the club house was in the old dairy near our farm, where the Rum Runner Restaurant is today.

'Dad planted an acre of Bananas where Pelican Beach is now located; but they got frosted - being so close to the ocean.

'The area known as Hills Beach - (it was always called Hills Beach) and the land at the end, (Hills Beach Reserve) - Korora Bay Reserve was swapped with the lands department, for a road which formed part of our sub division.'

Mr John Hill recalled when he was at school :-

‘Teacher Mr Claude Ongley and his wife became very close friends of the family.

‘Mr Ongley was a mad fisherman, fishing was his main fun apart from giving school lessons.

‘Only sport I remember playing was rounders and Mr Ongley would take part in that.

‘The mail man used to deliver the bread and when it came once a week, he used to have it’s mailbags strapped to the running boards.

‘When it rained, the mail man’s car would become bogged we had to push it up the hill and get covered in mud, as the tyres splat it when the car slid down the road.

‘The mail car also meant that Mr Ongley would leave his class and have a “chat”, to the driver for anything up to an hour or so.

‘Swimming lessons and swimming carnivals, athletics gymkhanas, all went over big at the school.

‘On Empire (cracker) night we used to build a big bonfire and sit by it well into the evening.

‘We used to get the double bangers and throw them under the barn.’

Tourist attractions of the era

Mr Stuart R Gordon advertised in a 1930 Coffs Harbour Tourist Guide Book, that he was selling ‘only the highest quality fruit from his banana and pineapple plantations and citrus orchard, in Korora.

‘Tourists are invited to come and inspect.’

(Mr Gordon’s first banana plantation consisted of 500 suckers in 1926).

Fine bananas were being grown in the frost free slopes, on the seaward side of the hill range and some of these plantations brought considerable income to their enterprising growers.

Pineapples, citrus fruits, grapes, paw paws, persimmons, passionfruit and many other kinds of fruit grew well.

Excerpts from Marie Ferris’s book titled Barefoot on Goolies, Lace Ups In Cloisters.

(Marie Ferris (nee Plunkett) and sister to the school’s Executive Teacher Mr Jim Plunkett attended the school during the thirties.)

“About eight families lived in the Basin when I started school and my dad and some of the locals formed the first P & C.

‘The school had one teacher and six classes all rolled into one and there were two rooms, the classroom and the room we called the “hat rack”.

‘This room also had an inside tap from the water tank and I thought that was pretty sophisticated.

'The school was painted a nice cream in colour, not like the houses in the Basin.

'During the summer, the tanks, two of them only, ran dry and we had to carry our own lemonade bottle of water to the school, which we filled from home or the creek.

'It was during these periods we all learnt what real thirst was.

'If the bottle broke, or someone drank your water, it was pure agony waiting for school to finish in order that you could hurry to the nearest creek and, throw yourself down on the bank and gulp the thirst quenching (not always clear) water.

'Male and female twin-holer toilets were located each side of the school building and about 30 feet away.

'School uniforms were not insisted upon and barefoot was the normal foot attire.

'When I first started at Kororo, I was conscious of the fact I did have shoes to wear to school, which was so different to all the rest of the kids, so I used to take them off and leave them behind, in Ted baker's bread box on the way to school and pick them up on the way home.



The Plunkett family standing outside the front of the school building

'One day teacher Mr Ongley asked my mother, why I came to school so beautifully dressed in uniform, but in bare feet?

'Each day at school was an adventure - trudging that mile and a half to school.

'Sometimes a carpet snake would be stretched right across the road sunning itself and sometimes the creeks we crossed were flooded.

'Crawbobs lived in the creeks and it was an exciting pastime fishing for them.

'Mr Ongley's car used to have to be clutch started for some reason and we kids used to push the car down the playground until it started, then we used to jump on the rack on the back and would ride to the gate, then jump off.

'Mr Ongley was unaware of this and it was a bit chancy.

'One day, the car hit a bump and I flew off the back and broke my collar bone - I don't remember walking home that afternoon.

'The Department of Instruction used to supply us with pencils and soft covered exercise books.

'Empire Day was the big day at the school, as was the break-up party, in which all the family attended the fun and activities at the school.

'Activities on Empire Day included egg and spoon races, sack races, sprints etc.

'Our mothers made special cakes and sandwiches, but the moments of ecstasy were the lolly scramble and the Peters Ice Cream, which came in a large canvas bag about a metre and a half tall buried in the deep folds and packed in ice; there were two containers of the magic stuff!

'The music for dancing was provided by either Minnie Franklin, on the piano that was borrowed from town, or by "Woodsey" and his son, who was blind.

'Mr Ongley moved from Kororo School in my fourth year at school and was replaced by dear Mr Les (Cluffy) Cluff.

'Cluffy had six daughters, the eldest being a few months older than I and his wife was so gentle.

'This large family was always kind to me and if there was anything special on in town, I was asked if I would like to stay with them.

'Mrs Cluff came out once a week with her baby, to give us sewing lessons.

'Mrs Cluff was an excellent dressmaker and she made all her own clothes and the children's too.

'Electric refrigerators were available but there was no sign of electricity coming to the Basin.

'When Halstroms made a kero refrigerator, we got one and suddenly we had this convenience that kept butter hard and crisped salads and kept the meat in good condition.

'Mr Cluff, made quite a few reforms to the school.

'He did away with the cane and introduced the girls to needlework and he taught the whole school to swim.

'We all went swimming to Pine Brush Creek - that beautiful salt water lake lagoon that emptied into the ocean, through a shallow inlet on Mr Hill's property.

'This was a beautiful private spot which we had to ourselves and many of us learnt to dog paddle in that idyllic setting.

'In later years when we went to high school, we would swim there for hours after we got home from school.

'Sometimes we used to go outing in one of my brother Paul's canoes, which were made from soldering galvanised iron sheets together.

'Sitting in these primitive crafts was murder on the bottom and almost impossible to balance.

'Nevertheless we took them out into the capricious currents and usually we managed to be emptied out into the ocean, fortunately thanks to Cluffy's swimming lessons, we always managed to get back safely to shore.

'But the surf at Hill's beach was treacherous and unpredictable.

'Bushfires were always a constant threat to us in the hot dry summers and if burnt out of control this could mean a loss of income to properties for at least 18 months.

'There was a single telephone at Korora; the Ryans had it and they lived about a half a mile up the Basin Road.'

Kororo School 1932 - 1937, as recalled by former student Paul Plunkett, also the elder brother of Kororo school current executive teacher Mr Jim Plunkett.

'I remember the schoolroom as a weatherboard, timber lined, iron roofed building, which was on wooden stumps, with a narrow "hat room" and a small open verandah.

'A simple tank on the southern end corner supplied water and it was occasionally empty; though it was suspected the contents were sometimes poached.

'There were several times we had to bring our own water to school.

'The "little boy's room" was a one holer, with a galvanised iron urinal.

'In about 1934, the classroom and the hat room were extended to the south, by about six to eight feet.

'The desks were long enough to take four pupils, (five at a pinch) and they had backless wooden "form seats" - though depending on how close the desk was behind you, depended on whether it could be doubled as a seat back.

'Third class and sixth class could lean back on the back wall.

'In my first years at the school the seating was two rows by three such seats and the desks had shelves beneath the sloping wood surface.

'While the school extensions were being carried out it was not possible to use the school room, so lessons were held under the Wattle trees, some 70 metres south east of the school building.

'These were really nice times and the weather was most kind.

'There was no question that discipline was extremely strict under our teacher / principal Mr Ongley; any form of in attendance, an ill directed glance, a forgetful whisper, not knowing your tables, bad spelling - all brought punishment.

'Punishment could be the smack of a hand on the back of your legs; keeping in after school; standing between your desk and form, with your knees bent (which was sheer torture after a few minutes).

'We had to accept punishment at school as part of the school system.

'The strictness did not seem to affect "most" of us and we soon learnt our limits and how to live within them and accepted it as part of the "natural order of things".

'Some kids came from spartan conditions, sometimes ill nourished and sometimes cold in winter.

'I recall at least two houses which only had dirt floors and only one in three families had a car.

'We grew up in happy no nonsense homes, in those depression ridden years.

'In the playground we were many mainly happy children.

'Our group which consisted of the Casey's, the Corrigan's, the Mackeys, Stan Ryder and the Fiddess family used to head down to the bridge each afternoon after school.

'In later years we were joined by the Julians, Jacky Benson and the Luckets and perhaps a few others, whose names I have forgotten.

'At the timber mill in the basin, the road branched into three; there were no children up the northern branch, but up the southern branch there were the Millwards and Kevin Findlay.

'Enrolments during those years varied between 18 and 30.

'There were never enough of us in the school playground to have more than a makeshift game of cricket or football.

'Our favourite games were rounders, cricket (of sorts), French cricket, prisoner's base, sheep come home, football, marbles, hide'n'seek, fly, chasings branding ducks, wheelbarrow races, three legged races, chariot races, relays and a mis-named game called "cockfighting", which involved knocking an opponent piggy backer off his mate's back.

'The gala days at school were Empire Day and Arbor Day - these were really great days, as there were no lessons after 10 am and most of our parents would come up to the school, with picnic hampers and plenty of cordial extract for sweet drinks.

'All sorts of games and races would be played during the day with events such as peanut and lolly scrambles, treasure hunts and various surprises, to keep us kids occupied.

'These were great days for us and our parents too, in what were really such difficult times.

'Sometime during these early years, I became aware of the P & C, of which my father was president for quite some time.

'It may have been my father's influence, or even co-incidence, but soon after he became president of the P & C, we began to have monthly Saturday night dances in our classroom.

'The dances were a really great outlet for many people and were always well supported.

'Music for the dances was provided mainly by Minnie Franklin, on a piano which was trucked all the way from town each time by the Woods father in his V8 ute and his son also played on the fiddle and concertina.

'Most of the parents came along and in this era, well before baby sitting was the thing, we children used to come along as well.

'Our parents taught us to dance and there dances for grown ups and for us children.

'Some dances were a mixture of both - with plenty of competition dances with fruit, sweets and sometimes produce as prizes.

'On clear nights, between children's dances, those of us who knew the playground, would play exciting games in the semi-darkness.

'There was always a supper with at least sandwiches, cakes and tea - which was brewed on primuses or sometimes brewed on an open fire outside.

'The classrooms always had a superior aroma after the dances, due to the kero soaked sawdust and the shaved candles and rice (I think), that was pounded into the grain to smarten up the floor for dancing on by joyful feet during the night.

'On the Friday afternoons prior to these dances, classes would stop in the early afternoon.

'All those big and strong enough would unscrew the desks from the floor (3 screws per leg) and take them outside and put the desks under the school, at the same time trying not to spill or scramble the books within.

'On the Monday morning, the reverse process would happen and on a good day we sometimes could stall the lessons until close on recess.

'There were jobs for most of us at school; stowing away the kerosene lamps, replacing the inkwells, refilling the inkwells, sorting out pens, pencils and pastel boxes.

'Another great occasion was the Christmas Tree night and our contribution stopped with clearing the classroom.

'By the time Saturday night came, there would be a splendid Christmas tree from floor to ceiling, dressed up in coloured and silver paper and bearing a present for every child in the school as well as their pre-school brothers and sisters.

'In those more meagre days, presents away from birthdays and Christmas were most rare indeed and we all cherished the books, the toys or the gadgets we got from Santa.

'We were treated to supper, cordials and sweets and in my last year or so, the wonders of ice cream, which was somehow kept cold in dry ice.

'There were not many things to break the day to day schooling ritual; if someone came to the school for any reason, the teacher would invariably go outside and this took the pressure off us - as perhaps it also did for the teacher.

'The clergymen, especially the Church of England and Presbyterian came with unpredictable but sometimes enthusiastic regularity that was mystifying, but appreciated by all I think.

'When they came, we Roman Catholics would be sent out to sit in the shade to read, or learn tables, but the truth of it was, we mainly relaxed - surreptitiously and listened to the hymns, which wafted from the school room.

'Our priest came with varying regularity and we had our scripture lessons in the shade or the hat room, if it was raining.

'It was always good to see the school inspector come first up in the day, because it would usually mean we would be sent out to play, while he and sir talked for an hour or so.

'Inspection times always had an air of tenseness about them.

'Sewing days (craft days) were relaxing days for many of us.

'The boys craft days did not consist of all that much.

'The older boys who could get a decent chip carving knife and a nice soft piece of beech would go to the hat room, where they would with compass and square come up with a design which they would then carve away.

'Some of the boys did really well, but I am afraid my opportunity in this department came all too late for me to excel.

'Others would be given lumps of foul smelling plasticine, with an equally foul smelling rolling cardboard to protect the desk top.

'From this material would emerge an assortment of wondrous sculptures which at the end of the day would be returned to the shapelessness from which they had sprung.

'The tennis courts were seldom used and were a great venue for us to play marbles on.

'In the school grounds were Pine trees, Camphor Laurel trees, Eucalyptus and Black Wattle growing in the south and south west.

‘However many trees planted did not do all that well, as there was not enough water for them.

‘Another day with a difference was when the school magazines arrived.

‘Macfarlane’s mail service would do the Coffs Harbour - Woolgoolga trip each day following the Old Pacific Highway (Old Coast Road), on the outward trip and it would pass the school at about 11.30am, dropping off whatever they had for us, then leaving a great dust trail, it would continue it’s journey.’



Macfarlane's mail service and transport vehicle, sold to a Mr Victor Ryan

(Macfarlane’s mail service was sold in 1943 to Mr Victor Ryan and was the foundation for Ryan’s Bus Service, which has been associated with the school since then; see chapter 16).

‘The day the magazines came, we were issued with them - usually late in the afternoon and scarcely a one of them did not go home - with our teacher’s permission of course.

‘The school had no reference library but it did have a small collection of books, from which I regularly borrowed.

‘We also had ‘library’ occasionally and this was usually a relaxed affair.

‘I remember books on Joan of Arc, The Vikings and Robin Hood.

‘Although I forget many of the books, I do remember them especially as my first experience - of a world beyond the little I had already experienced.

‘Modest as it was, it was a great library to me then.

‘In those days, Kororo School was only equipped with the basic essentials - exercise books, pencils and pens, ink powder and plasticine.

‘Occasionally our teacher would supply us with a blotter or pastels, which he bought with our pennies.

‘It was always a thrill to have something new - though, for us children, new things were few and far between.’

Chapter 9

1940 - 1949

1940 notes from the Observation Book, (with quotations in parenthesis “ “).

“The buildings are in good order, many trees have been planted and the Jacarandas are flourishing; some of the plants have been raised from seed.

“The school agencies are generally effective, interest is taken in birds and the tree wardens have been successful in keeping the trees alive.

“The discipline is kindly and stimulative and the spirit of the pupils is most pleasing - a marked difference from that of two years ago, under a different principal.”

In 1941 it was noted “the accommodation was taxed severely, with a high enrolment of 47.”

“The verandah and hat room were inadequate for wet days.

“Trees have been planted by pupils, while those planted earlier provide good shade.

“The pupils have a small but attractive garden which should give ample opportunity for the school gardening lessons.

“The Teacher’s wife is organising the construction of garments, for the British War Orphans.

“This is a happy little school, the teachers sympathy and interest in his pupils is the cause.

“This being an uneasy task in a district in which many of the pupils are the children of itinerant farm labourers and are strangers to one another.”

In 1942 the inspector noted “there is ample accommodation in the school, though the P & C has not functioned for nearly a year.

“The pupils have made a valuable contribution to the war effort, by the construction of garments for the people of the bombed areas in England.”



Class photo 1944

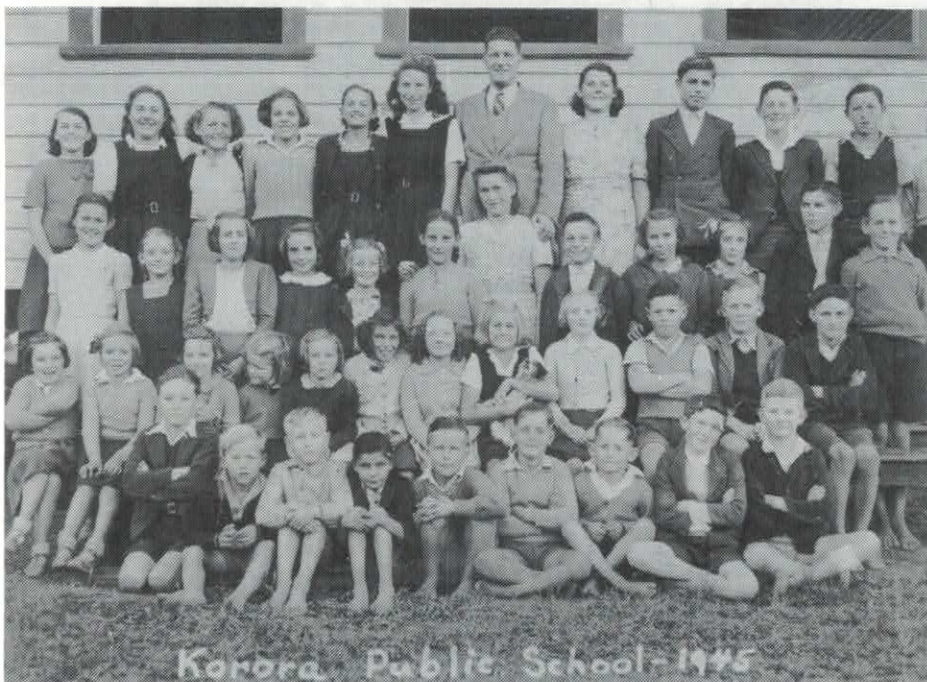
"In 1943, the inspector noted "the classroom indicates an appreciation of a fine environment, the walls are free of charts and several suitable pictures are in use.

"Flowers and vases are used for decorative use, more importantly still arrangement is being carried out by the pupils.

"The porch and the presses indicate the development of habits of neatness and orderliness."

In 1943, the school purchased a Captain Console (dual wave) radio in 1943, which was battery operated, for pounds 22/17/-.

