



# PATHWAYS AND RECOLLECTIONS

ST CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, WISHART, BRISBANE

1973 – 2023  
Golden Jubilee





**St Catherine's Catholic Primary School,  
388 Newnham Road, Wishart**

## **PATHWAYS AND RECOLLECTIONS**

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### **Front Cover photos:**

- Looking to Kaggar Mabul which was the 'high mount to larboard' John Oxley noted in 1823, as photographed from Grenfell St, Mt Gravatt East
- Looking to Meanjin from Kaggar Mabul
- The German Bridge Hotel (1880), formerly on Logan Road, Holland Park, just south of Murton Avenue.
- The Klumpp family home (before 1914), probably on what became Klumpp Road.
- The vehicle of George Chester (fruit hawker and 'Banana Case Baron') whose farm was at Upper Coomera
- Mr Moore's 'Plasterer's Garage' which became the Mass Centre at 388 Newnham Road, Wishart
- Sr Margaret Conway and her Year 2A class in 1973, St Catherine's foundation year
- The 1986 Staff with Principal, Mrs Bev Tronc, the first Lay Principal of St Catherine's and the first married lay woman to become a Principal within Brisbane Catholic Education
- Children in the early years learning Dance through the company, *Dance Fever*
- Students walking out onto 'Cove Lane' about 2019.
- The St Catherine's Covenant, first articulated by the Parish School Board in 2008 and renewed in 2023
- Students working with their digital devices in the breakout space outside their classroom, about 2022

### **Acknowledgements:**

Many people have helped with the research and composition of this text. This history is important for our appreciation of the blessings received both in the past and ongoing today, and for each person's and the community's renewal in commitment to doing the best that can be done in the future with what is at their disposal. In 1891, Mary MacKillop wrote, 'Leave the rest to God.'

### **Sincere thanks to:**

Mr Nik Seow, Mr Paul Mitchell, Mrs Maureen Hunter, Mrs Karen Jeffrey, Mrs Jacinta Watson, Mrs Jane Holland, Mrs Helen O'Conner, Mrs Anne Kelly, Sr Margaret Conway P.B.V.M., Sr Marion Kingston P.B.V.M., Sr Merle Hodge P.B.V.M., Ms Denise Ryan, Mrs Christine Coman, Mrs Margaret Begg, Mrs Bev Tronc, Mr Michael Byrnes, Mrs Rae Hurrell, Mrs Amanda Sheridan, Dr Annette Duffy, Mr Peter Shaw, Mr Paul Drewniak, Mrs Helen Brittain, Mrs Helen Camden, Mrs Paula Carroll, Ms Beth Carroll, Mrs Maria Mead, Ms Helen Boevink, Mr Paul Leeson, Mrs Marie Ffrench, Mr Tom Mills, Dr Hilda Maclean (Local Heritage Specialist, Logan Central Library), Dr Mayrah Dreise (Senior Manager, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Brisbane Catholic Education), Mrs Kaye Nardella (Senior Curator, Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Brisbane), Archdiocese of Brisbane Archives, Queensland State Archives

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### **Disclaimer:**

While every effort has been made to verify information, St Catherine's School accepts no liability for any omissions or incorrect details.

# ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL PRAYER

*Loving God,*

*Jesus teaches us to love and serve.*

Bless everyone in St Catherine's Community.

Lead us to understand and care for one another.

**Inspire us to use our talents and our learning  
to help people and our world.**

**Holy Spirit, guide us in our choices and bless our families with peace.**

Mary, the mother of Jesus: pray for us.

Catherine Labouré: pray for us.

Nano Nagle: pray for us.

Mary MacKillop: pray for us.

*We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

St Catherine's School, Wishart

Let us open our hearts and minds to acknowledge the traditional owners of this magnificent land, the Yuggera people.

They had gathered near the slopes of Kaggar Mabul for learning and ceremony for tens of thousands of years.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians and their descendants who maintain their spiritual connection and traditions.

We thank them for sharing their culture, spirituality and way of living with the land in this place we all now call home.

Let us not forget the millions of footprints that have travelled the Dreaming pathways and our own loved ones who have gone before us.

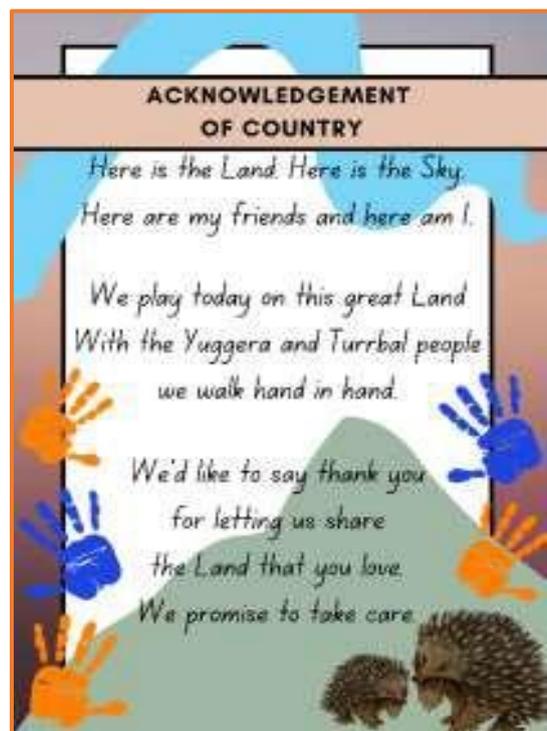
May we continue to walk gently together in reconciliation and peace as we move forward, united in spirit, united in God's love and united as one community to create change for a better Australia.

We acknowledge their elders past, present and emerging.

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers should be aware that this document contains names of people who have passed away.*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

THE CHILDREN  
OF  
ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL,



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Love and serve!

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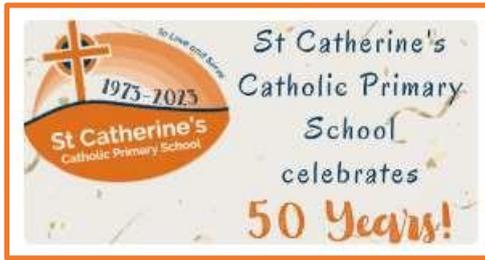
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## INTRODUCTION



The skeleton of a School's history may be thought of as the sequence of relevant dates, names and events. However, this account of the emergence and history of St Catherine's School, Wishart, hopes to enliven the dates, names and events in answer to two key questions.

Firstly, from pre-colonial times, how and why did this place which we today call Wishart come to be and to develop? Secondly, what have been the initiatives and responses of the founders of St Catherine's School, and of their successors - leaders, staff, parents, students and the parish community - 1973 – 2023 - in their circumstances to create and sustain a learning community imbued with faith and goodness, even in the face of all that has been thrust upon them? Between the lines of their endeavours, we may trace the continual efforts of many to recontextualize the purpose and spirit of St Catherine's School amid the changing ecclesial, educational, administrative, societal, cultural, technological, environmental and urban contexts and processes. May the Community look into this text as though into a mirror. Future research may shine a light on what is perceived here partially or dimly. May what is missing be included. May what is contested be resolved and may more profound understandings be elaborated.

## THE DEVELOPING CULTURE OF ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

This 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee is timely for remembering the vision, values and commitment it would have taken to found and establish St Catherine's School. Let us recognise how St Catherine's was founded upon the zeal of the Presentation Sisters, and the goodness of both the staff and the parent community, despite the lack of material resources and the infancy of the systemic leadership and supportive structures of Brisbane Catholic Education at that time.

Since its foundation, St Catherine's School community has thrived on:

- the goodness and needs of the children – growing and changing, and enjoying their childhood;
- the vision, spirituality, generosity, courage and professional commitment of the Presentation Sisters from the beginning - leading, teaching and connecting with the Community;
- the ongoing valuing and re-contextualising of the charism of Nano Nagle throughout the decades;
- the goodness and responsiveness, professionalism and initiative of the staff throughout 50 years;
- the consistent and astonishing support of the parent body,  
with the hard-working Parents and Friends Committees throughout the 50 years facilitating:
  - the implementation of the Vision;
  - the acquisition of resources to support the children and the staff;
  - the cultivation of the community life for the good of parents and children;
  - the maintenance of the property;
  - the development of wonderful facilities; and
  - their effective and professional co-operation with the School Administrators, the Parish Priest and Parish Community, and other relevant administrative, legal and financial entities;

- the inspiring support of families for one another, each with their own share of challenges, yet ready to share material and practical support when needed, personal care for one another's children/families, partnering one another in contributing to the Community and sheer enjoyment of one another (African proverb: 'It takes a village to raise a child!');
- the care of the priests and parishioners spiritually, in friendship and with material support, including the local Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society whose support was vital for families in need;
- the intent, generosity and resourcefulness of so many other people who have helped promote the School's purpose and spirit;
- the vital leadership and support of Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) throughout the years of its own development;
- the key support and challenges of the Federal and State Governments, and of Brisbane City Council; and
- finally but crucially, the diverse gifts with which the Principals, in their critical role, have held St Catherine's together and moved it forward with vision, values and commitment supporting staff, children and families every year.

In 2004, the newly-formed Parish School Board used the term 'Covenant', taken from the Biblical context, to articulate the School Community's Vision, Values and Commitment. The Community's Covenant aimed to celebrate all that had gone before in the first 30 years of St Catherine's School and to provide directions for the future. The School Community envisioned itself as a Catholic Christian learning community called to nourish each 'Individual's Potential' through 'Living Faith, Quality Relationships, Global Stewardship and the Power of Hope'. It named Values to describe the character it wished to cultivate to guide its living out its Vision. It also committed itself to processes through which the Community would strive to achieve its Vision.

The meaning of this Covenant was held in such regard that students, led by Information Technology teacher, Maria Mead, developed a 70 minute DVD portraying what the School and its history meant to many. It is highly significant that for the Community in 2023, the Covenant's Vision, Values and Commitments is still a life-giving guide for its purpose and spirit.

Changing leadership and operational processes can be traced throughout the decades. However, a great strength in St Catherine's culture has been the spirit of community, faith and goodness in every era. Past students have reported the happiness and humour they experienced. Past parents and staff have remembered how people worked generously together and supported one another as families becoming life-long friends. School administrators and parents with responsibilities remember the initiatives, collaboration and hard work even through difficulties and the fruit borne of the efforts of many which was to be enjoyed for generations yet to come. All remember a strong bond of belonging and care for one another.

## KEY HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES SHAPING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS URBAN REGION AND ULTIMATELY ST CATHERINE'S

St Catherine's developed in response to the immediate needs and hopes of the Catholic Community which developed in this suburb which had expanded rapidly, particularly in the 1960s. However, this place we call Wishart has a long multifaceted history which the Community can draw upon for understanding, inspiration and enrichment as part of its identity, and for the good of all both within and beyond its Community.

Firstly, this land was never 'terra nullius'. Prior to 1825 when the Moreton Bay Penal Colony was established, the peoples of the Yuggera (Jagera) and Turrbul Language Groups were the custodians of this land.

Secondly, it was the British who colonized New South Wales but it could have been the French who arrived at Botany Bay in January 1788, almost simultaneously with the arrival of the First Fleet. Governor Phillip placed lookouts near the entrance to Port Jackson and fortifications at the entrance to Sydney Cove. As a result, the Colony of New South Wales and then the Colony and, later, State of Queensland, including St Catherine's School, Wishart, inherited British, not French, institutions and culture.

Thirdly, the establishment of the Moreton Bay Penal Colony (1824 -1842), on the site which the traditional Turrbal people called 'Meanjin', became, in later eras, the site of the Central Business District (CBD) of Brisbane. Prior to 1824, Aboriginal clans from Yugambah Country (between the Logan and Tweed Rivers) and from other lands further south had created trails from their lands north to Meanjin and beyond to the Bunya Mountains. These trails were of vital significance for development after 1842.

Fourthly, through immigration, the expansion of agricultural interests and the actions of the colonial authorities throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Aboriginal clans were displaced from their traditional lands, including ceremonial and food-gathering lands such as those in Holland Park and Mt Gravatt. After the establishment of the State of Queensland in 1859, the administration of Indigenous affairs was transferred to the Colonial Secretary's Office for Queensland and then from 1896 to the Home Secretary's Office. One of the more infamous pieces of legislation introduced by the Queensland authorities was the *Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act 1897* (Qld). This Act created the position of 'Protector' of Aboriginal people, and in 1904, the Office of the Chief Protector of Aboriginals. Through the decisions taken through this Office, the civil rights of all Aboriginal persons were severely limited and highly regulated, causing great suffering.

Fifthly, following 1842, free settlers used and developed further trails developed by Aboriginal peoples calling them by the names of known colonials - 'Slacks Track' and later, 'Logan Road'. It has been suggested that these roads were more significant as a catalyst for the development of this urban region than any agricultural or industrial enterprise. Who, at that time, could have predicted the later development of the M3 and M1 and how these 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century 'trails' would enhance the suitability of Wishart as a place for people in which to reside?

Key moments can be identified in the expansion of these southern suburbs which led to the development of Wishart and the establishment of St Catherine's School. They include:

- World War I (1914 – 1918) and the Soldier Settlement farmland grants in or near Mt Gravatt in the 1920s;
- the commitment of James Duhig as Bishop of Brisbane (1912 – 1917) and as Archbishop (1917 – 1965) to develop close contact between clergy and people, and the people's easy access to church, school and charitable institutions in a time when car ownership was limited;
- the need of the 'baby-booming' families of returned servicemen and others for housing as part of the restoration of society in the post-World War II era – and with it, the development of housing estates, roads, schools, shopping centres, places of worship and public transport including the trams;
- the establishment of St Agnes Parish, Mt Gravatt in 1950 which, over time, developed 13 Mass Centres from Mt Gravatt to Woodridge including the plasterer's hut in Mt Gravatt South used as a Mass Centre from 1957 to 1959, and the original St Catherine's Church in 1960;
- the establishment of St Catherine's Parish in 1969; and then
- the years up to 1973 when St Catherine's School was founded.

Since 1973, the rate of change in all aspects of life associated with the growth of the suburb of Wishart and the development of St Catherine's Parish and School Community has not abated.

## THE PATHWAY TO WISHART AND TO ST CATHERINE'S

### THIS LOCAL AREA IN THE PRE-COLONIZATION PERIOD

St Catherine's School Community developed on land which Aboriginal people related to in terms of their ancestral beings which informed their custodianship - the land 'owned' them – and their spirituality, identity, law, relationships, knowledge and skills.

#### The People

The Draft Design Report for the Brisbane Metro Cross River Rail Project (2018) concerning the Aboriginal Heritage of the Brisbane Moreton Bay area identifies North Stradbroke Island as having been inhabited by Aboriginal people for at least 21 500 years. Other sites were identified formally as having been inhabited between 3 000 to 10 000 years. These include Bribie Island, Sandstone Point and places near Brisbane Airport. The study stated that Greater Brisbane area is probably far older than these dates suggest. Perhaps earlier evidence was destroyed by the changing coastal and sub-coastal environment, coupled with rapid urban expansion. In addition, there are no dated Aboriginal archaeological sites within the Greater Brisbane area. In the 1820s, when the first British colonists arrived in Brisbane, they discovered a landscape of wooded ridges and plentiful water sources. ([Microsoft Word - 15. Aboriginal Heritage\\_DDR\\_Draft 10 \(brisbane.qld.gov.au\)](#))

The Brisbane History Group estimated that, prior to colonisation, at least 5 000 people with many more in the region, lived in the Brisbane area. Perhaps 700 to 1 000 regularly resided in what we now call the southern suburbs of Brisbane. Yet in the early 1840s, Johann Handt, one of the first missionaries in

Queensland, confirmed that the owing to racial conflict, disease and displacement, the Aboriginal population had declined to about 1 500 persons within 50 miles of Brisbane. In the 2021 Census, only 135 people or 1.2% of Wishart's population identified as Indigenous. ([First Australians and Original Landscape | Mapping Brisbane History](#))

The Brisbane metropolitan area is the home of the peoples of the Yuggera Language Group. In a general way, they can be described as: the Turrbal people mainly north of the river; the Yuggera (Jagera) people, including the Coorparoo Clan, south of the river and west to Ipswich; and the Ugarapul people west from Ipswich to Maroon and to the Great Dividing Range. Significant also are the territories and waters of the Quandamooka saltwater peoples including Minjerribah, commonly known as Stradbroke Island and Mulgumpin, commonly known as Moreton Island. The Yugambah clans inhabited the territory between the Logan and Tweed Rivers.

The nature of Aboriginal society (with its clan, language, totemic, class, kinship networks and subdivisions – each with its own boundaries and obligations) meant that the association of Indigenous groups throughout Brisbane's southside was complex. It is possible to identify some language, significant landforms, the locations of some settlements and some lifestyle practices.

### Indigenous Place Names

The Turrbal people used a word from the Turrbal language 'Meanjin' (meaning 'a spike' or 'a spear') which they applied to the finger of land presently occupied by Brisbane's Botanical Gardens. Perhaps, Aboriginal clans had different words for different reaches of what today is called the Brisbane River. The Turrbal people used a word from the Somerset region 'Maiwar' – meaning 'a breeding ground for the platypus' – for the reach of the river flowing by Meanjin.

'Kaggar Mabul' is the major landform to the south of Meanjin. 'Kaggar Mabul' means 'the place where the echidna rests'. This landform was an important geographical marker and was heavily timbered, particularly with mahogany. Numerous small creeks flowed down the mountain including Mimosa Creek, as we call it today, into larger creeks or swamps at the foot of the mountain. It was a rich deposit of resources for Aboriginal peoples. People from mobs south of Kaggar Mabul, even as far south as the Clarence River, who carried Message Sticks as passports, passed by Kaggar Mabul on their way to the Bunya Mountains Bunya Festivals every two or three years when the bunya nuts could be harvested plentifully.



This is the 2023 view beyond Kaggar Mabul towards the river and the CBD ('Meanjin' in the Turrbal language).  
'Maiwar' was the reach of the river around Meanjin  
up which John Oxley sailed in 1823 sighting a 'high mount to larward' i.e. Kaggar Mabul.

## Settlements

Three major settlements near to Kaggur Mabul in what is today Holland Park and Mt Gravatt protected the north-south pathway, the burial grounds and the mountain springs. Corroborees took place here:

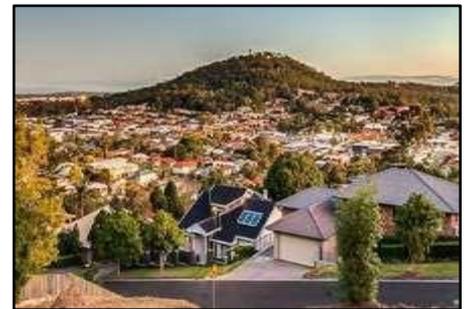
- Mott Park adjacent to Abbotsleigh Street and the adjoining Mott Creek (now mostly piped underground);
- Glindemann Park – along the Logan Road Creek; and
- the hilltop that is today Selborne, Springwood and Grenfell Streets – probably extending to Drury Lane and Eyre Streets, Mt Gravatt East.



Mott Park,  
Holland Park



Glindemann Park,  
Holland Park



Looking to Kaggur Mabul  
from Grenfell Street, Mt Gravatt

Camps lay adjacent to swamps or sources of food or water. Aboriginal settlements were well-organised spaces, quite comparable to 21<sup>st</sup> century caravan parks and National Park camping grounds in terms of size and permanency. An average camp could cover one half to two square kilometres in peak periods. Settlements were known to be established in clusters of three or more within one to two kilometres of each other. Occupancy could be from 30 to 300 or many more at events such as tournaments, feasts, corroborees or funerals in which inter-language groups participated. These events drew people from as far afield as Slacks Creek. Women crafted basketry, and necklace and cloak making. Men crafted tools and weapons for hunting.

‘Games were a part of life for Aboriginal Peoples in Australia. The game ‘marutchi’ meaning black swan, was a water game played by Yuggera people in the Brisbane area. It is a swimming and tagging game where the person nominated as marutchi avoids being caught for as long as possible, while three to five people try to ‘catch’ marutchi, signalled by a light tap on the head. Other games mentioned as being played in south east Queensland include ‘buroinjin’, a ball game and ‘gurumba’, a wrestling game. More information about traditional games can be found at <https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Experience-Sunshine-Coast/Pathways-tracks-and-trails/Biwathin-Games-Trail>’ (from Toohy Forest Environmental Education Centre [Indigenous History \(eq.edu.au\)](http://Indigenous History (eq.edu.au)) )

Within suburban Wishart today, a site of a settlement of Aboriginal people prior to the establishment of the Moreton Bay Penal Colony cannot be identified. We can say that Mount Gravatt–Capalaba Road was probably an Aboriginal trail. Following the trail which connected Kaggur Mabul with what is today the Whites Hill Reserve (encompassing Pine Mountain and Whites Hill), European colonials developed what was called ‘Slack’s Track’, which when surveyed in 1864, became known as ‘Logan Road’. From the 1930s to the 1950s, some ‘shanty towns’ developed near the former settlements. These ‘shanty towns’ arose out of poverty and discrimination. Some Aboriginal families today may trace a connection to these places.

## Natural Resources

Undulating but extensive grassy forests – ironbark, bloodwood, stringybark, she-oak and blue gum – dominated the southside including much of Wishart, at least to 1969. Perhaps a remnant can be seen adjacent to Bulimba Creek in Broadwater Park, Mansfield. In pre-colonial times, the timbers were used for making shelters, canoes, huts, spears, clubs and firewood, some of which were traded. Large scale hunting drives reaped game (kangaroo, wallaby, possum, bandicoots, goanna gliders, koala, snakes and echidna) and fur. Kaggar Mabul was known for its echidna quills used in sewing cloaks.

Bulimba Creek's source is in the Mt Gravatt foothills fed by significant tributaries via Kuraby and Runcorn. The creek flows through bushland and riparian remnants, and freshwater swampland, between Pine Mountain and Mt Petrie, into the wide flat floodplain area of Tingalpa and Murarrie and into the Brisbane River, at a point today east of Gibson Island. Settlements were located along its length and bora rings were located at Murarrie and Belmont. Aboriginal peoples at those sites certainly relied on the creek and its surrounding vegetation for food.

Bulimba Creek – which borders Wishart – was a likely location for food gathering for the people of the Mt Gravatt and Holland Park settlements. From the wetlands, tortoise, fish, waterfowl, birds' eggs and waterlilies were harvested. Today, we may learn of the sophistication of the knowledge and skills of the people in the pre-Colonial era from a range of texts. Myrtle Beitz's *Mangroves to Moorings Revisited* (2005. Brisbane City Council), pp.1-9 describes comprehensively the lifestyle of the Aboriginal people of Moreton Bay. Jackie French's *Tom Appleby Convict Boy* (2004, Angus & Robertson), pp 218-226 describes an intercultural encounter of boys from Sydney Cove's convict settlement with an Aboriginal woman gathering food. The depletion of native flora and fauna along Bulimba Creek today may be attributed to the clearance of vegetation as part of urbanisation, invasive-introduced species and pollution.



## Our Responses Today

The cultural identities of these peoples are not just artifacts or ornaments of the past. Today, there is a growing awareness – locally and nationally – of all that there is for Australian society to learn from both our Aboriginal peoples' spirituality and their environmental, social and cultural values, and practices. As well, there is much for 21<sup>st</sup> century Australian society to come to terms with - in terms of both the injustices suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities in the past and also of the ongoing reality of the inter-generational trauma and disadvantage still suffered by many Indigenous peoples today.

In 2017-2020, Brisbane Catholic Education promoted its *Molum Sabe Strategy* to establish rich cultural environments, quality teaching, effective school leadership, strong community partnerships and high expectations to achieve successful outcomes for every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student in all Schools in our BCE community of schools. The Strategy was collaboratively developed and informed significantly by a past Principal of St Catherine's (from 1999 – 2002), Dr Annette Duffy. It is founded upon the belief that every learner is unique and created in the image and likeness of God. Their families' contributions to the identity of each school and the cultivation of the schools as places of belonging is believed to be inspired by the Spirit. It is a belief in the transformative power of education. Dr Duffy's own immersion and research in our Australian indigenous cultures recognized that our society is still in significant

ways NOT post-colonial. Explicitly and implicitly, our society favours western culture. Indigenous students in our schools are coping with 'two worlds' which magnify the challenges of learning and of life for them in our society. Dr Duffy calls for us to learn, understand and practise spiritual leadership which respects indigenous and other cultures in our society.

Brisbane Catholic Education's *Molum Sabe 2023 – 2025* aims to promote a holistic approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students' education. It identifies five specific focus areas essential for BCE Schools to provide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to realise their potential through education in BCE Schools and as the key to shaping their future: Catholic Identity; Learning and Teaching; Wellbeing; Our People; and Diversity and Inclusion. Dr Sally Towns, Executive Director, BCE, identifies in *Molum Sabe Strategy 2023-2025* 'a positive cultural environment, quality teaching and effective school leadership' as the outcomes to be established which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students deserve.'

In the St Catherine's School Annual Report 2021 to the Australian Government, 15 (i.e. 3%) St Catherine's students identified as of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. However, the embedding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history explicitly and implicitly into the curriculum is not only to enhance the school's culture for the good of the conditions of learning for indigenous students; rather it is for the good of the present and future cultural awareness of all in St Catherine's Community.

At St Catherine's, a wonderful group of staff and parents have worked to develop a School Mission Statement, a School - including a children's - Acknowledgment of Country and to consider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history within the curriculum. In 2023 St Catherine's will continue to increase cultural awareness of First Peoples throughout the whole Community through the St Catherine's *Reconciliation Action Plan* (RAP) launched during NAIDOC Week 2023 and by its ongoing response beginning with reflection and action.

## **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MORETON BAY PENAL COLONY**

How does the establishment of this Moreton Bay Penal Settlement connect with Wishart? What is our response as educators and as a Catholic community to the justice and cultural issues implicit in how the Penal Settlement was established and how the Colony of free settlers developed?

### **Impact of the Bigge Report**

In 1819, for the British Government, John Thomas Bigge conducted a Commission of Inquiry into the state of the Colony of New South Wales. It was published in 1822 with an immediate impact upon the Colonial Government. In Sydney Cove, Sir Thomas Brisbane, Governor of New South Wales, began to punish convicts more severely and he commissioned John Oxley to look for sites to establish another settlement for the most difficult convicts. John Oxley considered Port Macquarie favourably but it was too close to free settlers. He explored further north and in 1823, was surprised to discover lost former convicts Thomas Pamphlett, John Finnegan and Richard Parsons at Toorbul Point, in the Pumicestone Passage. Despite leading Oxley a considerable distance by mistake up the Pine River, Finnegan eventually led Oxley to the broad river which flowed into Moreton Bay, exploring it upstream in a whaleboat. John Oxley noted in his Log a 'high mount to larboard' (to the left), dominating the widespread heavily-timbered areas. It was well known to the Aboriginal people as Kaggar Mabul and became a part of the story of the emergence of Wishart.

### Oxley's Recommendation

Oxley considered favourably what he named as 'Breakfast Creek' and what we know of as the Milton Reach of the Brisbane River, with its 'chain of ponds'. In the end, Oxley recommended Redcliffe. At the same time, on the recommendation of Bigge's Report, the British Government recommended Norfolk Island. However, by the time their recommendation had arrived at Sydney Cove, Redcliffe was already being developed as the Penal Settlement as authorized by Governor Brisbane on John Oxley's recommendation. The Redcliffe settlement was established on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1824 adjacent to Humpybong Creek with Lieutenant Henry Miller as Commandant. Nevertheless, by February 1825, a quest for a new site for the settlement was initiated given Redcliffe's problems related to poor anchorage, little fresh water, mosquitoes, and hostility from the local Aboriginal population.



