Glass House Mountains State School

Celebrating 100 Years

EMBRACING THE FUTURE TOGETHER
CARING, LEARNING, SUCCEEDING
FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

This year marks a significant historical milestone in the journey of education at Glass House Mountains State School. While every year is important, these particular anniversaries give us a special time to hear and gather the stories of the school. It is these “stories” of the times and actions of the past that meld to create the traditions, standards and expectations that make this school what it is today.

This being our Centenary year, it is important for us to look back at our beginnings and see just how far Glass House Mountains has progressed as a community. Times have changed and so has our curriculum and our methods of teaching. We are still producing students who are able to contribute to society by being worthwhile citizens. Teachers have a great influence on students but they cannot do it alone. Support from home and the community is essential.

This booklet has been the result of some very hard work by a small group of dedicated past students and community members. I extend a sincere thank you to the committee for their commitment to what is a time consuming task. I hope that they enjoy their finished product just as I know you will enjoy reading about the years that the booklet represents and that it will be a lasting keepsake of our 100th anniversary.

I feel privileged to have been appointed Principal of this great school at such an interesting time and hope that 2006 is not only seeing the culmination of a successful 100 years but will be the beginning of another wonderful era of education.

John Lehmann, Principal

Dear Current and Former Students, Parents, Staff and Friends of Glass House Mountains State School,

I was appointed to Glass House Mountains on 3 July 1989. When asked to describe the school my response was always: “Great kids, fabulous staff and wonderful supportive parents”. Those three qualities are what have always set our school ahead of the rest.

The fact that the facilities consisted of seven classrooms housed in an older style building and two demountables, a shelter shed, (better known as the gym), and a vintage caravan that was used as a tuckshop were never a worry.

The culture of trust and working together as friends of this great school is what most benefit our students and their education.

The enrolment when I arrived at Glass House was 186 students in years one to seven. As the area developed numbers swelled to 465 in 2001 then fell when development in the area slowed.

The excellent reputation of our students was well deserved. Not only did they look the best in their distinctive sky blue uniforms, they excelled academically - a reflection of both parental and school expectations.

Finally, thank you to the parents, grandparents and friends of the School. Your tireless efforts in fund raising, classroom support and tuckshop assistance have done wonders. Very few schools of our size could boast the achievements of our parent body. The Annual Arts and Crafts Festival, the Sports Oval (built in a weekend), Working Bees, and Carols by Candlelight were all a tribute to the positive and supportive approach of our parents.

I cherish the fifteen years I served at the Glass House Mountains State School and wish you well for the future.

Thank you Glass House,

Ross Christie (Principal 1989 – 2004)
Congratulations

On behalf of the Caloundra City Council I wish to express congratulations to Glass House Mountains State School on reaching this 100 year milestone. The school’s association with the community is sincerely recognised and supported by Council. The tremendous work and commitment from all involved is to be commended. Our community is a better place to live in with this support.

I trust that the Centenary celebrations will be a special occasion for the school and for the wider community, and I congratulate the school’s administration and staff, with whom I have had the pleasure of working.

Cr. Anna Grosskreutz, Division 2, Caloundra City Council

As someone who attended a small rural school for all of my primary education I would like to say how special small schools can be. Glass House Mountains State School began as a small bush school and during the past 100 years thousands of children have passed through it, receiving a marvellous education on the way. Indeed, my parents Jim Male and Joan Male (nee Green), were two of those students.

As I look at the school today I know that excellence in education is still being achieved together with the close community camaraderie that is the hallmark of a successful rural school.

I wish the school well for its next 100 years.

Carolyn Male, M.P.
State Member for Glasshouse.

Imagine, if you can, what everyday life must have been like for the first pupils at the Glass House Mountains State School one hundred years ago.

Life was hard for most Queenslanders in the early 20th Century. Australia was still a very young nation. Federation had taken place five years before and Brisbane was only officially proclaimed as a city in 1902.