In 1944, the P & C approached the then Department of Education regarding the erection of a weather shed, informing the department the P&C would provide a portion of the materials together with labour, if the Department supplied the roofing material.



Class photo 1945

The Department replied, whilst it appreciated the offer, due to the war, it had at the current time great difficulty in securing materials.

That unsatisfactory state of affairs had operated for the previous two years.

The inspector's report in 1945 stated, "the one building which constitutes the school now has 59 students in crowded conditions operating so adversely so as to impair the efficiency of the school.

"A definite grounds beautification scheme is in operation.

"The P & C Association has purchased for the school, books and materials to the value of Pounds 70.

"The tone of the school is very pleasing and there are opportunities for socialising experiences through the Gould League, the War Auxiliary and the Red Cross.

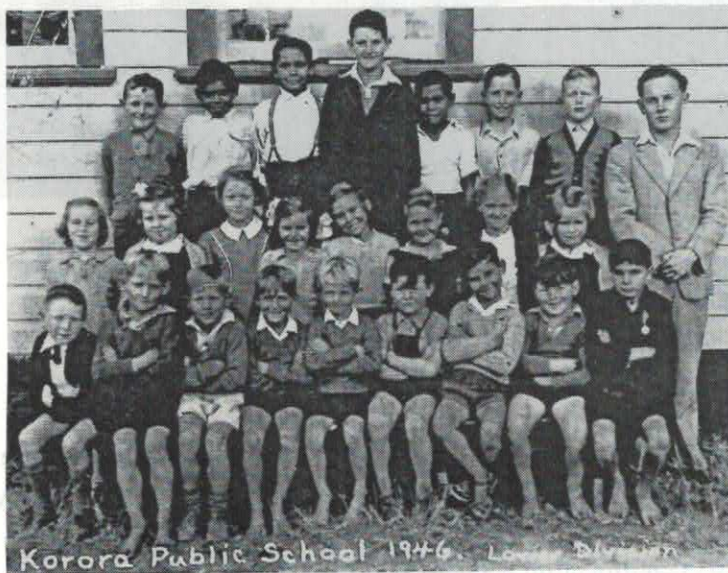
"The community held the school in the highest esteem."

In 1945, a petition signed by 30 parents representing 51 of the students), was sent by the school to the Department, complaining that with 59 students attending the school, it was in their opinion that a room 27 feet x 18 feet was totally inadequate for so many pupils.

On 30th April 1945, however a letter was sent by the Department advising that a vacant building located at Upper Orara was to be transferred to Kororo, to provide additional classroom space.



Class photo 1946 - upper division



Class photo 1946 - lower division

On February 9 1946 a letter was sent by the Department's Inspector of Schools in the area, advising that a teacher had been appointed to the school, his delay was no doubt due to illness, it suggested that someone 'take charge' meanwhile.

In 1947, the installation of the additional class room allowed the school to be divided suitably into two sections; 'upper and lower grades'.

The original room was allocated for infants activities and suitable furniture was acquired.

The parents erected the weather shed, from funds having been finally made available by the department.

Considerable work had been done to clear the grounds and make them more suitable for games and trees were planted to add to those already grown.

In 1949, inspector's report noted "the accommodation of two separate rooms was noted to be adequate and suitable for the present enrolment.

"The boy's pit lavatory was flooded but was to receive attention and a new water tank was to be erected.

"Relations between staff and pupils is excellent, discipline effective, children have exhibited some capacity for independent thought."

Past student Kevin Findlay recalled his days at Kororo School, during his years there in 1946 - 1951.

'I officially commenced Kororo School in 1946 and left in 1951, though I was an occasional student there in 1945.

'I used to walk from our home in the Bruxner Park end of the Basin.

'The greatest impression left upon me about the early days at the school, was the lengthy wait we had to endure whilst our teacher was found.

'I cannot remember the exact details, but I well recall going to the school on a regular basis (probably each Monday morning) only to find the teacher still had not arrived.



Class photo 1947 - lower division



Class photo 1947 - upper division

'I think it was about six weeks after school commenced that Mr Evans finally arrived.

'I still cannot remember if I was disappointed or relieved that no teacher had been found for our school.

'All this time, which was just after war had ended, troops were gradually returning home.

As a result, staffing for our schools just like everything else - was a bit of a mess.

'Mr Evans was to remain headmaster of the school for the whole period I was enrolled.

'He was an excellent teacher, more than that - because everyone treated him as a friend.

'We affectionately called him "The Sheriff" and his wife was known as "Ma". (Probably because her initials were M.A.).

'Mrs Evans was more than just a teacher's wife, she taught sewing to the girls and did a lot of things for us all.

'In 1946, we were lucky to score a second teacher, a Mr Perry, who I think was a raw recruit from college.

'I am unsure if he lasted the whole year, as a Mr John Bourke came during that year.

'With two teachers we immediately had an accommodation problem, as two teachers in one classroom do not work out.

'The Hat Room was made classroom No: 2 classroom, with first and second class and maybe third class - all crammed into what I think was a closed verandah across the front of the existing school room.



Class photo 1949 - lower division

'I well remember having classes day in and day out under the old Wattle tree, in the eastern corner of the school ground, though that was a problem when it rained.

'Sometime during 1947, a second classroom arrived to the cheers of us all!

'Each teacher then only had three classes each, instead of one teacher for all six classes!

'When Mr Bourke left Kororo for his old school Calliope on the Clarence, he was replaced by Mr Harrison temporarily, then I recall Mr Bourke coming back for a while.

'Finally Mr Reg Watt arrived and stayed for the rest of my time at the school, though Mr Watt was never my teacher; as by the time he arrived I was back in the 'big room' (upper division).



Class photo 1949 - upper division

'In my last year - 1951, there were only six of us in sixth class.

'We all graduated from our Intermediate or School Certificates, which was a clear indication of the early high standard of schooling at Kororo.

'The things I recall about my schooling days at Kororo:-

'The building of the weather shed during 1947/8.

'The late Bobby Bray coming on Empire Day to give us a little talk.

'On Empire Day, the handing out of flags before telling us we had half a day off, so we could rush home and build a bonfire for "cracker night".

'Mr Ed Hamey distributing Guavas by the bucket full.

'The whole school playing rounders. (Played with a broom handle, broken hoe handle etc and a tennis ball, hockey played with similar instruments and a golden syrup tin, soccer with the only rugby ball we ever had - it constantly had a hole in it, so we played with it deflated).

'Being promised each year - a day off school - if we could burn the huge Brush Box log running across the school ground.

(The Sheriff would not let us use dynamite etc).

'Trying year after year to burn that log, with constant failure.

'Playing tennis on our own court within the grounds - the only real luxury we had.

'The school did not have a telephone, or electricity.

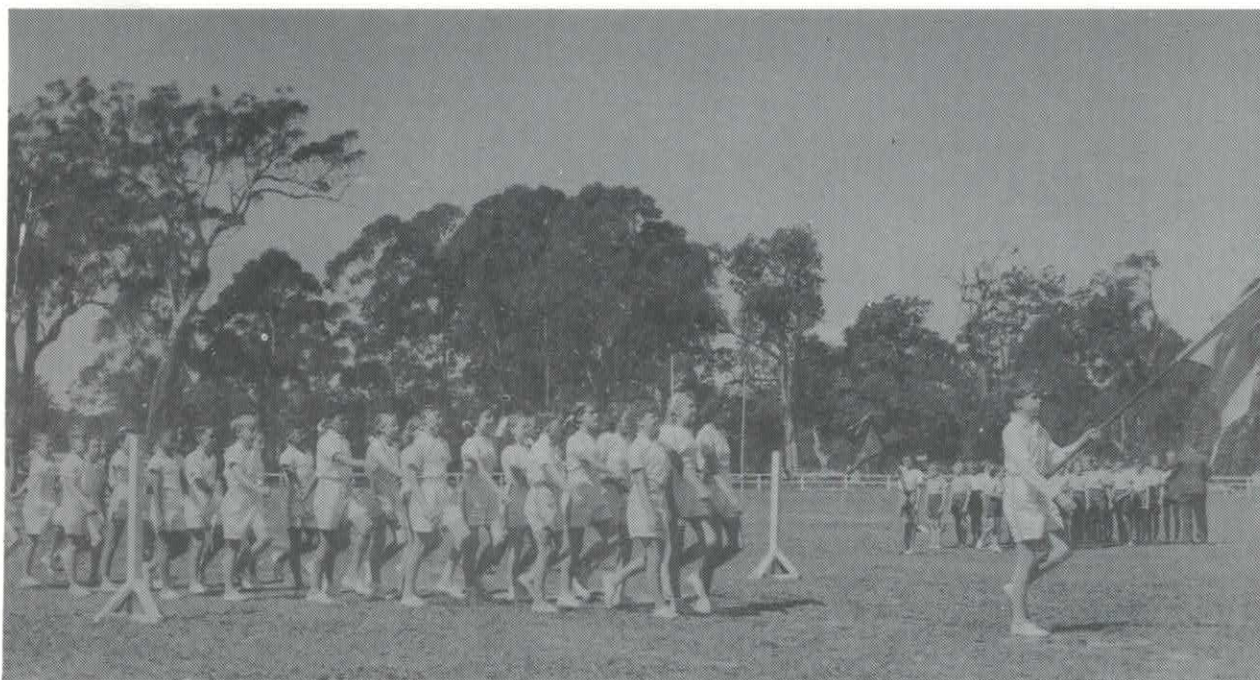


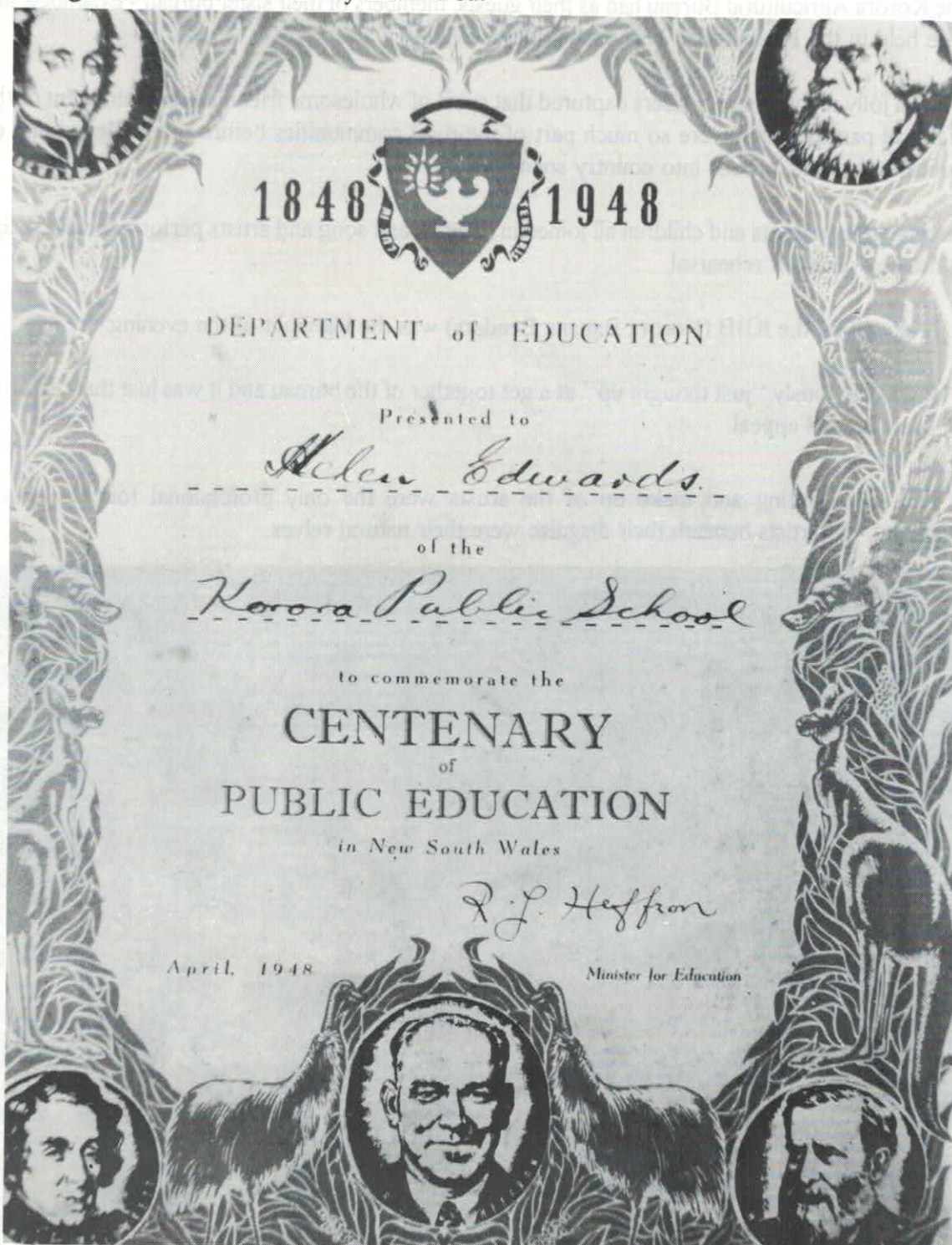
Photo of a sports day in the forties at Coffs Showground

'Listening to the Melbourne Cup each year, on the school wireless, after Mr Evans had the batteries specially charged for the occasion.

'The great friendship we all developed between ourselves, which was fostered greatly by Mr Evans.

'The great Christmas parties held each year by the P & C, usually at Moonee or Korora Beach.

'Above all of these things, the high education we all received, in face of the great adversity due to distance, lack of communications and war affected economies - I can say on behalf of my generation which passed through Kororo School - a hearty Thank You.'



A Certificate presented by the Department of Education, to commemorate their centenary of education in NSW, issued to former student Helen Edwards (now Bowen).

Chapter 10

1950 - 1959

Happenings in the area

An interesting extract from the Coffs Harbour Advocate newspaper dated December 21 1951 :-

'The Korora Agricultural Bureau had as their guests, members of their sister bureau - Boambee, at their Yuletide held in the Presbyterian Hall, last Friday evening.

'It was a jolly night, the organisers captured that spirit of wholesome friendliness reminiscent of the big family house parties which were so much part of the rural communities before the modern trend of the mechanical age made inroads into country social life.

'Parents, grandparents and children all joined in dancing and song and artists performed with delightful naturalness by constant rehearsal.

'A sketch by the KBB (Korora Banana Benders) was the highlight of the evening.

'It was obviously "just thought up" at a get together of the bureau and it was just that factor which gave it spontaneous appeal.

'The stage setting and make up of the artists were the only professional touches about the entertainment; the artists beneath their disguise were their natural selves.



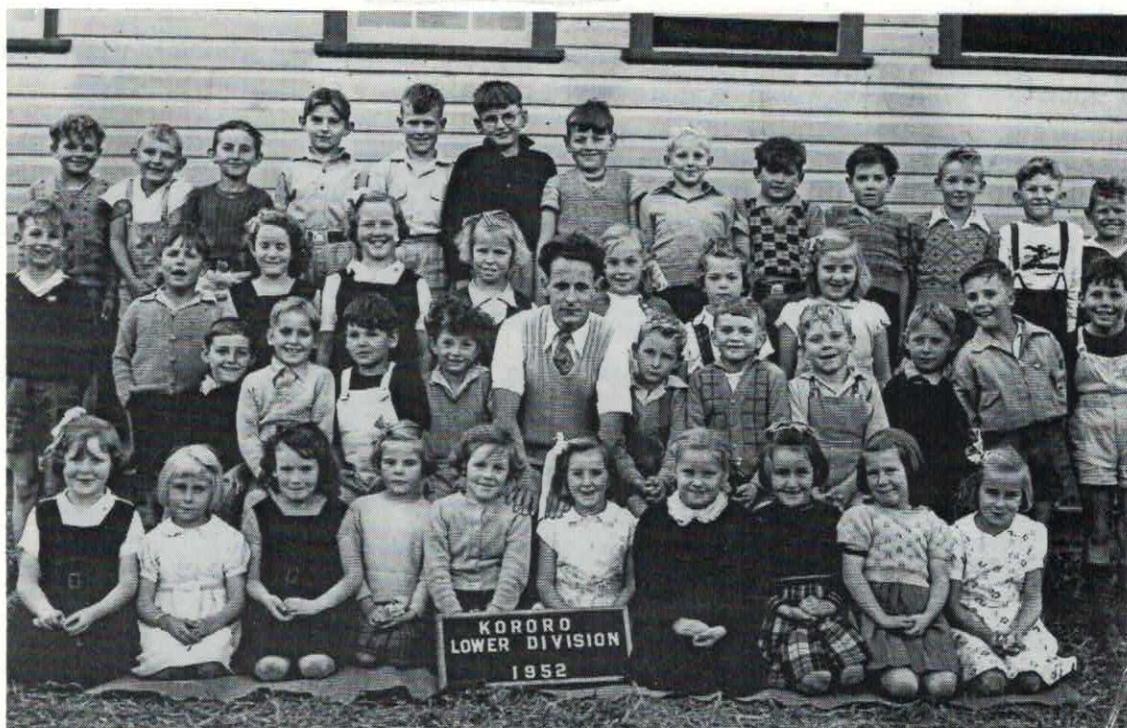
Class photo 1950

‘Players were Mr and Mrs Allan Willis, Messrs Norman Scott, Frank McQuilty, Harry Griffin, David Bowen, Jack Rippingale, Mrs Owen Bingham (elocution), Geraldine Griffin (vocal) and Mrs Em Hamey on the piano.

‘An amusing interlude was provided by Mr Ed Hamey with his tape recorder, when he attempted a playback of a secret recording he had made of the KBB original get together, when the idea of the floor show was conceived.



Class photo 1952 - upper division



Class photo 1952 - lower division

'At 11pm, Mr Harry Griffin, President of the Korora Bureau, called a halt and welcomed guests and members of the Boambee Bureau.'

SCHOOLING

(Again with quotations from the Observation Book in parenthesis." ")

At a P & C meeting on November 11 1955, a request was made to arrange for the grounds to be ploughed, also a request was made to the Department of Education for a telephone to be installed at the school.