The site was next to Humpybong Creek, the source of freshwater. Pictured are remains of the kiln.

First Settlement Wall, Redcliffe



### Miller's Choice

Governor Brisbane concurred with John Oxley's preferences for the new upstream river sites. However, Commandant Miller took matters into his own hands and chose the site of Meanjin near the 2023 site of the Victoria Bridge, some distance downstream from the 'chain of ponds'. Though not officially recorded, perhaps Miller, with his military experience in the Napoleonic campaigns, considered this 'finger of land' in terms of defence concerns and as a secure enclosure for the convicts. Governor Brisbane was displeased and for this and perhaps other reasons, Miller was replaced as Commander by Peter Bishop in August 1825.

### The Alignment of the Trails

This site was originally the site of the Turrbal settlement of Meanjin. It is significant that it was geographically aligned with Aboriginal trails which passed Kaggar Mabul from south of Yugambeh country and through Meanjin to northern destinations. After 1842, free settlers connected with districts immediately south of the river where they lived and established livelihoods, and later south of Holland Park. In time, colonial immigrants developed the Aboriginal trails as significant transport routes which guided other settlers towards southern bushland districts.

### The Closure of the Penal Settlement

Free European settlers were prohibited from coming within 50 miles (80 kilometres) of the penal settlement without special permission. During the 1830s, would-be landowners and business people from southern regions were asking the colonial government to open all of Moreton Bay to free settlers. The government didn't need much convincing. The cost of maintaining and guarding the settlement had prompted recommendations in 1832 and again in 1835 to close the convict settlement. From 1837, convict numbers were reduced progressively. In 1839, the convict settlement was closed and the Moreton Bay area was surveyed in preparation for a free settlement. In 1839, Lieutenant George Gravatt was commandant at

Moreton Bay, if only for three months, to prepare for the conversion of the Penal Settlement to a free settlement on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1842.

### Displacement and Repression

The development of the Colony had significant impacts on Aboriginal people. In 1834, the Penal Settlement was declared the Town of Brisbane. European names were given to places without regard for their longstanding significant Aboriginal names. Though the activities of the members of the Penal Settlement were localised, the Penal Settlement was the beginning of the displacement of the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples. By 1852, Aboriginal people were accepted in the CBD Mondays to Saturdays to work in random or dirty tasks. However, after 4 p.m. Monday to Saturdays and all day Sundays, law enforcement authorities forced their exclusion beyond iron bark boundary posts which marked the limits of their access to the CBD. Today, Boundary Streets in both West End and Spring Hill identify where the limits of access were drawn.

An annual benevolent though culturally-problematic gesture was 'Blanket Day'. Blankets and garments were distributed in some places to some Aboriginal people. In contrast to these European goods provided, the people's traditional possum blankets were waterproof and were more successful protecting users from respiratory infections. Great suffering with intergenerational consequences has been a consequence of both complex experiences of injustice and the Europeans' lack of appreciation of Aboriginal history, culture, relationships, relation to country and the vulnerability of Aboriginal peoples to introduced diseases.

### What remains today

In the 21st century, only two intact structures built with convict labour remain: the Windmill at 226 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill, and the Commissariat Store 115-127 William Street, City.



The Windmill was built in the 1820s, the oldest surviving building in Queensland. It was used variously in different eras: for grinding grain though unsuccessfully; as a place of punishment and execution; as a signal station; for night fire-spotting; and for pioneer television broadcasting.

1820s – the Windmill on Wickham Terrace

The original two level Commissariat Store was built 1828-29 conveniently close to the original Queen's Wharf. It housed the Settlement's procedures for its procurement, supply and distribution of essential goods and also the Settlement's Custom's House and bank. Queen's Wharf itself became the dock for steamers. It was the point of entry for immigrants and a hub for commercial enterprises built nearby.

However, during the upgrading of Kingsford Smith Drive in 2019 and during excavations for the CBD Metro busway and the new 'Queen's Wharf' development in 2021-22, archaeological remains from Brisbane's convict and colonial past were unearthed. The finds included: a penny from 1811 and other artefacts; an 1824 timber jetty found in the mud opposite South Bank; an 1830s Kangaroo Point Tuff 'drystone wall'; a mid-1800s convict-era hospital building; an 1860s timber bridge along Kingsford Smith Drive; and the 1880s Lands Office foundations in Adelaide Street. Hamilton Road (later called Kingsford Smith Drive) was built in the late 1820s by convict women using rock from the riverside to connect the Settlement with the women's prison at Eagle Farm and farms adjacent to it contributing to the Penal Settlement's food supply.

The only site commemorating the legacy of Lieutenant Henry Miller, the first Commandant of the Colony at both Redcliffe 1824 and at the Meanjin site 1825, is Miller Park. It is located between the former State Library and the Commissariat Store, and connects William Street with Queens Wharf Road.



Miller Park and the Commissariat Store adjacent to Queen's Wharf

The 1924 John Oxley Memorial on the disputed North Quay site.



One correction needs to be named to avoid confusion. It concerns the John Oxley Memorial erected in September 1924 at 100a North Quay to commemorate the centenary of the Moreton Bay Penal Colony's establishment in 1824. Today, it is hemmed in tightly at the top of the riverside bank between North Quay and the Riverside Expressway. The choice of the site, promoted by F.W.S. Cumbrae-Stewart, a civic leader in 1924, was disputed in the latter half of the twentieth century. Historians and surveyors agree that Oxley's landing point in 1824 aligned with 'the chain of ponds' along the Milton Reach.

**Some Interesting Historical Details backgrounding these Developments:**

- **16 May 1770:** Captain Cook sailed north past these regions on the 27°S parallel but he did not land. He neither knew nor acknowledged the Aboriginal names for any of these landforms or waters. At that time, North and South Stradbroke was one island. It was known by the Aboriginal people as Minjerribah (meaning 'Island in the Sun'). In 1894, the *Cambus Wallace* shipwrecked on the island's isthmus amid severe weather. The impact of detonating explosives on board weakened the landform which by 1896 had disintegrated to become the Jumpinpin Channel, forming two islands.

From the water, James Cook originally mistook 'Moreton Island' (Mulgumpin meaning 'the place of sandhills') as part of the mainland. He named the island's north-eastern headland Cape Morton and the 'bay' between Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah) and Moreton Island, as 'Morton Bay'. Named after the Scottish Earl of Morton, the name was misspelt in 1793 when Cook's journal was being translated. The misspelling persisted. He did not enter what we know of today as Moreton Bay but named the waters at its entrance between Moreton Island and Bribie Island - 'Glass House Bay'. The name was apt for Cook given these waters proximity to and visual alignment with the Glasshouse Mountains which Cook named the same day -17 May, 1770 – as 'The Glass Houses'.

- **31 July 1799:** Flinders sailed south from Cape Morton (as named by Captain Cook) into Moreton Bay though not naming it as such. However, he discovered Mulgumpin was an island. He landed seeking fresh water. Flinders named Mulgumpin 'Moreton Island'. However, Flinders did not discover the wide river which flowed into the bay!

- **January 1823:** Thomas Pamphlett, John Finnegan, Richard Parsons and John Thompson were former convicts who had left Sydney to fell timber at Illawarra. Blown north by a storm, with little water, they were 21 days at sea during which Thompson died. Pamphlett, Finnegan and Parsons beached on Mulgumpin (Moreton Island). They recovered sufficiently with the help of Aborigines to cross to Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island). Fred Cahir in *They Rescued Us: Aboriginal heroes on Country* (2022. Ballarat Heritage Services, Ballarat) has identified a very significant number of pre-Federation colonists who were cared for by Aboriginal people after shipwrecks and other emergencies in what was, for them, a foreign environment. In a dugout canoe, these men made it to the vicinity of Ormiston.



Pamphlett Bridge over Oxley Creek where they used a canoe to cross the river

- Thinking they were still enroute to Sydney Cove, the men trekked north to and along the Brisbane River until they crossed it at Oxley Creek in a canoe left, as was the custom, at key transfer points for others to use and then to leave for others. At this place, 'Pamphlett Bridge' now spans Oxley Creek. Eventually, they paddled to Toorbul Point, adjacent to the 2023 Bribie Island Bridge. Again, the Aboriginal people there cared for them. On 29<sup>th</sup> November by chance, Pamphlett and Finnegan were found by John Oxley exploring the Pumicestone Passage. Parsons, away hunting, was located within days. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1823, Finnegan joined Oxley on board the 'Mermaid' entering what Cook named 'Glass House Bay'. Oxley renamed it 'Moreton Bay'. Finnegan piloted Oxley to the wide River, beginning a new chapter in history.
- **In 1827**, Governor Darling renamed Minjerribah as 'Stradbroke Island', after Captain H.J. Rous, son of the Earl of Stradbroke and the commander of the *HMS Rainbow* who had charted Moreton Bay.
- After Henry Miller established the Settlement at Meanjin, Governor Brisbane asked his friend NSW Chief Justice Francis William Forbes to suggest a name for this Settlement. Forbes chose 'Edinglassie'. It is contested whether it was after his ancestral estate near Aberdeen in Scotland or derived from the combination of Edinburgh and Glasgow. The name never really caught on. In 1834, the settlement was declared a town and was named as per the river which Oxley also named - 'Brisbane' - after the Governor.
- In 1840, the Government Surveyor, Robert Dixon named the "high mount to larboard" (as noted by John Oxley in his 1823 log book) 'Mount Gravatt' - after Lieutenant George Gravatt who was Commandant at Moreton Bay for three months in 1842 preparing the colony for its conversion to a free settlement.

## THE MIGRATION OF FREE SETTLERS TO THE COLONY

The settlement of Wishart as we know it today is an extension of the development beyond Holland Park and Mt Gravatt by European settlers in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and also beyond Upper Mt Gravatt in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### Slacks Track

From about 1845, John Slack grazed cattle in between Beenleigh Road and the Logan River. After he died in 1861, his son William and his family leased land along the current Pacific Highway in between Paradise Road and the Loganlea Road interchange where he ran a slaughter yard. He ran a second slaughter yard opposite to what is now the Upper Mount Gravatt State School.

William Slack adopted the Aboriginal trails to move his cattle and wagons passing both Kaggabul and what is today Whites Hill to the market at Burnett Swamp (Stones Corner). From this waterhole, a track connected to One Mile Swamp (Woolloongabba) and then to the southern bank of the river at Brisbane Town. Other travellers began to use what became known as 'Slacks Track'. It was surveyed in 1864 and renamed Logan Road after Captain Patrick Logan, the third Commandant of the Colony 1826 – 1830.

### The Dray Road Memorial

In Wishart, adjacent to the Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road bridge over Bulimba Creek is the Dray Road Memorial. It commemorates the wool teams in the 1850s enroute from the pastoral properties on the Darling Downs and in the Brisbane Valley to Port Cleveland via Capalaba, using what was probably originally an Aboriginal trail. Several routes crossing the Great Dividing Range had been discovered following Alan Cunningham's discovery of 'The Gap' in 1828. The closure of the convict settlement meant produce could be shipped from Moreton Bay Colony ports, including Cleveland, rather than it having to be transported overland via New England to Newcastle.



The Dray Road Memorial,  
(adjacent to the Bulimba Creek Bridge)  
Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Rd, Wishart

### Crossing The River

A huge obstacle to Brisbane's expansion at the time was the Brisbane River. From the beginning, people crossed the river in a rowboat with a horse swimming along behind. In 1842, a horse-powered punt (horses walking on a treadmill) began service. By 1844, at three locations in Brisbane Town, ferries transported people, horses and carriages across the river. In 1865, the first Victoria bridge across the River was opened. This Bridge gave farmers improved access for marketing their produce in Brisbane Town. However, just two years later in 1867, this timber bridge collapsed due to wood worm. In 1874, the second bridge was built, only to be destroyed by the Great Flood of 1893. The third bridge lasted from 1897 to 1969 when it was demolished due to safety concerns. The current bridge, opened in 1969, is still subject to changing city traffic plans such as the most recent proposals contained in the Cross River Rail redevelopment.

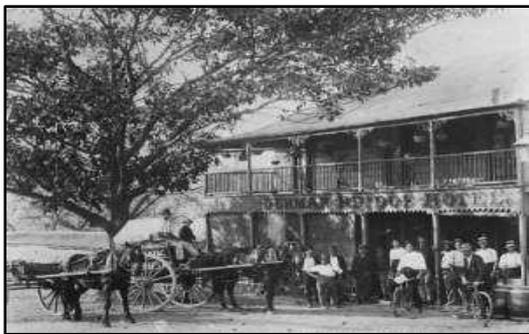
### Holland Park

By the 1850s, squatters had taken the liberty to graze sheep and to establish themselves in the area known today as Holland Park. 'Holland Park' was named after the early farmer, Julius Holland. In 1865, Julius with

brothers Alfred and David, purchased scrub bordered today by Arnold Street, Logan Road, Abbotsleigh Street and Cavendish Road. The Glindemann, Dyer, Eikendorff, Lutz and Eberhardt families were German immigrants. In 1865, Conrad and Andreas Glindemann established the Highfields (Mt Gravatt) Dairy on Logan Road (named as such in 1864). By 1880, Andreas had left the farm to build the German Bridge Hotel, also on Logan Road, close to today's Murton St. 'German Bridge' became the name for the locality. It was named after the log structure German families built there on Logan Road to enable traffic to bridge a creek.



Glindemann's Dairy 1890  
(State Library of Qld. - SLQ)  
and the house today,  
1118 Logan Road



German Bridge Hotel c. 1914 (SLQ)  
Logan Rd, just south of Murton St.

### **Mt Gravatt**

Queensland became a self-governing colony in 1859. In the 1860s, free settlers moved to farm the land near the landform 'Mt Gravatt' (named as such in 1840). The surrounding district became known as Mt Gravatt. In January 1865, the government conducted the first major land sales off Logan Road in the Mt Gravatt area. German immigrant families bought much of the land. Steigmanns established a wine-making business on the corner of Logan and Shire Roads.

### **Developing Services**

In 1865, the growing importance of Logan Rd warranted the establishment of a Cobb & Co. service from Brisbane passing through Mount Gravatt to Logan. It delivered mail, goods and people along this way, and even to Southport in 1879. These services reduced the early settlers' isolation marginally and encouraged further settlement. The German Bridge Hotel (1880, Holland Park) and Mt Gravatt Hotel (1885) and a changing station for the horses at Upper Mt Gravatt eventually were Cobb & Co. staging posts for the German and other settlers who worked as fruit growers, vigneron, dairy farmers and slaughterers.

The rail line, which reached Beenleigh in 1885 and Southport in 1889, led to the termination of the Cobb & Co. 23 years of service through Mt Gravatt in 1888. A horse-drawn bus service to Woollongabba was established. However, land sales continued into the 1890s. In 1893, 132 acres (c. 53 hectares) of timbered

land around Mt Gravatt mountain were proclaimed a reserve. In 1894, the Department of Public Instruction took over the 20 year old community-based Mt Gravatt School, built originally as a slab hut. The first general store opened in 1887 on the corner of Logan Rd and Invermore Street.

### Places of Worship

Congregationalists (1880), Anglicans (1886), and Afghani Moslems (1908) established places of worship. In 1880, St Joseph's Catholic Parish, Kangaroo Point, incorporated these suburbs until 1913, when they became part of the newly-established St James Parish, Coorparoo.



The Congregational Church as it was on 1478 Logan Road



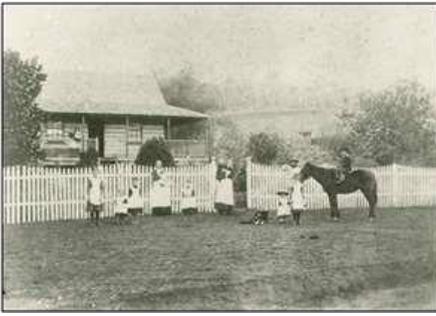
In 1908, Muslims of Afghan and Indian origin built this 'Queenslander' style Mosque – the first in Queensland.

### Upper Mt Gravatt

Pioneering farming families in Upper Mt Gravatt included the Klumpps and the Angers. Still situated today at 787 Mains Road, Upper Mount Gravatt, on a rise above the busy Mains and Klumpp Roads intersection is a modest timber farmhouse built in 1914 by Henry Klumpp, son of pioneer Frederick Klumpp. The house is one of several Klumpp family homes and the nursery that were on the property. It is a reminder of the significance of farming for the Upper Mt Gravatt district and of the ground-breaking zeal of the early farmers.

Two Aboriginal elders, King Jacky and Uncle Billy, were well known in the Logan and Albert districts. They had worked for Henry Klumpp. Highly respected and skilled in cultural activities, they died from illnesses and were the last of their clan. They were acclaimed in the *Brisbane Courier* on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1931 (See Trove).

Families who settled in Upper Mt Gravatt included the Kessels, Hughes, Dawsons, Claus and the Grieves. Most of the early settlers in this area were of German origin, often enticed to immigrate to Queensland by the Government's policy of land grants, some of 60 acres (about 24 hectares). Several Chinese families also had settled in the district establishing market gardens. Several Afghan and Indian families also had moved into the area. Agriculture (including fruit orchards and vineyards), cattle, sheep and poultry farming, and horse breeding were the principal sources of income for the settlers. Secondary industries such as a wool scour and abattoirs had been established in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Census figures show that the population in these suburbs increased from 46 in 1871 to 155 in 1911. In 1889, Hans Von Lippha, a Viennese accountant travelling through Australia, described Logan Rd as 'lovely but very lonely – I rarely encountered anyone'.



The Klumpp family outside their home maybe on Klumpp Rd

Both images: 9988 Gwen Robinson Collection



The Anger family home, Klumpp Road near the 2023 Hibiscus Centre/PCYC

### What remains today

Surviving memorials of this era include: the Dray Road Memorial on the Bulimba Creek Bikeway, Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road; Conrad and Magdalene Glindemann’s family home (1891) at 1118 Logan Road, Holland Park; the site of the Mt Gravatt Dairy and Henry and Cecelia Glindemann’s home at 1105 Logan Road, Holland Park; the Klumpp home (1914) at 787 Mains Rd, Upper Mt Gravatt; and the streets and landmarks bearing the names of German and other settlers.

From this pre-World War I period, we, as Australian citizens, a Catholic Community and as educators, may recognise legacies of discrimination our society has been coming to terms with. 62,000 Pacific Islander men, women and children were brought here (many ‘blackbirded’ here) between 1863 and 1904 to be cheap farm workers. The White Australia Policy was legislated through the Immigration Restriction Act of 1901 institutionalising racism and victimisation. Inequalities applied to women generally. The enfranchisement of all adults was not in place. Sectarianism divided the society.

## WORLD WAR I AND THE INTERWAR PERIOD (1914 – 1939)

### A Slow-down

From 1914, development in the area slowed. The population of what was recognised as Holland Park rose from 73 in 1911 to 221 in 1921. In the same period, the population of ‘Mt Gravatt’ rose from 217 to 913. Factors impeding development included: rail transport which diverted the movement of people and goods away from Logan Road; the cost of World War I; and the impact of the Depression.



A horse-drawn bus from Mt Gravatt to W’gabba, after Cobb & Co. discontinued service, after the railway to Beenleigh took passengers away from Logan Road.



A soldier settler’s poultry farm, Holland Park



Henry and Annie Glindemann and children Conrad, Flo and John at ‘Highfields Dairy’, on the today’s site of Cavendish Road State High School.

### Logan Road had to compete with Rail Transport.

The prosperity of the area was affected by the decline in traffic along Logan Road. The railway to Beenleigh had opened in 1885 and then to Southport in 1889 had drawn traffic away from the Mount Gravatt area. A horse-drawn bus service to Woolloongabba and eventually to the CBD was established. In 1926, the tramway was extended along Logan Road to Holland Park.

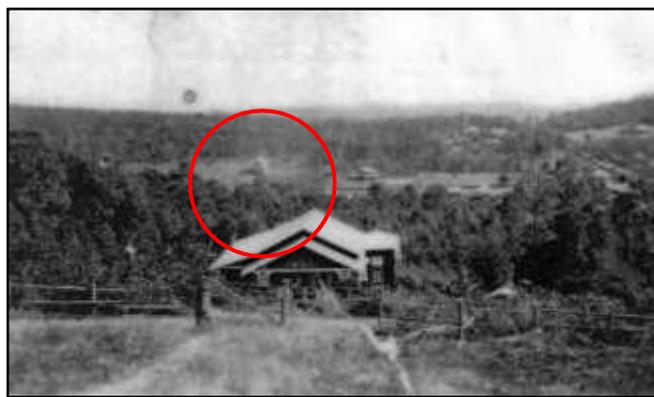
### The Great War Impacted Locally.

Local men had enlisted in the Great War – some becoming victims or casualties. During the 'Great War', 'Klumpp Road' was renamed 'Cemetery Road' following anti-German sentiment. The German Club in Vulture St, Woolloongabba, closed voluntarily during both World Wars offering its facilities to the Red Cross and the A.I.F.. How this sentiment affected this local community could be a topic for research.

In the 1920s, soldier settlement poultry farms of eight to sixteen acres were established north of Nursery Road. To support the soldier settlers, Archbishop James Duhig blessed and opened St Agnes Church on Logan Rd, in 1921 (See below). At that time, St Agnes was still a part of St James Parish, Coorparoo. In 1923, a Fallen Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall was opened on the corner of Logan Rd and Creighton Street.



Archbishop Duhig had travelled from a function in Ipswich for the Blessing and Opening of the first St Agnes Church 3.7.1921



This was the view from Mt Thompson beyond the Howsan's home to St Agnes Church (circled) on Logan Rd, Nursery Rd to the right.

### Resilient Locals face the Depression.

Since 1842, the settlers had demonstrated a resilient, communal and supportive spirit. In 1914-15, volunteers had built tracks from High Street through dense bush and lantana to the summit of Mt Gravatt (popularly called '8 Mile Hill' as it was 8 miles from the CBD). Through the 1920s, Mt Gravatt was still a village isolated from Brisbane. In 1929, the *Sunday Mail* described Mt Gravatt as 'a prosperous general, poultry and dairy farming district, with occasional fruit orchards and piggeries.'

The U.S. Stock Market Crash in October 1929 precipitated the Depression in Australia (1929 – 1932, impacting upon the 1930s). Families tried to be self-sufficient growing fruit and vegetables, rearing poultry and pigs and keeping a cow for their milk supply. By 1932, Brisbane City Council had over 6000 men reconditioning roads, and establishing both foreshore sea walls and parks in suburbs throughout Brisbane, including the 45 acre Kianawah Park, Tingalpa. In 1932, the Forgan Smith State Government abandoned the National Premiers' Plan to balance budgets and to adopt deflationary approaches.

Some major construction projects were undertaken throughout the State including the Story Bridge in Brisbane (undertaken from 1935 – 1940). This thoroughfare dovetailed with the original direction of the significant original trails from Kaggabul into Meanjin! In 1933, rostered relief labourers, working for rations, constructed the road still used today to reach the summit of Mt Gravatt from Shire Road.

### The Showgrounds are Saved!

In 1915, the first Mt Gravatt Show was held. Throughout the decades, the Showgrounds became very important to the community. This was demonstrated when the Brisbane City Council attempted to sell the property to Myer for commercial purposes in 1970. Objections from the community were taken to the Privy Council in London in 1978. In its last decision related to Australian affairs, the Privy Council disallowed Brisbane City Council's sale of the Showgrounds. The residents were united and proud.

Upper Mt Gravatt was not gazetted as a place name until 1969. However, in 1929, Upper Mt Gravatt State School had opened with that name. In 1931, Logan Road was fully bituminised; the speed limit was raised from a sedate fifteen miles (24.2 kilometres) per hour to \_\_\_ (perhaps open!). In 1934, Mt Gravatt was recognised as an outer suburb when a crematorium in Nursery Road was opened. With foresight in 1918, Archbishop James Duhig had bought three acres in the Yuletide Estate, Holland Park. In 1936, St Joachim Parish was founded. In 1938, the Sisters of St Joseph opened St Joachim's School in the Church building's ground floor.



### FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II 1945

Following World War II, the population in each of these suburbs, in turn, grew rapidly eventually leading to the emergence of Mt Gravatt South. The introduction and mapping of the Census Statistical Areas was evolving with growth in population. Until 1954, the Holland Park Census Statistical Area embraced all of these outlying districts. Holland Park Statistical Area rose rapidly in population from 5 666 in 1947 to 22 948 in 1971. When introduced, the Mt Gravatt Statistical Area included Mt Gravatt East, Upper Mt Gravatt, Mt Gravatt South and Mansfield. The population in the Mt Gravatt Area rose from 2 516 in 1954 to 18 373 in 1971. Finally during the 1970s, Wishart (renamed from Mt Gravatt South in 1967) was a Statistical Area in itself growing from 4 108 recorded in the 1976 Census to 11 333 in 2021.



1946: Identify the horizontal lines showing Wecker Rd, Broadwater Rd and Dawson Rd, vertical traces left to right of Logan Rd, Newnham Rd, and Ham Rd and Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Rd across the bottom. (Q Imagery)

## Housing construction and George Chester

To meet demands driven by this post-World War II population growth, house construction flourished through both the Housing Commission and the enterprise of George Chester (1884 - 1968). George Chester was known as the 'Banana-Case Baron'. He began as a fruit hawker and became Australia's largest banana farmer at Upper Coomera. After the Second World War, he had trouble obtaining packing cases, so he bought a sawmill at Pimpama to produce his own. He was refused a permit to sell the extra timber milled. Seizing the opportunity to respond to the acute housing shortage, he purchased twenty-five acres (10.1 hectares) in Mt Gravatt in 1949 to develop a 100 lot housing estate, using the timber for housing construction.



George Chester's Whippet Truck for transporting bananas



George Chester

In the same year, George Chester generously provided land and a house to raffle for the Centaur Memorial Fund. This Fund was dedicated to the education of nurses in memory of the nurses whose lives were taken during World War II, including those in the Australian Hospital Ship *The Centaur*, sunk by a Japanese torpedo off Stradbroke Island in 1943.

The Chester Estate was the first real estate property development in Brisbane. In seven months, ninety-five houses and thirteen shops were built. Over five years, Chester & Sons developed four distinct estates building two houses every week.

Throughout the next ten years, he built 400 houses and shops in what became Mt Gravatt Central. Architects Blackburne & Gzell produced about twelve house designs which applied to the entire project.

If the narrow choice of house designs throughout the estates was limiting for some, the support of the young families for one another in their neighbourhoods and in projects for their community organizations, schools and churches became the culture of the community they remembered throughout their lives. The families had limited disposable means with mostly one income and young children to provide for. Not all families had a car nor a home telephone and some were recovering from war injuries. What some families couldn't contribute financially was substituted by their generous donation of their skills and labour for the good of others.



Chester's home of his family of origin is heritage-listed at 7 Ballarat St, Mt Gravatt East. The family was photographed in 1905 in front of the house. Still standing in 2023 amid later constructions, their timber and tin home is believed to be the oldest house in Mt Gravatt.



This was an expanding urban area. Town water was connected in 1950. Mt Gravatt State School grew in enrolment from 249 students in 1950 to 1 160 in 1960. In 1951, hundreds of people celebrated the arrival of the first tram to Mt Gravatt Central on the line extended from Holland Park (the celebration at the terminus pictured to the left).



### St Agnes Parish and the Newnham Road Mass Centre

In 1950, out of St Joachim's Parish Holland Park, a new parish was formed based at Mt Gravatt. The Parish Priest was Fr Jack Rosenskjar, who had been a 25 year old Padre for troops during the Milne Bay Campaign.



Fr John Rosenskjar – the 24 year old Padre presiding at Mass for the soldiers at Milne Bay 1942.