Very few people owned motor cars and in a rural area like ours the farm work, timber-felling, and transporting of goods would have been done by bullock teams and horses. Children had to ride horses or walk long distances to school and would have had jobs to do at home, before and after.

Over the last century our local school has been staffed by dedicated people, supported by wonderful parents and is still providing a solid foundation for our children who are the future.

Congratulations on the school’s centenary and all the best for the future.

Mal Brough M.P.
Federal Member for Longman
GLASS MOUNTAINS. (from single page History at 50th Jubilee)

In the Aboriginal Legend, Mount Tibrogargan was the warrior and Mount Beerwah was his lubra. Mount Coonowrin was the eldest son and the other mountains were family members.

The Glass House Mountains were first seen and named by Captain James Cook in 1770 and in 1799, Matthew Flinders landed in the area and climbed Mount Beerburrum being the first white man to do so.

The earliest settlers in the district were Mr. and Mrs. W. Grigor who came in 1867. In 1870 when Cobb and Co. Coaches began running along Old Gympie Road to the Goldfields the Grigor house (Bankfoot House) became a staging house for the coaches.

The Roberts family, also pioneers, settled in the east of the area while the Withers family also settled nearby in the early 1870s.

The early settlers came to cut timber which was taken by bullock wagon to Campbells’ Mill at Campbellville. However, this Mill was later shifted to Brisbane and with the building of the railway line in 1889 more settlers arrived and the timber was then railed to Brisbane from Glass Mountains Railway Station.

The first school in the area was at Campbellville and the Roberts’ children trudged there to school each day.

Alexander King and his sons arrived in 1898 and commenced growing pineapples while other new settlers about the same time were, Mr. Gane, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Mickelsen and the McCoskers.

A son of Mr. Mickelsen was the first white man to climb Mount Coonowrin in 1910.

The first Post Office at Glass Mountains was at the Grigor Coach House but with the coming of the railway line, it was transferred to the railway station. In later years the Post Office was located in a nearby store owned by Mr. Ted Greaves.

In the early decades of the new century the District was noted for the timber and the pineapples which were sent to Brisbane from the Glass Mountains Railway Station.

In 1935 an all weather road called the Bruce Highway was opened to follow the railway line and connect Brisbane with points northwards.
The first schools.

The convict settlement in Brisbane began in 1824, but land was thrown open to free settlers in 1840. The State of Queensland was proclaimed in 1859.

Gold was discovered at Gympie in 1867 and a coach road (the Gympie Road) connected the goldfields to Brisbane. During this period many new settlers in the area north of Brisbane were able to make use of the abundant local timber supplies and local waterways, to provide building supplies to the rapidly expanding market in the city. Magnificent supplies of cedar, beech, hoop and bunya pine and local hardwoods were felled and hauled by bullock teams to Rafting Grounds along nearby creeks and rivers, where the logs were then, formed into rafts for transportation to Brisbane sawmills.

In 1881, James Campbell established a sawmill at the Rafting Grounds on Coochin Creek and the township of Campbellville soon grew up around the mill. By 1883, the population reached over 100 and the Coochin Creek School was established.

Late in 1888, School Inspector, Mr. J. J. Caine approved a site in the township of Coochin Creek situated on the Gympie Road, eight miles up stream from the mouth of the creek, for the Coochin Creek Provisional School. The township was at the intersection of the Gympie and Blackall Range Roads. The nearest schools, at that time, were at Mellum Creek (later Landsborough), 5 miles north and Coochin School, 8 miles away at Campbellville. On 26 November, 1888, William Verrett, was transferred from the Blackall Range Provisional School to open the new Coochin Creek Provisional School. Children from the local Glass Mountains area attended this school. However, as the railway line north opened in 1890, the mill closed and the school closed in 1891.