In 1951, the observation book noted "equipment in the school included audio and visual aides, sports requisites and some activity material.

"Some gardening has been carried out and trees and shrubs have been planted.

"The Gould is operating effectively as is the P & C.

"The school is functioning smoothly and efficiently and stands high in the esteem of the local community."

On October 8 1952, in P&C notes, it was suggested the school sports uniform be changed to black tunics and white blouse for the girls and black trousers and white shirt for the boys, with white sand shoes - with black soles.

The 'usual Christmas Picnic' was to be held - this year at Moonee Beach, on a date to be fixed - according to the tides.

The prize of a book was voted to be given to every child attending school, as well the first and second students in each grade would receive a 'special book'.



Class photo 1953 - upper division



Class photo 1953 - lower division

Ice Creams and drinks were purchased for the picnic, as well Mr Ryan was asked to make a bus available to take the children from school at 9 am, returning at 3 pm.

Produce donated for the picnic raffle included a duck from Mr Griffin, a quarter of potatoes from Mr Blundell and two dozen eggs from Mr Lee.



Class photo 1954 - upper division



Class photo 1954 - lower division

A Sunday picnic was also organised on November 9, for both parents and children and the venue was Chalky Headland and a total of pounds 8/7/5 was raised.

Games played at the picnic included a guessing competition, of the weight of a Paw Paw and how many potatoes fitted in the box.

In 1954, "the tennis courts were well used and the school has achieved distinction in inter-school tennis."



Class photo 1955 - lower division



Class photo 1956 - upper division

The inspector's report in 1954 noted "grounds are spacious but a large portion is grassed and timbered.

"However a portion is being reclaimed for lawns, gardens, trees and shrubs.

"Equipment includes a radio and strip projector.



Class photo 1959 - years 2 / 3

“The P & C had recently purchased a new sewing machine.

“Other additions are being contemplated.”

In 1956, it was noted enrolments were slowly increasing.

The observation book noted “the school was a happy, industrious place with the Headmaster and Assistant attacking problems with pleasing professional enthusiasm.”



Class photo 1959 - years 4 / 5 / 6

On July 27 1956, the Advocate newspaper reported that last Sunday a working bee at the school completed the garden fence and constructed a sand pit, for the younger members of the school.

In 1959, the observation book noted “the school was under a physical handicap of a three teacher organisation, housed in two classrooms and a weathershed.

“However this situation was soon be rectified by the provision of an additional room, for which tenders had been called.

“Principal, staff and P&C have all combined in a ground improvement scheme, which has resulted in an overall improvement which had made the setting of the school one of the most attractive in the district and it is obvious the school is well regarded in the community.

“Wearing of the school uniform was nearly 100%.”

Sapphire

Sapphire, the suburb next north from Korora - was named in the late fifties, because of the colour of the ocean.

(An extract from the Advocate's Northern beaches EXTRA, issue dated February 6, 1992).

'Sapphire blue - that is the colour I want on the roof of our house, to match the crystal clear sapphire colour of the ocean', the late Mr Clifford Henry Williamson said in 1956, when he came to the northern beaches area.

His widow Constance recalled how Sapphire got its name.

The area at the time was generally referred to as Korora, but the name Sapphire was given to it by Mr Williamson - after the colour of the sea and the colour of his roof.



Sapphire and the Williamson's house with its sapphire blue roof, in 1959

The Williamsons moved to the northern beaches in 1956 from Liverpool, in Sydney's west, 'to escape the Sydney rat race and for Mr Williamson, a bakery owner, to retire.

'We saw a cattle property, then owned by a Mr Cec Campbell, with a huge house under a Moreton Bay fig tree and fell in love with it immediately', Mrs Williamson said.

'It was Cliff's decision that our house had to have the same colour roof as the sea.'

'He used to send me down to the cliff face with a stick which had various shades of blue on it and he would call out to me to raise or lower the stick, so he could try and match it to the colour of the ocean.'

The Williamson's property was basically grazing land and it was bounded to the south by where the Nautilus resort is now, and in the north where Sapphire Gardens Caravan Park is and the property included the high water mark title.

In 1958 Sapphire Crescent was subdivided, but Mr Williamson deemed the land back from the high water mark to the council, so a park could be established along the foreshores.



An aerial photo of Sapphire, including the highway, with Mid-Sapphire in the foreground

Sapphire House is now on the site where the little house once stood and a house the Williamsons later built on the point is no more, it gave way to Sapphire Pines Resort (later Sapphire Pines Apartments).

Later, Mr Williamson sold the northern end of the property, which was just a thistle patch at the time to Mr Aubrey Baker.

Together with Mr Williamson, a fond gardener, Mr Baker planted extensive gardens there, before opening a caravan park on the site and naming it Sapphire Gardens Caravan Park.

Not one to sit still, Mr Williamson sold the property in 1965 and bought Mr Cliff Murray's banana plantation (8.5ha) which was located slightly north of his original property and it became known as "Sapphire North", not North Sapphire as it is commonly referred to today.

The property's boundaries were what is now known as Headland Road, to the south and Lakeside Drive to the north.

When establishing the northern boundary, Mr Williamson also gave the public access to North Sapphire beach.

Mr Williamson passed away in 1989, aged 79, his widow Constance still lives in North Sapphire, with her daughter Mrs Fay Chappell who is the widow of popular teacher, and relieving principal Mr Albert Chappell (who passed away after a long illness in 1992).

The house which Mrs Williamson now lives in overlooks the sapphire blue colour of North Sapphire Beach.

Come to . . .


SAPPHIRE BEACH AND LIVE!



The finest sub-division on the North Coast, located 5 miles north of Coffs Harbour.

Sapphire Beach sub-division offers you a choice of superb home sites . . . each with glorious, unrestricted ocean and scenic views. Located on the Pacific Highway, 5 miles north of the fast growing commercial centre of Coffs Harbour, residents of Sapphire Beach are within a few minutes drive of a modern shopping centre catering for every need. Bowling clubs, 18 hole championship golf course, sailing club, tennis and squash courts, ex-servicemen's club, picture theatres, modern hotels, are just a few of the first-class amenities catering for your sporting and recreational needs.


In most ordinary sub-divisions you find that sub-dividers obtain six blocks to the acre, but to retain the spacious atmosphere at Sapphire Beach only 41 blocks were created from 40 acres. At the same time, prices on these superb home sites were kept at a reasonable level to place them within reach of everyone. Sites are priced from £600 and are available on 25 per cent. deposit, with the balance payable at bank interest. No flat interest rates are charged . . . and no sale is made without title.



DAN AND PETER BECCOMBE, THE PRINCIPAL AGENTS FOR SAPPHIRE BEACH, ARE PROUD TO OFFER THIS OUTSTANDING DEVELOPMENT TO THOSE SEEKING THE PERFECT HOME SITE FOR FINE LIVING. THEY INVITE YOU TO INSPECT THE SAPPHIRE BEACH SUB-DIVISION AND WILL BE PLEASED TO FURNISH FULL PARTICULARS WITHOUT OBLIGATION.

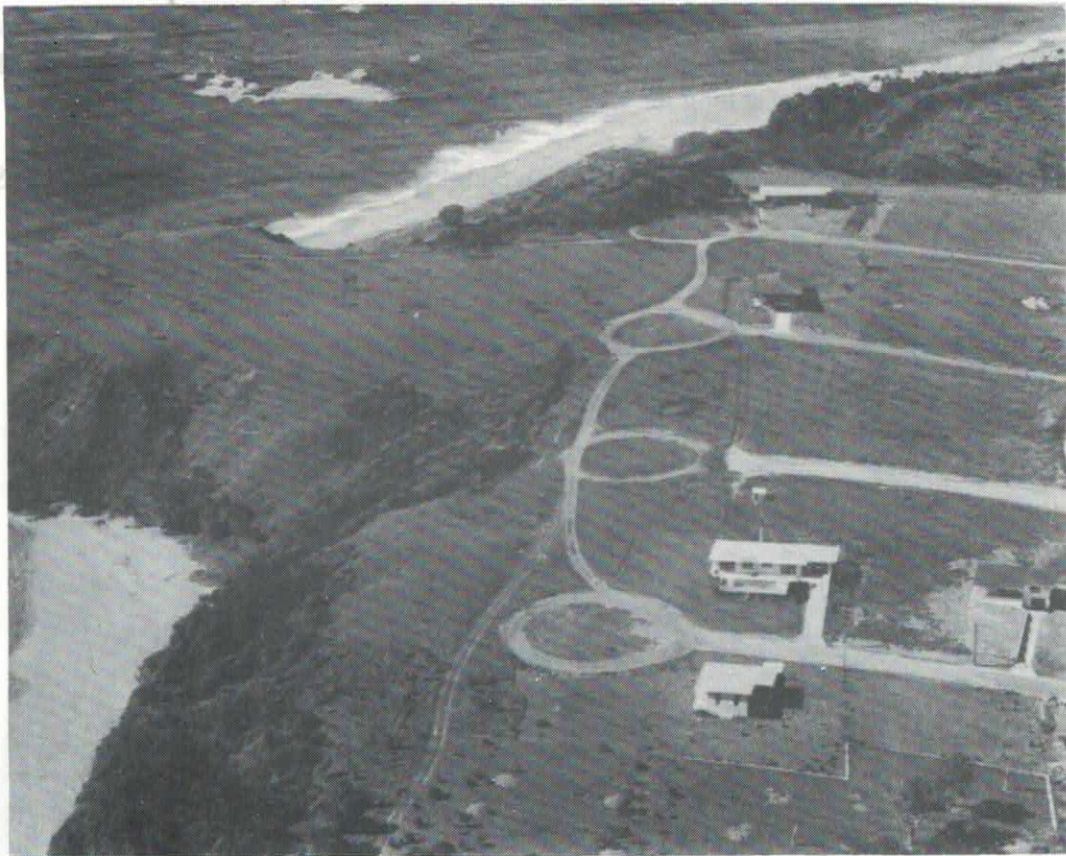
Plan to Build Your Dream Home at Sapphire Beach





FOR FULL PARTICULARS CALL, PHONE OR WRITE TO

A newspaper advertisement for land at Sapphire Beach "from only pounds 600 a block"



Sapphire Crescent and Mid Sapphire, before their sub divisions



Mid-Sapphire in the Sixties

Chapter 11

1960 - 1969

(With quotations from the observation book in parenthesis. “ “)

Minutes of a P & C meeting held on March 3 1960, showed the school had 99 students, with the Captains and Prefects having been appointed.

The Captain was Ella Gabauer, girl Prefects were Patty Lee and Diane Taylor, while the boy Prefect was Ron Edwards.



Class photo 1960 - years 4 / 5 / 6



Class photo 1960 - kinder and year 1



Class photo 1961 - kinder and year 1



Class photo 1961 - years 2 / 3 / 4

A motion put forward by Mr Amos that all parents of the school be asked to pay shillings 2/- per week to help raise funds for the school.

A School Dance was held at the Moonee Hall on Easter Saturday night.



Class photo 1963 - years 3 / 4



Class photo 1963 - years 5 / 6

It was a practice of the school's P&C in the early years to arrange for every child attending the school to receive a Christmas present and this was extended to also cover every child attending the Christmas Party.



Class photo 1964 - kinder and year 1



Class photo 1964 - years 5 / 6

The types of presents given were - teething rings, ball rattles, plastic dominoes, pullalong trains, needlework sets, games of skill, badminton sets and (a few) footballs.

In 1963, the observation book noted "the school was in a scattered rural community, but was well knit in social and educational attitudes.

“An excellent relationship exists between the principal, the staff and the community.

“The grounds, while limited in effective level playing areas, were adequate for present requirements.

“Particular interest has been created in the care of trees and lawn areas and in growing of shrubs.

“The school promises to develop as a showplace in the district.

“The school has become wholesome and happy, in which the children were responsive and alert and in which they participated with some confidence in the activities presented to them.

In 1964, the school celebrated it's fiftieth anniversary (of becoming a public school) with a huge ceremony held at the school, which was attended by parents, residents in the area and many dignitaries.



Celebrating 50 years of public schooling at Kororo in 1964



Class photo 1965 - kinder and year 1



Class photo 1965 - years 2 / 3

In 1966, the front of the main school (office) building was used as a backdrop to an ABC movie production.

On October 10 1966, Kororo School acquired 2.75 acres of land from the G E Simpson estate for \$1750 an acre, which was purchased to replace the loss of land from the relocation of the Pacific Highway.



The ABC shoots a movie at the school



Class photo 1966 - years 2 / 3



Class photo 1966 - years 4 / 5 / 6



Class photo 1967 - kinder and year 1



Class photo 1967 - years 2 / 3



Class photo 1968 - kinder and year 1

In 1968 the observation book noted, "the school was situated on a hill overlooking the Pacific Highway, serving a banana growing community together with a few professional people, which have their employment in Coffs Harbour."

Also noted was "when the additional land purchased recently is developed, the school will have a fine playing area."



Class photo 1968 - years 2 / 3

“However the re-routing of the Highway will take a portion of the playground and the noise level from the traffic will increase.

“There are three classrooms, one of which is small, while another is in such poor condition, it would be uneconomical to spend money on its repair.

“The other classroom is used for Kindergarten and First Grade and is adequate for this group.

“A portable stage has been constructed so that open air drama concerts and the like can be staged.

“There are no facilities for the establishment of a library.

“The child centred school is a happy one and is held in high esteem by the community which it serves well.”

In October 1967, approval was granted for the construction of a primary brick veneer classroom block and ancillaries, to include infants' classrooms.

In addition to this accommodation, approval was later granted for the erection of a new composite toilet/ablutions shelter block as well as septic sewerage facilities (thus ending the cess pit toilet system).

A new school building was officially opened by the State member for Raleigh, Mr J H Brown MLA, at a cost of \$43,832, on November 24 1969.

The observation book noted “one of the new classrooms was a replacement for a room in poor condition, the other to house the extra children who continue to present themselves for enrolment, because of the small but constant increase in homes in the district.”



An old classroom on the way to Coffs Zoo

The replaced classroom was trucked down the highway to Kumbaingerie (Coffs Harbour Zoo), to become an reptile house.

The Banana Bowl Caravan Park

In 1960, Mr John Hill moved back from Kempsey, where he worked and with his family set up the Banana Bowl Caravan Park.

Mr Hill said caravan parks at the time were not very profitable but they were popular for holidaying, because they were inexpensive, suiting all families with stretched incomes.

‘One summer more than 800 people came to the caravan park staying in tents and caravans.

‘Whole families would come, with the relatives too!

‘Although the caravan park had no pool, the nearby creek proved to be a beautiful place to swim.

‘The caravan park was a great success because it used to provide non-stop entertainment for the kids - with film shows, horse / pony rides, treasure hunts , picnics, fancy dress, sand modelling.

‘The kids used to line up at 9.30am for the pony rides, wet or fine!

‘It was something new and exciting, clean and entertaining.

‘Later we sold part of the land for sub-division.

'In all 96 blocks were sub-divided, in an area which ran along from where Norman Hill Drive is today, to the headland, with choice blocks selling from \$2000.

'We named all the streets in the sub division after something relative to the bananas, ie: Herman Reick, Cavendish etc.

A letter received from ex student, Ella Gabauer gives an insight to schooling in the late 50's and early 60's.



Class photo 1968 - year 4 / 5 / 6



Class photo 1969 - year kinder / 1

'School was always a bit of a nightmare for me, until half way through 5th class, when I was 10 and we moved to Korora.

'I'll never forget that first day, my parents took me there all dressed up in my previous school's uniform and Mr Goodacre said to me, 'I'll get the school Captain Robyn Resta to look after you'.

'When Robyn appeared she was in a nice cool check dress with two of the biggest pockets I have ever seen; I thought how handy they looked and she could carry everything in them, including her lunch.

'I soon learned to wear dresses or shorts and to take off my shoes as soon as we got off the bus.

'I can still feel the fright and see my bare toes step next to a snake, as we walked up the hill to the school.

'I looked forward to every day of the one and a half years I spent at Kororo School.

'We all played together, boys, girls no matter whether it was hopscotch, fly, rounders, red rover crossover, cricket or marbles.

'It was always a challenge; if the boys could throw a tennis ball over the big Camphor Laurel tree, so could I.

'Cops and robbers was one of the most popular games; we'd have secret hideouts in the long bladed grass.

'Every now and then we would go mulligrubbing, which was a funny little pastime, where we would poke straws of grass down the mulligrub hole and wait for the Mulligrub to wiggle and if we were careful, we could withdraw the straw, with a little grub biting the end.



Class photo 1969 - year 5 / 6

'It was at Kororo School, that I saw my first Echidna.

'One of the boys came panting into tell Mr Goodacre who then took us all out to see this little fellow burying itself.

'We sometimes had fights while waiting for the old Woopi bus; a comment made to a girlfriend of mine by Alvin Murray made me see red and I bashed Alvin up...sorry mate.

'Reg Ryan, the bus driver told me, Margaret you never hit a man while you are still holding him...I'm still unsure why not.

'I was a bit ashamed, because as everyone knows, sixth class girls are usually bigger than boys...and I was one of them.

'Probably 30 years later, I had a visit from one of the big boys, a rather bearded Terry O'Toole, who told me he was always scared of me after the bashing up.