Fr Rosenskjar with Archbishop Duhig

The parish incorporated Mt Gravatt, Upper Mt Gravatt, Mt Gravatt South, Eight Mile Plains, Slacks Creek, Daisy Hill, Woodridge, Kingston, Rochedale and Mount Petrie. Archbishop Duhig wished the Churches and Mass Centres to be accessible to residents. In the early years, Mass Centres varied greatly. One was a rented Progress Hall. Others were huts that were formerly a part of the 2000 bed U.S. Military Hospital at Holland Park which Jack Tierney and his tradesmen mates re-purposed for a variety of purposes. Another was a small Church transported from a depleted rural community.

One was a former plasterer's garage at 388 Newnham Rd, Mt Gravatt South formerly owned by a Mr Moore.

In time, Churches were constructed in communities where there had been temporary Mass Centres: St Agnes, Mt Gravatt; St Bernard's, Upper Mt Gravatt; St John's at Burbank; St Declan's, Eight Mile Plains; St Catherine's, Woodridge; and, in 1960, St Catherine's, Mt Gravatt South. Of these, St John's is now the Pentecostal Church on Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Rd. St Declan's is now the historic Church in the grounds of St Edward's Daisy Hill. It was replaced at Eight Mile Plains by St Martin's. St Catherine's on Railway Parade, Woodridge was replaced by St Paul's on St Paul's Drive.



Views of the American Military Hospital, bounded by Gorban St, Lawn St (adjacent to Logan Rd) and Seville Road

### **Mt Gravatt South Develops.**

In 1865, Dawsons were settlers who subdivided land into farming blocks of up to 50 acres (c. 20 hectares). They lived in the vicinity of Lumley Street. Newnham Road was probably named after W. Newnham who owned a triangle of land bounded by Logan, Mt Gravatt-Capalaba and what we now call 'Newnham Road'. Newnham Road was originally a stock route from farming areas south of Mt Gravatt enroute to the Cannon Hill saleyards. Drovers would rest their cattle on land owned by the Lund family, opposite where Mt Gravatt East State School was established in 1955. Near the 2023 site of the School was a slaughter house owned by Gill & Woods. The land around Newnham Road was eventually subdivided into small farming blocks reducing the width of Newnham Road. However, this unsealed route was still used occasionally for moving stock even until the 1960s.

On the corner of Newnham and Broadwater Roads, the Spence family conducted their 'Craigsleigh' Dairy. Opposite, Charlie Ball had a hatchery. On the site of St Catherine's today, Cartwright and Vass had operated a plastering business since 1932. At some time, Mr Moore became the operator of this business. This trade was important in the post-War housing boom. Small crop farming – including crops of celery - operated in the vicinity of what is Garie Street today. It is reported that a sawmill operated on Ham Rd until 1952. Though yet to be verified, it is also that a sawmill operated between Newnham and Logan Roads known as Wishart Sawmill. Margaret Begg of Hillgrove St who, with husband Tom, has been a long-time resident on the edge of the former Hillgrove Estate development and a member of St Catherine's Community, remembers a timber business in the vicinity of Wishart Road, Pinner Street and Kempesie Road. Margaret and Jill Ferguson, another former resident of the area remember the 'whistle' signalling the beginning and ending of lunch for the employees. This timber business was on open expansive land adjacent to Wardrop's popular tennis courts and dairy farm which included a small dam for the cows. Was this the sawmill which was thought to operate between Newnham and Logan Roads? Read on...



The Moore family's 'The Plasterer's Hut' (painter not identified, maybe a member of the Moore family):  
the Mass Centre on 388 Newnham Road 1957 – 1959:

### The Schools Grow.

Housing estates accommodating young families flourished developing available land in Mt Gravatt in the 1960s and in Upper Mt Gravatt in the 1970s. On the 29th August 1955, Mount Gravatt East State School opened with its original name - Creek Road State School. When the school first opened, there were approximately 200 students enrolled, but by the end of 1955, the enrolment had increased to 310. The name of the School was changed to begin the 1956 school year. In 1975, 1 143 students were enrolled at Mt Gravatt East State School.

In 1951, Archbishop Duhig had bought seven acres on the corner of Logan and Klumpp Roads where St Bernard's Church was built in 1953. In 1955, St Bernard's School Upper Mt Gravatt was opened by the Sisters of St Joseph to serve the growing number of families in the parish. Jack Tierney and his team of volunteers built St Bernard's School and Church, repurposing huts from the former U.S. Military Hospital at Holland Park. Throughout the 1950s, the demand for enrolments at St Bernard's led to enormous class sizes. Even in the 1970s, there were at least 45 students in some St Bernard's classes. Children walked from their homes in Mt Gravatt South and also from Nursery Road to St Bernard's. In 1962, the Josephite Sisters opened a second school at St Agnes, Mt Gravatt. The opening of St Catherine's in 1973, though beginning with only Years 1 and 2, began to relieve that pressure.

In 1964, Mt Gravatt South State School opened in Morella St. Even in the 1960s, Mt Gravatt South was mostly bushland and was defined by a few streets near the Mount Gravatt South State School and others in the block bordered by Coora and Greenwood Streets, and Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road and Bulimba Creek. These streets were developed further as residential estates attracting both families and investors.

### The First St Catherine's Church

In 1950, Archbishop Duhig bought the property on unsealed Newnham Road on which was situated a small hut and garage used by Mr Moore for making plaster for use in housing construction. It was in an elevated bushland setting and was not served by Council transport.



The former garage was used as a Mass Centre throughout 1957 – 1959. Subsequently, Jack Tierney and his team again gave Fr Rosenskjar and the community great support by building a Church at cost with whatever materials could be afforded. It cost 9 000 Australian pounds – about one third of the estimated cost



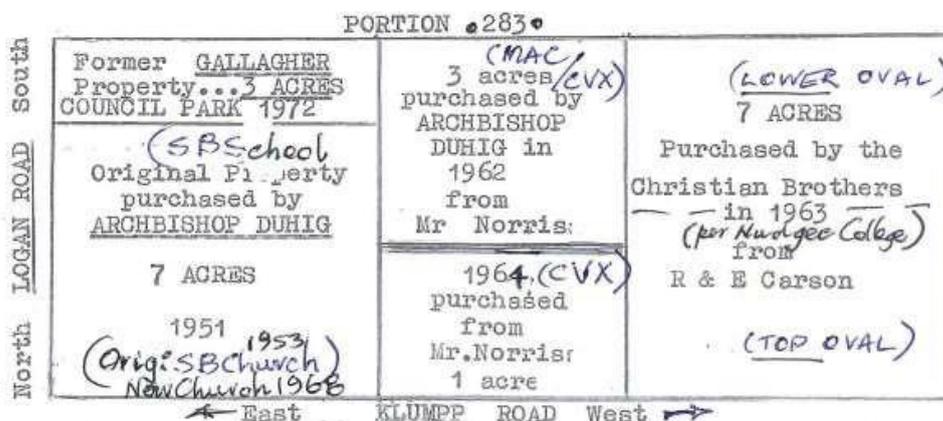
St Catherine Labouré, France  
(May 2, 1806 – December 31, 1876)  
*See God in everyone.*

(2023 value: about \$150 000. Archbishop Duhig blessed and opened the Church (pictured above) on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1960, just prior to the Feast of St Catherine Labouré. Fr Rosenskjar said that the name ‘St Catherine’ came to him to honour his own mother in some way. The proximity of the Blessing and Opening of the Church to the Feast of St Catherine Labouré confirmed her as the Patron Saint. To accommodate the growing population in Mt Gravatt South and Mansfield, this original Church was extended twice before the present Church was opened in 1983.

### The Merger of Clairvaux College and MacKillop College gives birth to Clairvaux MacKillop College!

In the early 1950s, Father Rosenskjar, encouraged by Archbishop Duhig, recognised the need and looked for land in order to provide Catholic secondary schooling in the rapidly growing Mt Gravatt region. The land now occupied by the Hibiscus Centre, the Park&Ride facility and the PCYC was formerly a property of the Klumpp – Angers family who owned property on both sides of Klumpp Road.

In 1951, Archbishop Duhig had bought seven acres on the corner of Logan and Klumpp Roads where St Bernard’s Church and School were built. In 1960, Fr Rosenskjar first approached the Christian Brothers to begin a boys’ high school on the site. In 1962, Archbishop Duhig bought three more acres from a Mr Norris for school purposes. Archbishop Duhig gave land to the Christian Brothers for the use of the College. In 1963, the Christian Brothers bought seven acres from R. and E. Carson with money from Nudgee College to be developed as the top and lower ovals. In 1964, one acre was bought from Mr Norris for the site of the Brothers’ Residence. The diagram below (not to scale) shows the progression in the purchases of the Upper Mt Gravatt properties.



(Courtesy of Mr Tom Mills, a long-serving teacher at Clairvaux MacKillop College, Upper Mt Gravatt)

Meanwhile, in 1964, the Sisters of St Joseph established St Joseph’s College, a secondary school for girls conducted by the Sisters of St Joseph at Holland Park.

On 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1966, Clairvaux College opened with Brother Damien Surawski CFC as the first Principal. In 1971, St Joseph's College transferred to the Klumpp Road site and was renamed MacKillop College, honouring Mary MacKillop, a treasured, inspirational Australian Saint and foundress of the Josephites. Sr Margaret Mary Campbell RSJ continued as Principal. In 1985, Clairvaux MacKillop College was inaugurated through the amalgamation of Clairvaux College and MacKillop College. Dr Tony Baker was the first Principal of the new College. The Christian Brothers' Edmund Rice charism and the Josephites' Mary MacKillop charism were incorporated into Clairvaux MacKillop's culture.

Other secondary schools on its northern boundary were Brisbane Adventist College (established 1973) and Mansfield State High School (established 1974).

### The Mystery of where the name 'Wishart' came from

Mt Gravatt South State School in Morella Street was opened in 1964. The minutes of the Queensland Place Names Board meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1967, in which 'Wishart' was approved as the name of the suburb, give no rationale for the decision. At its foundation in 1973, St Catherine's was recognised as being in Wishart. Mt Gravatt South State School was renamed as Wishart State School toward the end of 1992. The word 'Wishart' is an English surname incorporating the pre-7<sup>th</sup> century 'viscr' which became 'wisc' in Norman French, meaning 'wise' and the Norse '(h)ard' meaning 'brave' or 'bold'. Beryl Roberts, in her 2013 text *Naming Brisbane: Origins of Brisbane's Suburb & Locality Names*, writes that the suburb was named after a Wishart family who were early European settlers in the area. The journey to resolve that for this text has been fascinating but some key questions are still unresolved.

An engaging explanation for the name is the 'family myth' offered by Fr Morgan Batt, 2023 Parish Priest of Burleigh Heads, whose grandparents were 'Wisharts'. During his upbringing, Fr Morgan learnt 'family stories' that the suburb was taken from the name of the owners of a sawmill located between Newnham and Logan Roads. Fr Morgan's family did not claim this unidentified early Wishart family as a relative. As well, he cannot identify where this sawmill was.

Timber-getting and Wishart were a part of Fr Morgan's family history. His grandparents were timber-getters with sawmills in Cooyar and Kilkivan but not in Wishart. His grandfather, Bill Wishart, died on 17 May, 1963 and his grandmother, Catherine, was cared for in a Mt Gravatt Nursing Home. Fr Morgan remembers taking his grandmother from her Nursing Home for a drive, including to St Catherine's. Though elderly, her humour was still ripe – she was elated that 'the Church had been named after her!' Fr Rosenskjar may have clarified this for elderly Mrs Wishart.

Where was that sawmill Fr Morgan spoke of? The post-war housing boom needed timber including hoop pine from the Bunya Mountains and ironbark which was in great supply in these southern districts. There were several commercially-developed housing estates in Upper Mt Gravatt, Mt Gravatt South and Mt Gravatt East including the Hillgrove Estate, the Spence Estate and the Blantyre Estate.

Margaret Begg, of Upper Mt Gravatt, and another long-time resident Jill Ferguson, remember a timber business about 1960 in the vicinity of Pinnar St between Wishart Rd and Kempsie Rd, adjacent to the Wardrop's dairy farm and tennis courts. They smiled when they shared memories of the 'whistle' at the site signalling

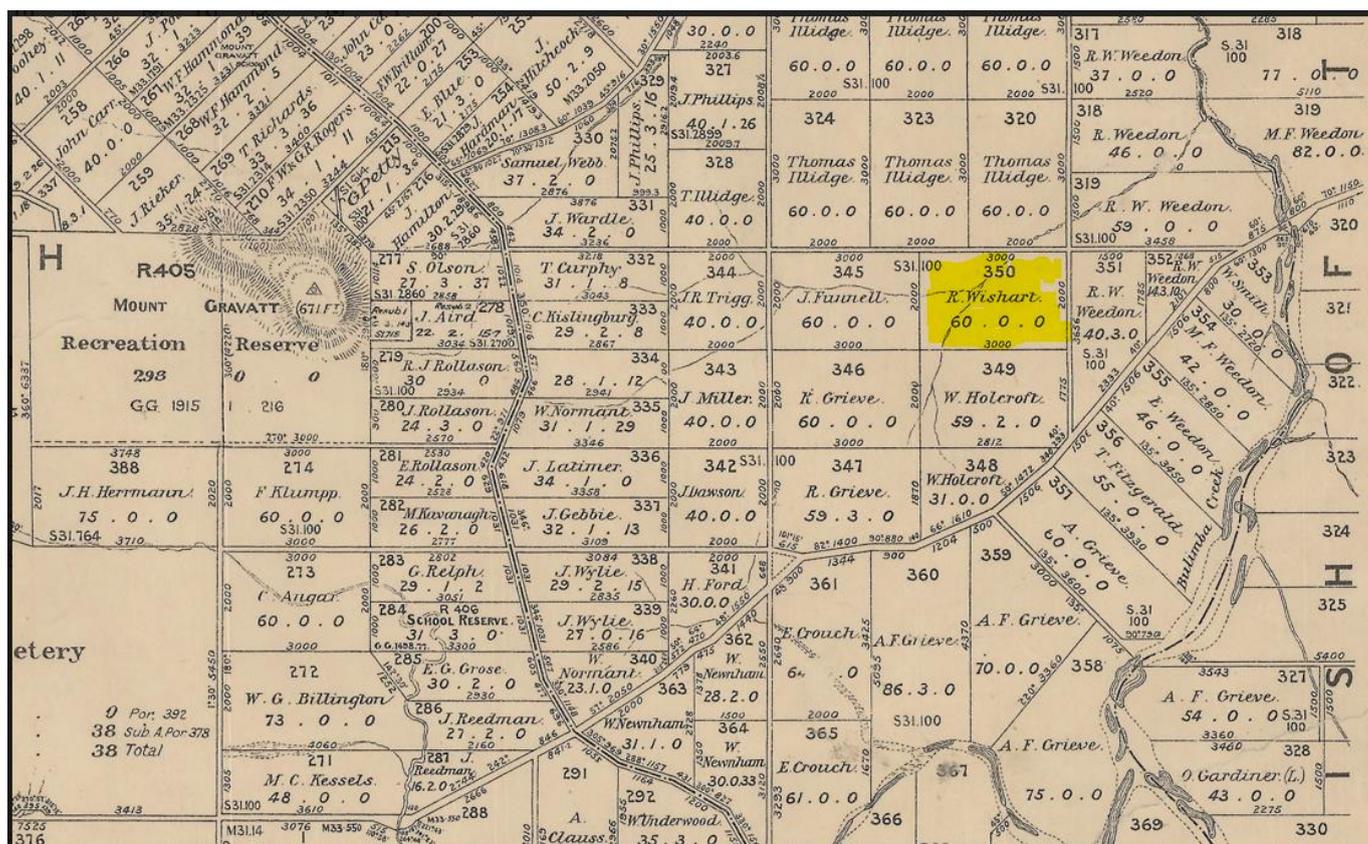


Mrs Margaret Begg: a keeper  
of St Catherine's history

throughout the day 'Time for work, for lunch or for knock-off'. They remembered land in that vicinity being taken up by the Queensland Housing Commission. However, Mrs Patricia Tully, another long-time resident and parishioner, remembers that timber concern as a holding yard for the Queensland Housing Commission. What information could the Housing Commission offer us?

Kaye Nardella, Senior Curator of the Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, investigated the sites in the vicinity of Wishart Rd, Pinnar St and Kempsie Rd. The land had been resumed by the Housing Commission in 1951. Her research revealed that neither the name 'Wishart' nor a sawmill was connected to this site.

However, Kaye Nardella investigated the 40 chain Moreton District AG2 Series Map Sheet 1 which covers the Wishart area today. It shows the names of the first people to take up freehold titles over blocks. As highlighted below, it shows a block of land on the corner of what is today the corner of Broadwater and Ham Roads (diagonally opposite Mansfield State High School) that was taken up by a 'R. Wishart'..



There were other reports of a sawmill on Ham Road. Though it wouldn't have concurred with Fr Morgan Batt's 'family myth' concerning a 'Wishart' sawmill between Newnham and Logan Roads, given the aerial photographic image (1960 Q Imagery) of a substantial building on Ham Rd just up from the sites known to have been owned by R. Wishart, was this 'Wishart sawmill' as proposed by Fr Batt?

Again Kaye Nardella investigated and found that this land (ref. no. 10134229, Portion 350, Parish of Bulimba) was held by 'R. Wishart' in freehold ownership in 1868 but was transferred to another person in late 1868. The significant building nearby on Ham Road - visible in the 1960 Q Imagery aerial photo - was not a sawmill!

Two crucial questions arise. Firstly, was this R. Wishart, and his family, the 'early European settler' whom Beryl Roberts referred to in her 2013 text? Secondly, was this landholder 'R. Wishart' the 'Robert Wishart' who was prominent in Brisbane society from 1866 until his death in 1928? The Electoral Rolls of the time refer to no other family by this name.

The Robert Wishart, prominent in Brisbane society, was born in Edinburgh 4<sup>th</sup> October 1844. Though dates are contested, it seems his mother died when he was an infant. In February, 1866, at aged 21, he married 29 year old Annie McCallum. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1866, they arrived in Hervey Bay with 513 immigrants on 'The Golden South'. In 1867, their first son Alexander was born in Brisbane. Where they lived is not named. Quickly, he adapted himself to Queensland's primitive conditions of life, commerce and transport at the time. Travelling with horses or bullock teams throughout southern Queensland, he plied his trade as a draper. Afterwards, he served with the wholesale drapers, 'Scott, Dawson and Stewart', on the corner of Elizabeth and Creek Streets, Brisbane. Weary from travelling, he founded his own drapery business on Musgrave Rd, Red Hill which his sons inherited and carried on. Robert's first wife Annie died in 1906. In 1907, Robert married Flora McCallum, Annie's sister. Robert died in 1928. Four sons – William, George, John and James - predeceased him. His second wife, Flora, died in 1936. His son Alexander died in 1949 and another son, Alfred, born in 1875, died in 1951.



Robert was renowned for his ability, enthusiasm, integrity and Scottish tenacity. He was a Freemason, a member of the Lodge Celtic, Ithaca. He pioneered the Grand United Order of Oddfellows and its Red Hill Loyal Vespasian Lodge which met in Red Hill's Norman Hall. He was the Queensland Friendly Societies Association's first President and a very well known and popular leader. His drapery shop was the 'rendezvous' for leading members of the Societies. He was a leader in developing the B.A.F.S. (Brisbane Associated Friendly Societies) Dispensary. For a regular fee, members and families were covered for funeral and healthcare costs, and medicines provided by the B.A.F.S. Dispensary. When set up in 1885, the B.A.F.S. had more than 1200 members; in 1915, it was reported it had 15 000 members. The B.A.F.S. Dispensary Building (1915-16) still stands on the corner of George and Turbot Streets. It became their principal dispensary. Today, the 'Friendly Care Pharmacies' are continuous with the B.A.F.S. dispensaries.

Robert took up Theosophy and became President of the Queensland Theosophical Society which still exists. He spent some months in India to become personally acquainted with most of its prominent devotees there. He died on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1928, aged 83 years and is buried at Toowong Cemetery (site: 13 – 12 – 13/4).

What questions remain unresolved? On 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1967, the Queensland Place Names Board approved 'Wishart' as the name of the suburb. The Courier Mail reported on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 1967 that the suburb was named after a Wishart family, one of the first to settle in the area. Did this R. Wishart family at some time operate a sawmill to accord with Fr Morgan Batt's 'family myth'? Was 'R. Wishart', the landowner on Broadwater Road, in fact the 'Robert Wishart', the draper, who was so active in the Brisbane community? Can the rationale used by the Queensland Place Names Board for naming the suburb 'Wishart' be explained? Was 'Wishart' chosen from one of a number of names popularly remembered at the time without substantial research conducted for historical legacy? Why and when was Wishart Road so named?

### The Evolution of the Suburban Boundaries

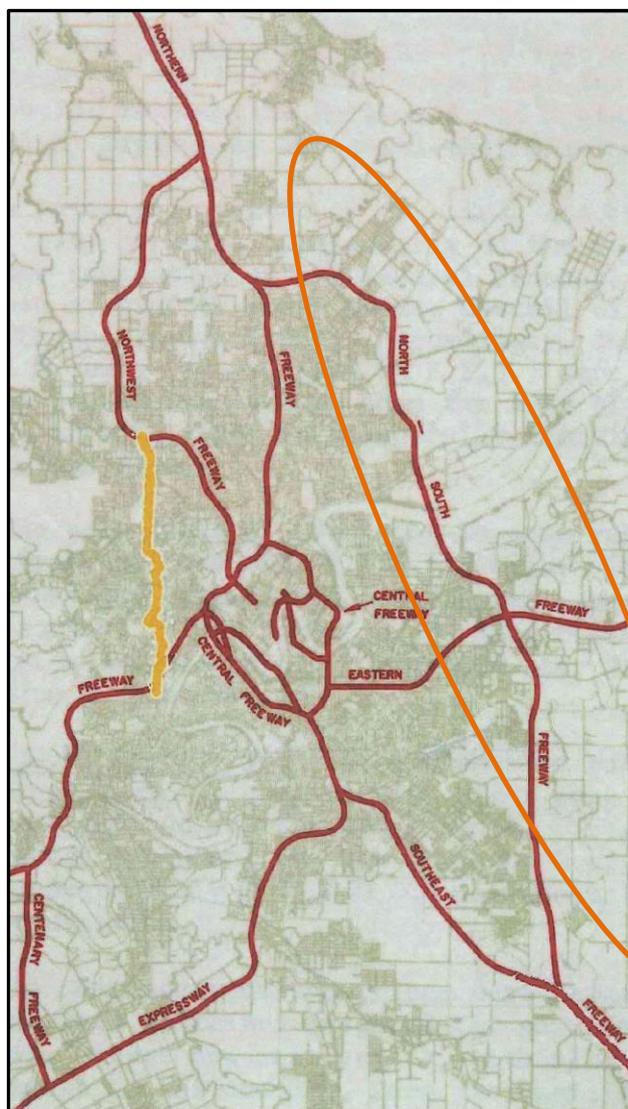
These urban districts were developing rapidly – Mt Gravatt itself, Mt Gravatt East, Upper Mt Gravatt, Mansfield and Wishart. The boundary markers could have been more clearly defined. There was a move by

some Upper Mt Gravatt residents to have their suburb renamed to avoid confusion with Mt Gravatt. Various suggestions included: Broadwater, Townson, Obrist (after an early vigneron), Newnham and Cresthaven. The Place Names Board did not take up these ideas but defined the boundaries to overcome confusion. The name 'Mansfield' was appropriate in terms of the long distinguished service of Sir Alan Mansfield, the State Governor, originally a local. However, the process through which it was named was controversial as he was living at the time and the Place Names Board was side-stepped (not the Governor's doing!).

Changes in the urban districts were accelerated by the recommendations in 1965 of the Wilbur Smith and Associates' *Brisbane Transportation Study*. Trams, though never servicing Mt Gravatt South, ceased operating on 13 April, 1969. Full employment and the post-war urban spread promoted the use of the private motor car, a major challenge for urban planners in cities around the world. Between 1949 and 1963, Brisbane motor car registrations rose from 80,800 to 298,800, a rise of nearly 270%. Key to the Wilbur Smith Plan was the immediate provision of 340 new buses and new high-speed arterial roads.

The proposed grid of freeways included a loop in the CBD and freeways radiating from the CBD to the north, west, east and south. Another relevant radial route proposed was a North-South Freeway (highlighted) connecting the freeway proposed to the north with the proposed Southeast Freeway. This North-South Freeway was planned to extend in part through the Pine Mountain Reserve, along part of Newnham Road and then to connect with the highway south. This route was reasonably close to St Catherine's Church, which had opened in 1960. Federal and State Government changes and changes in urban planning policies led to some of these proposals, including the North-South Freeway, being scrapped. Who could imagine how the Wilbur Smith proposal would have changed the land and streetscapes as we know them today! Would this proposed freeway have steered through the native scrub widespread at that time between Broadwater and Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Roads, and between Newnham Rd and the Bulimba Creek? Would St Catherine's School as we know it today ever have been established? The proposal for this North-South Freeway was scrapped.

**Wilbur Smith's proposed radial Freeway System (refer Krosch 1)**



In 1975, the name and boundaries of the suburb were confirmed by the Minister for Survey and Valuation, Urban and Regional Affairs. Thirty years later on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2005, the boundaries were altered by the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines.

The Gateway Arterial Road (opened in 1986 and upgraded to Motorway status in 1997) and the two Gateway Bridges (1986 and 2010) became the link intended between the north and the south of Brisbane. The Pacific Motorway, the first development towards which was the Southeast Freeway, connected Brisbane's CBD (Meanjin) to Cornwall St Buranda in 1972, to Marshall Rd in 1975 and then to Klumpp Road in 1980. In 2001, the CBD to Eight Mile Plains was assigned as a part of the M3. Even in their developmental stages, these arterial roads enhanced life for the residents of Wishart connecting to locations across and beyond Brisbane.

### St Catherine's – a new Parish Community



Fr John O'Shea

In 1969, new Catholic parish communities emerged throughout these suburbs. Areas of Upper Mt Gravatt and Eight Mile Plains ceded from St Agnes Parish to create St Bernard's Parish, and Wishart also ceded to create St Catherine's Parish which included St John's Church at Burbank. Fr John O'Shea was St Catherine's first Parish Priest (1969 – 1970).

As there was no presbytery, Fr O'Shea lived in Fr Denis Power's house on the 2023 site of Seton College where St Otteran's Church and School were located.



The Presbytery whose construction was financed by Mrs O'Shea, grandmother of Fr John. He never lived there.

Fr O'Shea's grandmother financed the building of St Catherine's Presbytery, located adjacent to the staff car park at St Catherine's today. Fr Charlie Casey succeeded Fr O'Shea as Parish Priest in 1970 until Fr Patrick McHugh's appointment in 1971.

### Infrastructure Helping the People of Wishart

The Queensland Housing Commission and commercial interests developed housing estates, including the Hillgrove Estate between Hillgrove St and Logan Rd and the Sunrise Estate in the vicinity of Spence Street. Brisbane City Council also developed parkland along the western bank of the Wishart reach of Bulimba Creek.

At the same time, civic infrastructure in Wishart was developing. About 1970, the first buildings in the Civic Fair Shopping Centre offered limited retail opportunities for the growing number of residents. A major boost was the opening in 1970 of the Garden City Shopping Centre which incorporated 55 retailers including David Jones, McDonnell & East and Woolworths. At the same time, Myer Stores were awaiting the decision of the Privy Council in London regarding Brisbane City Council's proposal to sell the Showgrounds to Myer. Throughout the ensuing decades, Garden City evolved progressively under several corporate owners through major extensions and changes in name. At the same time, its importance as a public transport hub only intensified. In 1990, the Wishart Shopping Village on Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Rd was developed.