In 1909, new Government Regulations reduced the number of pupils required for a State School to 12 and the school thus officially became The Coochin Creek State School, but it was not until late 1914 that a new State School building was completed on the site. On 6 February, 1928, the name of the School was changed to Beerwah State School as the rest of the township of Coochin Creek had shifted to Beerwah in the years since the railway station was built. Thus the Coochin Creek Provisional School of 1888 became the Beerwah State School of today on the same site.
In June 1905, a meeting was called at Glass Mountains for the purpose of getting a school established in the area. Some difference of opinion had arisen as to the site for the school but eventually Mr W Burgess selected the present excellent site.

An application was forwarded to the Department of Public Instruction and this was signed by: Chas J. Ferris, T. McCosker, W. A. Reed, W. F. Fanning, E. A. Sreek, Mrs. I. Powell, A. King, W. Roberts, J. McCosker, Bertie E. Smith, W. S. Burgess, E. W. Smith, J. Atkins and T. Powell.

A final list of proposed pupils was approved and tenders for the building were called on 14 December, 1905. W. Sanderson’s tender of £ 96.15.0 was recommended for acceptance.

On 26 March 1906, the Inspector of Works reported that the school was ready for occupation and Miss Gertrude Letitia Corkran was appointed Head Teacher as from 17 April, 1906. The school number was to be 1095.

The nine first day scholars were, Wilfred Hare, Albert Hare, James Hare, John Dalton, Arthur Reed, Owen Reed, Evelyn Dalton, Lilian Dalton, and Alice Hare.

On 3 May 1906 the average attendance was 8, and the Committee was informed:

“In the present condition of the finance of the State, Provisional Schools cannot be continued where the average attendance has fallen below 13, and, by direction of the Minister I have the honour to request the Committee to be good enough to show cause why the School at Glass Mountains should not be closed on account of the smallness of the attendance.”

However as the attendance rose, the school remained open until 25 April, 1907 when the teacher was transferred away and the school closed.
Application for the Establishment of a Provisional School.

To The Honourable The Secretary for Public Instruction, Brisbane.

Sirs,

At a public meeting held on the 10th day of June, 1905 at Glass House, of which fourteen days' notice was duly given in accordance with Clause 4 of the Regulations, the following gentlemen, namely J. W. Johnston, J. Toor, W. Robertson, W. S. Burgess, and W. R. Rawell, were elected members of a Building Committee for promoting the establishment of a Provisional School at Glass House.

2. Mr. J. W. Johnston has been appointed Secretary to the Committee. His postal address is "Glass House," Glass House.

3. The number of children over the age of five and under fifteen years likely to attend the proposed school is 20 (twenty). Annexed is a list of the same and of their parents, which we certify to be correct.

4. The amount of local subscriptions already promised is £10. The total amount expected to be collected is £20.

5. The nearest school maintained or subsidized by the State is at Leedeham, distant 4 miles from the proposed site by the nearest road. The nearest State or Provisional Schools within a radius of ten miles are the following:— Hardborough, Punchbuck, Leedeham.

6. Enclosed is a lithograph plan of the locality, showing the position of the proposed site and of the nearest existing schools, together with the homes of the parents, and the number of children to attend from each home. The nearest Post Office is at Hardborough, distant 4 miles.

7. The proposed site consists of 4 acres of land.

8. The total cost of the building, furniture, tanks, closets, and fencing is estimated at £80.

9. We make this application under the provisions of subsection (1) of Regulation 7, and we undertake to comply with the conditions set forth therein.

10. We have the honour to request that a Provisional School may be established as proposed, to be known as the Glass House Provisional School.

J. W. Johnston
J. Toor
W. Robertson
W. S. Burgess

Members of the Building Committee.
Glass Mountains
Provisional School
2nd Quarter
April 1906

Girls
A * 1 0 0
A * 1 0 0
Boonevith Evelyn
A * 1 0 0
Boonevith Evelyn

Boys
A * 1 0 0
Boonevith Albert
A * 1 0 0
Boonevith Maurice

Fourth Class
Girls
A * 3 0 0
Boonevith Hilda

Third Class
Boys
A * 4 0 0
Boonevith James

Girls
A * 6 0 0
Boonevith Nancie
A * 6 0 0
Boonevith Martha
Glass House Mountains State School Centenary
1910 - 1931.