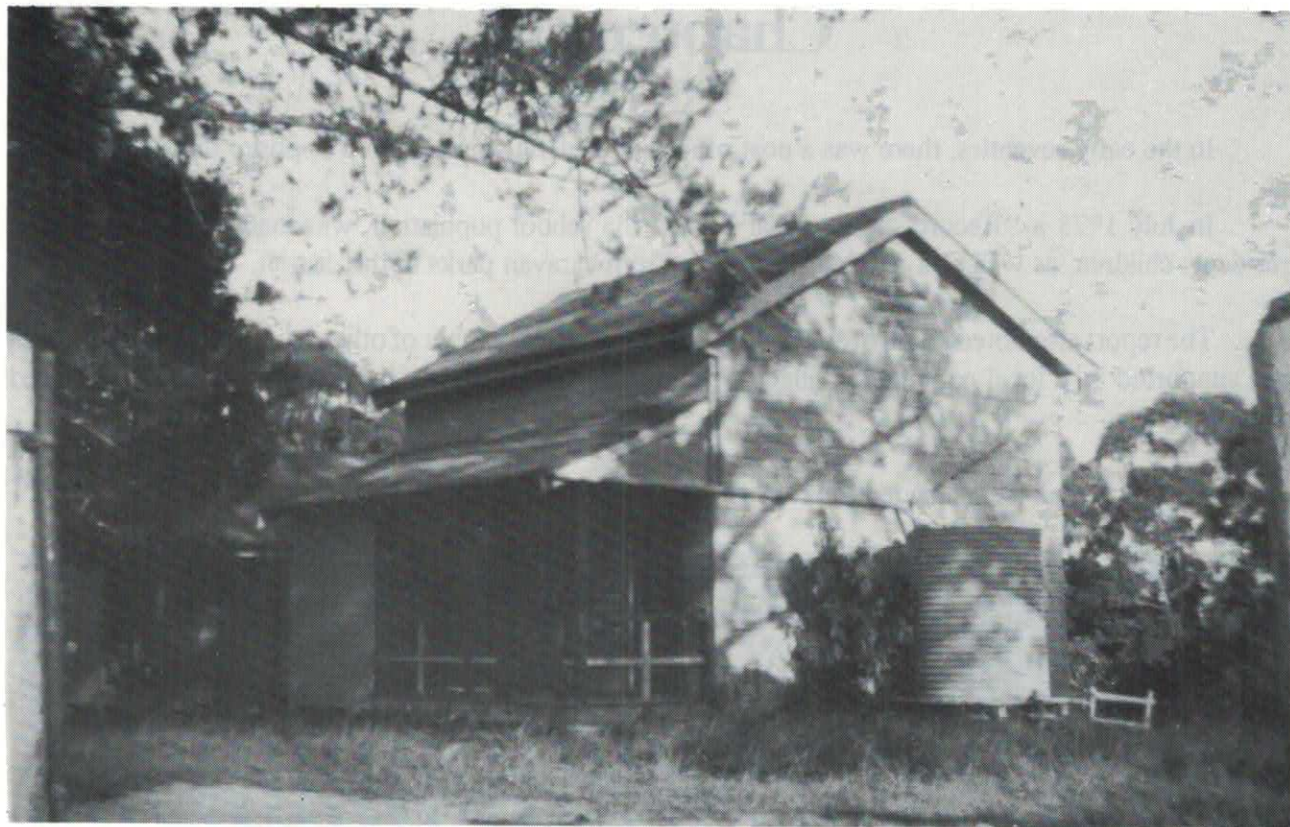
'Looking back over the old school photos, I can remember each face and they each had a story to tell.

'I always wished I had longer at Kororo School, I really loved it and there I learned to love life, have courage, love friends and be loyal.

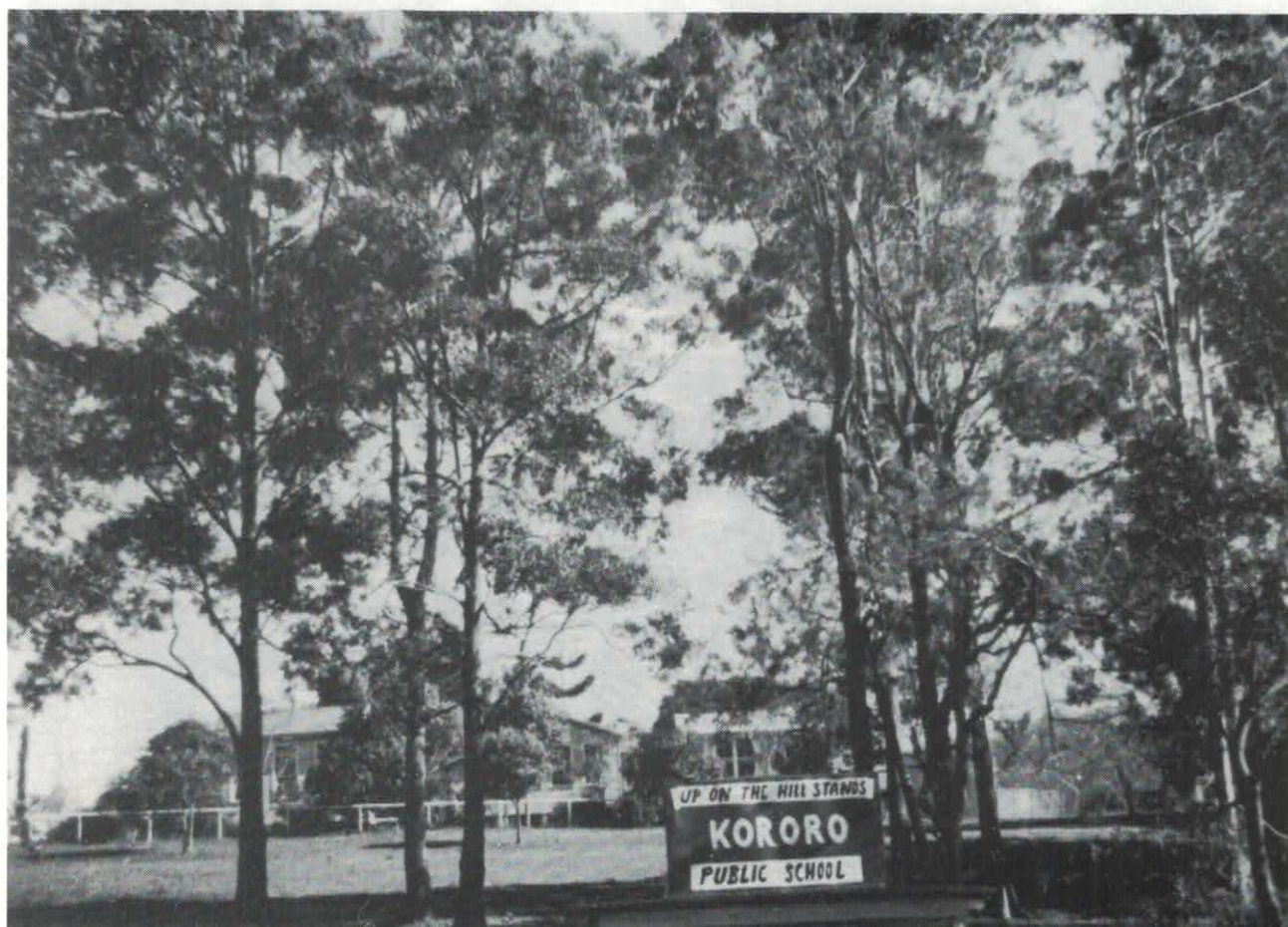
'I owe so much to Mr and Mrs Goodacre'.



Class photo 1969 - year 2



The main school building



The school as seen from James Small Drive

Chapter 12

1970 - 1979

In the early seventies, there was a post office and general store, located opposite the school.

In July 1975 a "Record of Appraisal" noted the school population, was made up of permanent residents children, as well as a number of children from caravan parks in the district.

The report also noted that Kororo School, differing from a number of other schools in the region, was not supported by a local community village, with businesses and shops, but rather by a rather scattered population.

(That situation is unchanged today).



Class photo 1970 - year 4 / 5 W



Class photo 1970 - year 5 / 6

The P & C Publicity Officer of the 70's, well known parent and Old Coast Road resident Mr David Bowen often put pen to prose the school P & C newsletters, to make the frequent requests for assistance in school fundraising more appealing.

An example of Mr Bowen's penmanship to get things rolling for a "Fun Fair" held in July of 1976.

The item was titled; **'This is your week'**

*'Once again we'd like to thank you one and all
For those goodies in bags big and small
Butter and eggs we have as well
All in all you've done very well*

*It's cookery time for lots of us now
And some have already received their butter and sugar, eggs and flour*

*But alack and alas, I must confess
With some of your notes I made a big mess
So if it's sweet or cake making ingredients you still do need
It's another message from you I must read
To let me know just where and when and what
Or juts ring me up and I'll send you the lot
Or maybe for your cooking deed
'tis a box you'll surely need
Cakes and tarts both big and small
Boxes to fit them all*

*So now at this last stage I say to one and all
The success of our "Fair" on your shoulders must fall
Pull your weight and do your best
Fine weather and visitors will do the rest
Bring your goods, yourself and a friend
Remember we are all working for the common end
Our own school and our own children'*

(Funds raised from that particular "Fun Fare" was \$2294).

Items extracted from P & C newsletters of the day:-

(In the seventies, the P&C prepared the school newsletter, as differing from now, where the school prepares them).

In 1976 a catering committee was formed, with Mesdames McPherson, Faggotter, Malone, Maddocks and Wise being nominated.

The committee was formed to ensure there was always a "cuppa ready at all times", whether there be meetings or social fare.

A P&C Ladies Auxiliary was also formed and the first meeting was held on April 13 of that year.

Mrs Malone was granted life membership of the P & C, "for her untiring efforts for the P & C since 1961".

A full school assembly was held each Tuesday with kindergarten, 1st and second class having an additional assembly on Thursday mornings.

Scripture was held on Tuesday mornings and "for those interested", the school bank functioned weekly.



Class photo 1971 - year 4 / 5 W



Class photo 1971 - year 5 / 6



Class photo 1972 - year 4 / 5 W

Music and physical culture were in full swing, with pictures of achievements being displayed outside the principal's office.

A curious note taken from the advertised entertainment offered by the school, for a particular barbeque / film evening :-

'You will surely enjoy seeing a local resident having a beer with a snake, district beauty spots "in colour"; tomatoes 6 feet high and men cutting bananas whilst on horseback.'

'Just bring your blanket and relax in family groups around the projector.

'A plate with steak and all the trimmings will cost you \$1.50 and a hamburger, well filled and tasty will cost you 50 cents.'



Class photo 1973, with teacher Mr Albert Chappell

That particular barbeque / film night made \$300 and it was not revealed what happened to the snake, the giant tomatoes or the horseman!

The school P & C produced a banana recipe cook book called "The Banana Book", which sold well.

Mrs Enevoldson and Mrs Norma Anderson were responsible for preparing the first version, while Mrs Enevoldson prepared the second, which sold 2000 copies.

The cook book was quoted to be "full of banana recipes, suitable for all occasions" and it included a project for children, as well as a diet for mums and a wine making recipe for dads and it was sold in a number of shops as well as the school and copies were also on sale at the Coffs Harbour Tourism office.

(See chapter 16, for a "sampling of the recipes".

A "Happy Hippie Hop" was held in May 1976 for the year three, four, five and six children, in the "double classroom", with entertainment consisting of folk dances, barn dances, a gipsy tap, Canadian three step, a Mexican hat dance, hokey pokey and what was described as "modern".

Mr David Bowen was also appointed trustee for the Korora Beach Reserve.

In June 1976, a new demountable classroom was installed at the school and the school library was re-sited in the classroom adjoining the office (which is now the staff room).

1977 (again from the P&C Newsletters)

In April of that year, Mr Kitchener was called upon to provide organ music and vocal items for a "variety of fashions night".

On that evening, the school hall was decked out with flowers and greenery for the occasion and parents made sandwiches, cakes and tarts.

While principal Mr Barnier was on leave, the assistant principal Mr Chappell was appointed as "relieving principal".

On August 22, 1977 and after much campaigning by the P & C, Kororo School was allowed to have an "exclusive bus" to transport the children to and from school.

This bus was commonly referred to in the mornings of the early nineties as "Noel's bus" - after the driver.

Mr Ryan (Ryan's Bus Company), prepared a suitable schedule, and the bus service started its northbound trip at 8.40am that day, at the Old Coast Road, (northern end), which allowed children to catch the bus without crossing the road.

The service then went to Gaudron's Road, Timms Corner, Macues Road, turning, then proceeding south to Tiki Village, Moonee Beach, Split Solitary, North Sapphire Headland, Sapphire Gardens, Sapphire Pines, arriving at 9.10am.

In the afternoon, the return trip left the school at 3.45pm.

The adventure playground was started in 1977, being organised by deputy principal Mr Albert Chappell and teacher Miss Sue Chaloner.

On November 30, year six children held a mini-fair, as their final gesture to the school.



Class photo 1978 - year 6



Class photo 1978 - year 2C

On March 18 1978, to start the new school year, the P & C held a family and friends barbeque night, with a sing-a-long and folk dancing following.

On April 29, a twilight auction was held.

David Bowen prepared another of his poems for the occasion :-

*'To make our day a great success
Please get into your cupboards and clean the mess
Under the house or in the shed
Maybe you'll find a sturdy old bed
Crockery, cutlery and saucepans too
Blankets, boots, bolts and bananas, just to mention a few*

*Whether its old or whether its new
Send it along for someone to view
Toys for toddlers or clothes you've outgrown
Perhaps some pot holders or aprons you've recently sewn
A wig or two should be loads of fun
Or maybe some tools for father and son*

*From the garden your vegies we'll get
Or maybe some jams and jellies you've set
All your old hens and roosters too
Send them along and we'll sell them for stew*

*Cats and dogs and canaries too
Or maybe a cow that can no longer moo
It's amazing what you find when you look around
Whether its in the attic or under the ground
Dig it out before its too late
And send it along to await its fate*

*Blinds and curtains, windows and doors
And sturdy boards for packing shed floors
Cats and cradles, swings and bikes
Or bags and billies to take on hikes
Perhaps a pram and a doll or something way out
If its a bath and a tub, just give us a shout*

*Potted plants are in demand
Or anything else that comes from the land
Gaiters and girdles, trinkets or hats
Glasses and vases and back door mats
Brooms and buckets and garbage bins too
All these that we've mentioned are but a few*

*There's washers, fridges and vacuum's too
 But make sure they are working for you
 Do surprise us with your treasure chest
 Just put it out, we'll do the rest
 Then come to the school on Saturday week
 Browse around and take a peek
 Buy what you can - it will cost you a bob
 And thanks for helping, you've done a good job.'*



School prefects - 1978



School "B" grade netball team



Class photo 1979 - year 4 H



Class photo 1979 - year 4 / 5 / 6

In the "Opinion" newspaper it was reported that planning had started for proposed additional accommodation at the school.

The accommodation was to comprise of eight new classrooms, library, administration facilities, a canteen shelter and toilets.

Meanwhile a demountable classroom was delivered in May of that year to temporarily overcome the accommodation problems in the school.

(The new buildings referred to, though only four of the new eight new classrooms promised, were opened in 1991, some three years later, while the other four are still awaited and when eventually supplied, these will finally replace all the demountable buildings).

In September of that year, a Bushwhackers Ball (bush dance) was held at the Orara Hall.

Guests were invited to come along in "bushwacky style".

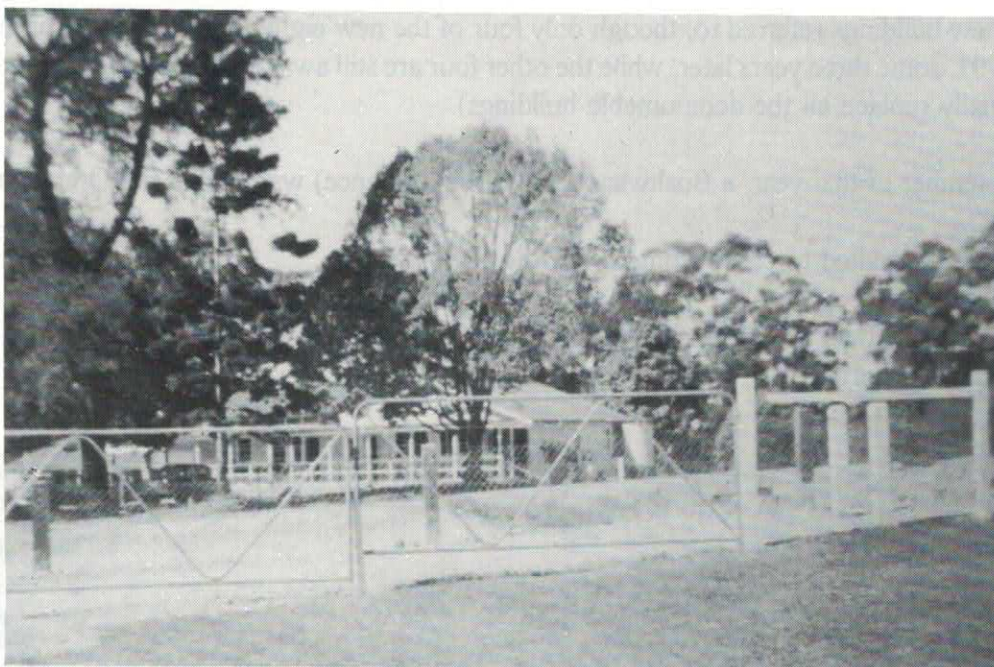
Principal Mr Barnier was farewelled on December 13, by the P & C and in 1979, Mr Tony Youngman became the teaching principal.



The old post office and store opposite the school in 1970



The old post office with a delivery van of the era



The school from the highway in 1970



A stroll down memory lane

IT was a case of "hello teacher — hello teacher" when Mrs Naomi England went to the Korora Public School's grandparents day on Wednesday. Mrs England's grand daughter, Jennifer, is taught by Mr Tony Youngman, who was in turn taught by Mrs England. So it was memory lane when the two teachers met again at grandparents' day. Mrs England taught at Coffs Harbour Public School when Mr Youngman was in grade three. Now Principal of Korora Public School, Mr Youngman has taught Mrs England's grandchildren, Elizabeth and David, (now in high school) and is currently teaching Jennifer. Rohan is still to come.