Garden City Shopping Centre 1969



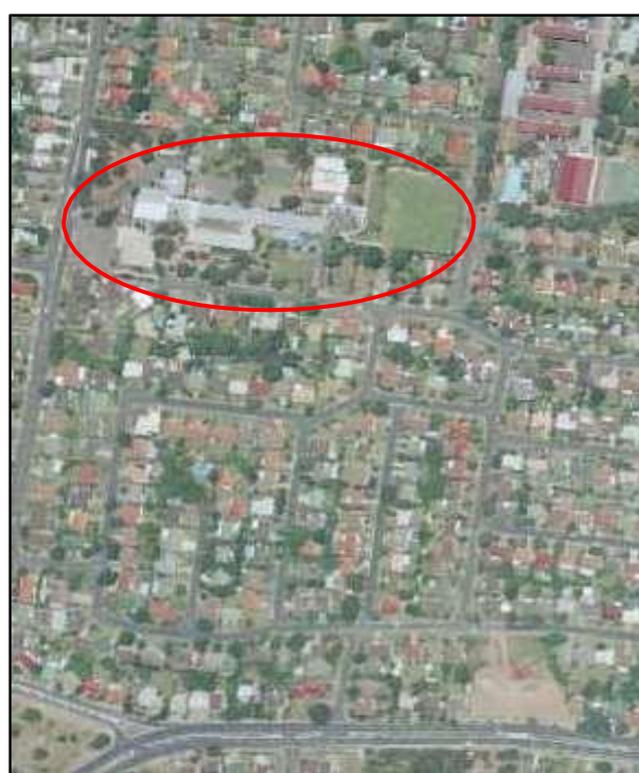
Mt Gravatt South,  
12 km south-east of Brisbane CBD  
(the site of Meanjin),  
emerged from the bushland  
bounded by Newnham Road,  
Broadwater Road and Bulimba Creek.

1960 - land east of Newnham Rd yet to be urbanized;  
and St Catherine's within the red circle.  
Identify: Mt Gravatt – Capalaba Rd.

1974 Identify: Newnham Rd;  
St Catherine's within red circle;  
Mt Gravatt South State School;  
and Mt Gravatt – Capalaba Rd.



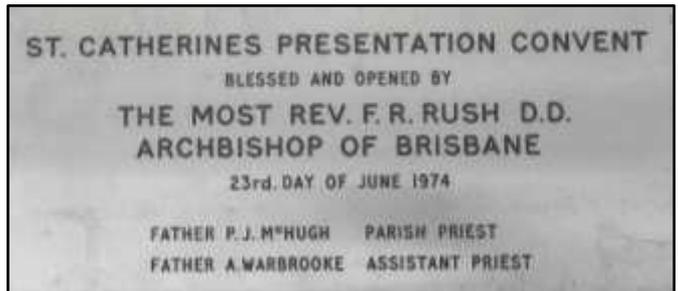
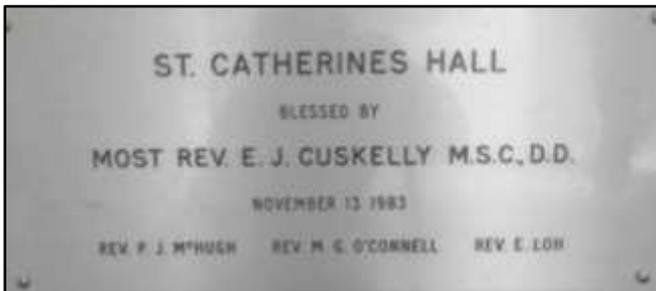
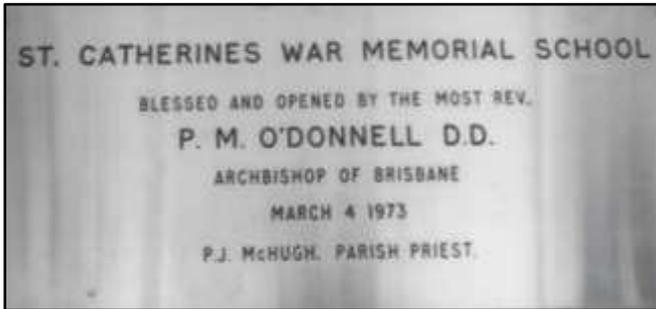
2002 Identify: Newnham Rd;  
St Catherine's within the red circle;  
(by now renamed) Wishart State School;  
and Mt Gravatt – Capalaba Rd.



QImagery - Queensland Government ([information.qld.gov.au](http://information.qld.gov.au))

# RECOLLECTIONS OF ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

## 1973 to 2023



**PLAQUES AND  
PRINCIPALS' PORTRAITS  
IN THE  
ST CATHERINE'S PARISH  
HISTORY ROOM**



Sr Margaret Conway  
1973-1975



Sr Marion Kingston  
1976-1977



Sr Merle Hodge  
1978-1980



Sr Denise Ryan  
1981-1985



Mrs Bev Tronc  
1986



Mr Michael Byrnes  
1987-1997



Dr Annette Duffy  
1998-2002



Mrs Helen  
Camden 2003



Mr John Carroll  
2004-2009



Mr Paul Leeson  
2010-2019



Mrs Maureen  
Hunter 2019



Mr Paul Mitchell  
2020 - present

## THE PRESENTATION SISTERS ARRIVE AT ST CATHERINE'S.

### SR MARGARET CONWAY, FOUNDING PRINCIPAL 1973 – 1975

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1973, Mother Gabriel (Mother General of the Queensland Presentation Congregation), Sr Berchmans (Principal and Superior), Sr Jean Marie and Sr Brendan Dolphin who had retired, arrived at Wishart to found the St Catherine's War Memorial School. A note important for clarity in following St Catherine's School history is that following Vatican II, the Sisters were able to choose to be known by their Baptismal names, rather than by the Religious names they received when they entered Religious Life. It was during 1973 that Sr Berchmans chose her baptismal name to become known as Sr Margaret Conway and Sr Jean Marie chose her baptismal name to become known as Sr Carmel Hodgkinson. Sr Brendan retained her Religious name throughout her retirement. St Catherine's was established in this still quite natural bushland setting in which Sr Margaret reported seeing white kookaburras amid the morning 'veille' birdsong chorus.

The Presentation Congregation of Sisters was founded in Cork, Ireland by Nano Nagle in 1754 during the sectarian penal era. In the face of threatened harsh consequences at the hands of the occupying British forces, she bravely established schools to educate poor Catholic children and an almshouse for women, both of which were prohibited. (See Appendix A.)

#### The New School

Archbishop P.M. O'Donnell was the last of the four Irish-born Archbishops of Brisbane. On 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1973, the day before he retired, Archbishop O'Donnell blessed and opened St Catherine's War Memorial School. Though in contrast to the conditions in Nano Nagle's time, the Sisters' mission in Wishart was still to educate all children and to work for the good of their families and our society. The cost of this construction in 1973 was \$61,439 (2023 value c. \$430 000).

St Catherine's opened with six classrooms and toilet facilities ready for 150 pupils for Years 1 and 2. (See Appendix B.) The Architect engaged by the Parish was Barry Ainsley of Ainsley, Bell and Murchison. Sr Carmel and Noni Styles taught Year 1, and Barbara O'Callaghan and Sr Margaret (who was Principal, as well) taught Year 2. The farthest classroom in this block was the Office and the Staff Room. The children's playground was the open area between the classroom block and the Presbytery. The girls wore the Queensland Presentation Schools' blue and white check dress and the boys wore grey shirts and shorts. A sports uniform was developed with the input of parents. The sports uniform was an orange princess style dress for the girls and an orange shirt with brown shorts for the boys.

It was planned that an extra Year level comprising two classes would be added each year until the School catered for Years 1 to 7. During these years of transition, some families had younger children commencing school at St Catherine's while their older children were still attending St Bernard's. The school year was structured around three terms – late January to Easter; Easter to August (embracing the duration of the R.N.A. Exhibition); and late August to early December.

### The Sisters with No Convent

There was no Convent. The construction of a new Convent with a central courtyard began in May 1973. Meanwhile until August, the Sisters took up residence in the Presbytery while the Parish Priest Fr Patrick McHugh (Parish Priest from 1971 to 2003) and curate Fr Ashley Warbrooke rented a house in Fairland Street nearby. In August, the Sisters moved to the Presentation Convent at Ekibin in order to allow the priests to move back into the Presbytery.

### The Sisters pioneering with the Community

Throughout these years, the two Sisters 'carried the day' in founding the School. There was support from their own Presentation Congregation. The Sisters of St Joseph at St Bernard's were an important support for them. State School Inspectors visited the School and presented reports based of their discussions with the Principals and Staff, and their experience of the children in the classrooms. Fr McHugh as Parish Priest was keen to promote the development of the Parish and School. Though Brisbane Catholic Education was in its infancy as an organization, personal support for the Sisters was given by Archbishop Rush, Fr Bernard O'Shea who was Director of both the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Brisbane Catholic Education, and by Mr Alan Druery who was the Secretary of the former and father of Luke Druery in Year 2 (1973).

The Sisters experienced the families and children as wonderful and highly generous. All worked co-operatively with the Sisters' resilient spirit of simplicity, hospitality, compassion and zest for providing both a happy learning environment for the children and support for their families. Maria Mead (nee Finn) was a Year 1 student in 1973. In 2002, Maria became a staff member in 2002 and made a huge contribution over 19 years leading learners how to embed digital literacy in their learning. Maria remembers the Sisters as lovely, one even finding her younger brother's lost tooth! Maria remembers playing marbles in the gravel, marching into class to "It's a Small, Small World", the desks in rows and copying off the blackboards. Though there were no 'rides', the Fete, conducted on the bitumen car park between the classroom block and the presbytery, was enjoyed for its many stalls including its cake stalls and Vedelago's fruit stall. The concrete concourse was laid in 1974 and was known later as the 'Concrete Oval' where the children could play. An early photograph of the 'Concrete Oval' depicts a very mature shade tree growing amid the concrete at the top of the 2023 ramp down to the 2023 C&K parents' car park. The community compassionately embraced the Kearney family whose six year old daughter Margaret Mary was a Year 2 student at St Catherine's but whose ten year old daughter at St Bernard's died tragically after heart surgery.



#### St Catherine's School Staff 1974

Principal: Sr Margaret Conway, PBVM

**Seated left to right:** Sr Margaret Conway, Sr Carmel Hodgkinson, Sr Paschal Murphy, Sr Margaret Hallinan

**Standing:** Mrs Mona Quantock, Miss Barbara Callaghan, Sr Rosemary Haley, Mrs Maud Chapman, Mrs Iris Dunn.

### A Watershed in Changes to come through Government Funding Arrangements.

St Catherine's was opened two months after the election of Gough Whitlam as Prime Minister. Gough Whitlam moved quickly to establish the Australian Schools Commission. In May 1973, the Commission's Interim Committee delivered its Karmel Report with recommendations for funding all schools in Australia on a needs basis. Since then, changing needs in society, successive Australian and Queensland Government initiatives, and Archdiocesan directives have presented demands to which all schools have needed to respond, including St Catherine's.

National and Diocesan Catholic Education organizations and services developed progressively - and necessarily - to process ongoing complex requirements and to manage the funding for the services offered by the schools. This meant significant changes evolving throughout these fifty years. Personnel had to grow with new responsibilities, and changed workloads, working relationships and decision-making processes. From the foundation of St Catherine's in 1973, personnel in both the St Catherine's Parish and School were a part of this change.

### On the Lighter Side

Only the students in 1973 would remember either enjoying or baulking at their 'little lunch' consumption of the one-third pint unrefrigerated milk in glass bottles. It was crucial that the morning delivery of the unrefrigerated milk crates be placed in the shade! Children in many schools at that time enjoyed the responsibility of being 'Milk Monitors'! Financed by the State Government, it commenced in Queensland in 1953 and ended in 1973. In the end, it was judged to be of dubious nutritional value, especially beyond the age of 7. Many children enjoyed using the coloured aluminium lids as part of Christmas decorations!

### The Impact of the January 1974 floods

Cyclone Wanda was not a powerful cyclone but three weeks of continual rain resulted in the Brisbane River breaking its banks and flooding surrounding suburbs.

In 1974, Sr Margaret was joined by Sr Paschal Murphy, Sr Rosemary Haley and Sr Margaret Hallinan. Thankfully, the new Convent was available for the four Sisters in the 1974 Community. However, additions to the School of eight classrooms under a flat metal deck roof, a tuckshop, toilets, a covered recreation area and a playground were not completed before the school year began. In time, the classrooms were carpeted and acoustic materials lined the ceilings. The extensions cost \$200 000 (2023 value c. \$1 972 640), subsidised by a Federal Government grant of \$130 000 (2023 value c. \$1 282 216). It was built to accommodate up to 300 students in Year 1 to 4.

The floods delayed the Blessing and Opening of the Convent and school extensions by Archbishop Francis Rush until Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1974. A large gathering of clergy, religious and lay people assembled on the new concrete concourse. In 1975, the Convent was extended to accommodate Sisters appointed to St Thomas More College, Sunnybank, to St Peter's, Rochedale (to open in 1976) and to Brisbane Catholic Education as Education Officers.



St Catherine's Convent was on the site on which the Nano Nagle Centre was built.

## Memories

In 1975, Sr Celsus Conroy arrived to teach at St Catherine's. For fifteen years, she taught in Year 4. She related "Every year is my favourite class. They are so open, so receptive and so sincere at this age." The class had its own record of giving to the Missions. In 1976, the class collected \$200 during Lent (about \$1730 value in 2023!). Sr Celsus said. "It came in little bits and pieces – the way the Lord likes it. Often it was their own little bit of spending money, so it really counted." Originally from Ireland, she was full of life and energy, never missed school and nurtured a beautiful garden of roses. It was said she was a lot older than how she looked! Sr Rosemary Haley also was well known for the beauty of her garden displays. Sadness as well visited the Convent. The Sisters grieved when two community members died both from cancer - a young Sr Beverly Crane in 1976 and long-serving Irish Sr Bernard Conneely in 1978.

## Sr Margaret Conway AO

Throughout these fifty years, the community has been inspired by the heroism of many – perhaps mostly hidden and for some, thrust upon them. Sr Margaret served St Catherine's as Principal from 1973 to 1975. In 1980, she became the foundation Principal of Stella Maris School at Maroochydore until 1986. However, Sr Margaret could not have predicted the service she was called to in Papua New Guinea from 1989 to 2009.

In 1989, Sr Margaret went to Ningil, in the mountainous West Sepik region of PNG where she worked supporting women. In 1993, Sr Margaret served as Principal at Kavieng, New Ireland, until 1995. In 1994, twin volcanic eruptions had buried Rabaul. Her next appointment was to Malol, 14 kms along the north coast west of Aitape, where Sr Margaret looked after young women aspiring to become Presentation Sisters. On 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1998, a destructive tsunami hit the northern coastline of Papua New Guinea, including Malol. More than 2 000 people died. Through the night and for seventeen hours before outside help arrived, Sr Margaret, the only ex-pat in the area, and a young Papua New Guinean Sister scrambled to treat villagers with horrific injuries. In that intense tropical climate, the Sisters and Florian, their tractor driver, buried deceased people where they found them. Herself needing to come to terms with all that had happened, Sr Margaret remained in Malol for the next ten years to help rehabilitate and educate the youth who no longer had families, homes nor belongings. In 2003, the Australian Government recognized Sr Margaret's extraordinary service by appointing her as an Officer of the Order of Australia.

## 1976 to 1977: THE SCHOOL GROWS DURING THE PRINCIPALSHIP OF SR MARION KINGSTON

In 1975, as a Year 1 to 4 School, there were 302 students at St Catherine's; in 1976, as a Year 1 to 5 School, the enrolment reached 380 students.

In 1976, Sr Marion Kingston had responsibility for teaching a class as well as being Principal. The staff of Sisters, lay teachers and parents contributed generously for the good of the students' experience of learning and of community. Mona Quantock was the School Secretary. Barbara Muggeridge was the first teacher aide and she supported the whole school as well playing the organ for liturgies.



The first Administration building built beside the original Church, now known as the Rosenskjar Hall.

### A New Administration Building

In 1977, Sr Marion was released fulltime to be Principal to attend to the needs of the growing number of students. During 1977, an Administration Building was built on the same site where, the 2023 Administration Building stands. This original Administration Building, and extensions to the School and to the Church were blessed and opened by Archbishop Rush on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1977. To their satisfaction, the Staff had a purpose-built Staff Room and facilities! The extensions to the School allowed the School to accommodate up to 450 pupils. The Parish was in debt \$530 000 (2023 value: c. \$2 039 000). Archbishop Rush stressed the need for strong support for the Catholic School system and David Jull MHR affirmed the vital role independent schools play in the education of thousands of Australian children. The Parish Office which had been located in the Presbytery transferred to share space in this Administration building, possibly until 2007.



### St Catherine's School Staff 1977

Principal: Sr Marion Kingston, PBVM

**Front Row left to right:** Mrs Joy Gerry, Sr Celsus Conroy, Sr Marion Kingston, Sr Carmelita, Sr Margaret Hughes, Mrs Mona Quantock

**Second Row:** Barbara Mugeridge, Mrs Marie Ho, (person to be identified), Mrs Thelma Maidment, Mrs Maud Chapman, Mrs Bev Tronc, Mrs Iris Dunn

**Third Row:** Mrs Gay Short, Mr Paul Chandler, Ms Anne Robinson

### The Parents and Friends (P&F) Association

From the beginning, the P&F Association, both its office bearers and members, was a 'rock of support' for the School, developing and maintaining the property, and engaging the parents. Teams of parents were rostered to maintain the grounds weekly and parents joined working bees to undertake special projects. In 1977, the P&F completed what is now the junior Bellot St playground for use by the students.

Parents and friends were invited into the social life of the whole community, some events embracing both school and parish. Throughout the years, in the social context of the time, fathers gathered for sports dinners and mothers gathered for fashion or other themed events.

Funds were raised to provide resources and to support the operation of the School. Before the advent of poker machines in Queensland, school parents and parishioners together were rostered to conduct bingo games – first conducted in homes on Cresthaven Drive and later in the Parish Hall before poker machines were legalised in 1991. For over 11 years (1973 to 1984), parents volunteered to be rostered to conduct raffles at the Mansfield Tavern. They raised \$68 000.

The May Fete was a huge draw for the community – socially and financially - raising \$4 206.05 in 1979, \$18 000 in 1989 and \$35 000 in 2022.

St Catherine's Fete in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
on the 'Concrete Oval'!



### 1978 to 1980: YEARS 1 TO 7 DURING THE PRINCIPALSHIP OF SR MERLE (RICARDO) HODGE

In the first year of Sr Merle's tenure, the School accommodated Years 1 to 7 for the first time. In 1978, Sr Marion Kingston continued on staff as a Year 7 teacher.



#### St Catherine's Staff 1979

Principal: Sr Merle (Ricardo) Hodge,  
PBVM

#### Front Row left to right:

Sr Carmelita, Sr Robyn (Genevieve) Doyle, Sr Raymond Lloyd, Mrs Mona Quantock, Sr Merle (Ricardo) Hodge, Mrs Joy Gerry, (person to be identified), Mrs Bev Tronc, Sr Margaret Lynch

**Second Row:** Sr Anne Marie Jensen, Mr Albert Kessler, Sr Aileen Foley, (person to be identified),

Mrs L. Duncalf, Mrs Christine Coman, Mrs Judy Boyland, Mrs Barbara Muggerridge, Mrs Iris Dunn.

**Third Row:** Mrs Anne Robinson, Mr Peter Shaw, Mrs Gay Short, Miss Anne Drieson, Mr Paul Chandler, Mrs Kate Hickey, Mrs Maud Chapman, (person to be identified)

*(Apologies to the three staff members who are yet to be identified.)*

#### Celebrations of the Sacraments of Initiation

Children's preparation for the Sacraments was provided by the Catholic Schools. In 1978, for the first time at St Catherine's, there were children in Year 7 to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The celebration of the children's First Communion was followed by the Communion Breakfast in the area now known as 'the Courtyard'. Cheerios dipped in tomato sauce were always an unmissable favourite though the sauce stained the children's white clothes annually. If families didn't have the girls' or boys' special clothes, they borrowed them. The children had their photos taken in the Convent foyer. Maria Mead reported that the children felt like royalty! These were great highlights in the School Year.

### St Otteran's and St Munchin's

1978 saw the closure of two Catholic primary schools, in what is now Mt Gravatt East and Carindale. Firstly, at 1158 Cavendish Road, 'Carina' (now recognised as Mt Gravatt East), St Otteran's was opened in 1958 by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul. It was on the site of what is, in 2023, Seton College. In 1973, it was renamed St Paul's Infant School. Secondly, St Munchin's was located at 1164 Creek Road, on the 2023 site of what is the 'Golden Outlook' residential complex opposite the Creek Rd flyover into Westfield Carindale. St Munchin's was opened in 1962 by the same Congregation. On their closure, the former St Munchin's students generally transferred to St Martin's, Carina, while the former St Otteran's/St Paul's students transferred to St Agnes', Mt Gravatt and also in very significant numbers to St Catherine's, Wishart. In 2023, the relocated St Munchin's Church/classroom block can be seen at Groves College, Velorum Drive, Kingston, formerly Maryfields Catholic Primary School. This original sign (pictured right) was saved and stands in the garden in Coorparoo of Mrs Madonna Johannsen, whose father John Dalton constructed it.



In September 1978, construction of the third classroom block began to accommodate the expanded student population. In the interim, the two Year 7 classes had to be accommodated in the Administration building. During Sr Merle's Principalship, the School expanded its facilities to 21 classrooms.

#### On Sr Merle's (Ricardo) departure, the P&F Minutes recorded:

"We are sorry to lose Sr Ricardo this year and a special thanks to her for the interest shown by her in what we have been doing. The supply of 'smoko' for the working times, her interest in the projects and mixing with the fathers helped to create a great atmosphere. We wish her well for the future."

### 1981 to 1985: CONSOLIDATION AND CHANGE DURING SR DENISE RYAN'S PRINCIPALSHIP

Throughout 1981 to 1985, Sr Denise Ryan served as the Principal of St Catherine's leading the staff of twenty-one teachers, the first (part-time) 'Remedial Teacher' (today known as 'Support Teacher, Inclusive Education' - S.T.I.E.), two secretaries, one teacher aide (today known as School Officer), a Sister who was a Library Assistant and, when the Library was established, a Teacher Librarian. The P&F Minutes at the beginning of her tenure include her guiding hopes and expectations for the benefit of all stakeholders in the school community. In 1985, the role of Assistant to the Principal, Religious Education (A.P.R.E.) was new in Catholic Schools' Administration Teams. Sr Mary Murphy, who had been Religious Education Co-ordinator, was St Catherine's first A.P.R.E..

In 1981, the school year in Queensland was restructured as four terms, each term comprising ten weeks. St Catherine's followed the Queensland State Education documents implementing the new Primary Science Syllabus and Sourcebooks for Years 1 to 5. Religious Education was supported by a Regional Education Officer from Brisbane Catholic Education. Two swimming carnivals were held – one for the girls at St Rita's Presentation College, Clayfield, in Term One, and one for all students in November. Athletes competed in the Interhouse Carnival and in the Catholic Zone 2 events.

### The Whirlwind of the Commonwealth Games 1982

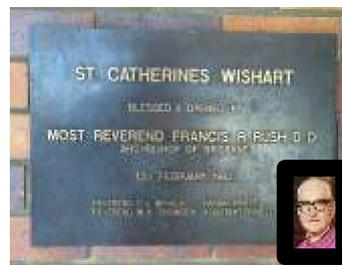
The 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games were held from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1982, during the school vacation. Early in the planning process, land in Wishart had been considered as the site for the Games Village. QE II Stadium, Nathan, site of the Opening Ceremony, and five other venues were close to Wishart. The Games gave new confidence to the people of Brisbane and Queensland.

### The Whirlwind of the New Church and our First Library

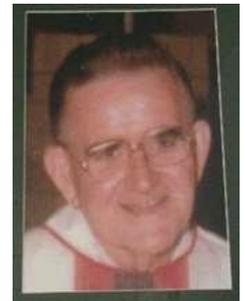
On 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1983, Archbishop Rush blessed and opened a new Parish Church built adjacent to the original Church on land bought by the Parish in 1975. In 1975, Fr Pat McHugh, Parish Priest, had learnt on a Saturday that two adjoining properties were for sale. With the Archbishop's approval that very day for the purchase, the parishioners at the weekend Masses in the original Church were invited to help. Such was their support that they responded generously donating \$32 000 by the Monday morning. The deal was done!



The new St Catherine's Church – blessed and opened by Archbishop Rush on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1983



Fr Pat McHugh,  
Parish Priest  
1971 - 2003



Bishop Cuskelly blessed and opened the new Library occupying a modified half of the former Church.

With the major classroom projects completed. Sr Denise focussed on consolidating the School's resources and developing a Library. When the new Parish Church was opened, half of the original Church was refurbished as a hall with a kitchenette. The other half became the Library, with a small room, which formerly accommodated Reconciliation Rooms, refurbished to be an audio-visual viewing space. A Government grant helped in part. A Teacher Librarian was welcomed.

It was also time to look at playtime equipment. The 'Concrete Oval' was the main playing area. An adventure playground was built on Bellot Street. Equipment was considered that could advantage the children educationally - even indirectly supporting the perceptual motor skills they needed for reading.



'The Concrete Oval', now Cove Lane



An Adventure Playground on Bellot St

### The Whirlwind of Changes in Pedagogy

This was a time of some turning points challenging schools. From the late 1970s, studies in child development and children's social-emotional needs had impacted on learning, learning styles and discipline in schools. There was learning in this for School personnel. Brisbane Catholic Education Office was beginning to engage consultants such as Mr Jeff Kemp who helped assess students' cognitive, behavioural or social capacities, and recommended to teachers approaches to meet the students' identified needs in learning.

The School's learning environment was progressive and engaging for all stakeholders. Teachers were challenged to imagine what the world would be like for their students post-school. In fact, these students when as young adults in the 1990s, were using their own computers and mobiles daily. The 'purpose' and the 'how' of teaching and learning in schools had changed. Learning just by rote was no longer justified. In the 1980s, teachers were introduced to planning and logging their own professional development. For their professional practice, teachers were introduced to 'Current Curriculum Planning' (CCPs) to help them account for the whole of the curriculum cycle of each stand-alone or integrated study, taking into account the students' needs and interests and all that happens in the learning environment.

Formerly, teachers reporting of student summative results in learning had been presented only in written reports using percentages. This evolved to recording student summative results in written reports using an alphabetical grading structure but, as well, discussed further in a formal interview with parents.

In the 1980s, Brisbane Catholic Education introduced programs to facilitate renewal in the schools. In 1985, the publicly-funded School Community Improvement Program (S.C.I.P.) provided St Catherine's \$13 000 which was used for: a Personal Development Education program for teachers; the upgrading of the Physical Education Program; a Speech and Drama Specialist for Year 7s; a music teacher during 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester; and a Computer educator. As well, professional development programs supported Early Years education.

### The Parents continued to be Extraordinary!

The parents continued to be extraordinary in their commitment to maintaining the grounds developing facilities and play spaces, and raising funds to resource teaching and learning, including resources for the



Library. In 1981, the P&F turned down an offer to develop the grounds of St John's Church, Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road, as a sports facility. It was considered at that stage that too much needs to be done in St Catherine's School grounds. In 1984, the Fete raised \$8 349.55. In 1984 as well, two computers costing \$5 000 and a Rank Xerox photocopier costing \$3 200 represented new technology to accommodate changing administration, and teaching and learning practices.

A fun activity at Fetes for 'getting back' at mates, staff and even a brave Principal!