In September 1910, the residents of Glass Mountains petitioned the Department for the reopening of the school as a State School and District Inspector Gripps visited the area on 30 September, and recommended the re-opening.

In October 1910, the Minister approved the re-opening of the school as a State School and Miss Gertrude O’Gorman was appointed as Head Teacher. The school was re-opened on the same site and the number changed to 1242.

New pupils at the school on that day were: Thomas King, Mary Burgess, Willie Assmusin, Janet Burgess, Frederick Reed, Frances (Dolly) King, Mary Roberts, Owen Roberts, Gladys Roberts, Kate Roberts, Cyril Bruce, Claude Bruce, Edward Bruce, Tom Bruce, Allen Bruce and Gladys Bruce. According to school Registers the State School was opened on 31 October, 1910.

The enrolment remained until 13 July, 1914 when it reached 16 pupils and had climbed to 20 by 24 May 1915. A gradual increase continued and by Breaking Up Day 1917 the total had exceeded 30 pupils.

Mr. Shapcott invited Alexander King - a well-known local resident - to hand out the gift books to each pupil at the school on that day, a duty which he continued to do each year for the next 25 years until his death in 1942. This duty was then passed on to Mr. William Burgess, Sr. until he also passed away. These two men had been on the original committee in 1905.

By 1922 the total enrolment had passed 43 and went on to exceed 50 by the end of 1928. Because of this increase an assistant teacher, was appointed on 29 October 1928. The increase continued and by 27 August 1931 a second assistant arrived as the enrolment had then neared 100.

In 1926 additions were made to the existing building. It was then raised on high stumps and painted.

Yet another addition, a second classroom, was made in 1930 to accommodate the increased staff. This work was done by Mr. R.J.C. Nielsen, who tendered £432 and the new room was occupied on 3 February 1930.

By the end of 1931, the total for the first 25 years had reached 362 pupils and it was decided to commence a new count. On the first day of January 1932, the new count commenced.
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In 1932 the tender of £498 of Mr. J. Alvery to erect a Teacher’s Residence was accepted. The Head Teacher, Mr. Frederick W. Barton, occupied the building on 20 September, 1932.

In the Government Gazette of 22 June, 1935, the name of the Town, ‘Glass Mountain’ was altered to ‘Glass House Mountains’ and the name of the School was then altered to conform.

Early in the 1930’s a Gardening Project was in operation and later a School Forestry Plot was commenced where samples of a number of different imported pine trees were planted. This Forestry work was mainly carried out by the senior boys when the senior girls took sewing lessons.

In 1939, portion of the School Reserve on the south west corner was resumed for road purposes to alleviate a sharp and dangerous bend in the roadway.

An annual Fancy Dress Ball was held where the Head Teacher, Mr. Barton, arranged the children in sets of four pairs to demonstrate the Lancers. (eg King and Queen of Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs and Spades or perhaps four Drummer Boys and four Dancing Girls etc.) After the Grand Parade where the groups built up into their allocated sets these sets then formed up and performed the Lancers.

All through this period the School Horse Paddock was well used as a large number of the children still rode horses to school each day. The saddles etc., were stored on racks under the Junior Room during lessons.

My brother Bob and I had to milk two cows before going to school, and repeat the exercise upon our return home. Then it was that dreaded homework carried out under a lonely kerosene wall lamp.

I remember seeing children all on top of one horse riding to school. I don’t know how they all stayed on. They were so little and the horse was so high.

Bill "Copper" Murphy 1929 - 1935

Peggy Huth
School Breaking Up Day was held annually on the Saturday before the last week of school for the year. In the morning an athletics program was conducted with gifts as prizes while after lunch each child was presented with a gift book. The children thanked their parents by presenting choral items etc.

Interschool Sport was limited during this period, the boys playing cricket and soccer while the girls played netball. The Annual Athletics Competition took place at the Maleny Showgrounds where schools of similar size competed against each other.