Mr Tony Youngman and Mrs Naomi England on "grandparents day"

Chapter 13

1980 -1989



Class photo - year 3S



Class photo 1980 - year 6 G



School staff photo - 1980



Back Row (l. to r.): Geoff Stokes, Craig Ashdown, Tim Condron, Danny Cogle, Sarah Suttor, Megan McIntyre, Nicolas Tournier, Alister Scottford, Nicholas Dunmill, Michael Gillett.
 Middle Row: Enzo Accadia, Peter Corbett, Heidi Alder, Lorraine Flemming, John Stoker, Michelle Wales, Helene Enevoldson, Craig Brown, Simon Caldwell, Mr. Noonan.
 Front Row: Rachel Stewart, Vanessa Thornton, Yvonne Haydon, Nicole Zietsch, Kiriilly Mildner, Cathy McKean, Samantha Curtis, Sharon Kitchner, Karen Clarkson, Claire Scott.
 Seated on grass: Andrew Bunny, Joel Kuhn.

Class photo 1981 - year 6N



Back Row (l. to r.): Bob Innes, Brett Williams, Robbie Wear, Rodney Bowen, David Innes, Anthony Hoschke, Adrian Harding, Middle Row: Larissa Phillips, Gianni Accadia, Darlene O'Toole, Tania McDonald, Sean Wighton, Catherine Stevens, Mrs. Gosling.
Front Row: Tanya Innes, Pam Arkan, Jennifer Fleming, Bernadette Mitchell, Kay Stevens, Robyn Hunter.

Class photo 1981 - year 5 / 6G

Extracts from the school newsletters

On October 13 1981, the newsletter noted there were 320 pupils in the school and all of them turned out for walkathon to raise money for the Guide Dogs Association of Australia.

The walk left the school at 9.30am and went via Korora Bay Reserve, around the reserve and back to the school, returning at 3.30pm.

Parents were along the way with drinks for the walkers and there was a picnic lunch break at the reserve.

The walkathon raised \$3000.

In August of the same year, clerical assistant Mrs Judy Farrell joined the school, replacing Mrs Borrell, who had resigned.

In September of that year, it was reported the classrooms were carpeted, toilets tiled and the water tanks removed.

In 1983, the school produced "The Teddo magazine", with contributions from pupils and staff from the school and the editors were M Hayworth, P Read, B Kempnich and K Berube.

The magazine had cut-outs, puzzles, poems, games and songs making it a really great school effort.



Back Row (l. to r.): Sharon Kitchner, Alister Scottford, Helene Enevoldson, Heidi Alder, Simon Caldwell, Geoffrey Stokes
Front Row: Tim Condon, Sarah Suttor, A. L. Youngman (Principal), Peter Corbett, Yvonne Haydon.

School student council 1981



Back Row (l. to r.): Mrs McGann, Justin Piper, Dean Croaker, Daniel Cutugno, Mathew Crockett, Peter McKay, Trent Gear, Scott Hardy
Middle Row (l. to r.): Wayne Hair, Melissa Oberman, Rebecca Kelly, Sally Paynter, Tanya Smith, Georgina Turner, Jennifer Fail, Alicia Sherwood, Ben Broadfoot
Front Row (l. to r.): Anne Veikani, Brooke Shelley, Justine Matthews, Linda Moore, Bronwen Stevens, Leanne Lawler, Penne Kempnich.

Class photo 1982 - year 1M



Back Row (l. to r.): Ian Scott, Guy Newnham, Peter Booth, Jonathan Fulton, Matthew Holmes, Ben Dunmill, Matthew Clarkson, Craig Barrett.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Sam Couper, Terje Petersen, Tamara Rootsey, James Turner, Claire Jolly, Doug Maddocks, Jason Stinson, Andrew Caldwell, David England.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Karen Lambert, Jodie Horobin, Beverly Davis, Natalie McKean, Letresha Martin, Nicola Holmes, Tanya Fleming, Sacha Corbett.
 Sitting on Grass (l. to r.): Warwick Appleton, Joshua Chapman, Paul Smith, Michael Newton.
 Teacher: Mr. Noonan.

Class photo 1982 - year 5 / 6N



Back Row (l. to r.): Jason Atwal, Aaron Dale, Brendan Dunn, Benjamin Thompson, Zoe Williams, Rodney Sinclair, Michael Cordell, Mark Innes, Mrs DeNeiderhausen.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Jonathon Jeffress, Daniel Hatch, William Wardman, Julia Turner, Sarah-jane Morris, Cameron Gregg, Mathew Grace, Christopher Yarnton.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Jessie Atkins, Brooke Horobin, Kylie Shanks, Sonia Atwal, Belinda Smith, Elizabeth Webb, Gaylee Jackson.

Class photo 1983 - year KD



Back Row (l. to r.): Wayne Hardy, Paul Smith, Michael Golsby, Megan King, David England, Stephen Mutton, Peter Booth, Joshua Chapman.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Adam Kalmar, Natalie McKean, Peter Graf, David Neilson, Simon Egan, Tamara Rootsey, Aaron McSpadden, Mr Cowling.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Kristie Ryan, Christine Towell, Karen Innes, Wendy Grant, Tanya Fleming, Suzanne Paul, Susanne Anderson, Rebekah Penny.

Class photo 1983 - year 6C



Class photo 1984 - year 1L

Songs for school assembly in 1984 were :-

1 The gypsy rover	jnr	12 Sing a rainbow	jnr
26 Tie me kangaroo down sport	snr	37 Puff the magic dragon	snr
3 When you're smiling	jnr	15 When I first came to this land	jnr
29 Oh rock my soul	snr	40 Good morning starshine	snr
5 Once an Australian	jnr	18 It's a small world	jnr
31 The lion sleeps tonight	snr	44 What have they done to the rain	snr
7 Never smile at a crocodile	jnr	21 It's a long way / pack up	jnr
33 Rivers of Babylon	snr	22 The Unicorn	jnr
9 Doctor knicker bocker	jnr	48 Ah poor bird / Texas	snr
35 The sloop "John B"	snr	24 The three drovers	jnr
36 Day-O	snr	51 Ding dong merrily	snr

On March 27, the School Computer Committee met and the North Coast consultant in computers, Mr Jim Roberts visited the school, on the following Tuesday.

The task was to determine rational priorities and a curriculum for the introduction of computer education in the school and make recommendations regarding staff development, software and hardware needs.

On April 27, 1984, a Mr Jim Roberts brought some Micro Computers to the school, to demonstrate their usage.

On May 5, 1984, the regulation school uniform was described as :-

Boys (winter), grey terylene shorts (grey), or long trousers, light green shirt, bottle green pullover (or Gotcha) zipped jacket, black shoes with green and yellow striped socks.



Class photo 1984 - year 6H

Girls (winter), bottle green 'A'-Line dress (same pattern as summer) with two patch pockets, trimmed with "gold" bias binding, sewn flat.

The dress may be worn with a gold skivvy, crew neck or summer blouse, with white socks and black school shoes.

Bottle green slacks were allowed in lieu of a winter dress with a bottle green 'V' neck pullover or zipped jacket.

Leg warmers were not allowed as part of the school uniform.

On November 6 1984, the school newsletter referred to the current school uniform deviations; "fluoro Socks and hair colouring are not part of the school uniform".

On October 3 1984, when Sandy Beach Primary School opened, reference was made to the school intake zone.

'Kororo School Zone remains unchanged with the opening of Sandy Beach Primary School.

'Kororo's zone extends from Kumbaingerie in the north to Bruxner Park in the south.'

On December 3 1984, the school's Waves School Magazine went on sale at \$1.00 a copy.

On October 9 1985, the new school library block was handed over and the old Library became the staffroom.



Class photo 1985 - year 3 / 5N

Work began on the visitor's Car park, in front of the "wooden building", (the office block).

On November 27 1985, the first twilight fete was held, which grossed \$6393.

On February 4, 1986 the school numbers were: Infants 133; Primary 187, totalling 320.

In 1986, and a forerunner to the schools current bike education program, was a particular incident which necessitated principal Mrs Eleanor Newmarch to write to a particular student's parents.

What had happened, one morning while she driving to school, a student had been 'observed' by Mrs Newmarch cycling in and out of the white lines in the centre of the road.

As Mrs Newmarch wrote, though it possibly demonstrated "reasonable cycle control", it did not show any sense of responsibility as a road user.

To make matters worse, the child when "tooted" by Mrs Newmarch, continued his routine, forcing her to reduce her driving speed to a crawl.

It was only when the student eventually took a quick look over his shoulder and found out who the driver was, hurriedly proceeded (without looking left or right), to the side of the road and continued his journey to school.



Class photo 1985 - year 6M



Class photo 1986 - year 6M



Class photo 1986 - year 13N



Fruit of Australia stamp launch, which year 3C participated in, at the Big Banana

On February 11, Australia Post officially launched their "Fruit of Australia" stamp issue and Mr Clemesha's year three class dressed up as fruit for the launch, with Australia Post presenting the school with a certificate to mark the occasion.

(The certificate is currently on display in the office foyer).

On October 21, a sweets recipe appeared in the School Newsletter for **Peanut Brittle** :-

2 cups of sugar, 5 ozs water, 1 teaspoon of liquid glucose, 1/2 teaspoon of Cream of Tartar, 1 desert spoon of butter, 1 cup of nuts.

Place sugar and water in heavy based saucepan and stir till dissolved.

Add cream of tartar and glucose.

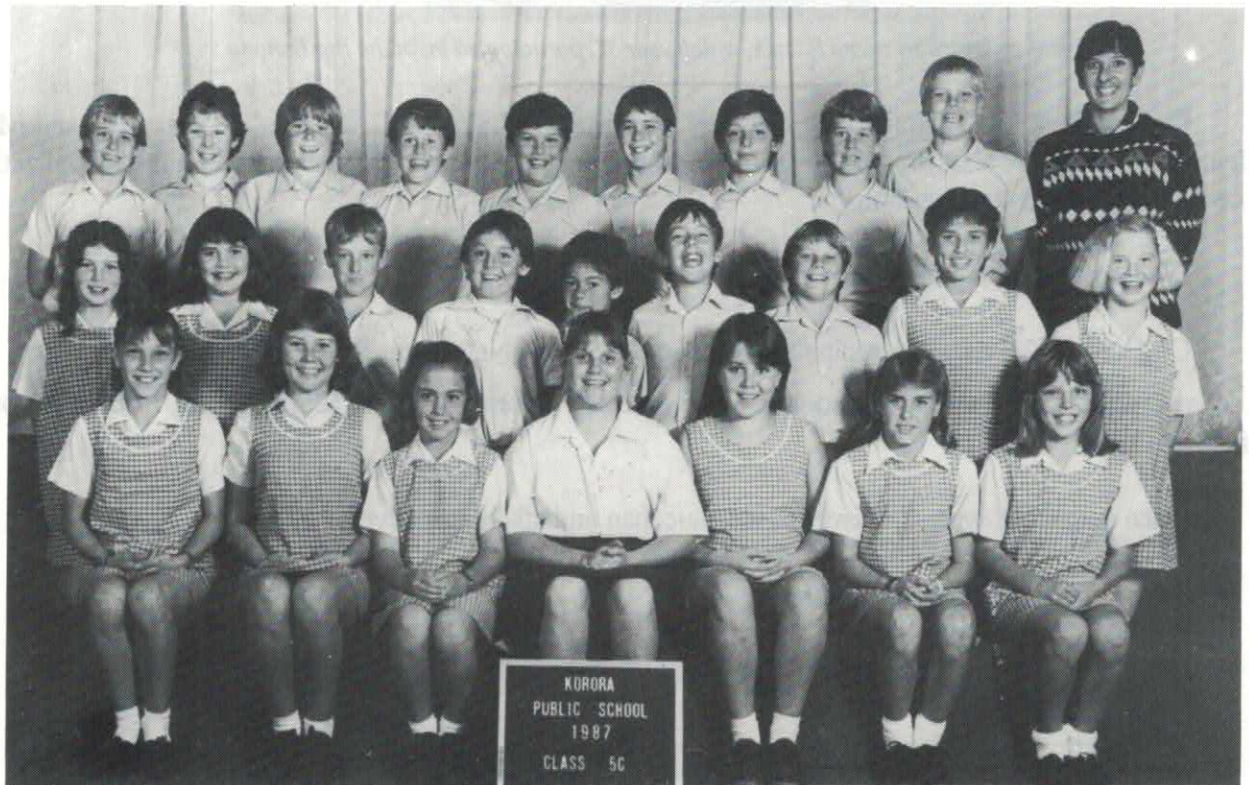
Boil till crack stage is reached, when tested in cold water at 154 degrees c.

Do not stir after the mixture boils.

Remove from heat, add butter and nuts, mix well, pour into greased tin.



Class photo 1987 - year K/IM



Class photo 1987 - year 5C



Staff photo 1987-

(note the student teacher seated bottom row right is Miss Belinda Campbell, who returned to Kororo in 1992, with her Byrock School students (see article in chapter 19)

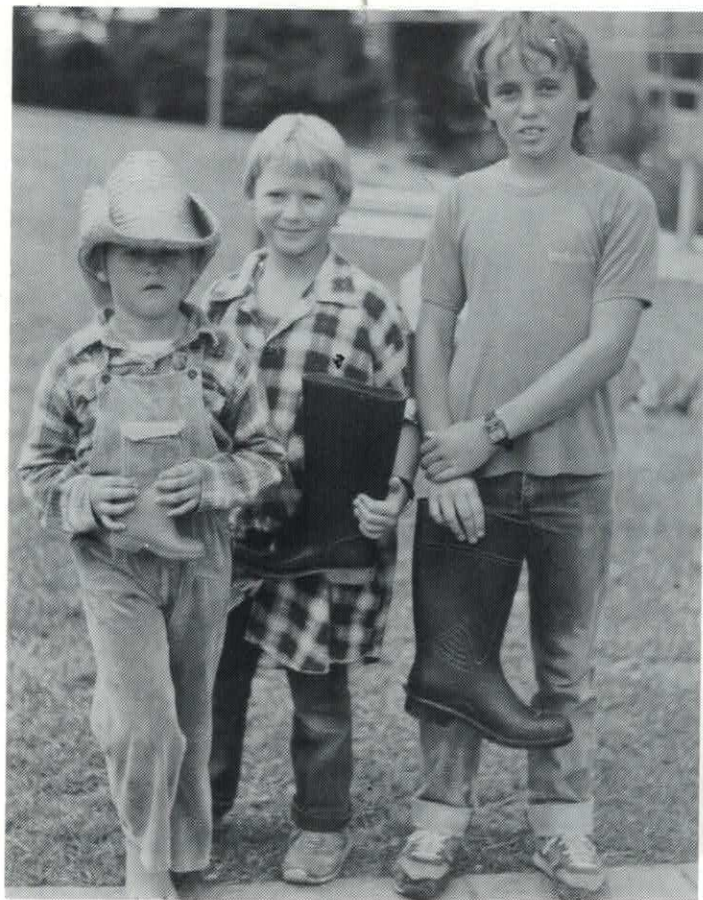
1988

On February 10, the school was short four enrolments, so one of the teachers Mr Noonan volunteered to transfer out of school and the result of this transfer was a year 5/6 composite.

A letter was sent to Regional Office, pleading to keep the teacher numbers, due to an insurge of pupils in week one of term two this however had no affect.

On April 28th, there was a special day at the school, called "back to the bush day" with entry for the day being \$1.00, which included scones damper and tea.

This was a whole day affair, commencing at 9.30am with a sleeper cutting demonstration, then at 10am, a gumboot throwing competition, at 10.30am morning tea, 11am to 12.30pm, the Diehappy Bush Band School Show, which featured singalongs, dancing and entertainment, then at 12.30pm, lunch - a bring your own picnic type lunch, then between 1pm and 3pm the Diehappy Bush Band Bush Dance, where everyone joined in and at 3pm a farewell to the "back to the bush day".



Gumboot throwing - at Back to the Bush Day



Boys dressed up for Back to the Bush Day



Girls dressed up for Back to the Bush Day



Gumboot throwing - at Back to the Bush Day

Several students wrote special songs to commemorate the day:-

A Bush Song - by Julie M. and Rebecca G.

*'I got a story to tell and I am telling it here.
So open your ears and open your eyes
Follow and get a big surprise
It was on an old country town called Kororo
The Diehappy Creek band was there you know
Even though you don't think it's great
The Diehappy band will be your mate*

(chorus :-)

*Saos, scones and billy tea, especially made for you and me.
You'll never know
What you'll see
After you've seen a stool
Carved by me
Everybody start
To hit your knee
Everybody start
To hit your knee
Everybody come
To bushday with me*

(chorus, twice)'

Bush Day - by Geraldine McGilvray

*'It was Thursday morning
Near the ending week
People were dancing
To the Diehappy Creek
The amazing hero Pollard
Threw a gumboot round the yard
And a man made a big sleeper
That must have been quite hard
People were dancing dressed up in fancy dress
And the billy tea, scones and damper
Were the very best
Then someone yelled Yowowowie
The strangest call in history
Everybody danced and everybody sang
And the whole day ended with a great big bang!'*

A Bush Song - by Kirsty E. and Michael E.

*'It was a sunny day
When everyone had to pay
Damper and scones
And lots of songs
Throughout the whole day*

(Chorus :-)

*Everyone came to the bush day
Yeah, Yeah, Yeah (two times)
All the girls were kissin'
So the boys went missin'
Mr B was working
All the teachers were lurking
And the band was hissinn'*

(Chorus)

*Everyone came to bush day
Yeah, Yeah, Yeah (twice)'*

A Bush Band Song - by Daniel Bodanski 5C

*'It was on a sunny Thursday
When we had a bush band day
We dressed up in our costumes
And we watched Diehappy Creek play
We saw a gum boot flying
Flying thorough the air
Then we heard a yowie call
And it frightened off our hair
Yowie Yowie
The loudest of the lot
Then Mr Bowen came
With a basket full of food
Damper, biscuits, ice cups
And Golden Syrup too
Then we went to play
And we all said hey
What great day
At the back to bush band day
Yowie Yowie
The loudest of the lot'*



Target - 200 million trees

In May the school participated in a bicentennial project arranged by an organisation called "Target 200 million trees - balloon lift towards a fertile future".

It aimed to encourage and celebrate tree planting.

Kororo school children released 400 tree seeds attached to yellow and green balloons for the occasion - "to help save Australia's fragile soils".

The school's executive teacher Ms Lois Maddocks said the campaign was in its third year and needed 38 million more trees to reach the 200 million target.