### The Hospitality of the Sisters

Sr Agnese (who had retired after teaching Year 5) was famous for the scones she prepared for the morning teas parents enjoyed at the working bees. Sr Agnese was also appreciated by children who seemed to enjoy leaving their lunches at home so that they could line up at the Convent at lunch time for one of her vegemite or peanut butter sandwiches. What fillings might Sr Agnese have selected for the children in 2023 when allergies seem more prevalent. However, the children, even then, had to be guided by the School to grow in personal responsibility for bringing their own lunches. Meanwhile, it was important for the Sisters to nurture relationships. The Sisters welcomed staff to the Convent for a barbeque. Some semi-retired Sisters volunteered to help classes with craft or in the Library. During 1977 and 1978, a Sister visited the School weekly to help children in a learning support role. Some Sisters provided some outside school hours tuition.

### Safety

Throughout the changing socio-cultural context of the 1980s, both security and Workplace Health and Safety concerns were considered more strategically. Following a break and entry into the School in 1985, the P&F engaged Wormald Security to send patrols costing \$1 000 annually. As well in 1985, a Safety House program was entered into with Wishart State School, Mt Gravatt East State School and Mansfield State School.

### 'The Hinze Highway'

Traffic, both entering from Newnham Rd and moving around the property, was an issue. At this stage, the two entrances from Newnham Road were both entries and exits. A growing volume of local residential traffic was using St Catherine's car park and the Bellot Street ramp as a thoroughfare. A bus stop was needed in front of the School. Turning right from busy Newnham Rd from the south onto the property was a nightmare.



In 1985, Fr McHugh made contact with Mr Russ Hinze, then Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing. A bus stop was positioned as requested and Mr Hinze came to St Catherine's for a ritual and celebration for all to enjoy when he cut the ribbon opening the turning-right lane. It upgraded the level of safety for motorists entering the Church and School property. This turning-right lane was affectionately referred to as the 'Hinze Highway'. The opening made the 6 p.m. News on commercial television channels.



### St Catherine's Staff 1981

Principal: Sr Denise Ryan, PBVM

**Front Row left to right:** Sr Celsus Conroy, Sr Mary Murphy, Mrs Iris Dunn, Sr Denise Ryan, Sr Marie Hearn, Sr Raymond Lloyd, Sr Agnese Galieh

**Second Row:** Mrs Leigh O'Shea, Mrs M. Collyer, Sr Helen Glover, Mrs Judy Boyland, Mrs Anne Robinson, Mrs Maud Chapman, Mrs Gay Short, Mrs Barbara Mugeridge, Miss Terri Maranta, Mrs Bev Tronc, Mrs C. Mitrow

**Third Row:** Miss Margaret Jessop, Mrs Christine Coman, Mr Albert Kessler, Mr Peter Shaw, Mr G. Henderson, Mrs Joy Gerry, Mrs Mona Quantock.

**Absent:** Miss E. O'Neill.

In his **Report to the Annual General Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 1985**, President Laurie Parr paid tribute to the extraordinary contribution of members of the P&F Committee, parents and friends, retired Sisters and staff during 1985, and to Sr Denise. He wrote:

"I am sorry to say goodbye to Sr Denise whose leadership, interest and friendship will be missed very much. She has set an incredible example for us to follow. We wish her well for the future.....I ask all parents and friends to support our new Principal, Mrs Bev Tronc, teachers and the new P&F Committee."

## THE PRESENTATION SISTERS LEAVE ST CATHERINE'S.

In 1988, the Presentation Sisters decided that they would withdraw from Wishart at the end of 1989. On 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1989, St Catherine's Parish celebrated Mass and a supper to farewell the Presentation Sisters. The President of the Parents and Friends Association presented a Testimonial Gift to the Sisters. Fr McHugh expressed the indebtedness of the parishioners of St Catherine's to the Sisters for their heroic work over the years.

### **Sisters who served at St Catherine's School, 1973 – 1989 were:**

Anita Anderson (for 1 year), Patricia (Carmelita) Butler (3), Celsus Conroy (15), Margaret (Berchmans) Conway (3), Marilyn Cuttler (2), Robyn (Genevieve) Doyle (2), Majella Foster (3), Agnese Galieh (8), Helen Glover (2), Rosemary Haley (2), Margaret Hallinan (2), Marie Hearn (3), Geraldine Herbert (1), Merle (Ricardo) Hodge (3), Carmel (Jean Marie) Hodgkinson (3), Margaret Hughes (3), Anne Marie Jensen (2), Marion Kingston (3), Winifred Knaggs (4), Raymond Lloyd (7), Margaret Lynch (2), Pamela McSweeney, Mary Murphy (5), Denise Ryan (5) and Philippa Rynne (1).

**Other Sisters who had been members of the Community** – working at St Thomas More, Sunnybank; at St Peter's Rochedale; at Brisbane Catholic Education; or who were studying, retired or convalescing; were:

Lynn Albury (1 year), Jocelyn Brown (1), Bernard Conneely (3), Emmanuel Conneely (3), John Cormican (2), Beverly Crane (2), Brendan Dolphin (1), Damian Fadian (1), Mary Foster (3), Mercia (Cecily) Foster (1), Majella Franzmann (1), Mary Franzmann (3), Marie Griffin (2.5), Rosemary Grundy (4), Diane Hearn (3), Monica Mannion (4), Paula McGrath (9), Peta Anne Molloy (2), Gemma Moore (3), Paschal Murphy (2), Vicki Anne Parry (2), Bernadette Royes (4), Mary Sayer (1), Julie Shears (1) and Dorothea Thorsen (1).

**The Superiors-General during 1973 to 1989** were Gabriel Hogan, Andrea McGrath and Kathleen Tynan.

### **On 4<sup>th</sup> November, the Sisters held their own Farewell Prayer Celebration and party. They prayed:**

"Today, we are gathered to remember the past and give thanks for what has been given and for what has grown. As we stand at the doorway between what has been in Wishart and what is yet to come, we celebrate the beginning of a new life in this house with the coming of the (St Paul de Chartres) Sisters through whom the Lord will work in new directions. We came and sowed the seed. What has been planted will soon bear fruit as the tree continues to grow and give life. As we move away from the soil tilled by so many of our Sisters, we do so in the knowledge that we have prepared the ground for new harvesters."

In 1988, three Sisters belonging to the Daughters of St Paul of Chartres from Hong Kong visited Brisbane and Wishart to plan their ministry in association with Fr Albert Chan M.S.C., Chaplain to the Chinese community in the Archdiocese. Fr McHugh had hopes for developing an Aged Care Residence and Child Care Centre on Ham Road but they were not to be realised. The Sisters lived at the Wishart Convent from 1990 to October 1992 when they moved to the Residential Aged Care facility they developed at Boronia Heights.

## 1986: A NEW ERA BEGINS WITH THE PRINCIPALSHIP OF MRS BEV TRONC

The appointment of Mrs Bev Tronc, the first lay Principal of St Catherine's, inaugurated a turning point in the culture of St Catherine's School. Mrs Tronc was the first married laywoman to become a Principal in Brisbane Catholic Education. Lay Staff were now responsible for the School's administrative, educative, religious and pastoral leadership. Changes in the ecclesial, education, cultural, administrative, societal and technological dimensions of life at St Catherine's were apparent and would be ongoing. Queensland Education was developing a *Preschool to Year 10 Syllabus Framework* for syllabus documents to be developed later. As well, policies were introduced regarding the integration and mainstreaming of students with special needs. These documents and policies were due to have practical consequences for St Catherine's.

### Teachers

Mrs Tronc remembers the teachers communicating passion and creativity. They did not have teacher aides working with them. They made their own resources or, out of their own pocket, bought their resources for teaching all subject areas. There were no specialist teachers nor class budgets. Assemblies were conducted on the 'Concrete Oval'. Meanwhile, teachers' and school officers' industrial remuneration was not on a par with teachers in the Queensland Education Department. Teachers received 90% of the salary which teachers in State Schools received. Teachers who were 1 or 2 year Certificate trained at Teachers Colleges undertook courses to upgrade to a three year Diploma classification or higher. The financial remuneration for the Sisters was a stipend paid to their community for their service.

With decreasing numbers of Religious Sisters and Brothers, Catholic Education and St Catherine's needed competent people who knew the Jesus story and the St Catherine's story for roles which were new. In 1986, the Archdiocesan Institute of Faith Education helped many teachers upgrade their knowledge and understandings in Religious Education and Theology. In 1986, Brisbane Catholic Education published its first *Education in Faith Guidelines* (led by Sr Desley Robinson RSM) for its primary schools. The traditional faith content was developed spirally in terms of the relationships and developmental stages children generally experienced in the culture of the 1980s.



### St Catherine's Staff 1986

Principal: Mrs Bev Tronc

**Front Row left to right:** Sr Majella Foster, Mrs Eileen Zagami, Mrs Judy Boyland, Sr Celsus Conroy, Mrs Bev Tronc, Mrs Iris Dunn, Mrs Joy Gerry, Mrs Jean Mazoletti, (an EAL/D or Indonesian language teacher to be identified)

**Second Row:** Mr Albert Kessler, Miss Cathy Archer, Mrs Barbara Muggeridge, Mrs Leigh O'Shea, Mrs Maud Chapman, Mrs Sharyn Webster, Mrs Anne Robinson, Mrs Christine Coman, Mr Sean White

**Third Row:** Sr Marilyn Cutler, Mrs Gay Short, Mr John Ryan, Miss Elizabeth Beatson, Miss Amanda Owen  
(Apologies to the staff member who is yet to be identified.)

## Parents

Parents also were challenged and empowered to take more personal responsibility for their children's Religious Education and preparation for receiving the Sacraments. At the same time, parents continued to take ownership of particular tasks to help the community. A parent, Lorraine Hewton, cared for the gardens long after her children had left St Catherine's. Rosters and working bees continued to be well attended. The P&F Association continued to roster up to seven parents to maintain the property each weekend. Without the Sisters' morning tea hospitality, new approaches to refresh parents after their labours evolved.

The P&F Association held three main fundraising functions per year in this era: the Annual Sportsmen's Night featuring a top sporting personality as guest, the Fete; a fun-in-the-park family Sunday or parish picnic; and a 'Thank you' for families of fete workers in Broadwater Park. The community's support for the Parents and Friends Association enabled the Association to give \$100 monthly (\$271 value in 2023) for library purchases.

In July 1986, four persons on Community Service sentences began working around the School on weekends. In July 1987, Community Service workers covered 4 000 library books.

On 17 November, 1986, Pope John Paul II visited Australia including Alice Springs where he made his memorable statement to Aboriginal Australians. For when he presided at Mass at QEII Stadium, Wishart was an assembling place for many visiting priests.

## 1987 to 1997: DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PRINCIPALSHIP OF MR MICHAEL BYRNES

### St Catherine's Staff 1991



Principal Mr Michael Byrnes

**Front Row left to right:** Toni O'Connor, Christine Earl, Margaret Naylor, Rae Hurrell (A.P. Religious Education), Michael Byrnes, Leigh O'Shea (A.P. Administration), Amanda Owen, Rita Mulvey, Pam Cockerill

**Second Row:** Albert Kessler, Kathy Rourke, Barbara Muggerridge, Gay Short, Anne Robinson, Julie Case, Alf. Maccarone, Caryol Curley, Christine Russell

**Third Row:** Iris Dunn, Lindy Shaw, Rosene Bess, Dennis Jeakings, Maree McFarline, Brian Cole, Leanne Caine, Moira Pusey

Mr Michael Byrne served as Principal from 1987 to 1998. During this period, the School's facilities and services continued to expand, and Mr Byrne spearheaded mechanisms for identifying and supporting the learning needs of all students, and in particular, the children enrolled in Year 1, being the entry level to the School at the time. Michael was assisted as Principal by Mrs Rae Hurrell (Assistant to the Principal, Religious Education) and from 1991, by Mrs Leigh O'Shea (Assistant to the Principal, Administration).

### **The Celebration of Expo '88**

Six years after the whirlwind of confidence and optimism generated by the 1982 Commonwealth Games, Expo 88 provided six months of sustained high energy for people including St Catherine's families enjoying the exhibits, wonderful entertainment, food from many nations and fun shared day and night.

### **The Highly Significant Development of the Morella St Oval**

The growing School needed an oval for its Athletics Carnivals and for play space. In earlier years, the students walked to the Abbeville St Park. For some years until 1990, the Clairvaux MacKillop College Ovals accommodated the Carnivals. On 10th August 1987, the P&F Committee first discussed and took suggestions for a plan to develop the Morella St bushland end of the property as an oval. At a public meeting about the oval on 14<sup>th</sup> September, sixty parents were preoccupied with questions about finance for the project and its optimal design. At the Annual General Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1987, Pat Spranklin was elected President.

With the community behind them, the P&F Committee bravely embraced this major challenge. Stage 1 in 1989 involved the construction of the road at the Bellot St entrance. Stage 2 in 1990 involved the excavation of the oval area and the cartage of the fill. In 1991, the first Athletic Carnival was held on the oval. Many people including, but not limited to, Pat Spranklin, Ron Osborne and Jim Lequertier needed to be recognized and thanked for their dedicated and often hidden, honorary efforts to build this amazing asset which generations of students were yet to enjoy. A Community Service worker, a welder by trade, helped install the Morella St gates. On 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1991, Pat Spranklin offered 'Special thanks to Russell Taylor and all the fathers and mothers who have helped in the construction of our school oval.' It was not until 1987 that the question of employing a part-time groundsman was first raised in the P&F. Russell began part-time service in the groundskeeping role in 1998 and continues to serve part-time in 2023. Russell and his groundskeeping colleagues, throughout that time, have kept the grounds at a high standard in terms of their serving the School's needs and purposes, safety, cleanliness and aesthetics. Appreciation of the work of all these parents, including Pat Spranklin's leadership and diligence, could be perceived in the community's unofficial naming of the Olympic size long jump pit as 'The Pat Spranklin Long Jump Pit'!

The negotiation of the finance for the oval led to the establishment of a Finance Committee in April, 1990. The total cost of the oval was \$135 000 (2023 value: \$331 030). Finance for it was achieved finally through an Archdiocesan Development Fund loan of \$100 000 (\$75 000 for the P&F and \$25 000 for the Parish). The P&F levy was increased for the first time since 1973 from \$10 (2023 value: \$26) to \$50 (2013 value: \$131). To service the monthly \$1 230 payments and all other commitments, money was raised from the Fetes, Spellathons, Bingo (a School/Parish joint enterprise), Trivia Social Nights, an Art & Craft Festival, Chocolate Drives, fathers' 'Sports' nights, gatherings for mothers, TAFE College Dinners, Dinner Dances at Pacific Golf Club and Movie Nights. The community gathered as well on Sports Days, Sacramental Celebration Days and over cups of tea after class masses.

### **The Accelerating Changes in Learning**

Beginning in 1989, a tool BCE's Schools and staff were able to take advantage of was 'Keylink', an electronically transmitted mailing system. The computerised office system at St Catherine's was so highly regarded as one of the most advanced for Office Secretaries that in 1991 it was showcased to staff from other schools.

Throughout 1987 to 1996, accelerating changes in teaching and learning impacted on St Catherine's Staff in professional development with emphasis on student learning outcomes and reporting.

St Catherine's developed its capacity and procedures to support children with diverse needs. It has always been part of the DNA of all Learning Support Teachers including Mrs Christine Russell and Mrs Marie Ffrench to be at the nerve centre of awareness of children's strengths and needs. Marie, appointed to the evolving role of S.T.I.E. – Support Teacher, Inclusive Education, cultivated a team of teachers and school officers who supported children in their learning and behavioural needs. This motivated and self-directed team grew in significant numbers in the first decade of the new millennium. They have excelled in how they have collaborated in their roles and duties, and responded to needs and to professional development.

In 1988, Amanda Owen was the first teacher released for the role of Sports Co-ordinator. With support from the P&F and parents, the students engaged in Perceptual Motor Programs to help their directional skills, Jump Rope for Heart, interschool netball, softball, soccer and both swimming and athletics in both our Catholic Zone and State District Carnivals.

Other curriculum areas also were focussed upon. From 1987, professional development for teaching English was promoted by Brisbane Catholic Education in all schools. Through to 1991, courses offered included the Early Literacy Inservice Course (ELIC), Further Literacy Inservice (FLIP) and Language in Learning (LIL). In 1992-93, teachers were inserviced in the English Language Arts (ELA) by colleagues trained by BCE Education Officers as key teachers. The explicit teaching of genres and of aspects of texts and writing was introduced and was supported with resources. A new English Language Arts Syllabus was introduced in Queensland in 1990. Projects associated with information technology and computers grew as a priority. In 1990, the teaching of Mandarin as the Language other than English (LOTE) was taken up by St Catherine's.

Societal pressures called for new initiatives for the care of children. In 1991, staff were inserviced formally for the first time on issues related to Child Protection and Protective Behaviours. Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) was introduced to St Catherine's. Initially, care for students was co-ordinated through co-operation with the OSHC at Wishart State School. In 1989, St Catherine's OSHC took responsibility for its own supervision of students using the area near the Tuckshop beneath Block C. Its next move was to occupy some rooms in the Convent which the Sisters had vacated. After the new Labour Library was opened on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2007, OSHC was accommodated in the Community space which the Library had occupied. Its ultimate home was the purpose-made facility in the Nano Nagle Centre, opened in 2010. To provide for children on days of high demand, St Catherine's OSHC has continued to co-operate with Wishart State School OSHC. In 2019, this service became a service of Centacare Child Care Services, currently as part of its Catholic Early EdCare.

By 1995, the reforms recommended by Professor Wiltshire's panel's review of the Queensland curriculum, *Shaping the Future*, were introduced. It recommended a core curriculum within Key Learning Areas based on shared values, and that is both future-oriented and capable of continuous adaptation. Very significantly, it recommended that Queensland should participate actively in the discussions of a national curriculum.

### **School Fees 1991**

For families: with one child \$815; with two children \$1050; and with at least three children \$1090.

### The Sacred Heart Chinese Language School conducted at St Catherine's

From 1991 to 2011, a Chinese Language School, institutionally separate from St Catherine's School, was conducted on Saturdays in St Catherine's classrooms. The learning of languages was a need identified in the Chinese Catholic Community, Brisbane (CCC) which developed following the arrival of Fr Albert Chan M.S.C. in Brisbane in 1985 to serve as Chaplain. The Language School was founded in 1990 by Sr Joanna Wong, a Canossian Sister, who conducted a class at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace. It reflected the great throes of change which Australia was experiencing. Beyond the impacts of the Immigration Restriction Act of 1901 (the White Australia Policy), Australia had developed gradually in its self-concept as a multicultural nation.

The Chinese Catholic Community comprised migrants from a range of places of origin and with a mixture of dialects and pastoral needs. The Chinese School conducted at St Catherine's consolidated the competence of children in the Cantonese language and of adults in English and Mandarin. Education was the instrument to nurture children in their cultural identity and to equip adults for their life in Australian society.

Students and teachers came from as far away as the Sunshine and Gold Coasts. Enrolments fluctuated with 90 students in 1991 and 300 students in 2011. The teachers included former teachers from Hong Kong and local graduate teachers.

In 1989, Fr Chan welcomed two communities of Sisters to Brisbane – the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres who lived at the Convent at St Catherine's 1990 – 1992 and the Chinese Sisters of the Immaculate Conception – to help support the Chinese Community in the broad range of their needs. Some Sisters played some roles for some time supporting the Language School at St Catherine's.

In 1997, the School was renamed the Sacred Heart Chinese School which remains the name of the service still conducted at Mansfield State High School on Saturdays.

### Concerts

Concerts have always been a treasured part of life in schools, including St Catherine's. Musicals such as *Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat* have been produced at St Catherine's. In the mid 1990s, Year 7 students presented a concert just for their parents as an expression of their gratitude to them. In time, this concert evolved according to its purpose, scope and venue. The time came for the School to need to use auditoriums of local High Schools to accommodate the presentation of the concert.

In the 2000s under the direction of Helen Brittain A.P.R.E., Christmas Concerts developed as a whole School presentation with every Year Level presenting elements of a rich musical and dramatic portrayal of the Christmas story. Throughout the years, the Concerts have been presented in the auditorium of Clairvaux MacKillop College, at Hillsong, Mt Gravatt and on a stage trucked onto the oval. The Covid pandemic with its requirement for social distancing interrupted the presentation of the Concert. Citipointe Church auditorium has been the most recent venue. Pictured here are students in rehearsal.



### Things that happen...

Staff can tell you stories of the wonders of childhood, disasters, surprises, and humour...

- Blu tack was a very handy invention in 1971 for use for the right purposes.  
Its novelty inspired a few boys to test its capacity for block the drain in the boys' toilet. It did!
- A class leading a NAIDOC Assembly in the Church practised placing the receptacle for the Smoking Ceremony on the carpet. The carpet was synthetic and yes, it melted.  
On the day, there was a lesson about heat transfer  
and since then, we've learnt about the cultural protocols for Smoking Ceremonies.
- A parent of a year 1 student pressed the case for her son to wear a stud earring.  
Gender equality was in order.  
However, the practical school rule about not wearing some other jewellery was understood better when a girl's finger ring caught her hand in a toilet door, causing her great distress.

### The School Uniform

By 1995, parents had requested a review of the school uniforms. The day uniform was still the original Presentation School blue check dress for the girls and grey shirts and shorts for the boys. The sports uniform was also still unchanged except for girls being able to wear an orange skirt. Parents wanted to say goodbye to the 'orange' but teachers advocated for the orange as it helped them identify St Catherine's students in interschool sporting events.

In 1996, the phasing in of new styles of uniforms began; these day and sports uniforms which are still worn in 2023. For their day uniform, girls wear a contemporary styling of an untucked blouse – a fine light blue and orange check on a white background - with a navy and orange tie and navy culottes. Boys also wear untucked shirts with the same print and navy shorts.



The sports uniforms are polo shirts with orange and navy stylistic patterns and navy shorts with a 'STC' print. Preps wear their distinctive orange hats while all other students wear their broad brimmed navy hats with the School badge. A parent-run uniform shop stocks all the merchandise except for the shoes.

## Camps

Camps – at Camp Cal, Mapleton and Tallebudgera have always been a highlight of Year 5, 6 and (formerly) Year 7 students' experience of St Catherine's. Children (and parents) can anticipate them as challenging experiences. For health and safety reasons, teachers' preparation of the children for their confident participation has always been a high priority.



In the past, camps have been used to prepare the students for their leadership roles within the School. In more recent times, a day at School early in the year has been set aside for formal leadership training for the Senior Class in the school.

### Features of day-to-day schooling up to the 1990s which have disappeared:

1. the School's incinerator burner on its concrete slab;
2. the school bell, 'blackboards', manual and electric typewriters;
3. student worksheets bearing the methanol aromas of the Fordigraph duplicator;
4. the duplication of the weekly School Newsletter 'Contact' on Gestetner machines by secretaries wearing vinyl aprons to protect their clothes from unpredictable 'ink spills' and permanent stains;
5. dictaphones;
6. messages including messages from parents collected daily from classrooms in 'ice cream buckets';
7. parents' handwritten notes advising the School of the absence of their children;
8. the Victa 'red phone' in the Office foyer parents used instead of the Office's one line landline;
9. the multi-line Commander phone system (introduced in 1987);
10. overhead projectors, cassette recorders, even compact disc players.

### Emergent Environmental, Workplace, Health and Safety Issues, and Developments using Technology:

1. every staff member's and student's access to digital devices for learning;
2. mobile, email and social media communication for messages amongst staff, students and parents;
3. data projectors and smart boards in every classroom;
4. digital recording of rolls twice per day;
5. skills in using software and devices for remote learning amongst staff and students;
6. sunshades protecting children in some playground areas and air conditioned classrooms;
7. students' reports sent to parents and caregivers digitally and parent interviews organised online;
8. the duty of care, legal and medical preparations (and for learning) ahead of class excursions;
9. Child Protection and Protective Behaviours as part of Safeguarding; and
10. car drop-off zones, the Crossing Supervisor at Bellot Street and compulsory bicycle helmets.

## 1998 to 2002: DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PRINCIPALSHIP OF DR ANNETTE DUFFY

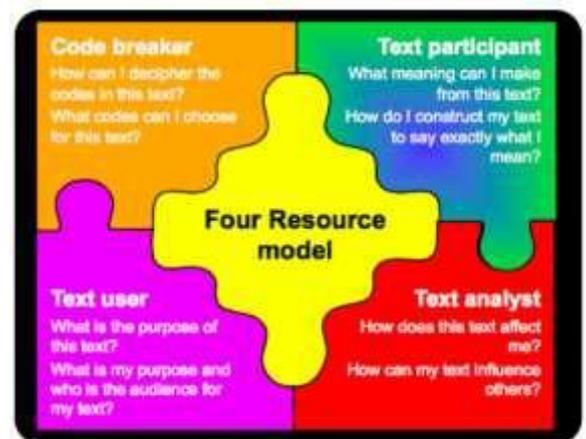
Following demographic cyclic patterns in the 1990s, St Catherine's School contracted in size but not in its vitality. While some inner Brisbane Catholic primary schools initiated programs to persuade parents to educate their sons in parish rather than independent boys' schools, Dr Duffy advocated a focus on the provision of optimum conditions for learning for all boys and girls.

### Preschool, the Transition Class and Prep

Preschool was introduced to St Catherine's in 2000 in the rooms yet to be occupied in 2007 onwards by the Creche and Kindergarten Association's (C&K) St Catherine's Community Kindergarten. However, primary schooling was on the cusp of a major change. Dr Duffy's enthusiasm for St Catherine's being at the cutting edge of advances in Early Years Education was not blunted by St Catherine's failure to be chosen as a Trial Prep School. A five-day fortnight Preschool program continued to be offered. However, Dr Duffy laid the foundation for a Transition Class which was offered throughout 2003 to 2006 to accommodate children bridging Kindergarten and Year 1. Two classrooms were repurposed. In 2003, Dr Duffy took Study Leave. However, her initiative was carried on under the Acting Principalship of Helen Camden in 2003 and the Principalship of John Carroll from 2004 to 2006. The Transition Class' teacher - Janine Elkington (McKean) - is recognized for having conducted this innovation highly successfully. In 2007, the Preschool and Transition classes programs were superseded by the introduction of two Prep Classes. Prep was different. It is still a full-time Monday to Friday program with a defined curriculum. Children have to be five years of age by 30 June in the year they enrol. To date, this is the last of several changes in the minimum age required for students' enrolment throughout the fifty years.

### Supporting Teaching and Learning

Informed by the research and insights of educators, as well as by governmental policies and guidelines, teachers were challenged to consider their own pedagogical practice in all curriculum areas. One pathway advocated at that time was that of 'Action Research' proffered by Stephen Kemmis from Charles Sturt University. Though the question of a national curriculum was topical, this was yet to be realised. In 1997, Queensland's *Years 1–10 Curriculum Framework* informed learning across the State. In 2002, Allan Luke and Peter Freebody's *Literate Futures: Whole-School Literacy Planning Guidelines* informed teachers of approaches to improve literacy. Maria Mead supported staff in their journeys of embedding digital technology in all teaching and learning.



The 'Four Resource Model'  
(Freebody & Luke, 1999)

During this period, it was desired that every student, including those with disabilities, be given the best chance to learn. Strategies to support the children included the Year 2 Diagnostic Net, the Reading Recovery Program and the engagement of allied health professionals – Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists – to optimize the students' receptivity for learning. Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

became mandatory for students ascertained for special education support. School Officers received inservice to support children with disabilities in their holistic learning. By 1999, new Queensland literacy and numeracy tests for Year 3 and 5 students began using agreed benchmarks. In 2000, Year 7 students were tested as well. It was mandatory for every school to develop its own Behaviour Management Plan. It was also a time when awareness of children's allergic reactions to foods and drink – including peanuts and red cordial – was growing. Teachers were trained to use EpiPens for anaphylactic reactions and carried both Epi-pens and intercom devices on playground duty.

### Outcomes Based Education

Impacting on every teacher, student and parent through the 1990s, and into the first decade of the new millennium, was the introduction of Outcomes Based Education (OBE) approaches to curriculum, instruction and assessment. It was 'fathered' by William G. Spady, an American sociologist. Teachers were inserviced to report the progress of students in what they knew and were able to do according to predetermined outcomes. The Outcome Level assigned did not necessarily correspond one-to-one with the Year Level of the student in the School. Very frequently, this needed explanation at parent interviews. OBE, a student-centred, process-driven approach which focused on each student's attitudes, dispositions and competencies, had both benefits and drawbacks. It was superseded by a Standards approach to the Essential Learnings embedded in each Year Level's syllabus. OBE's vague curriculum descriptors frustrated teachers' differentiation of students' learning pathways.



### St Catherine's School Staff 2002

Principal: Mrs Annette Duffy

#### Front Row left to right:

Melissa Di Sipio, Megan Smith, Anne Culwick, Annette Duffy, Kerry Williams, Janine Elkington,

**Second Row:** Margaret Naylor, Elizabeth O'Brien, Beverley Appleyard, Jackie Keveney Jones, Kathy Peasey, Mary Cleary, Julio Borgo

**Third Row:** Michelle Ferguson, Gay Cullen, Jacqueline Hall, Chris Thomas, Maria Becquigny, Lindy Shaw, Ceanne Caine.

### A New Religious Education Curriculum

In 1997, Brisbane Catholic Education released a set of documents encompassing a new Religious Education program: a Statement about Religious Education, a Syllabus Document, a Curriculum Profile document (which was superseded by a revision in the style of OBE); and Preschool to Year 12 Trial Units. This curriculum package was helpful for developing the whole school program as its exposition of its philosophical and learning framework was instructive and the Trial Units, composed by classroom teachers guided by Kerry Rush (BCE Education Officer), reflected teachers' grassroots practices at that time. Inservices supported the implementation of the curriculum.

### The Relocation of the Sacramental Preparation Programs to their place within the life of the Parish

In 1989, Archbishop Francis Rush issued new guidelines for a Parish-based program for preparing children for Confirmation and Eucharist as Sacraments of Initiation and for the Sacrament of Penance and Rites of Reconciliation. Six years later, after an extensive review process, adaptations were made to introducing children to the First Rite of Reconciliation. The revised document was promulgated by Archbishop Bathurst as the official diocesan policy on 24 May, 1997. The Parish-based Sacramental Preparation Program at St Catherine's evolved as a Rite of Christian Initiation Program developed for children and implemented by Trish Stapleton, Pastoral Worker in the Upper Mt Gravatt Wishart Parish.

### The Development of the St Catherine's Parish School Board

A development during Dr Duffy's Principalship that reflected the importance of parent and community partnerships and good governance was the development of the Parish School Board. On behalf of Brisbane Catholic Education, George Kendall, an experienced Principal, prepared parents, staff, parishioners, the parish priest, and the principal for their engagement in this peak consultative and advisory body known as the Parish School Board. Its role was to enhance, through wisdom shared in dialogue, the leadership underpinning significant decisions made for the School.

## 2003: CONSOLIDATION AND CARE DURING THE ACTING PRINCIPALSHIP OF MRS HELEN CAMDEN

Mrs Helen Camden was Acting Principal for 2003 during Dr Duffy Study Leave. Mrs Camden was highly attentive to and supportive of all the stakeholders in the community – both the pastoral needs of children, staff and parents and also all who had professional obligations and commitments, responsible for conducting the School. A major responsibility Helen Camden carried successfully was her support for the innovative, but certainly initially challenging, Transition Year Class – supporting the children, Janine Elkington as teacher and Karen Condon as School Officer, and the families involved in.



### St Catherine's Staff 2003

Principal: Helen Camden

**Front Row left to right:** Kathy Peasey, Jessica Lourigan, Christine Allison, Helen Camden, Kerrie Appleyard, Kerry Williams, Melissa Di Sipio

**Second Row:** Helen Brittain, Janine Elkington, Beverley Appleyard, Karen Condon, Kathy Harris, Elizabeth O'Brien, Kate Kealey, Melissa Blackwood

**Third Row:** Lindy Shaw, Ceanne Caine, Gay Cullen, Maria Becquigny, Julie Millard, Sarah Stevens, Jane Torrens, Michelle Ferguson

In 2004, John Carroll was appointed Principal. He was a strong leader of faith and learning in the School promoting the ongoing whole school renewal process. With vision and vigour, and challenge and support for the children, staff and families, he led change. The rhythmic melody and engaging lyrics in the School Song (Refer to Appendix C) composed in 2005 by Catherine (Cath.) Parker and still sung enthusiastically, reflects John Carroll's will to engage the whole community in being a part of and enjoying the spirit of St Catherine's. Cath Parker, the Music Teacher, was a former student along with her sisters, daughters of John Chandler, P&F President from 1980 to 1981.

### The Covenant

In 2004, the Parish School Board embodied in the concept of a 'Covenant' its Vision, Values and Commitments for St Catherine's. The concept has biblical roots. The Board drew upon St Catherine's 30 year history and discerned principles to guide its future journey. This great achievement was duly celebrated.

**St Catherine's School Covenant**

**Vision**  
*St Catherine's aspires to be a Christian learning community, founded on:*

- Living faith
- Quality relationships
- Potential of the individual
- Global stewardship
- The power of hope

**Values**  
*As a Christ-centred community, we value:*

- Evolving faith
- Life-long learning
- Compassion and justice
- Loving and purposeful relationships
- The uniqueness of the individual
- Collective diversity
- Courage
- Our natural environment

**Commitment**  
*We will strive to achieve our vision through:*

- Effective teaching and learning
- Productive partnerships
- Shared responsibility
- Humble and respectful service
- Collaborative wisdom

The poster also includes several small photographs: a school building, a row of colorful bottles, a circular graphic with a figure, and a school playground.

**St Catherine's Staff  
2008**

Principal:

John Carroll

**Front Row left to right:**

Mary Fallon,

Melissa Formosa,

Carol Cavanagh,

Kathy Moses,

John Carroll,

Helen Brittain

(Assistant to the  
Principal, Religious  
Education),



Anne Kelly, Janine McKean, Christine McColl

**Second Row:**

Diane Walsh, Liz O'Brien, Trish Juillerat, Kerry Williams, Sonya Settle, Belinda Dan, Marie Ffrench,  
Tiffany Chalmers, Kate Kealey, Kris Halvorson

**Third Row:** Debbie Castorina, Kathy Peasey, Lorraine Miers, Katrina Gallaher, Andrew King, Dianne Shead,  
Mary Henricks, Michelle Ferguson, Monique Hegarty (Teacher Librarian)

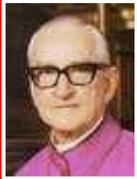
**Fourth Row:** John Elkington, Lorraine Hillas, Jane Torrens, Michael Burnett, Maria Mead, Brian Beiers,  
Michelle Hollowood, Rebecca Wallenburg, Deacon Des Neagle

## The School Houses

The valuing of the historical origins of this place and of St Catherine's Community was demonstrated in the re-naming of the School Houses. Given the growth in the School's enrolment, an extra House was introduced. The Community gathered in St Catherine's Church to celebrate this development. In 2023, the Houses are:

- Yuggera House (Blue), after the First Nations people in this area;
- Conway House (Yellow) after Sr Margaret Conway, Foundation Principal;
- O'Shea House (green) after Father John O'Shea, first Parish Priest of St Catherine's Parish in 1960; and
- Rush House (Red) after Archbishop Francis Rush, Archbishop of Brisbane 1973 – 1991.



<p><b>O'SHEA HOUSE</b></p> <p>Fr John O'Shea was the first Parish Priest of St Catherines'.</p> 	<p><b>CONWAY HOUSE</b></p> <p>Sr Margaret Conway, our Foundation Principal</p> 
<p><b>YUGGERA HOUSE</b></p>  <p>Our Traditional Custodians</p>	<p><b>RUSH HOUSE</b></p> <p>Francis Rush, Archbishop of Brisbane, 1973 - 1991</p> 

## Evolving Forms of Student Leadership

A development in St Catherine's culture is reflected in the understanding of student leadership shared amongst the students and families. Initially, the role of House Captain was coveted individualistically by students and parents. Guided by Administration and staff, team approaches to leadership were cultivated and all students were called to the privilege and responsibility of leadership. Perhaps the fundamental question students are always challenged to consider in their Leadership Formation Days is "How do I lead myself?" All students were challenged to commit themselves to areas of the School's life such as sport, social justice and mission, hospitality and the environment.



### Diverse Facilities for Learning are Developed

In 2006, the space below Block A was closed in to accommodate three spacious Prep rooms and covered spaces. In 2007, Following the Trial Period, Prep was introduced throughout Queensland and St Catherine's two Prep classes superseded the very successful 'Transition' and Preschool classes. John Carroll was intentional in growing the School. By 2009, the Prep to Year 4 classes grew beyond two streams.

On 30th March, 2007, a Creche and Kindergarten Centre was opened on the ground floor of Block C, previously occupied by the Preschool. It was opened by Peter Fardoulys (Vice President of the Creche and Kindergarten Board of Management, Queensland) and Phil Reeves M.L.A (a former student).

On 16 May, 2007, the Laboure Library – a stand-alone architecturally-aesthetic structure placed centrally in a type of 'village square' location - was blessed by Bishop Joseph Oudemann and opened by Mr David Hutton (Executive Director of Brisbane Catholic Education).



The Laboure Library

The Australian Government's 'Building the Education Revolution Program' (BER) enabled the Nano Nagle Centre (colloquially called 'the Nano') to be built on the cleared site of the former Convent. John Carroll supervised the planning throughout 2009. In 2010, Paul Leeson, in the first year of his Principalship at St Catherine's, took the project to its completion.



This spacious, functional and impressive Centre was built to serve many purposes: Assemblies; Out of School Hours Care (now a part of Catholic Early EdCare); the teaching of vocal music, band, strings and piano; concerts; Physical Education and Dance classes; sports activities within and outside school hours; and gatherings for any purpose including incursions and the Fete.



A BER grant also funded the installation of a lift to enable anyone with a disability to access 'the Nano' from Block B (and ultimately from the School Office).



Humour is a gift to accompany the serious business of life. On one occasion, a guest speaker, unfamiliar with the history of the Presentation Sisters, said on her arrival that she was puzzled when she thought she heard, in a telephone conversation with the School, that she would be speaking in 'the Neonatal Centre'!



Donald Smith conducting the St Catherine's / St Bernard's Band at the Q.M.C.F., held annually in August.

### The Music Programs

Consistent with John Carroll's own creative talents, he intentionally collaborated with outstanding teachers, and Helen Brittain, A.P.R.E. as Co-ordinator, to build up the music program – a Choir (of 100 voices), the Junior and Senior Bands, the Beginner, Junior, Senior Ensemble Strings and individual piano tuition. Showcase events included the Autumn and Spring Concerts and annual Piano Recitals at the 4MBS Performance Studio. The Choir and Band (at times partnering with St Bernard's Band) consistently achieved Gold or Silver Standard ratings against adjudicated criteria at the annual Queensland Catholic Music Festival at Villanova College.



Students led by Strings Teachers Amanda Tio and Sally Waterhouse



Music Teacher Sonya Settle and students

### Health and Physical Education

St Catherine's Health and Physical Education programs were implemented by motivated teachers who effectively engaged students, with the support of parents, in enjoying their development of their knowledge and skills, and their personal development. Perceptual Motor programs, athletic carnivals accommodating the varying capacities of the students, cross-country carnivals, swim carnivals and competition in Catholic Zone 2 and Regional District events were supported through teachers' planning and implementation of the Year Level curriculum activities. Dance programs were enjoyed by the children and showcased at Fetes. For several decades, Life Education programs have supported students through biennial visits of instructors in their vans engaging students through digital resources, 3D technology, interactive learning, and play-based learning, to enhance students awareness of a range of health and personal safety issues.



### The Leadership Class' Excursion to Canberra

Throughout 2006 to 2023 (except for the years interrupted by the intense threat of Covid 2019 – 2022), the Senior Class has been prepared exhaustively by their teachers for a five day visit to Canberra and its diverse governmental and other institutions of educational value for the students, followed by a day in the snow at Perisher! A key person in the organisation of these excursions has been Mrs Kerry Williams, a long-serving School Officer, pictured here with 2010 students.



The Whole Gang; Chains on the Bus for the ride to the Snow; The 'Usher' at Parliament House; Hello Mr Beiers and Gang; Mrs Williams and Mrs Peasey; Weary Dunlop, a Hero; and Wow! Look at This!



### A Memory of the First Canberra Excursion 2006

Brian Beiers, Year 4, 6, 7 class teacher 2005 – 2014

One of my favourite memories from St. Catherine's was taking the Year 6 and 7 students on the School's first Canberra excursion in 2006. Our principal, Mr John Carroll instigated the idea with Mrs Kerry Williams doing all the hard work making sure the excursion ran smoothly. I was teaching a 6/7 class with Mrs Jane Torrens but when she became sick at the last-minute, Mrs Kath Peasey had to take her place. Mrs Trish McAdam, mother of Sophie, one of our students, also came along. Who could forget the excitement for many of us of flying the first time, visiting Questacon, the War Memorial and Parliament House – and that was just the teachers! The highlight for many students was a day at Perisher with epic snowball fights. With our bright orange beanies; no one got lost! In fact, while we were at Parliament House, John Carroll was confronted by parliamentary security guards. Instead of detaining him, they congratulated him on the beanies and thought they were great for keeping track of different school groups! The Canberra trip was a fantastic excursion that many students and teachers looked back upon with very fond memories.

## NAPLAN

St Catherine's continued to develop its curriculum delivery aided by the Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority's release of Essential Learnings across intervals of years. Meanwhile, in 2008, the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) - standardized testing of Year 3, 5 and 7 students - was introduced into the primary schools throughout Australia. This testing replaced State-based assessments.



There is nothing like a sausage sizzle to relax Yr 3 students on NAPLAN Day.

## Developing Secretarial Support, School Officer and Leadership Roles

Mona Quantok was the first Secretary of St Catherine's School. Even in 1973 and ever since, the role of the Secretary has always been crucial for all stakeholders in the life of the School – not just for the administrators, teachers and school officers. The School Secretaries have always been most important for and valued by children, parents, every kind of visitor to the school, the Parish and every organisation with which the School connects. Sr Margaret Conway and Mona Quantok were renowned for their attention to detail in 1973. With confidence, it can be said they, and all their succeeding Principals and Secretaries, would have great respect for St Catherine's Secretaries in 2023 – Mrs Jane Holland, Mrs Helen O'Conner and Mrs Anne Kelly, Financial Secretary – for the demands they have to negotiate, and for their competencies and care. For all who have served the School as Secretaries throughout these fifty years, we offer our rich appreciation for how they have contributed to the St Catherine's story. Sr Margaret and Mona faced their own challenges and were at the beginning of the process of comprehensive changes which can be recognised throughout the 50 years.

Behind the calming warmth of the welcome to the School Office has always been a person skilled to handle both a range of human needs and dispositions, and also essential school procedures and technical tasks with professional competence, respect and justice. Throughout the 50 years, the scope of the role has expanded exponentially. Through their role, secretaries support all staff in particular ways to help them in their responsibilities, They are influential in facilitating good for the particular needs of all members of the School Community. Using a range of communication mediums, secretaries link the Administration with staff and parents individually, in groups with a common purpose and with the whole Community. Knowledge, skills and understandings underpinning health, medication, first aid and safety considerations, are called upon daily. Awareness of laws guides their responses to requests and emergencies. Data is collected to account, digitally and in other ways, for children in a variety of circumstances. The Financial Secretary who manages and accounts for the School's financial administration, deserves our rich appreciation for being perhaps the key local support for the Principal for 'keeping the School's boat afloat!'

Similar appreciation is fitting for every School Officer. The increased presence of School Officers throughout the decades complements growth in funding and the School's desire to support children and teachers in the adjustments which are needed to optimize the children's experiences of learning. For the children, the time and the personal care School Officers provide can be key to their wellbeing as well as their learning. For the teacher, the School Officer is both an integral support in managing the dynamics of contemporary learning activities, and also as an informed observer and support alert to each person's needs.

John Carroll as Principal was assisted by Helen Brittain as A.P.R.E.. In 2007, Amanda Sheridan (nee Owen) returned to St Catherine's in the new role of Curriculum Support Teacher. In 2009, Helen Boevink was appointed as to a new role at St Catherine's - Assistant to the Principal, Administration (APA) - responsible for both curriculum planning with the teachers and a range of administrative tasks.

### The Religious Life of the School

Adapting to its changing ecclesial and cultural context, St Catherine's was supported for its nurturing of its Catholic Identity by BCE's implementation in 2009 of the 'Religious Life of the School (RLOS) Guidelines'. The School Community had a resource to draw upon for customising to its context its Religious Identity and Culture; its call to Evangelisation and Faith formation; its engagement in Social Action and Justice; and its facilitation of Prayer and Worship. A resource to help staff structure students' development as people who pray and meditate was the *Meditation Practices and Mandated Prayers for Prep to Year 6*. Helen Brittain guided staff in their implementation of Christian Meditation as a classroom practice. Helen's leadership complemented the Christian Meditation program instituted by Townsville Catholic Education. The effects of this innovation for students and staff in schools generally were measured in an instructive 2018 study by



Southern Cross University in association with Lismore Catholic Education and Sydney Catholic Schools. (<https://www.scu.edu.au/centre-for-children-and-young-people/our-research/meditation-in-schools>). Helen Brittain also developed a 'Living Faith Committee' of Teachers and School Officers to critique both current practices and needs to be addressed for the faith life of the School community.

The Living Faith Committee 2018 – Jane Torrens, Dianne Shead, Lauren Sellwood, and Brian Moffett (and Michelle Ferguson) plan an activity with Helen O'Conner and Jane Holland involving the School Office.

Opportunities for ongoing staff formation were provided by the Staff Prayerfire, SpiritFire, Keepers of the Flame and Guiding Lights spirituality programs and resources. Ongoing inservices in the history and charism of Nano Nagle, were complemented by visits to the School by Sr Margaret Conway, Foundation Principal.

### JOHN CARROLL.....VALE

John Carroll was appointed Principal at St Mary MacKillop Primary School, Birkdale, in 2010. Sadly, he was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2014. He faced his illness with courage and with gratitude for his family, undertaking medical procedures at each stage that were considered helpful for him. Surrounded by his family, John passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2016. Though years pass, all who knew John and know Paula, his wife, and Joshua, Liam and Beth, their children, still want them to know our deep gratitude for the love and support they gave John to be and to provide the good for which he is still renown, both here at St Catherine's and wherever he has served. For all who knew John, his goodness and his leadership remain unforgettable and we are grateful.



John speaks at the Blessing and Opening of the Laboure Library, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2007.

## Extracts of Messages to the Year 7 Graduates 2006

From the Principal, Mr John Carroll:

“.....While your time in primary school is very important, look at it as a preparation for what is to come. The years ahead will present you with wonderful opportunities and many challenges. You are very blessed to have all this before you.....May you continue to shine your light to the world.”

From Assistant Principal, Mrs Helen Brittain:

“My hope for you is that you will be happy and you will always know that you are loved..... May the smile of God be for you and HIS breath give you life. Thanks for all the lovely memories!

From Year 7 teacher, Mr Brian Beiers:

If you want happiness in your life, then give and serve others. Keep God in the centre of your life and always pray. Always have something to look forward to no matter how insignificant it may appear, for happiness is also found in simple activities.

From Year 6 teacher, Mrs Jane Torrens:

Well, what an energetic, creative, fun loving group of students you are!!! I have enjoyed immensely getting to know each and every one of you.... Good luck. Please come back and say hi. I will miss you all.

## 2010 – 2019 PROGRESS DURING THE PRINCIPALSHIP OF MR PAUL LEESON

Paul Leeson served as Principal from 2010 to 2019 with rich knowledge and understandings of the students, staff and the families in the community. Remarkably, he knew not only each of the approximately 500 children in the School and their Year Level, but each year he could fairly successfully name the class in the Year Level – Blue, Orange or White – in which the child belonged. He grasped people’s strengths and needs. Paul supervised very significant infrastructure developments. He also led and supported the enthusiastic staff’s progress implementing new Curriculum documents, new approaches to monitoring students’ progress in learning, and professional development for staff to provide for the students’ contemporary experiences in learning. Applying a quote from Pope Francis, it was not just an era of changes, it was a change in era. These changes were embedded each year in all that happened throughout the School.

### The Nano Nagle Centre

In 2010, the Nano Nagle Centre was blessed and opened.





**St Catherine's Staff 2013** Principal: Paul Leeson

**Front Row left to right:** Cathy Walker, Christine McColl, Mary Fallon, Helen Boevink (Assistant Principal), Paul Leeson, Helen Brittain (A.P. Religious Education), Marie Ffrench (Support Teacher, Inclusive Education), Janine McKean, Margaret Timms

**Second Row:** Lauren Sellwood, Kerry Williams, Kathy Peasey, Ashleigh Foster, Kern Palmer, Kathy McKenzie, Maria Hynes, Monique Hegarty (Teacher Librarian), Tiffany Chalmers, Jo Goodellis

**Third Row:** Jessica Lourigan, Sarah Stevens, Michelle Hollowood, Dianne Shead, Jane Torrens, Lorraine Hillas, Anne Kelly, Katrina Gallaher, Michelle Ferguson

**Fourth Row:** Jane Holland, Brian Beiers, Michael Burnett, Maria Mead, Rebecca McNeill, Russell Taylor, Steph Rovere, Helen O'Conner, Melissa Sams.

**Absent:** Janelle Autenzio, Suzanne Brown, Karen Condon, John Elkington, Merylyn Ferguson, Amy Flynn, Leisa Haley, Kris Halvorson, Mary Henricks, Monique Knowles, Amy McCabe, Alison Norup, Liz O'Brien, Nicole Rahaley (Guidance Counsellor), Sonya Settle, Anna Stanton, Amanda Tio

**A New Administration Building**

**From:**



**To:**



During 2012, the original Administration Building was demolished and Paul Leeson supervised the planning for and construction of a new Administration building on the same site. This spacious, well-equipped and

functionally-effective new Administration building accommodated the complexity of needs and purposes for the Administration of this 21<sup>st</sup> Century School. During the construction phase, all the Administration personnel had to be accommodated 'cosily' in the new Laboure Library for months. This had required the Library resources to have been organized and located in the classrooms (and regularly replenished) during this period. The new Administration Building was completed in 2012. A statue of Mary, which had a home near the original Administration building, was attached to the façade of the new building.

### Developments in the Parish

Paul Leeson's first year as Principal coincided with Deacon Des Neagle administering St Catherine's Parish. Following Fr McHugh's retirement in 2003, Fr Bernie Nolan became pastor. The Parish Office was transferred from the Administration building to the small room adjoining the Community Meeting Room, adjoining the Hall. In 2014, parishioner Margaret Begg, with her knowledge and love for the history of St Catherine's Community, was supported by the Parish for the dedication of this small room as 'The Parish History Room'.

In 2010, the Archdiocese decided to amalgamate St Catherine's and St Bernard's Parishes – to be known as Upper Mt Gravatt Wishart Parish. Fr Ian Wren was appointed Parish Priest until his retirement. In 2014, Fr Pat Molony was appointed Parish Priest and has become renown for his engagement with the Administration personnel, staff, families and students in both St Catherine's and St Bernard's Schools.

In 2018, again on the initiative of Margaret Begg, the Parish renamed the original Church come Parish Hall as the 'Rosenskjar Hall' to honour and express gratitude for Fr John Rosenskjar. Margaret who has known the development of the Parish since its beginnings, advocated for the Community to recognise in some significant way Fr John Rosenskjar. He was the courageous 25 year old Padre serving the soldiers before, during and after the Battle of Milne Bay in 1942. In 1950, he was the inaugural Parish Priest of the newly-established St Agnes Parish which included thirteen Mass Centres as far south as Woodridge. People including the locals who gathered for Mass in the 'Plasterer's Hut' at 388 Newnham Rd in 1957-1959, responded to his leadership. These new young families residing in what was Mt Gravatt South had few resources to spare but collaborated with 'Fr Rosie', as he was affectionately known. They saw him collaborate with parishioners to build the first St Catherine's Church. He was instrumental or had a role in the establishment of St Bernard and St Agnes Schools, and the initial Clairvaux College.

When Brisbane City Council wouldn't allow him to build an aged care home in Mt Gravatt, he collaborated with others to build what ultimately became Duhig Village at Holland Park. He died on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2013, aged 96 years. In his 90s, he was asked, "Father, what kept you going?" (throughout his extraordinary journeys). As if springing spontaneously out of his seat, he replied, "The people! They were so good and they still are!" He was renown for his sweet tooth. People who knew him have had many loved (and humorous) stories about him which bring them joy!





The Community Gathers for the Assembly weekly.

A Year Level of students gathers for Liturgy of the Hours Morning



### Ongoing Development and the Support of the P&F

Throughout Paul Leeson's Principalship, thanks to continuous hardworking, professional and imaginative support from the P&F across many areas of the life of the School, the whole School was air-conditioned. With the increased use of technology as well, the capacity of the electrical infrastructure had to be increased significantly. Artificial turf enhanced the playing surface for the children in the junior playground adjacent to Bellot St. For the good of many, the toilet block under Block C was renewed!

Fete 2017 on the Morella Street Oval



### Leadership Roles Developing Further

New Administration and pastoral roles were instituted to respond to needs identified by the School and to lead planning and accountability. The Learning Support staff grew with the employment of another Support Teacher, Inclusive Learning. Dr Nicole Rahaley, Counsellor, was appointed for fulltime service at St Catherine's. A new development within Brisbane Catholic Education in 2015 was the role of Primary Learning Leader (PLL). Karen Jeffrey succeeded Terese Hogarth in Term 2, 2015. The PLL role superseded the role of Curriculum Support Teacher. At St Catherine's, collaboration to support the Year Level teachers in planning was provided by the Primary Learning Leader, Assistants to the Principal (Administration and R.E.), Teacher Librarian, Information Technology Teacher and the Support Teachers: Inclusive Learning.

### The Australian Curriculum and a new Religious Education Curriculum

While syllabus development had been ongoing in Queensland, in 2008, all governments throughout Australia agreed to develop an Australian Curriculum. It was released nationally in 2012 by the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA). It was the culmination of a national process marked by the milestones of the Declarations in Hobart 1988, Adelaide 1998 and Melbourne 2008 of political leaders, informed by leaders in education. The Australian Curriculum included significant new features including Achievement Standards related to Content Descriptors, General Capabilities related to the needs of citizens in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Australia, and Cross Curriculum Priorities to be embedded in the learning experiences. Until 2014, the documents for the eight Learning Areas (other than Religious Education) were gradually released. St Catherine's staff engaged in inservices both throughout these years, and



Yr 5 teachers 2018 – Rebecca Green, Jacqui Maker and Kathy Peasey – in professional development

since, to understand and apply the Curriculum competently and confidently. Since then, there have been 24 developments – texts within the Curriculum have been added, updated, adapted, modified or revised. In 2015, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) was commissioned to review the Curriculum every six years.

A parallel process of review, consultation and development in relation to the Religious Education Curriculum was conducted by Brisbane Catholic Education. In 2013, a new Religious Education Curriculum was released shaped in a format similar to the Australian Curriculum. In response, the School customised the document to develop its own Religious Education Curriculum, accredited by BCE, which has been reviewed ongoingly.