'Throughout Australia messages were attached to millions of green and yellow balloons with the sender's name and address, asking finders to please plant a tree for them', Ms Maddocks said.

'Kororo children included the seed of a native Australian plant with their message.

'There was also be a request to return information on where the balloon was found and where the seed was planted.'

There were also tree planting ceremonies at the school.

'Because Koalas frequently visited the school playground, six Eucalyptus Niccolai were planted in the hope they would encourage more Koalas', Ms Maddocks said.

'Nine species of endangered Australian trees also will be planted in the school grounds to help preserve the natural timbers.'

On September 21, the students participated in a fundraiser "jump rope for heart" and the "Kororo Koolcats" group performed their "jump rope for heart" skipping routine.



Kororo Koolcats



Jump rope for heart



Back Row (l. to r.): Mrs. M. McGowan, Andrew Gillard, John Rootsey, Matthew Bohringer, Mitchell Dunn, Joanna Brown, Alexandria Fleming, Toby Miller, Benjamin Houston, Daniel Hayes.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Adam Withers, Andrew Myers, Claire Hardman, Ravinder Jhaj, Renee Lavis, Tamara Jarvis, Stacey Riding, Katie Gambrell-Davis, James Booth, Daniel Wear.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Andrew Lundie, Amber Crossley, Benjamin Williams, Lauren Smith, Anniqye Tither, Richard Yarnton, Rachael Berry, Jonathan Spink.

Class photo 1988 - kinder M



Back Row (l. to r.): Timothy Andrell, Kerrie Anderson, Trengrove Jodi, Joshua Heinzel, Hayden Evans, Katrina Hand, Sarah Atkins, Mitchell Littlemore, Mrs Tristram.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): James Powick, Christopher Abra, Mitchell Gill, Jodie Carter, Dane Williams, Matt Woods, Steven Bennison, Robert Onus, Louise Tempone, Erin Shaw, Clint Tompkins.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Scott Johnson, Kelvin McNickle, Ellen Newman, Sophie Hirst, Tammy Skinner, Melissa Hoy, Guy Clare, Joel Perkins.

Class photo 1988 - kinder T



Back Row (l. to r.): Mrs McGann, Jodie Betland, Heath Sinclair, Jacob Wittleton, Shannon O'Connell, Thomas Rixon, Ryan Kuipers, Amy Chapman.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Laura Grace, Katie Green, Erin Wood, Carlie Eden, Emily Swanson, Heidi Brauer, Kim Caley, Katie Hancock.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Toby Holmes, Shelley Brauer, Michael Watt, Gemma Clarke, Hugh McGilvray, Renee Scroope, Jarrod Andrell.

Class photo - year K - 1M



Back Row (l. to r.): Mr W. Haynes, Samantha Wardman, Luke Timms, Kenneth Danks, Anika Montgomery, Haydn Williams, Brenden Sewell, Amber Latham.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Luke Armstrong, Lena White, David Bedford, Kyla Elliott, Clayton Sippel, Christopher Scott, Katrina Hoy, Matthew Warren, Natasha Seewitz, Sherrell Larrad.
 Front Row (l. to r.): David Bell, Pupinder Jhaj, Ceahn Crabb, Sarah De Martin, Samantha Hardaker, Cassie Thompson, Tracey Brenton, Ben Morrissey.

Class photo 1988 - year 1H



Back Row (l. to r.): Aaron Betland, Claire Latham, Melinda Tucker, Lisa Wear, Rachael Turner, Rachel Wiltshire, Kasey Miller, Rebecca Hardacre, Rebecca Sippel, Darren Smith, Mrs Laidlaw,
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Jason Goff, Anthony Neal, Ashley Trengove, Justin Thornton, Daniel Leaver, Ben Spink, Daniel Butcher, Micheal Cook, Tim Paul.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Trent Woodcock, Sarah O'Grady, Rechelle Walmsley, Mieke Elzer, Hannah Newman, Katherine Cheeseman, Corrine Myers, Ben Allen.

Class photo 1988 - year 2L



Back Row (l. to r.): Mrs S. De Neiderhausen, Hannah Williams, Brian Anderson, Penne Watson, Robert Hardacre, Kim Hardaker, Paul Miller, Lauren Sinclair, Jeff Gordon, Louise Croaker, Luke Dunn.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Sean Van Gennip, Benjamin Atkins, Kelly Shortis, Kim Edwards, Kacy Green, Carly Watt, Fiona Yarrnton, David Rootsey, Louis Jockel, Darral Larrad.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Katie Hirst, Nicholas Bohringer, Karalee White, Cathy Collins, Sarah Shepherd, Kate Beardsley, Laura Woods, Mark Piatti, Jade Martin.

Class photo 1988 - year 2D



Back Row (l. to r.): Mr. S. Clemesha, Andrew Dingie, Justin Adams, Sean Betland, Stuart Haigh, Peter Grace, Ranaul Crabb, Clinton Green, Rohan England.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Darren Cordell, Jay Hellwig, Michael Thompson, Kelly Tompkins, Fiona Brown, Melissa Smith, Sarah Hivon, Ryan Van Gennip, Jonathan Holmes, Jason Kuipers.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Sharlene Hunter, Zoe Rixon, Monica Brauer, Angela Moon, Danielle Evans, Kim Bennison, Kathryn Bell, Anna Rogers, Tenile Ward.

Class photo 1988 - year 3C



Back Row (l. to r.): Mr J. Coleman, Nathan Tucker, Gregory Skinner, Jason White, Jeremy Caldwell, Boyd Hart, Sandy Onus, Gareth Edward, Wayne Watson.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Dane Dixon, Justin Clarke, Caine Roberts, Kathy Weston, Nicole Jackson, Luke Johnson, Daniel Morrissey, Nigel White.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Amy Warren, Hope Hoyle, Tammy Seewitz, Rebecca Day, Emma Crewe, Belinda Miller, Sommer Riding.
 Absent: Melissa Heris.

Class photo 1988 - year 3 / 4C



Back Row (l. to r.): Nathan Tempone, Hayes Montgomery, Luke Cutajar, Benjamin Scott, Daniel Fenton, Adrian Hardman, Matthew Neal, Glenn Williams, Joel Hancock, Taj De Neiderhausen.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Jane Hennessy, Paul McCulloch, Paul Croaker, Phillip Gregory, Renee Sewell, Leanne McBaron, Warren Anderson, Hal Hancock, David Orr, Clea Allen.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Lisa Gill, Alan Becker, Clare Pawley, Vicki Hardacre, Priscilla Martin, Jacki Gordon, Paula Bedford, Nalia Crabb, Erica Rowe. Teacher: Mr Steve Hadden.

Class photo 1988 - year 4H



Back Row (l. to r.): Evan Woodcock, Glenn Powick, Shannon Pollard, Kirsty Edward, Danielle Bodanski, Julia Turner, Michal Evans, Greg Edwards, Cameron Gregg, Trent Jones.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Daniel Beardsley, Andrew Hoffman, Rodney Sinclair, Donald Hellwig, Mathew Grace, Mark Dunphy, Shannon Perkins, Chris Caley, Michael Cordell, Jason Atwal.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Jala Shortis, Kareena Tierney, Victoria Henry, Geraldine McGilvray, Belinda Smith, Melissa Seewitz, Rebecca Gam, Julie Mitchell, Kylie Shanks.
 Teacher: Ms S. Chaloner.

Class photo 1988 - year 5C



Teacher: Greg Moore
 Back Row (l. to r.): Daniel Holloway, Willie Wardman, Peter Gibson, Luke Hardaker, Chris Collins, Chris Yarnton, Chris Paynter, Matthew Dickman, Nathan Reay.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Ian Black, Chris Cook, Sonya Gartner, Emma Brenton, Leah Sewell, Corina Connelly, Brendan Dunn, Ben Armstrong, Mark Innes.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Jessie Atkins, Elizabeth O'Grady, Shellee Carruthers, Kellie Montgomery, Kelly-Jane Wallis, Ronnetta Langfield, Samantha Green, Zoe Williams, Kate Mutton.

Class photo 1988 - year 5 / 6 G



Back Row (l. to r.): Chris Paynter, Carey Jackson, Mrs E. Newmarch, Alice Jamison, Jason Bailey.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Ben Hennessey, Natalie Berube, Tim Read (Captain), Jasmine Hancock (Captain), Daniel Holloway, Kellie Montgomery.

School prefects 1988



Back Row (l. to r.): Mr. J. Coleman, Kirsty Edward, Chris Yarrnton, Julia Turner, Danielle Bodanski, Nicola Jockel, Daniel Willis, Daniel Fenton.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Sarah Hivow, Tammy Seewitz, Clare Pawley, Samantha Green, Alissa Crossley, Alice Jamison, Victoria Henry, Kelly Wallis, Karina Tierney.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Lisa Gill, Karen Mutton, Zoe Williams, Shelley Carruthers, Melissa Seewitz, Priscilla Martin, Paula Bedford, Jala Shortis.

School choir 1988



Back Row (l. to r.): Richard Sinclair, Beryl Bardsley, Tom Stephenson, Sylvia De Neiderhausen, David Bowen, Sue Chaloner.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Mary McGowan, Lois Maddocks, Robyn Laidlaw, Eleanor Newmarch, Julie McGann, Dot Underwood, Judy Farrell.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Steve Clemesha, Jim Coleman, Steve Hadden, Bev Tristram, Paul Griffin, Bill Haynes, Greg Moore.

School staff 1988



Back Row (l. to r.): Daniel Willis, Stephen Timms, Hugh Gillard, Katharine Thompson, Jasmine Hancock, Stacy Waterhouse, Melinda Trengove, Trisha Hancock, Brett Taylor, Travis Goff, Jason Bailey.
 Middle Row (l. to r.): Ms Lois Maddocks, Sam Williams, Andrew Dingle, Matthew Wyborn, Tim Read, Dean McCulloch, Stephen Gregory, Joel Heinzl, Curt Dixon, Mark Haworth, Shane Skinner, Ben Hennessy.
 Front Row (l. to r.): Donna Stevens, Natalie Berube, Corey Jackson, Nicola Jockel, Vanessa Orr, Senita Singh, Elisa Mathew, Alice Jamison, Alissa Crossley, Tonia Rowe.

Class photo 1988 - year 6M



Greg Moore's year 6 students cleaning up Hills Beach, (from left) Nathan Reay, Stacey Waterhouse, Justine Matthews

The school exhibited its care for the environment when Mr Greg Moore took his class to Hills Beach to clean up the beach dunes and plant some native shrubs, to protect the dune areas.

1989

On Friday September 14, student Joanne Roberts wrote for the "Kororo Advocate" an item on her school days at Kororo:-

'I have gone to schools in Sydney, Macksville and Coffs Harbour and Kororo was the best of all of them.

'The very first day I came to the school I said to myself "this is a great school to be at".'

Joanne recalled some of her funny moments at the school, such as when she trained for the soccer carnival.

'I collided with school captain Faith Wright and started skidding along the ground and nearly kicked a goal, but unfortunately I hurt my wrist and had to go to hospital.'

Another issue of "The Kororo Advocate" on Friday September 14, was prepared by Ms Sue Chaloner's class 6C; the issue was titled "**Children Cry over leaving Kororo School**".

'A familiar sight on the last day of school each year at Kororo school, was children crying, because it was their last day there:-'

Joanne Roberts wrote 'over the years, Kororo Primary School has kept a good reputation in all areas.'

Joanne also interviewed a number of the current and former pupils.



Class photo 1989 - year 2P

First there was former student Natalie McKean, who said 'though Kororo was a relatively small school, it enabled great friendships to be formed amongst the students as well as creating an enormous school spirit, which was highlighted at school carnivals.'

'Natalie remembered punishments being the cane, picking up rubbish, standing in the storeroom and being spoken to by the teacher.'

Joanne commented 'today in comparison, punishments are detention, and picking up rubbish, missing out on school activities, lines and staying in class during recess and lunch.'

'Natalie also recalled in the early eighties games played were skipping, hopscotch, fly, hey presto, red rover, doing an obstacle course, playing on the monkey bars, soccer, cricket and charades.'

Joanne commented, 'nowadays the students play soccer, tips, skipping, handball and playing in the venture playground.'

'Natalie loved Kororo Primary School and would not have gone to any other, if she could.'

Another former pupil, Kristine Baff loved Kororo Primary School and said she had a lot of memories of her time at the school.

'The best things I can recall about my days at Kororo were being chosen to hold the picture of the Queen in front of the assembly, when they sang God Save the Queen.'

'My favourite teacher was Mrs Gosling - because she was kind.'

Kristine also remembered a few romantic moments; 'like I got my first kiss....from a fellow student!'



Class photo 1989 - year 6M

Another former pupil Jess Atkins loved the school and said she cried at the end of her last day there, as she walked across the road over the foot bridge, to the school bus.

The teacher Jess remembered the most was Mr Grant, probably because he was her last teacher and Mr Clemesha, because he liked maths and maths was Jess's worst subject.

Another publication the school prepared was "**The Goons Gazette**", which was a ten page typed magazine, that was published in June 1989.

The Goons Gazette included stories, games, articles, puzzles, a crossword, as well as sports information.

Also in 1989, class 5/6C did a class newspaper, with such articles as "Fat Fun", which described a visitor to Coffs Harbour being Garfield, who came to open his fat factory, called Dimensions Inc.

The 5/6C newspaper described the factory 'as a gift to Coffs Harbour, being a place where you could eat as much as you liked, so long as it was fattening.'



Teddy Bears Picnic - May '89

Chapter 14

1990-1993

1990

On April 10 the four demountable classrooms were exchanged for new ones and the old ceramic bubblers were finally replaced with new ones.

A concrete pathway was installed from the Library to James Small Drive.

On August 16 the school was one of 15 schools which participated in an ADVOCATE school newspaper in schools project.

Kororo's effort was titled "The Contributor" and was prepared by students from all years.

The lead article was 'Highway noise destroys lessons', an article written by Alice Miller, Nicole Jackson and Joel Hancock, from class 6M.

The story behind this article was removal of the road bank and trees by the R.T.A., in the widening the highway to four lanes which resulted in greater traffic noise in the school, in particular the two buildings close to the fence.

Alice's article read 'the noise sounds from the highway have increased some 50% and that is in the winter months - we dread to think what will happen in summer, the highway changes are necessary but can we have something done about our rooms please.'

Anne Rogers and Aimee Corfe (6M) wrote 'the noise from the road is affecting the classes close to the road.

'At the rate it is going, the highway will soon be right in our school - it's too close.'

David Orr (6M) wrote 'bulldozers and machinery blaring, rocks and earth smashing together - just imagine all these together and traffic on the highway as well.

'Its pretty hard to concentrate while trying to do school work, let alone a test or something.'

(Since those articles were written, the RTA installed a sound proof fence, while not aesthetically pleasing, it has reduced traffic noise considerably).

Another topic 'our environment', was written by a 4C student Kim Hardaker.

'Our environment is gradually dying, we - meaning you and I should try to clean and save our environment.

'Every day sewage and other type of minerals are poured thoughtlessly into our oceans.

'It is not only affecting us, but also the fish and mammals in the ocean.'

Kim's message was a simple one - "save our environment".

Taj De Neiderhausen of 5/6C wrote about the latest book he read - the autobiography of Laurie Lee, who is a classic story teller.

Taj summarised 'I found that while reading the story, the author had a knack of getting his sentences in such order that it makes the reader become absorbed in the story and want to read more.

'Laurie Lee has, I think, a good sense of humour.

His ability to place a joke or short quip makes the story extremely enjoyable to read.'

Other 1990 activities included a Kindergarten "nursery rhymes, fairy tales theme day", day held on March 16 and a Kindergarten "smarty pants theme day" held on March 23.

On those days the kindergarten students went to school dressed in costume specially for the day.

A special Anzac ceremony assembly was held on April 24, Paul Croaker and Faith Wright led the following program :-

- The Kororo school song
- Land of Mine, sung by the school choir
- An address by Ben Milne
- The last post
- One minutes silence
- Ode to the fallen by Hayes Montgomery
- Reveille
- A prayer for peace, by Erica Rowe
- The ceremony concluded with the national anthem.



Class photo 1990 - year 3 / 5 / 6C



Class photo 1990 - year 6 M

There was a school fundraising walkathon to Hills Beach Reserve on May 17.