Curriculum implementation at St Catherine’s was embedded also in journeys of learning new pedagogies and about technological devices and processes. Students’ use of 1:1 Ipads in Years 4,5 and 6 shifted pedagogical approaches. Maria Mead, Information Technology Teacher, supported staff, children and parents as well through Information Nights facilitating the seamless adoption of digital technologies. Collaboration marked the de-privatisation of the classroom. The gathering of data enhanced the evidence basis of decisions about the children’s learning. Classrooms gradually looked different in their facilities, resources, furniture and processes, based on research and student input as to what assisted their learning. Planning co-ordinated the curriculum delivery amongst classes on each year level.

Since 2016, Brisbane Catholic Education have engaged all schools, including St Catherine’s, in implementing Excellent Learning and Teaching Strategies. Drawing on the scholarship of John Hattie (‘Visible Learning’), Michael Fullan and Lyn Sharrett, High Yield Strategies were identified as ‘Learning Walks and Talks’, ‘Data Walls’ and ‘Review and Response’ discussions. In Learning Walks and Talks, Administration staff are intentionally immersed in the learning processes of the children in classrooms. Data Walls in display the progress of every student in their reading and writing in a calendar year, evidenced by monitoring tools applied throughout the year. Monitoring tools are also being used to measure students’ progress in numeracy, applied progressively throughout the Year Levels, some in 1:1 testing. Administration, Learning Support and any other relevant professional personnel meet teachers in Review and Response meetings to support the class teacher in their professional and pastoral response to a student demonstrating particular needs.



In 2015, the Australian Government fully implemented the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students (NCCD). It requires teachers to account in their planning for their adjustments for the needs of their learners – particularly those verified with a disability according to the Government’s guidelines. This collection of data has become essential for the justification of funding provided to assist each learner.



Monitoring the record of a child's Oral Reading

In 2016, Paul Leeson led a watershed step in teachers' professional development. He wanted to help all the teachers come to grips as quickly as possible in their personal understandings and skills in using contemporary pedagogical strategies effective for students' learning. He was also concerned to narrow the difference in curriculum delivery between classes on each year level. In small groups over four weeks, all teachers travelled to Keilor Views Public School in Melbourne where they were immersed in its well-established practice implementing the GANAG approach (refined by Jane E. Pollock) to designing lesson plans. 'GANAG' is an acronym for a five-step lesson plan schema. The focus on what the

student needs to know and do is maintained through: 'G' (Setting the GOAL); 'A' (ACCESSING prior knowledge); 'N' (Introducing NEW information); 'A' (APPLYING new information); and 'G' (Reviewing the GOAL). Aligning GANAG with BCE's curriculum values, teachers have planned and implemented collaboratively each Year Level's curriculum program. The ongoing monitoring of students' reading, writing and numeracy has demonstrated that the pedagogy has had a major impact in improving student learning.

### Cultivating 'the whole child'

The importance of each parent, grandparent, family member, teacher, school support person and caregiver in each child's life can never be underestimated for their holistic impact on each child's growth, learning, personal security, aspirations, life in relationships and life with God. How important also is each class teacher and every School Officer working diligently with each child in tasks which may be cognitively challenging but are also the seed which will inspire and facilitate a future which cannot be imagined by anyone at the time. How important also are every other teacher of specialist curriculum areas offering the children

Students in the 2023 Poetry Festival



diverse opportunities - to learn; to grow in established or new interests, strengths and talents; to express



Drama

valued aspects of themselves as persons; and to achieve goals which in later years may be looked back to with pride and gratitude for how dedication during their childhood laid pathways realised more fully in later years.

The breadth of the curriculum at St Catherine's - in Health and Physical Education, in the Arts including Music and Drama, in English, Mathematics, Science, Religion and all the Humanities including Japanese and Personal Development - enfleshes the 'nuts and bolts' of children's confidence, imagination, communication skills, spirit and aspirations.

### Year Seven to High School

From 2007 to 2014, St Catherine's offered Prep to Year Seven. In 2015, Year Seven throughout Queensland (our first Prep cohort) was transferred to High School. St Catherine's became a Prep to Year Six School. Students were better placed to negotiate curriculum in High Schools on moving interstate.

**SPECIAL WEEKS AND DAYS** Just some.....:

**STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS** – beginning in January and recurring throughout the year;

**THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY** - for the students in the Senior Class;

**CLASS PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS** - an important step for our working together;

**THE 100<sup>TH</sup> DAY IN YEAR ONE** is literally the 100th day of learning in Year One. Children and teachers enjoy fun learning activities including dress-ups, reflecting and celebrating this milestone in everyone’s learning;

**THE ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL** – at times at Griffith University Pool;

**CROSS COUNTRY** – enjoyed by all using the St Catherine’s ‘campus’ and surrounds;

**HOLY WEEK – OR THE LAST WEEK BEFORE THE EASTER HOLIDAYS** – including Assemblies telling the story of Jesus suffering and dying, and foreshadowing his Resurrection;

**THE EASTER SEASON**

**ANZAC DAY on 25th APRIL**– look ahead to the story of George Buckingham at our Assemblies;

**THE DANCE PROGRAM** – variously conducted by Dance Fever, Dance Cart or ... and a treat at the Fete;

**REMEMBRANCE DAY ON 11th NOVEMBER** – a day to sing ‘In Flanders’ Fields’;

**NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK IN MAY** and **NAIDOC WEEK IN JULY** – helping us to recognise and learn stories of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures in our society;

**FETE DAY** – in May, often with class presentation of dancing, well prepared;

**SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION** – for children prepared through the Parish Sacramental Programs;

**TEACHER - PARENT MEETINGS** – critical moments in communication for the good of all, especially the child;

**THE WINTER AND SPRING CONCERTS** - presented by the 100-strong Choir,

the Junior and Senior Bands, and the Beginner, Junior, Senior Ensemble Strings;

**THE QCMF IN AUGUST** - the Queensland Catholic Colleges Music Festival Days at Villanova College;

**THE POETRY FESTIVAL** - encouraging every child in the school and welcoming bush poet, Noel Stallard;

**THE ATHLETICS CARNIVALS**– our Inter-House Carnival between Conway, Yuggera, O’Shea and Rush!!!

AND looking ahead to Carnivals at the Catholic Zone 2, District and other levels;

**THE YEAR 6 CANBERRA TRIP, THE YEAR 5 CAMP** often at Tallebudgera, .....

**BOOK WEEK** – activities and guests intensifying our zest for reading to nourish us all year;

**INCURSIONS AT ALL LEVELS** – including *Courage to Care*, conducted by B’nai B’rith, the world’s oldest

Jewish Service organization, challenging Year 6 students to be upstanders, not bystanders;

**PREP ORIENTATION DAY IN NOVEMBER** – a day of welcome, information, encouragement,

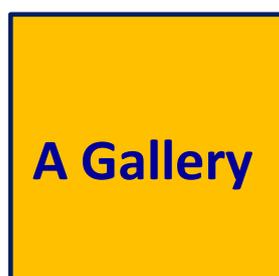
when children begin their journey as students at St Catherine’s and parents make connections;

**THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT** – joy, beauty, Good News and a hint of the Christmas holidays to come;

**THE LAST (half-day) DAY** – Liturgy, time with our teachers and class, a last clean-up, thank you and farewell  
**and there are others which have been special.....**



Ready for a Holy Week Assembly



Zone 2 Swim Team off to Chandler



Dads at a Working Bee



Deacon Des Neagle with Shirley Chapman's ANZAC Quilt



Breakfast for our Mothers



Learning in Canberra



Maureen Hunter, grandmother, with daughter and granddaughter



Catholic Education Week Pilgrimage in the Press



Enjoying a Dance Fever



Interschool Netball



Prep finalists in the Poetry Festival



Junior Interhouse Athletics Carnival (Prep-Yr 2)



A young 'Principal for a Day' at lunch!



Year 6, 2022 Graduands, their cake and with Fr Pat Molony presiding



### ANZAC Assemblies with guest George Buckingham (Z Force)

A memorable experience for some years up to about 2016 was the contribution of our guest at our ANZAC Assemblies - Mr George Buckingham, a very energetic former member of the Z Force during World War II. During World War II, members of the Z Force were dropped behind enemy lines in South-East Asia to conduct top-secret missions at great risk to themselves. Sworn to secrecy, it was not until 1980 that they were allowed to talk about their experiences. George served in occupied Borneo behind enemy lines, travelling by foot or kayak, and working with locals including the Dayak people, to gain intelligence about the movements of the Japanese military. This clandestine work was extremely dangerous but saved countless Allied lives.



George Buckingham 1921 – 2019.  
- photo taken from Youtube  
referenced below.

Students, staff and parents were totally engaged in all George said and by both his respect for all and his gratitude to those who served. George is featured in a ABC News Youtube [Z Force heroes reunite at old training ground \(2010\) | ABC News](#) which presented members of the Z Force reuniting in 2010 for the first time since their wartime service on K'gari (formerly Fraser Island), where they prepared for their missions. One feature of our Assemblies which all enjoyed especially was 'The March Past', culminating our Commemoration. At the end of the Assemblies, Principal Paul Leeson accompanied George to the Cove Lane concourse. George honoured every class marching past him by saluting them and they returned to George their salute to him. The enthusiasm of all would be stirred by the rousing rendition of 'Colonel Bogey' by the School Band under the baton of Donald Smith.

George died in August 2019. At 98, George had still donned his beret, marched in ANZAC Day parades and, when he could, handed on history to visitors to the Queensland Maritime Museum. If he had been an 'ordinary' young man, he was certainly extraordinary both in his service of his country in time of trouble and for how he inspired our Community during our ANZAC Assemblies. In his retirement village, he still helped in the garden sweeping the leaves quietly, while visitors passing by may have had no idea of his life of outstanding service.



Canvas folding canoes used by the legendary 'Z Force' used during W.W.II (<http://www.maritimemuseum.com.au>)

## Safeguarding and personal safety awareness

Brisbane Catholic Education continued to inservice staff in diverse aspects of personal safety awareness and safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Compulsory inservice modules included: Code of Conduct; Mandatory Student Protection Training; Anxiety in Children; the Prevention of Harassment and Bullying; Privacy and Data Breaches, Safety Responses, First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Workplace, Health and Safety training. A range of societal concerns were relevant contexts for these inservices.

## Students visiting from Myojo Junior High School, Tokyo

A special focus in August 2016-2019 was the visit of about twelve students accompanied by two teachers from the Myojo Junior High School, Tokyo, for six days in August of each year. Amy Flynn, our teacher of Japanese, co-ordinated with an agency who organised student exchanges between Japan and Australia. St Catherine's families and Assistant Principal Helen Boevink billeted the students and teachers. The visiting students were busy every day - with their own St Catherine's 'home' class; attending Mrs Flynn's Japanese language classes; their own intensive English language classes; excursions to Lone Pine Sanctuary and the Gold Coast; and time with their host families. Coming from a huge metropolis, the students enjoyed our natural environments. Perhaps a story one student will tell often will be about two snakes encountered. Firstly, a snake entered the home of one of our Wishart families during some hot weather. Then, just days later in a National Park, the student and his family just avoided another snake making its way through the bush. It was a pleasure having these visitors amongst us. It culminated in a party on the evening before their departure during which the students thanked their host families. Every year, there were tears on the morning of saying goodbye.

## LEARNING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT PEOPLE IN NEED

### Project Compassion

During Lent, children and families contributed to both Project Compassion and the Easter Raffle. Children had their own Project Compassion 'Mite Boxes' at home and throughout Lent, were invited to save their 'pennies'. Their generosity was always a significant donation in support for people in need through the Church's Development Agency, Caritas Australia, which sponsored practical programs to empower people in communities within Australia and beyond.

### The Easter Raffle



Inspired by Sr Trish Franklin, formerly a teacher at Loreto, Ballarat, Helen Brittain (APRE 2002 - 2014) introduced the Easter Raffle - continuing to today - to support Sr Trish's initiative in five remote provinces in Vietnam to provide education for children with disabilities or who are needy. Sr Trish visited St Catherine's. Throughout Lent, St Catherine's



Sr Trish Franklin, IBVM  
with children in Vietnam

families enthusiastically donated Easter Eggs enough to fill 120 moderately-sized baskets for a raffle drawn for prize winners drawn equitably from across the Year Levels

on the last day before the Easter holidays. Children and staff worked generously to make the baskets. Several thousand dollars would be raised. The children, gathered in the Nano Nagle Centre, were so excited they had to be self-disciplined during the draw. However, the purpose of the raffle as a Lenten activity of support for the children in need in Vietnam was always kept as the central focus. For the children, the name 'Sr Trish' aroused a sense of excitement, goodness and of support for children in need in Vietnam.



Patricia McMahon, Principal of St Bernard's and students take break at the Showgrounds.

### The Pilgrimage during Catholic Education Week

Another initiative of Helen Brittain (APRE) during the severe millennial drought years was the Pilgrimage - a response by the leadership classes of both St Catherine's and St Bernard's schools to the families suffering on the land in western Queensland. The leadership classes walked from their respective Schools to the Showgrounds (or as per later, Brush Box Park, Upper Mt Gravatt) each carrying a bag of donated toiletries (while a car full of donations met them there. The children enjoyed refreshments, communal prayer and the handing over of the boxes of donations of every kind of toiletry from families throughout the schools. During the drought years, an agency in

western Queensland organised the distribution of the goods which relieved families of some stress. A special focus was to provide treats for the mothers who often deprived themselves of self-care for the sake of their families. With the breaking of the drought, the focus of support became refugee families.

**The Christmas Appeal** For many years, St Catherine's families have supported our local St Vincent de Paul Conference in their outreach to families in our local area in need of food items during the Christmas season.

**Support for the people supported by the Romero Centre, Dutton Park developed in more recent years.**

### THE NANO NAGLE MOSAICS – CATHERINE CONATY, ARTIST

In 2013, Catherine Conaty, a parent at that time and a gifted and creative artist, was commissioned to create a mosaic in the Courtyard in between the Rosensklar Hall, the Administration Building, Block B and the Labour Library. The mosaic of tiles commemorated the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the School and portrayed the Rainbow (the symbol of God's Covenant with Noah) backgrounding a stylized portrayal of the Presentation Celtic Cross. The process Catherine used was to give every student and staff member the opportunity to attach a tile to the wall in its place in the mosaic. It is a memory treasured by those participants who now ten years later remember how they were engaged in developing the mosaic. The School's Motto, 'To Love and Serve', has been added in tiles, adjacent to the Mosaic.





In 2015, again Catherine was commissioned to portray Nano Nagle in a mosaic on the front wall of the new Administration Building. Awareness of Nano had been enhanced by BCE's encouragement of each school community to learn about and apply the charism of the founder of the Religious Order which founded each school. This striking, contemporary and stylised tile and glass image complemented the School Community's growing consciousness of the charism of Nano Nagle, certainly passionately promoted by A.P.R.E., Helen Brittain, and strengthened by visits to the School by Sr Margaret Conway PBVM, Foundation Principal 1973 – 1975.

In 2018, the 'Concrete Oval' was renamed 'Cove Lane' after the street in Cork where, in 1754, Nano Nagle conducted her first class for 30 children, beyond the gaze of the British military who were implementing their repression of Irish people. Thanks to Paul Hillberg, President of the P&F, and Paul Leeson, Principal, again Catherine Conaty was engaged to develop another mosaic of Nano Nagle as though she is looking across this popular play space. Nano Nagle is portrayed carrying her lantern in one hand and, with her other hand, walking children as though out to play. As per famous artists in the past, Catherine modelled each of the children in the mosaic on members of her own family. The model for the blond haired boy was her son Patrick Franco (a former student of St Catherine's), the blond haired girl, her daughter Mary Franco (also a former student of St Catherine's), the other girl, herself as a child (a niece of a Presentation Sister) and the boy with the curly hair, her nephew John Paul Conaty. The children are dressed in the School's House colours, and the School's Rainbow theme borders the mosaic.



To honour the Golden Jubilee of St Catherine's in 2023, Catherine was invited to install another mosaic adjacent to the Prep Classrooms area. The mosaic portrays both images of stationery children use in their learning activities and also, in a lively script, Nano Nagle's encouragement for all learners: 'TODAY IS A **GREAT DAY TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW!**' Children have engaged with the mosaic, walking past it reciting Nano's words in mantra style and even using its images as their content in games of 'I spy'!

The Community is very grateful to Catherine for her mosaics for their inspiration and beauty, and for Catherine's engagement with the community in developing them. The community is also grateful to Paul Leeson, Paul Hillberg and Paul Mitchell for their initiatives in engaging Catherine.

### Wishart's Developing Diversity

St Catherine's has grown to be a three stream P-4 School with two streams in Years 5 and 6. However, the data reflects rich stories of the changing demographics.

In 1947, the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) data about 'Wishart' was included in the data for Holland Park. Firstly, it was a telling reflection of Australian society. The ABS – at that time - defined its data explicitly as "exclusive of full blood Aboriginal persons". Secondly, it reflected the relative ethnic homogeneity of the population. Since 1973, and particularly since 2001, St Catherine's School's demographic journey has been one towards greater diversity – ethnically, religiously, culturally and in recognising special needs.

In 1947, the census count for the Holland Park's Statistical Area (including some suburbs south of Holland Park) was 5 666. Wishart was yet to emerge. At that time, 86% of Queensland's population was born in Queensland itself. Most migrants from overseas came from the U.K. and Ireland with quite small percentages coming from Italy, New Zealand, Germany and the Netherlands. In terms of religion, 37.7% of the people in this 'Holland Park' census count' identified as Anglican, 20.1% as Catholic, 8.9% as Methodist, 8.1% as Presbyterian and 0.5% as 'No Religion'.

Comparing the Wishart Statistical Area's 2001 census counts with its 2021 count reveal significant changes. In 2001 in Wishart, New Zealanders made up the largest group of migrants, followed by people from England, Fiji, Vietnam and China. In 2021 in Wishart, the largest group of migrants from overseas were Chinese people, followed by people from India, New Zealand, England and South Korea. The percentage of residents born in Australia declined significantly from 69 % of 9505 residents in 2 001, to 58% of 11 333 residents in 2021.

The growing cultural diversity of students enrolled at St Catherine's has impacted the School and Parish communities in how all students and their families have been welcomed, provided for and been enriched. EAL/D (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) teacher support for students with EAL/D needs at St Catherine's has grown. Asian families have brought strong family values, a strong commitment to learning and have contributed generously to the School Fete providing delicious cuisines such as Korean. The number of families which speak more than one language at home has increased each year. Meanwhile, for everyone's benefit, students and families at St Catherine's have enjoyed learning the benefits of respect for all, of growing in understanding and in being inclusive of people from diverse cultures, and of celebrating uniqueness and diversity.

As with Australian society, ABS data for the Wishart Statistical Area have reflected changes also in people's identification with religious traditions and denominations. In 2001, 27% of the people identified as Catholic, 16% as Anglican, 9.8% as having 'No Religion' 8.2% as Uniting and 2.8% as Orthodox. In 2021, 32% of the people identified as 'No Religion', 19% as Catholic, 7.4% as Anglican, 5.1% as Hindu and 4.4% as Buddhist.

**FROM 2019 - DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE ACTING PRINCIPALSHIP OF MRS MAUREEN HUNTER (2019)  
AND DURING THE PRINCIPALSHIP OF MR PAUL MITCHELL (2020 – PRESENT)**

In 2019, Paul Leeson was Principal for the first five weeks until he was appointed as a Senior Leader - School Progress and Performance providing leadership and support for BCE Schools in the western metropolitan region. From Week 6 of Term 1 until the end of 2019, Mrs Maureen Hunter, formerly Assistant Principal, was appointed Acting Principal. In 2020, Paul Mitchell took up his appointment as Principal of St Catherine's.

2019 – 2022 have been marked by:

- ongoing high quality teaching, learning and pastoral care provided amid the changing circumstances;
- the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic;
- the growth in competence and confidence by both staff and students' in using technology;
- the ongoing professional development in and implementation of the Australian Curriculum;
- the ongoing learning and practice of new pedagogies appropriate for learning during the pandemic;
- School Improvement goals;
- the professional challenges and benefits of the National Collection of Curriculum Data (NCCD);
- Federal funding issues;
- procedures implemented to demonstrate legally-required compliance to a range of authorities;
- the development of infrastructure;
- community life;
- staffing; and
- the School within the Parish and the development of St Catherine's Catholic Identity.



Learning an Ancient Skill



Learning to make music together at QCMF



Learning Basketball in the Nano



Learning Australian History



Learning Cross Country



Families having fun



The Christmas Concert

Taken early in 2019 before Paul was appointed a BCE Senior Leader and Maureen was appointed Acting Principal:



### St Catherine's Staff 2019

Paul Leeson - Principal until March; Maureen Hunter - Acting Principal until December:

**Front Row left to right:** Mary Fallon, Joanne Goodellis, Kris Halvorson, Karen Jeffery (Primary Learning Leader), Nik Seow (Assistant to the Principal. Religious Education) Paul Leeson (Principal January – March), Maureen Hunter (Assistant Principal and Acting Principal March – December)

Kathy Peasey, Lauren Sellwood, Christine McColl

**Second Row:** Michelle Ferguson, Monique Hegarty, Freya Shultz, Kerry Williams, Lorraine Hillas, Nicole Rahaley (Counsellor), Jane Holland, Shelley Taylor, Naomi Taylor, Tiffany Chalmers, Jessica Lourigan, Monique Knowles

**Third Row:** Michelle Hollowood, Jacqui Maker, Elizabeth Dwyer, Maree Barron, Chloe Jones, Rebecca Green, Gaby Fogarty, Eloise Mackrodt, Helen O'Conner, Anne Kelly, Jane Torrens

**Fourth Row:** Natalie Demetriou, Benjamin Hayes, Kayla Gabriel, Declan Parr, Maria Mead, Russell Taylor, Mel Richmond

**Absent:** Katie Baker, Suzanne Brown, Jake Caltabiano, Lisa Cooper, Juliana Dwyer, Marie Ffrench (Support Teacher: Inclusive Education), Amy Flynn, Mary Henricks, Rachel Hollowood, Cristina Iocco, Hans Kupper, MacAlister Leeson, Janine McKean, Stephanie Miles, Debra Morrow, Sonya Settle, Dianne Shead, Donald Smith, Anna Stanton, Sally Waterhouse

### The Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic

On 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, the first confirmed case in Queensland of a person infected with CoVid-19 was isolated in the Gold Coast University Hospital. By 13 April 2023, Queensland residents were 92.2% fully vaccinated but 1 666 374 cases of infection and 2 858 deaths had been recorded as the effect of the pandemic. [COVID-19 in Queensland | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qld.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/covid-19)

Critically throughout 2020 and 2021, Covid-19 had a very high level impact of the whole of people's lives throughout Queensland and on all that happens in St Catherine's School. The School was in lockdown throughout five periods: from 29 March to 25 May, 2020; from 8 January to 11 January, 2021; from 29 March to 1 April, 2021; from 29 June to 2 July, 2021; and from 21 July to 11 August 2021.

The Administration personnel led and supported staff adapting to governmental and Brisbane Catholic Education directions. There were health, social, occupational and personal concerns of families. The conditions for teaching and learning changed drastically – both for the children of ‘essential’ workers who alone were allowed to come to School, and also for all others learning remotely using technology. The needs of staff themselves were a priority.

At the beginning of the Covid lockdown in 2020, it was reported that the school had an eerie atmosphere. In 2020, parents didn’t get a chance to meet one another. Both leadership personnel and staff were rostered to form a skeleton staff onsite to care for the children of essential workers and to conduct the School. All attendees needed to sign in. Rooms were re-organised to facilitate social distancing (people indoors maintaining 1.5 metres separation from one another). Only limited numbers of people were permitted in the Staff Room. Teachers wore masks. Regular cleaning of surfaces in classrooms and of the bars of the equipment in the Prep playground became the norm for months.

Social Distancing effected the cancellation of the fete, liturgy, any singing lessons, choir, concerts, the participation by the band, strings and choir in the Queensland Catholic Music Festival at Villanova College in 2020 and 2021, camps, discos, Prep Orientation and Graduation.

There was genuine concern for Prep and Year 6 students and their families at those critical junctures in the students’ developmental journeys. Each day, Prep and Years 1 and 2 students’ families came mostly by car to collect reading and other learning materials, using a staggered order of arrival. In 2020, the Year 6 Graduation was celebrated but was organised to accommodate social distancing. In 2021, Prep parents were able to bring their children into the class. Despite the need for parents to wear masks, very strong friendships were formed.

By 13 April 2023, Queensland residents were 92.2% fully vaccinated but 1 666 374 cases of infection and 2 858 deaths had been recorded as the effect of the pandemic. [COVID-19 in Queensland | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#) On 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2023, the Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler, reported that CoVid is still with us presenting risks of serious illness and death particularly for older adults and those with risk factors for severe disease.

### **Staff Members and Students’ use of Technology**

Home learning during the CoVid lockdown required staff to be working with students on ‘One Note’ (a Microsoft information-gathering software which allows multi-user collaboration) and ‘Microsoft Teams’ (an app facilitating a workspace for real-time collaboration and communication). The Administration Team needed staff to be equipped for online teaching and learning. Staff responded to this unique challenge and its pressures with professionalism, skill and flexibility. Staff’s professional learning took place on Microsoft Teams. Teachers incorporated learning activities and visuals in the documents which the students used on their iPad devices. Teachers and students developed their skills and practices at incredible speeds to meet the needs of this alternate learning environment. Both Administration and all teachers were responsible for problem solving and for thinking creatively about how to communicate with students and parents. Principal Paul Mitchell acclaimed the staff for how they adapted to a degree which ‘could not have been dreamt of before Covid’.

## The Australian Curriculum in the past four years

In 2021, ACARA led consultation processes to review the Curriculum, refining emphases and reducing the amount of content in the eight key learning areas. Version 9.0 of the Curriculum was released in 2022 for Schools to implement from 2023. Again, it has been a focus for professional development.

## Pedagogies

The GANAG process for planning curriculum programs or for implementing lessons has continued to evolve. The focus since 2019 has been to embed and refine the consistency of this GANAG process in terms of Whole /Part/Whole lesson structures, teachers' Gradual Release of Responsibility to students and the Context-Text Model related to learning language, feedback and assessment.

## School Improvement

Using professional tools and guidance, Writing was identified as a focus for explicit improvement by staff. Over two years, one goal discerned has been to 'Deepen student engagement in the writing process'. Key improvement strategies and challenges for students' performance have been important to identify. All teachers have engaged in professional development for: focusing ideas; improving vocabulary; responding to the audience; understanding and developing text structure; cohesion; and spelling.

A second goal has been to ensure students are receiving from assessment an accurate result that matches their learning progress. Parents are receiving more feedback and data about their child's learning with two written and two oral reporting opportunities throughout the year. The data that is collected throughout the year from standardised testing and monitoring tools is used explicitly to guide teaching and learning and also to inform parents of their children's learning progress.



A third goal over two years has been to develop broad pedagogical practices that support students who require extension and enrichment in their learning every day.

## The National Collection of Curriculum Data (NCCD)

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on students with a disability gathers information that reflects the support or adjustments being provided for students whose learning is impacted by disability. These adjustments will be different for each student, but might include supports such as specialised technology, specialist equipment, building modifications or differentiation to meet students' needs. Marie Ffrench affirms the principle that every child, including children with any disability, has the right to access their Year Level Curriculum through adjustments to be made at every stage of the curriculum cycle. Adjustments made to engage students to the curriculum are recorded and monitored.

Commonwealth funding to support students with disability is now based on the NCCD. To include a student in the NCCD, schools must have documented evidence in accordance with NCCD criteria. In 2021, 89 students (16.9%) at St Catherine's were verified according to the Federal Government guidelines as having a disability (St Catherine's 2021 Annual Report). Funding can be accessed based on the adjustments that have been provided in the previous twelve months. The first few years in implementing this Federal Government

change were trying. Meanwhile, all teaching staff have learnt the process and now take responsibility for providing evidence of adjustments made for diverse learners. The principle of supporting all students in developing in their growing holistic autonomy and self-directedness underpins curriculum planning and implementation.

### **Federal Government Funding**

Government Funding has been a significant area of change for many schools. Parents capacity to contribute now plays a role in the establishment of school fees. It is important that Catholic Schools do not lose sight of our role in the education of the marginalised and disadvantaged in our community.

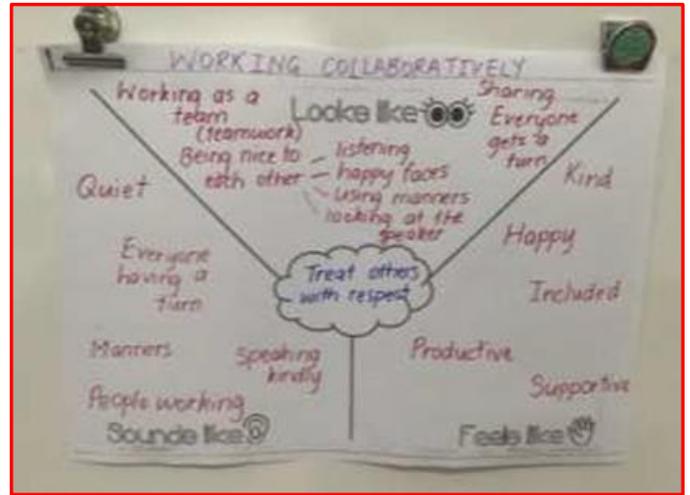
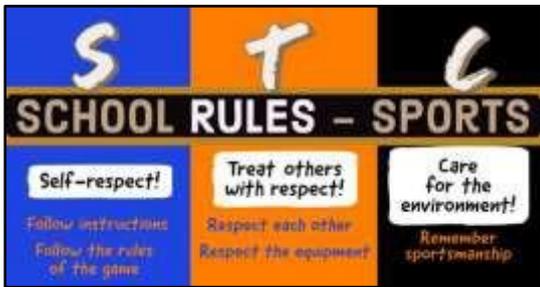
### **Compliance**

Accounting for Compliance as part of the administration of a school setting has become an ever-increasing part of school life. Significant developments in systems and processes address issues related to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, a range of workplace health and safety issues, risk management, financial regulation and school improvement. While it is underpinned by laws, policies or guidelines, St Catherine's intention is to provide a safe, secure and effective learning environment for everyone. It is everyone's responsibility though there is a delicate balance required in regard to workload and intensification across all roles in the school.

### **Infrastructure**

Paul Mitchell (Principal 2020 - present) pays a tribute to the School and Parish leaders over 50 years, for the well-designed plan of St Catherine's infrastructure, including the ample onsite parking and play areas, and well-positioned and structured classrooms. In these past four years, a maintenance plan was created to preserve the functional quality and to optimize the longevity of the wonderful facilities. Throughout 2020-2021, 12 classrooms in Block A and Block B were refurbished with new carpet, fans, painting and LED lights. The P&F generously supported the LED light replacement project to complement the already well-developed sustainability program in the School (paper recycling, composting, water recycling and electricity shutdowns).

Paul Leeson, Principal 2010 – 2019 had suggested the need for another outdoor learning area behind B Block. This became a priority and was built in 2022. The area now allows Learning Support, Yr 1, Yr 5 and Yr 2 to access valuable breakout spaces for small group work.



2B, 2023, brainstorm  
 what *Working Collaboratively*  
 'looks like, sounds like and feels like!'

St Catherine’s is blessed with spacious play spaces for children to play in during recess times. However, the Junior Playground Area, after 30 years of wonderful service to thousands of children, was certainly nearing its ‘end of life’. The school, assisted by Guymer Bailey Architects, created a new play area that included a broad range of activities and play spaces for Adventure Play (for climbing and challenge), Nature Play (for digging and a creek and plants) and Calm Play (for quiet rest or relaxing play). Despite delays due to Covid, delays with steel and supplies throughout industry and an exceptionally wet period of weather in the second half of 2022, the eight month wait was absolutely worth it. The playground opened in the first week of March to great excitement and smiles.



In 2022 and 2023, Cove Lane (formerly known as the ‘Concrete Oval’) was also targeted for a facelift. The area has been painted and glows in blue and orange, our school colours. Children can also play on the basketball court now during the hot months of Queensland’s summer in the shade of a large sail.



Next on the agenda is the Laboure Library. The building was an award-winning design when built in 2007 but now waits patiently for some much needed love and attention. The planning for this project began in February 2023. It may be completed by Easter 2024!

**The Community of Parents, Children and Staff**

From its foundation in 1973, St Catherine’s has been imbued with the strong sense of community, clearly evident. Still today, every event is well supported with parents always present to support their children’s life at school: School Liturgies, Father’s Day and Mother’s Day Breakfasts, the Bush Dance, the Easter Raffle, Fete, Graduation, Poetry Festival, Sports Carnivals just to name a few. In its early years, St Catherine’s grew quickly. The demographics of the area changed during the 1990s and the School contracted in its population. However, it grew again and continues to do so. People want to come here.

One story, never trumpeted, but for us all to appreciate would be that of long-serving teacher Lorraine Hillas who competed as a Hockeyroo for Australia in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and the 1988 Seoul Olympics. Children and all the young at heart love stories. There is no such thing as an ordinary person! We are all the poorer for not learning about reflecting on Lorraine's and others' experiences. Pictured here is Lorraine holding the Olympic Torches for the Los Angeles (1984) and the Tokyo Olympics (1988) at a School Assembly just prior to the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.



*Nano Nagle's culture of respect, joy and hope for all persons grows on all who come to St Catherine's.*



**St Catherine's Staff 2023** Principal: Paul Mitchell

**Front Row (left to right):** Debbie Willico Louis, Janine McKean, Paola Diaz, Karen Jeffery (Primary Learning Leader), Jacinta Watson (Assistant to the Principal, Religious Education), Paul Mitchell, Maureen Hunter (Assistant Principal), Kris Halvorson, Christine McColl, Kylie Golchert, Jo Goodellis

**Second Row:** Cristina Iocco, Suzanne Brown, Michelle Ferguson, Nik Seow, Erin Power, Kathryn Farr, Kathy Peasey, Tiffany Chalmers, Bronwyn McDermid, Kerry Williams, Ashleigh Leo, Marie Ffrench

**Third Row:** Jessica Lourigan, Michelle Stephenson, Michelle Hollowood, Belinda Smith, Jacqui Maker, Shelley Taylor, Lorraine Hillas, Freya Schultz, Monique Hegarty, Gaby Fogarty, Lauren Sellwood

**Fourth Row:** Jane Torrens, Anne Kelly, Jane Holland, Eloise Mackrodt, Russell Taylor, Declan Parr, Helen O'Conner, Maree Barron, Mel Richmond, Elizabeth Dwyer

**Absent:** Ange Bahlmann, Lisa Cooper, Katherine Cowan, Jenni Feenaghty, Karen Flatley, Kayla Gabriel, Lauren Hague, Ben Hayes, Chloe Kay, Monique Knowles, Hans Kupper, Amy McCabe, Rory Richardson, Sonya Settle, Andrea Sitas, Anna Stanton, Tori Storey, Noe Tsunoda

**Childhood is here at St Catherine's!** It is gratifying for all adults and children to be a part of a School culture in which families and the School intentionally care for, cultivate and celebrate all the children's holistic experience of their *Childhood*. In 1754, Nano Nagle took great risks in Cove Lane, Cork, to offer the children a pathway for their future. Developed in 2004 and still valued in 2023, the St Catherine's Covenant, in the spirit of the founders of St Catherine's, can surely be perceived as a glimpse into God's unconditional loving regard for all. It can be for the whole Community a tool for our ongoing discernment of what is good for every person. Children's memories can be life-long. Through our humblest daily choices, children can shine and their personal faith, hope, confidence and openness to others and their joy in serving can be cultivated.

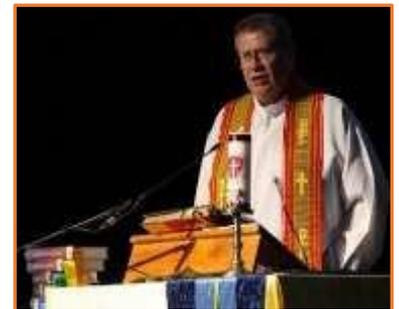
A generous initiative to cultivate the children has been possible recently. Through the Enterprising Bargaining Series 9 process (2019-2023), the non-contact time allocated to teachers for planning, preparation and correction was extended by thirty minutes - to support teachers in their need to meet demands in our contemporary context. St Catherine's managed this by providing the children in every class an extra 30 minute lesson weekly in the riches of literature led by our amazing Teacher-Librarian, Mrs Monique Hegarty. It was a chance to value children's love for reading and their imaginative responses, as well as their knowledge and understanding of how authors engage and entertain readers. Both teachers and children were valued!



### **St Catherine's School and St Catherine's Community in the Upper Mt Gravatt Wishart Parish**

Covid held parishioners and the School back from gathering for Liturgy and celebrations. Fortunately, classes and the School have been able to resume participating in the Liturgy with parishioners.

Fr Pat Molony, our Parish Priest is a genuinely compassionate person, always offering rich insights whether during the Liturgy or in any interaction with staff, children and families. He gives confidence to all in diverse roles and in groups who contribute to the operation and spirit of the Parish He is renown for his relationships with families in the parish encouraging them through his interest in them and in marvels that interest us all. Fortunately for St Catherine's School, his regular visits are back to normal after CoVid challenged our gatherings for three years.



Fr Stephen Kumyangi is the Associate Pastor in the Parish. A gentle and quietly spoken man from South Sudan, he is also Chaplain to the South Sudanese Catholic Community here in Brisbane. In the Liturgies and through his companionship with parishioners, all benefit from his rich cultural understandings and deeply-felt compassion for all people with pastoral needs.

Faith in action continues to be integrally important to our community. Inspired by Nano, we, in our day, are driven to respond compassionately to people in need around us. St Catherine's School today focuses on

Caritas, our local St Vincent de Paul Conference, the Romero Centre and the legacy of Loreto Sr Trish Franklin which is the schools she founded in Vietnam for marginalised young people including those with disabilities.

In 2020, Staff undertook a faith and spiritual formation program to help us recontextualise what makes us St Catherine’s. This formation has enabled us to review and renew our Covenant (School Mission and Vision Statement). The Covenant is being re-presented to the community at our 50 year Liturgy.

Since 1973, the Parish as a whole community – the priests, the organisation and the parishioners together - has generously supported the School in developing its facilities and resources, in providing a spiritual vision and insight, and in caring pastorally for families during their days of celebration, their ‘ordinary days’, their days of hardship and their days of grief.

## THE ST CATHERINE’S COVENANT REPRESENTED VISUALLY IN 2023

**VISION**  
St Catherine's  
aspires to be a Christian  
learning community,  
founded on:

**LIVING FAITH**

**QUALITY RELATIONSHIPS**

**POTENTIAL OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

**GLOBAL STEWARDSHIP**

**THE POWER OF HOPE**

**VALUES**  
As a Christ-centred  
community, we value:

- Evolving faith
- Life-long learning
- Compassion and justice
- Loving and purposeful relationships
- The uniqueness of the individual
- Collective diversity
- Courage
- Our natural environment

**COMMITMENT**  
We will strive to achieve  
our vision through:

- Effective teaching and learning
- Productive partnerships
- Shared responsibility
- Humble and respectful service
- Collaborative wisdom

**St Catherine's**  
Catholic Primary School

A Brisbane Catholic Education School

## CONCLUSION      *PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE*

For tens of thousands of years, Yuggera people have been the custodians of this part of Brisbane and of its natural resources. First Nations peoples created pathways passing Kaggar Mabul as they moved through Yuggera land from more southerly locations to lands even north of Meanjin. Today, there are ‘pathways’ or approaches that we, in our society, Church and School, can learn from the First Nations peoples – from both those in the past and those today. We can learn from their spiritual traditions including their relationships to Country, and their traditions of their respect for elders, of responsibility for family, and of their belonging to and commitment to community. For many in contemporary Australian society, issues related to respect, relationships and spirituality are very relevant for us.

Undertaken with a ‘Terra Nullius’ mindset, as with other European colonists, Commandant Miller’s choice of the site of Meanjin for the relocated Moreton Bay Penal Settlement appeared to pay no respect to the rights of the Turrbal and other First Nations people to their lands. His choice shaped the future of the Brisbane metropolitan area and Queensland. The colonisers’ presence initiated a 200 year journey for the First Nations peoples of Queensland through pathways of displacement, injustices, disease and epidemics, exclusion, disputes and violence, and ongoing cultural disparity and disadvantage. For the First Nations peoples who have survived or who have been seeking a ‘deadly’ future for their mobs since then, their journey also has been along another long ‘pathway’. Whatever be the outcome of the 2023 Referendum re an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, Reconciliation, Truth Telling, the Voice of the First Nations peoples and the implications of a Treaty have become increasingly understood as persisting issues and needs still to be addressed by of our society - including by all our Catholic communities.

In a joint statement on 30 March, 2023, the Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development responded to dialogue with Indigenous peoples and formally repudiated the ‘Doctrine of Discovery’ – a theory embedded in several 15<sup>th</sup> Century papal documents which authorized Portuguese and Spanish sovereigns to seize property in colonized lands by subjugating the original populations. The Vatican Dicasteries affirm, ‘It is only just to recognize these errors, acknowledge the terrible effects of the assimilation policies and the pain experienced by indigenous peoples, and ask for pardon.’ These Papal documents ‘did not adequately reflect the equal dignity and rights of Indigenous peoples’ and ‘have never been a part of the teaching of the Church.’ (Vatican News)

It is urgent for us today as a Catholic Community to work together for a new ‘deadly’ future with both our First Nations peoples and with all others, variously imbued with diverse multicultural and diverse faith or secular perspectives in our contemporary society. The release of St Catherine’s *Reconciliation Action Plan* this Jubilee Year is a significant step in the Community’s journey.

Is it ‘drawing a long bow’ to connect the emergence of Mt Gravatt South, renamed as Wishart in 1967, to the long term outcomes – even into the 21<sup>st</sup> century - of the 19<sup>th</sup> century colonists’ use of the First Nations Peoples’ ‘pathways’ via Kaggar Mabul to Meanjin? Slack’s Track and Logan Road, which generally followed those ‘pathways’, have been key for steering urban development south from Brisbane City. Following World War II, Logan Road acquired even more importance as a catalyst for the vigorous southwards expansion of the growing population demanding housing and urban infrastructure urgently.

The emergence of the Wishart Catholic Community is also a story of people and their pastors seeking 'pathways' for all they valued for the families and their children. During these past 50 years, it is understandable that for the Parish and School communities and for Brisbane Catholic Education, new 'pathways' through the ecclesial, educational, administrative, societal, cultural, intercultural, technological and environmental contexts of their service, emerged or had to develop. These included both a range of necessary responses to change and to compliance or accountability requirements, and also visionary developments which developed for the good of stakeholders in the Community.

Throughout five decades, St Catherine's has maintained a commitment to excellence in learning and nurturing each student as a unique individual within the community. Imagine how these young students will be participating in society, locally and globally, in ten, twenty and later decades of years to come. Facing the crises which beset the planet today, to what kind of response will the earth be calling all peoples, including all people of faith? To what will the poor in the world be calling all peoples? How can students of St Catherine's be prepared even now as children to grow committed to the interconnectedness of love of neighbour, the needs of all living beings and respect for all non-living things as part of their life with God? How can the students be cultivated to value the power of the 'basin and towel of service' over fear? How can students be equipped to manage economic systems in which the human dignity of the poor, the leper and the outcast matter more than self-centred approaches to acquiring money, power and luxury for the few. How can the students be educated to be upstanders promoting inclusiveness and solidarity, and calling out exclusion, division and prejudice? How can the students learn with deep understanding and by word and example the equality of all – of male and female, the rich and the poor, the healthy and the sick, the well-clothed and those wearing rags, clergy and lay, Christian, Jew, Muslim, agnostic and atheist?

Seeking wisdom, St Catherine's is continuing to map the implications of significant questions and potentially profound positive developments yet to emerge, whether related to technology, social change, environmental science, global relationships, accountability, funding or Catholic Identity. St Catherine's, with Brisbane Catholic Education, continues to envision and implement strategies to prepare its students and itself, as a School, for changes occurring at exponential rates in all areas of life in our society and world. As an imperative, may the riches of our humanity and of our Catholic Christian Tradition continue to be at the heart of all we do in our Community. May children continue to be inspired by what is truly good. Grounded in the Literacies of Language, Numeracy, the Humanities including Religious Education, the Sciences, the Arts and Health, may they be equipped for their own life-long learning and mission to make a difference to society in the spirit of the Gospels. May grow to value wisdom, ethics and justice in problem solving; compassion for people in need; and beauty to be contemplated ultimately as a glimpse into their holistic life with God.

The contributions of the Presentation Sisters, Principals, staffs, priests, the broader parish community and of the extraordinary parents throughout 50 years is entirely inspiring and is always to be appreciated. St Catherine's is proud of its historical roots. The Covenant, developed by the Parish School Board during the Principalship of John Carroll in the period 2006-2009, captured the purpose and spirit of St Catherine's, continually evident in the decades since its foundation. It is a tribute to both the Vision and Values inherent in the St Catherine's Covenant and to the leaders, staff and families of St Catherine's School in this Jubilee Year, that the Covenant is still a rich benchmark, valid for recontextualizing the Community's aspirations, with faith, hope and love, for the good of all both in 2023, and for the future. The Covenant is a distillation

of the Gospels in 'education speak', a reliable 'pathway' to help the Community learn from the past and to look ahead to the future with vision and faith, not fear.

As a community within the Archdiocese of Brisbane and the Upper Mt Gravatt Wishart Parish, aspects of the 'Seven Apostolic Priorities' developed by Archbishop Mark Coleridge in his document *With Lamps Ablaze* (2023) can inform the continuing cultivation of the soul and culture of St Catherine's community in this contemporary era. Archbishop Mark's document echoes Pope Francis' calls for the whole Church to be more outward-looking and missionary.

Generations of families have found rich support and life-long friendships through their engagement in the School and Parish Community. May the whole Community continually build upon the spiritual leadership, prayer life, learning, friendships, partnerships in diverse interests and the goodness of all.

In the present, we would do well to follow Nano Nagle's words which our Preps recite as a mantra – 'Today is a great day to learn something new!' May the whole Community be alert to and learn to nourish and apply the truly 'Spirit-given pathways' of 'Living Faith, Quality Relationships, the Potential of the Individual, Global Stewardship and the Power of Hope' for the good of all both in the present and for the future. We remain grateful both to God and to all the hardworking people of goodwill both in the past and today for all the transforming good we have received in our day to build upon and then to hand on.

(This text is happy to receive for the input of informed people of goodwill to elaborate further what has been written - to include what is missing, to resolve contested understandings and to offer entirely new insights.)

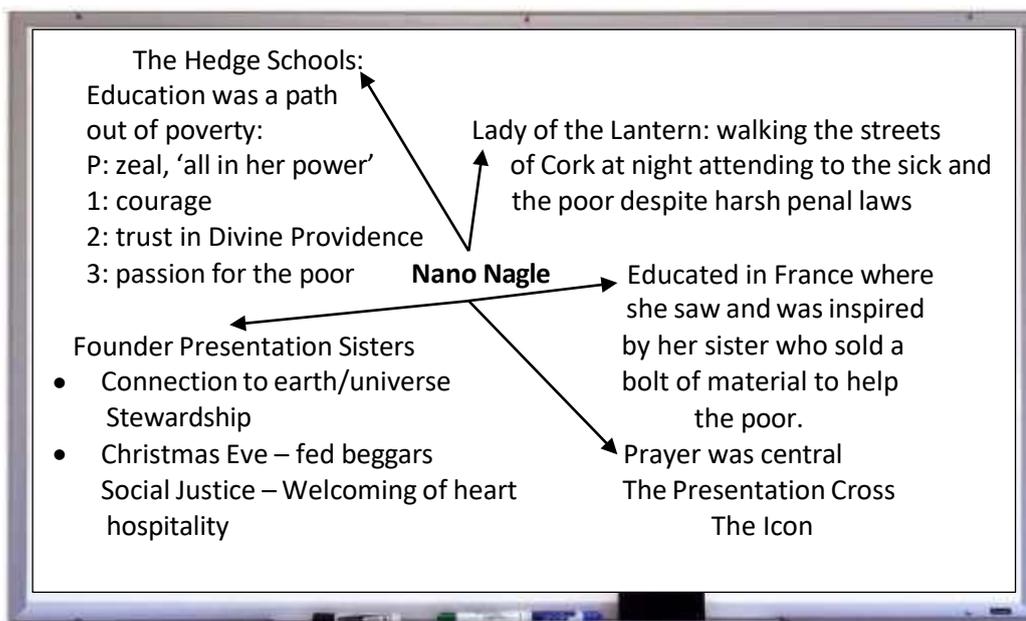
May the whole Community continue to be Spirit-filled Rockstars  
extending goodness and joy to all!



Thank you for all the good  
you have done in the past  
and for all you are doing  
both for today  
and for the future!



## APPENDIX A WHO WAS NANO NAGLE?



The Icon of Nano Nagle was 'written' by the Irish artist Desmond Kyne

A mindmap - an early draft - of brainstorming by teachers planning a unit on Nano Nagle (c. 1718 – 26 April 1784).

[The Story of Nano Nagle – Nano Nagle Place](#)

[Videos, images and bibliography - Nano Nagle \(weebly.com\)](#)

In 1984, the Church officially opened Nagle's cause for [canonization](#), the bi-centenary of her death. In 1994, she was declared a [Servant of God](#) and on 31 October, 2013, Pope Francis declared recognition of her as [Venerable](#) for having lived her life through the three virtues of faith, hope and charity to 'heroic degree', as well as demonstrating the virtues of justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude. In the year 2000, Nano was voted Irish Woman of the Millennium in recognition of her importance as a pioneer of the education of girls and women in Ireland.



*La Classe Manuelle* Richard Hall



*Nano Nagle and Pupils*, attributed to John O'Keefe

**APPENDIX B:****ST CATHERINE'S 1973 REGISTER – GRADE 1 (88 students)**

Archer, Jennifer Therese	Baker, Kylee Ann	Barritt, John William
Bayliss, Caleman	Beaver, Adam, Walter	Bell, Catherine Mary
Bennetts, Louise Bernadette	Billinghurst, Jaclyn Anne	Blundell, Lynne Margaret
Boulus, Elizabeth Ann	Briggs, Patricia Mary	Buckley, Matthew John
Budgen, Kelie Ann	Burke, Darren Anthony	Buyt, Patricia
Caird, Derek Michael	Canavan, Margaret	Carr, Michelle Frances
Carleton, John Sydney	Carter, Christine Madonna	Carter, Kym Elizabeth
Cavanagh, Daniel Peter	Chapman, Brent Craig	Cridland, Mark Andrew
Cuskelly, Patrick Kenneth	Davies, Kevin Francis	Dawes-Wass, Michael John
Dunn, Sharon Maree	Dwyer, Adrian Kenneth	Edwards, Helen Mary
Pr Edwards	Finn, Maria Therese	Ford, Joanne Helen
Fraser, Mark John	Gower, Laura Margaret	Grant, Paula Mary
Griffiths, Stephen Craig	Hall, Scott Brady	Hammill, Jon Patrick
Harris, Brendan Kevin	Hawkes, Narelle Mary	Hicks, Dale William
Howlett-Bell, Lannie Edward	Hughes Carolyn Mary	Karger, David Robert
Kelly, Michael William	Lakeland, Clare Monica	Llora, Jaime
Lawton, July Marie	Leong, Brenda	Lillis, Christopher John
Lunnery, Patrick	Lyons, Peter James	McDonald, Anne Vivienne
Middleton, Theresa Lea	Morris, Paula Ann	O'Brien, Sharon Maree
O'Shea, Christopher John	Poskart, Margaret Brigida	Poulton, Gregory James
Pratt, Craig Anthony	Quantock, Jami Maree	Radford, Liza Bernadette
Rankin, Christine Majella	Reynolds, Maria Louise	Robinson, Lawrence John
Roff, Barbara Mary	Ronchi, Anne-Marie	Ryan, Colin Joseph
Ryan, Margaret Gabrielle	Savage, Deborah, Anne	Scaini, Loretta Frances
Schatz, Craig Stephen	Scott, Patrick	Short, Damien Joseph
Smith, Brett Allan	Smith, David Gerard	Speedy, Andrew Kevin
Stollznow, Paul Andrew	Swanson, John Darren	Treacy, Carmel Jane
Trevisan, Peter Francis	Whelan, Michaela-Mary	White, Anne Margaret
Whitelum, Gregory John	Wilde, Brendan Joseph	Williams, Paul Francis
Young, Elizabeth Catherine		

**ST CATHERINE'S 1973 REGISTER – GRADE 2 (62 students)**

Bakes, Gregory John	Bell, John William	Bell, George James
Billinghurst, Nicole Marie	Boulus, Andrew	Cranitch, Joseph Stephen
Druery, Luke Gerard	Dickson, Michael George	Edwards, Deborah
Flannery, Dane Lawrence	Gorman, Louise Jane	Green, Peter John
Harvey, Melissa	Hewton, Jodie Kristine	Hinton, Alyssa
Holliday, Peter Leo	Holliday, Lucy	Joy, Peter Bryan
Kearney, Margaret Mary	Kitson, Mark John	Kunst, Deborah Margaret
Lamb, Tyrone	Leong, Ricky	Llora, Gabriel
Llora, Javier	Lusk, Paul Andrew	Lynn, Daniel William
McCabe, Timothy Patrick	Marshall, Robert James	Morgan, Pieta Claire
Mulherin, Dennis James	Mulherin, Jeremy James	Murray, Anne Gabrielle
O'Brien, Raymond Keith	Olive, Jenny-Lee	Panochini, David Nicholas
Parker, Jeffrey John	Petersen, Leisa Therese	Pidd, Christopher John
Rafter, Lee Anne	Rankin, Patricia Mary	Reeves Philip Gerard
Reginato, Lorenzo Mario	Rehbein, Jodie Maree	Reibel, Cecil Francis
Rohweder, Glen Patrick	Robertson, James Dominic	Savage, Tracey Maree
Shatz, David Charles	Shaw, Pauline Clare	Short, Suzanne
Silvester, Michael Patrick	Simmonds, Donna Maree	Smith, Neil Phillip
Stapleton, Michele May	Sullivan, David Graham	Thomas, Tracey Patricia
Townsend, Shane Christopher	Trevisan, Robert John	Vass, Nathan Miko
Whielum, Donna Suzanne	Willoughby, Michelle Anne	

Our school began in '73 with the Presentation Sisters.  
Our motto is to 'Love and Serve' and work together as one.

Now through the years we've grown into a great community,  
striving to achieve - with our faith we believe, as we gather in unity.

***Living, loving, learning: let's all sing out!***  
***Growing, exploring, belonging, let's stand and shout!***  
***St Catherine's Community: together, we sing out strong.***  
***St Catherine's Community: together we belong.***

The Sisters have gone; Nano's spirit lives on  
with learning and fun through the days.  
Our achievements and dreams,  
our belief to be – united - the St Catherine's way.

***Living, loving, learning: let's all sing out!***  
***Growing, exploring, belonging, let's stand and shout!***  
***St Catherine's community: Together, we sing out strong.***  
***St Catherine's Community: together we belong.***

(Catherine Parker)

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