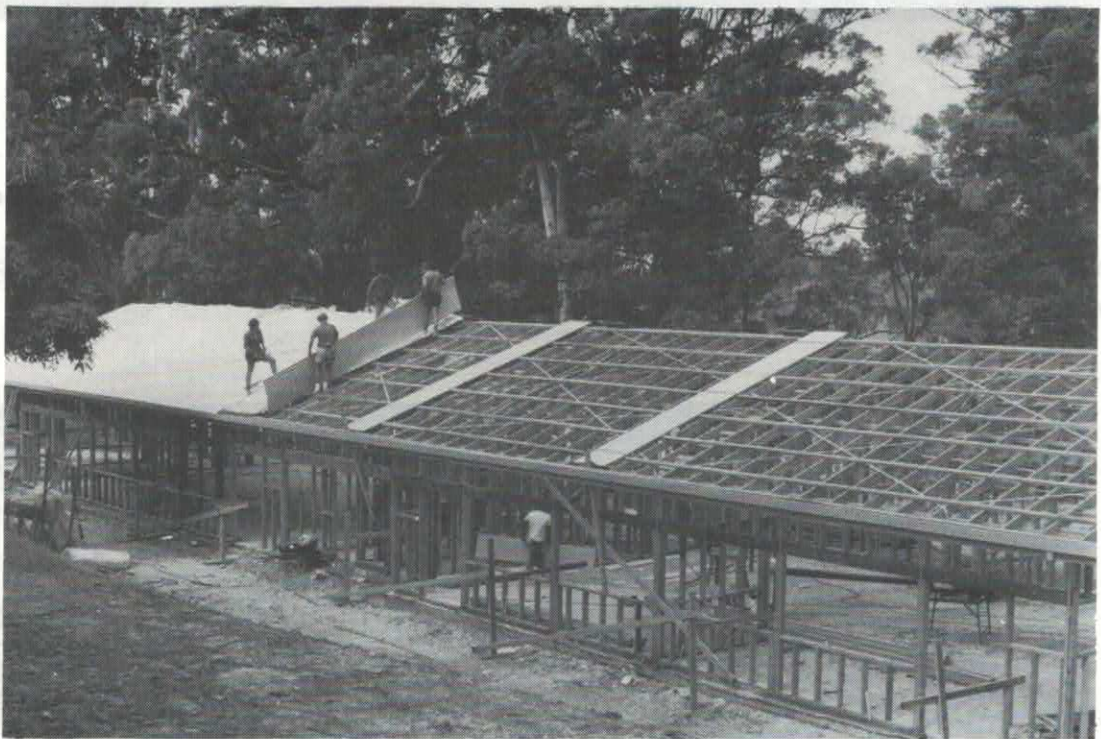
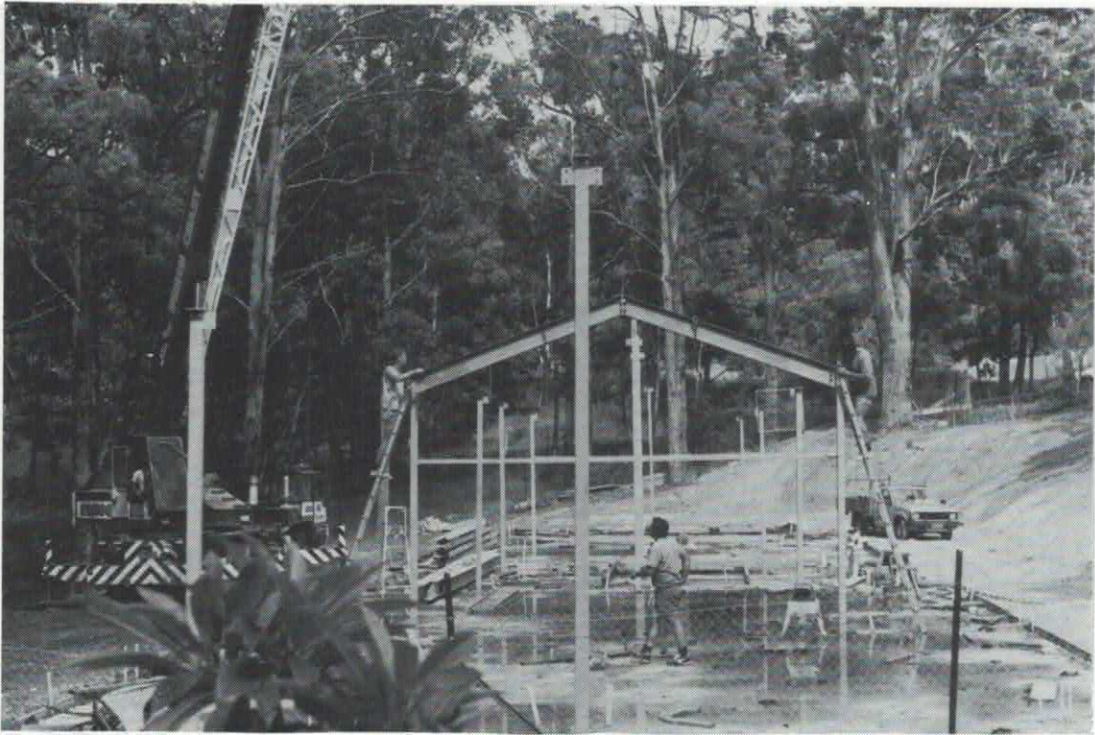
On June 14, class 3/5/6C held a cake stall to raise "flood" funds for the Nyngan Primary School.

On July 13, the school road traffic flow was reversed, with entry only being allowed from the Pacific Highway and exit to James Small Drive.

1991



The new classroom block has begun



Work started on the new four classroom block, which was located to south of the school grounds, at the James Small Drive end and the buildings were occupied mid year.

On Kindergarten's first day, television station NRTV news filmed kindergarten children settling into their first morning at school.

The new P & C held their first meeting with a wine and cheese night - to try and encourage more members to attend.



New building ready for occupation mid 1991



Recycle - reuse - students looking after the environment

The environment was not overlooked and special environment day activities were organised at the school.

The school concert was held on August 6 and 7 and each class performed an activity.

Class K/1H presented 'Snapshots' and 'The Fairy Penguin Strut', KM 'Agadoo', 1T 'Teddy Bears Picnic', 1/2P 'The Grand Old Duke of York', 'The adventures of Isabel', 3D and 3L 'Down Under' with a Dreamtime dance, aboriginal dances, strip-the-willow, and a dragon dance, 4C and 3/4/5G 'Flo meets Jo with a Yo Ho Ho', 5/6G a song medley - wouldn't it be luvverly, she'll be coming round the mountain, the cat came back, 5M 'The Perils of Sweet Dolly' and 'The Bart Man', 6C presented 'Antonio' - an Operetta,



Students dressed up in rubbish bins



Environmentally friendly students

On August 13, class 6C performed their play 'Antonio' for the Coffs Harbour Nursing Home and the Legacy Nursing Home.

On September 25, the school appealed for gardeners to help get the schools grounds in order as well as to maintain them.



FRONT ROW: (L to R) Miriam Moser, Jessica Jenkins, Samantha Hirst, Leihana Skinner, Felicity Caldwell, Krystal Tieme, Courtney Latham, Megan Linsley, Allyse Williamson
 SECOND ROW: Corey Oxenbridge, James Lawrence, Chad Banks, Anna Booth, Paul Dixon, Joel Harrigan, Rohan Hill
 THIRD ROW: Tom Williams, Tyler Corfe, Freddie Rodwell, Kieran Adams, Ben McIlwraith, Rodie Clare, Austin Goerner
 Teachers: Mr William Haynes Principal: Mrs Eleanor Newmarch
 NC03020 YEAR K1/H

Class photo 1991 - year K 1 / H



FRONT ROW: (L to R) Aimee Corfe, Amanda Bartz, Angela Moon, Kimberley Brian, Lisa Long, Sharlene Hunter, Sommer Niding, Simone Matthews, Tenile Ward
 SECOND ROW: David Gourley, Daniel Morrissey, Matthew Chiswell, Justin Adams, Peter Grace, Rohan England, Ben McAllister, Darren Cordell
 THIRD ROW: Kahu Pakinga, Leigh Monks, Zoe Rixon, Fiona Brown, Anne Rogers, Sarah Nivon, Jay Heliwig
 FOURTH ROW: Andrew Miller, Jason Burnett, Sean Bettend, Nigel Smith, Rexaul Crabb
 ABSENTEES: Michael Vagi, Rebecca Doyle
 Teachers: Ms S Chaloner Principal: Mrs Eleanor Newmarch
 NC03020 YEAR 6C

Class photo 1991 - year 6C



Kororo Volunteer Bushfire Brigade visits the school

In October, the Kororo Volunteer Bushfire Brigade came to the school, as part of Fire Awareness Week activities, giving the school a talk.

Members of the brigade also gave a fire fighting demonstration and showed their fire fighting equipment including their tanker to the students, as well as they put out a "mock fire" on top of one of the old demountable buildings.

The brigade has always worked in closely with the school and part of this long standing association was to donate \$250 from their funds towards the successful publication of this book.

The bi-annual school fete was held on November 8 and raised \$7000 towards school funding.

On November 25, the school's first school centenary meeting was held, with five staff, one current parent and one past parent attending.

With the poor attendance, doubt was cast then as to whether the parents wanted a school centenary.



Even the school principal gets into the act at the school fete

1992

Things looked brighter in early 1992 and at a packed meeting a school centenary committee was formed under the chairmanship of executive teacher Mr Jim Plunkett, also on the committee, Mr Robert Mill (book editor), Mrs Judy Farrell (treasurer), Mrs Judy Matten (secretary), Mr Michael Bowen, teacher Mr Jim Coleman, Mrs Ros Rogers (assist. treasurer), principal Mrs Eleanor Newmarch and Mrs Leonie Woodcock (P & C representative), Mr David Bowen.

The school gained a gardening water supply with a bore drilled and the volunteer teachers and gardeners were maintaining the grounds.

The school participated in the NSW milk "fresh hope for kids" campaign and 6012 milk container plastic tops or bar codes were collected, an average of nearly 17 per child.



Davina Dalton is swamped with milk labels, by Matt Williams

An "Easter Eggstravaganza Eggshibition" was held with five categories of eggciting seggestions; prettiest egg, best nest, cleverest egg, weirdest egg, funniest egg.

A bush dance (the first in many years) was held at Sawtell Reserve Hall on Saturday June 13, to raise funds for the school centenary and it was a great success.

Also in June a fundraising survey was held in the school, so the P&C and the school could plan various popular fundraising activities in the school.

The results were (in favoured order), goods for sale (93%), goods for sale - parent / Christmas gifts (90%), one ...athon per year (84%), bi-annual fete only (83%), goods for sale - pens, labels, educational (80%), one major raffle per year (77%), one waterslide per year - Feb (76%), goods for sale - other types (74%), two water slides per year - Feb and Nov (68%).



Eggstravaganza winners (l-r) Anna Scobie, Emily Swanson, Tom Hanrahan

In July the school chess club began competitive matches at Orara High School in July.

A school grounds working bee removed the covered walkway from where the old demountable classrooms had been.

The covered walkway is to be relocated at a later date at the James Small Drive exit of the school.



Year K1 / T Pirates for a day



Kororo school 1992 chess teams

On August 5, to coincide with the 1992 Olympic Games, the school held its "Kororolympics", with teacher Mr Steve Clemesha the runner with the Olympic torch.

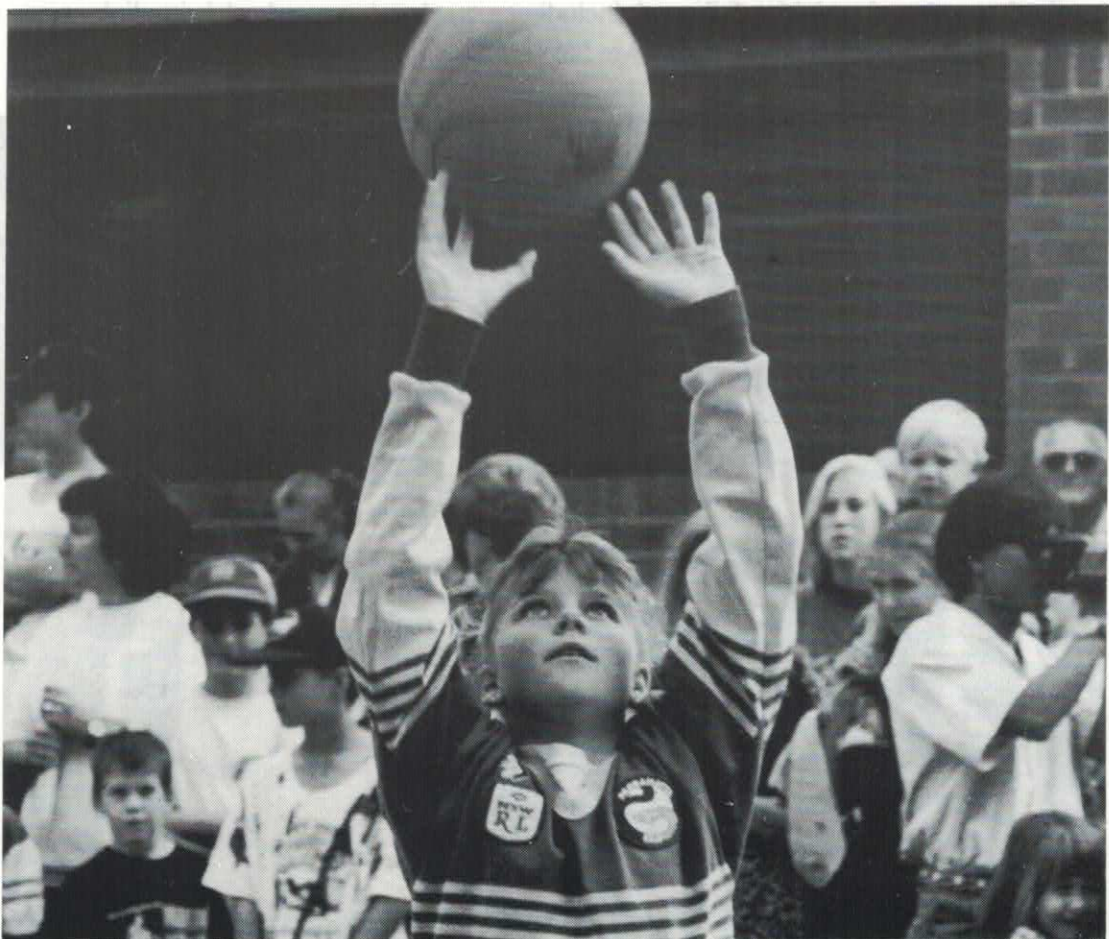
Organised games and activities followed, including a teacher / parent / celebrity dinky race, which was ultimately won by local radio personality Mr Ian Henderson.



Teacher Mr Steve Clemesha running with the Olympic flame, opening the Kororolympics



Opening ceremony at the Kororolympics, performed by year K1/T, with Adam Cross in the foreground



Jodi Trengrove showing some serious skills at the Kororolympics



Kororolympics "blanket race", with Tom Williams being carried across the winning line by (b-row l-r) Jennifer Riddell, Rowan Lavis, (f-row l-r) Samantha Hirst and Paul Dixon.



Kororolympics "dinky race" competitors- centenary book editor Mr Robert Mill, teacher Mrs Bev Tristram and ultimate winner radio station 2CS personality Mr Ian Henderson at the completion of their event



It's a Knock Out, Jane Harrigan (left) and Rebecca Hardacre (right) holding the face board, while Melissa Hoy waits for a wet sponge.



Tamara Jarvis does a good job of balancing



Class photo 1992 - year 3BP



Class photo 1992 - year 6M

As part of Education Week, the school organised a games afternoon for the students called "Its a Knockout", with activities including the greasy chook, gum boot throwing, 'fat lady' (putting your head through a hole and having a wet sponge thrown at you) and other fun type activities.



Year K/IT's a Cats and Rats Day



Year K1/T's Butterfly Ball, with Chris Henry and Cody Robertson, behind their masks



K M's Nursery Rhymes and fairytales day

During the year the kindergarten classes participated in special activities, including; a "pirates day", an "Aussie day", a "cats and rats day", a "butterfly ball" and a "nursery rhymes and fairytales day".

Year 6 students organised a bewitching "Halloween day" at the school on October 29, where all students were asked to come to school dressed up in Halloween clothes.

On November 23, the first meeting of the inaugural school council took place.

The school council members elected were as follows :- president Dr Ian Martyn, secretary Mr Paul Griffin, executive member Mrs Eleanor Newmarch, president of the P&C Mrs Leonie Woodcock, Mrs Sylvia De Niederhausen, Mrs Helen Swanson, Mrs Paula Lever.



Halloween

Another School Comes Visiting

On November 16 the school was visited by Byrock Primary School students; the following item appeared in the *ADVOCATE* newspaper on Thursday 26.

Kororo Primary Schools class numbers increased by six last week when the school was visited by six out of the eight students who attend the one teacher Byrock Primary School, located 76km south of Bourke, in the western region of NSW.

The visit was organised by the Byrock school principal Miss Belinda Campbell, who as a student teacher taught at Kororo School in 1987.

The Byrock students, who are aged from five to 12 joined the Kororo school students in their classes for normal school activities.

The visit also gave Kororo School students an opportunity to find out what it was like "way out west".

'Schooling in Byrock is vastly different to the Kororo', Miss Campbell said.



Byrock Primary School students visiting Kororo school

‘Many children, in the west, particularly those on remote properties are unable to attend school and the “school of the air” is their sole schooling.

‘We also have access to “school of the air”, in the classroom, enabling the primary school students a chance to find out what others in their own age are doing.

‘Byrock has no High School and the two year six students who leave Byrock Primary school at the end of this year will be educated differently to the Kororo students, who just catch a different bus to the high school.

‘One of my students will have to go to boarding school in Armidale and the other, become a correspondence school student, doing some of her classwork back at Byrock school.’

'Hooked on Drama' - Teacher Wins Special Award





Teacher Ms Sue Chaloner was interviewed by the ADVOCATE newspaper on Thursday May 7 1992.

Ms Sue Chaloner, or “Ms Drama”, as the children at the school call her, confessed she was “drama mad”.

Ms Chaloner said she discovered drama in 1974, when she started teaching, though she had always been a mimic and drama was a natural path for her to follow.

Two years after that she came to Kororo Primary School to teach and has remained there since, living on the Northern beaches.

Ms Chaloner said she used her type of drama as a vehicle for teaching the skills for life today that she believed children and adults needed, to have to be able to handle the pace of today.

‘The most important thing to me in drama is the personal development emphasis, rather than the developed talent.

‘The type of drama I teach involves the skills needed in everyday life to develop entrepreneurial skills; so that students can become window dressers, or work at McDonalds when they are sixteen, to get a newspaper delivery job when they are 10; skills like looking at someone, shaking their hands, “eye balling” them and presenting themselves.

‘All drama I teach is in groups of mixed sexes.

In November of that year Ms Chaloner was awarded an award for excellence in teaching.



Kororo Primary School year six students Rebecca Hardacre, left, and brother Robert, plant one of 100 trees presented to the school for next year's centenary watched by Rebecca Sippel, left, Pam Scobie, Christina Bunting, Ashley Trengove, Mark Piatfi, Kim Edwards, Luke Moriarty and Katherine Cheeseman.

Students give native trees as centenary gift to school

Kororo Primary School year six students gave 100 native trees as a centenary gift to the school.

The students spent most of their last week at the school

planting and staking the trees.

Their gift will ensure the children in the school for years to come will have more shaded areas to play, as well as provid-

ing a special thankyou moment to their school.

All the children have been invited back to their old school on Centenary Day, September 25, 1993, to join in the celebrations.

Kororo year six students in their farewell to the school, in 1992 planted 100 trees to mark their farewell to the school they loved. Planting a tree near the assembly area are Rebecca and Robert Hardacre, watched some fellow year six students



Principal meets principal. Newly appointed principal Mr Will Randall visited the school in November 1992, seen here having a chat over coffee with retiring principal Mrs Eleanor Newmarch

1993

The year began with a new principal Mr Will Randall, who replaced Mrs Eleanor Newmarch who retired just before school resumed.

In an interview with The Advocate newspaper, Mr Randall said 'I look forward to the challenge of his first year at the school, particularly when it is the school's centenary year.'

Mr Randall, 37, who is married with four sons aged between three and 13 came to Kororo school from Calare Primary School in Orange, where he had been (non-teaching) deputy principal for the past two years and prior that he taught at schools in Orange, Balranald and Campbelltown.

He is keen on sport of all types, particularly football and cricket; already he has been elected president of the Bucca Cricket Club.

Mr Randall, when interviewed said that although it was only his third week at Kororo Primary, he already recognised the school had some fine "assets" in its staff.

'The school staff and the school's community and especially the students are the real areas of excellence in this school', Mr Randall said.

'All is needed now is a little time to allow the settling in process to happen, then we will be have a great team here.

'One thing for certain, I will not be running this school as a one man band; everyone should contribute.

'I feel the staff here have many special talents and skills and it is with allowing these skills and talents to be developed further, that Kororo school will go ahead, for the students and the community.

'School is a bit like one large football team; at the moment we have just completed registrations and the team is about to form, given a few months on the field, the team will be playing well - **'running with the ball'** and scoring some really great tries.

'One of my main goals for the school this year will be to get more parents involved with the school.

'There are already a small number of parents who are putting in as nearly as much time at the school as their children.




Staff photo 1993

'The school is a community and I want to see more parents to become more involved in their community - their children's school.

'I want to get the staff and the parent bodies together, as soon as I can so they can tell me what they want for their school - what areas require a higher profile, so that goals can be set right from the beginning.'

It was announced on Tuesday March 23, by the member for Coff's Harbour Mr Andrew Fraser that Kororo school would "finally" receive its second promised double classroom block in the 1993/1994 state budget year, which would ultimately see the removal of two of the demountable classrooms.



KORORO
PUBLIC SCHOOL
CENTENARY YEAR
1993
SCHOOL COUNCIL

Student Council 1993



Class photo 1993 - Kinder KM



Class photo 1993 - year K/1M



Class photo 1993 - year 1T



Class photo 1993 - year 2C



Class photo 1993 - year 2/3C



Class photo 1993 - year 3BR



Class photo 1993 - year 3/4P



Class photo 1993 - year 4L



Class photo 1993 - year 5C



Class photo 1993 - year 5/6M



Class photo 1993 - year 5/6C



Class photo 1993 - year 5/6H

The year of the school centenary
(Official celebrations held Saturday September 25).



Principal Mr Will Randall 'running with the ball' with year some year six students

Chapter 15

A School Identity of the Past Three Decades is recognised for his work at the school

David Bowen, or Mr "B" as he was more affectionately known as has enjoyed a long and healthy relationship with Kororo Primary School.

In the sixties and seventies his five children all attended the school and it was through this he became heavily involved within the school, firstly with the P & C, as their publicity officer, then for a number of years on the school staff, as a cleaner.

As P & C publicity officer, he was responsible for producing the school newsletters (now prepared by the school), as well as the more onerous task of fundraising through many organised family fetes, barbeques and fun nights.

David was later made a life member of the P & C, in recognition of his work.

He later joined the school staff, as cleaner and remained in this position until he resigned in 1991 so as to help his sons with their earthmoving business.



Mr David Bowen with two student council representatives sampling pancakes on Pancake Day 1993 (l-r) Joshua Sames and Shelley Brauer

But it was not his P & C work, or his school cleaning skills that was best known.

It was all the other things he did, such as being a friendly Mr “B”, a sort of a Mr Fixit for everything and anything that needed to be done in the school.

He was once described as a friend to the school and its’ students.

He was a “friend” to all the children and is still well remembered by many for his kindness and attention.

When someone fell over in the playground they nearly always came to him for help, if they forgot their canteen money, Mr “B” was there to ensure they did not go hungry.

As a friend of the school he was always there with a way out of a problem, a predicament or just another one of many fundraising drives.

One of the teachers who has enjoyed a long and happy association with Mr “B” said he was everyone’s friend.

‘He just knew everyone and knew how to get things done; if he didn’t, he would find out and quickly.

‘David motivated people, his enthusiasm was contagious and drove others to the cause, whatever it was at the time.

‘He always had a smile and something to laugh about; even when things looked grim, David could find something positive to look forward to, or find a way to turn adversity around.

‘David never did things for fame, fortune, or because it was in his job description - he did them because of the love in his heart for the kids.

‘Nothing was ever too much trouble for the kids.

‘Many students, who have long left Kororo school still affectionately remember Mr “B”, as “their best big friend at school”, for there were few who did not need some sort of help from him, at one time or another.

‘Parents too admired David’s skills for getting things done - whether it be organising a group of families to bake cakes for the canteen, working in the canteen, organising a fete, or fun day, or taking care of a child after school, because their mum was late.

‘He was always there.’

In preparation of this Centenary Book, David was the one who “scouted” nearly all the old students he could, for interviews or notes.

Now in this centenary year, David is already helping with promotional plans for the centenary as well as helping with planning food on the centenary day (something at which David is well experienced).

But on the Centenary day, it will not be David sitting up on the stage with all the official guests, he is too modest for that, it will be Mr “B”, making sure everyone has a seat for the ceremony, or knowing where everything is and what is going on, just like he always has done.

Chapter 16

Ryans Bus Service

Ryans Bus Service this year will celebrate 50 years of providing passenger transport from Woolgoolga to Coffs Harbour and in particular to the students attending Kororo School, which is the basis of their nine bus fleet.

The family bus service is operated today by the grand daughter of the founder Mrs Jenny Tooth, with her husband Sam and their daughter Naomi, continuing a tradition which began half way through Kororo School's century.

The Ryan family (bus service) first became associated with Kororo School in 1943, when Mr Victor Ryan purchased the Macfarlane's mail run, which used to deliver to the school.

The mail run purchase included a 10 seater Impala coach, for the transportation of passengers, as well as mail and freight.

In 1944 Victor's son Reg purchased the mail run service from his father and later in that year Reg's brother Cecil joined the company, forming the Ryan Brothers Coach Service.

Later in that same year a second hand 1936 "Reo" bus was purchased and on its first run it carried 20 students on the service from Woolgoolga to Coffs Harbour, stopping to let of students at Kororo School.

A further two Reo buses were added in 1945 and 1946, with the last one finally going out of service in 1971.

In the post war years only two gallons of petrol was allocated per day for buses, so they had to be operated by "producer gas".



Ryans first bus

The buses needed two bags of charcoal per day to cover the eighty miles they travelled and they required stoking every half hour.

The familiar "Bananalander" name came about in 1964, when Ryans purchased their first Bedford bus.

To mark the occasion, it was decided to hold a competition to find a suitable name for all the buses.

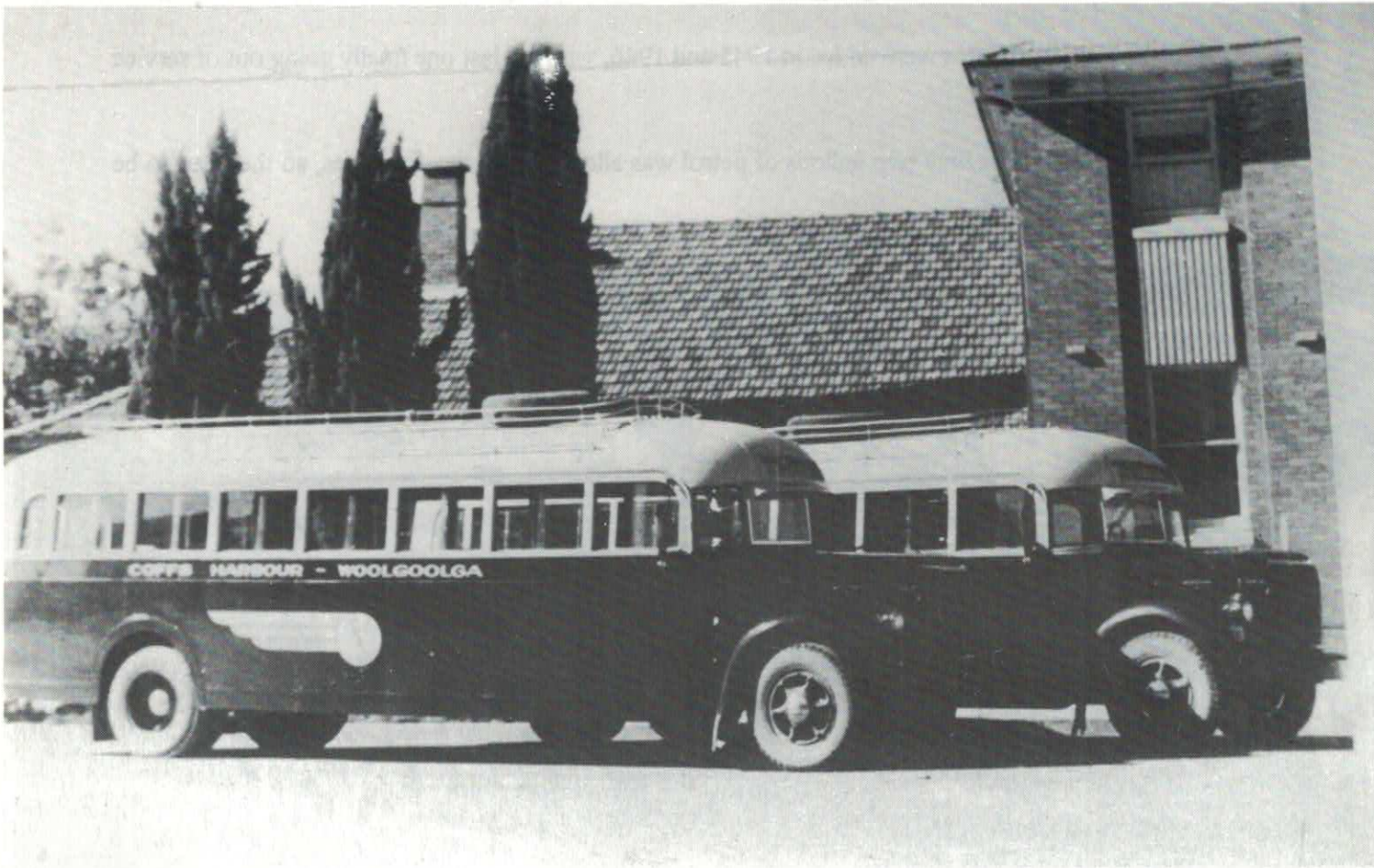
Moonee student Ken Powell won the competition, with his idea of naming all buses "Bananalander", then a number, so the "new" bus was named "Bananalander 1"

In April this year "Bananalander 11" joined the fleet.

The Ryans Bus service today covers basically the same route from Woolgoolga to Coffs Harbour, but now extended to go via Sandy Beach and Moonee Beach.

A number of special school buses also operate along the route, with the last pick up being at Diggers Headland.

Kororo School is one of the services main drop off points and it is used as the service's "bus interchange", for students going further into Coffs Harbour's high schools and private schools.



Ryans first Reo buses built in the thirties and used in the forties



Ryans old 'Reo' in a shady retirement at Halfway Creek



Bananalander one, all buses were named Bananalander after a competition in 1964 was held to find names for the buses

Chapter 17

Some old school recipes

In this chapter are a small selection of favourite recipes from school newsletters of the eighties and the school newsletters of the day as well as a book titled 'The Banana Book, which was produced by the school's P & C Association and prepared by Mrs Enevoldson and Mrs Norma Anderson.

Two thousand copies of this book were sold and a second print run was arranged, with copies being sold by the Coffs Harbour tourist Authority.

On November 20 1984, a recipe appeared in the School Newsletter, for a :-

Sunny Fruit Loaf :-

Ingredients :-

1/4 cup Sunflower Seeds, 1 1/2 cups of Crushed Weetbix/ Vitabrits, 3/4 cups dried apricots - chopped, 1/3 cup honey, 1 1/4 cups of milk, 1/2 teaspoon of Vanilla, 1 1/2 cups wholemeal S.R. Flour
Soak Weetbix to vanilla for at least two hours, then stir in wholemeal flour, then press into loaf tin.

Press sunflower seeds on top and bake at 340 degrees, for 40 mins to 1 hour.

On October 21, a sweets recipe appeared in the School Newsletter for :-

Peanut Brittle :-

Ingredients :- 2 cups of sugar, 5 ozs water, 1 teaspoon of liquid glucose, 1/2 teaspoon of Cream of Tartar, 1 desert spoon of butter, 1 cup of nuts.

Place sugar and water in heavy based saucepan and stir till dissolved, then add cream of tartar and glucose.

Boil till crack stage is reached, when tested in cold water at 154 degrees centigrade.

Do not stir after the mixture boils.

Remove from heat, add butter and nuts, mix well, pour into a greased tin.

Recipes from the Kororo P & C 's book:-

'The Banana Book',

Extra Special Banana Cream Pie (by Helen Psaltis)

The book quoted this recipe as 'typical of Greek cooks, this lady never weighed or measured anything, however this pie is delicious, so good luck'.

Ingredients :-

1 cup of self raising flour, 1/3rd cup of milk, 3oz of butter or margarine.

Rub together the flour and butter, add milk and knead on floured board.

Roll out thinly and line the greased pie dish, trim edges.

Filling :- 6 - 8 cups of very ripe bananas, juice of 1 small lemon, 10 teaspoons of sugar, 3 eggs, 1/2 pint cream, 1 teaspoon of vanilla.

Cut bananas into 1/4 inch slices, sprinkle with lemon.

Place 1 layer of bananas onto pastry, sprinkle over 1 teaspoon of sugar and repeat for four layers.

Beat cream with vanilla, add three egg yolks and one teaspoon of sugar until thick.

Pour over bananas and bake in a moderate to hot oven for 20 minutes.

Beat the three egg whites with 6 teaspoons of sugar until stiff.

Spoon over partly cooked pie, return to low oven until meringue sets.

Cut when cold.

Banana Cream Cake (by :- N Anderson)

Ingredients :-

4 ozs butter, 2 eggs, 2 cups self raising flour, 2 tablespoons milk, 1 cup of sugar, 3 bananas, 1 level teaspoon of baking soda, 1 teaspoon of vanilla.

Cream butter and sugar well, add eggs, one at a time, beating well.

Add mashed bananas and vanilla.

Dissolve soda in milk, add alternatively with flour to creamed mixture.

Turn into two greased sandwich tins and bake in a moderate oven for about 25 minutes, then cool and fill with mock cream and top with lemon icing.

(This cake is good cooked in a ring tin).

Icing: Sift 1 1/2 cups of icing sugar into a basin, add juice of a small lemon and a teaspoon of soft butter and mix well.

Wholemeal Banana Bread (by :- N Anderson)

Ingredients :

4 ozs butter or substitute, 3/4 cup raw sugar, 1 egg, 1 cup wholemeal plain flour (stone ground), 3/4 teaspoon sea salt, 1 1/4 cups mashed bananas (2 large or 3 small), 1/4 cup buttermilk or yoghurt.

Cream butter and sugar together until very light and creamy.

Add egg and beat well.

Combine bananas and buttermilk, stirring just enough to mix.

Add sifted flour and salt alternatively with banana mixture to creamed butter mixture, stirring just enough to combine well.

Turn into greased 9 inch by 6 inch loaf tin.

Bake in a moderate oven for 50 minutes or until cooked.

Cool in a tin for 10 minutes, then remove from the tin and finish cooling on wire rack.

Kororo Delight

(A refrigerated dish)

Ingredients :

2 ozs copha, 1/2lb coconut, 2 eggs whites, 2 ozs lemon peel, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 3/4lb icing sugar, 1/2 cup dried skimmed milk, 4 ozs chopped and dried bananas, 3 ozs chopped walnut or cashew pieces.

Mix dry ingredients, add melted copha, slightly beaten egg whites and flavouring.

Press into a dish, put into a refrigerator until set, cut into pieces.

Dried Banana Fruit Cake (Em Hamey)

Curry Sauce

Ingredients:

1 each onion, apple, banana, 1 dessert spoon of fat, 1 dessert spoon of flour, 1 tablespoon of curry powder, 1 teaspoon coconut, 1 cup water, stock or milk, lemon juice, salt, 2 teaspoons sugar, chutney.

Peel onion and apple.

Cut and dice, banana into rounds.

Melt fat, add vegetable and fruit, fry for a few minutes.

Add flour and powder, mix in well.

Add liquid, stir until it boils and thickens.

Add salt, lemon juice, coconut, sugar and chutney.

Simmer for about 20 minutes (sauce to be strained).

(The sauce is best made with milk for fish, prawns or lobster).

Banana Cooler

Ingredients :-

2 ice cubes, 2 teaspoons icing sugar, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 1/2 pint pineapple juice, 1 small ripe banana.

Bang ice cubes so they are roughly broken.

Put 2 broken ice cubes, with icing sugar, pineapple, lemon juice and chopped banana into a blender.

Blend well for about 1 minute or until smooth.

Add remaining ice cubes and blend again.

Pour into glasses

(serves 2)

Banana Daiquiri Cocktail

(Number 1)

In the container of a blender put:-

3 ozs white rum, 1 ripe sliced banana, a dash of maraschino liqueur, 2 tablespoons lemon juice and add sugar to taste.

Half fill the container with shaved ice - blend the drink until frothy.

Pour into 2 glasses and garnish with a cherry.

(Number 2)

Mix one banana (peeled and chopped) with a tablespoon of pour orange juice in an electric blender or rotary beater bowl.

Add 3 tablespoons of rm and serve in a chilled glass with cracked dice.

Chapter 18

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