At the end of Primary School years selected children were required to travel to Caboolture School to sit for the State Scholarship Examination. The successful students were then eligible to attend the local Nambour High School Top. While still at Glass House Mountains School they attended special classes before and after the regular school day.

During their last year at Primary School the other children not sitting for Scholarship travelled to Nambour Rural School on one day each week to take lessons in such subjects as dressmaking and cooking for the girls and woodwork and metalwork for the boys.

A relieving Head Teacher in 1934 introduced boxing to the school. Both boys and girls took part in the strictly supervised contests arranged during lunch breaks, boys boxed with other boys while girls were in contests with other girls.

Perhaps one of the greatest improvements at the School during this period was the erection of the School Gymnasium. This building was completed in 1935 and immediately became a centre for much pupil activity. Included in this complex were: a set of Roman Rings, a row of Rings, a Horizontal Bar Unit, a Parallel Bar Unit, a Climbing Rope and a Climbing Ladder.

One important matter which, to some degree, caused an interruption to our education was when the lower grades were closed down due to an infantile paralysis epidemic. The pupils in these grades had to be kept at home and Fred Barton produced copies of home lessons which were brought home by older family members to the younger pupils.

Bill “Copper” Murphy
1929 – 1935

He writes – “The closure would have taken place in the early Thirties. I have not been able to confirm the period when this section of the School was closed.”

Bill’s final lines on this pose a question do we know the answer?
John Young began school in 1929. At that time there was only one school building, no uniform – not even shoes. He was driven to school by his mother in a horse and sulky. Favourite subject was arithmetic from among English, History, Geography and First aid. Cards were used for mental arithmetic. On Wednesdays boys did gardening and girls did sewing.

One of the first things we had to learn was the drill for getting into the air-raid shelters. It was very confusing for young children to remember which group got into which trench. The end result was that I was in the wrong trench so I got sent out wandering around trying to find where I was supposed to go.

Peggy Huth

In 1949 the two roomed school was to be enlarged and to do this the Senior Room had to be turned by 90 degrees to allow the verandah to be on the east side of the building to allow for further expansion at a later date. To allow this to be done the School and the children moved to the local Memorial Hall for a period. As the hall was in use for local functions all school material had to be packed away if the hall was to be used at night.

“Correspondence In”

Circular memorandum to _ Head Teachers of State Schools
18th January, 1955
I have to inform you that of Wednesday, 26th January 1955 the attention of pupils should be drawn to Australia Day. Some suitable mention of the day should be incorporated with the ceremony of saluting the flag.

7th March, 1950
With reference to your letter of the 14th ultimo, I have to request you to forward the clock in need of repair by rail to Roma Street Station, addressed to the School Supplies Section, Edward St., Brisbane. The name of the school should be clearly marked on the case and the consignment note marked “To Pay”.

24th April, 1950
Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, I have to inform you that clocks forwarded for repair are replaced immediately by another repaired clock from stock. This obviates the delay of waiting for repairs to be completed.

Sir,
With further reference to my enquiries re 72 rulers omitted from the annual supply of requisites, it is requested that you advise this Section immediately whether the 72 rubbers were received in lieu of the rulers.
29th July, 1952.

Brisbane, 15th July, 1948
Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, I have to inform you that it is not the policy of this Department to install artificial lighting in State School buildings. However, permission is granted for the Committee to have electric lighting installed in the school buildings, provided that such work is carried out without cost to this Department.
PROGRAMME

of
Concert in aid of State School Glasshouse Mrs.
held in
School of Arts, on Saturday March 25th 1939

Overture
1. Concerted Songs
2. Sketch "Dig and Dug"
3. Recitation "The Shearing"
4. Song "The Carpenters"
5. Sketch "A.B.C."
6. Recitation "When Burglars Came"
7. Piano Duet
8. Sketch "The Cop & the Nut"
9. Recitation "The Difference"
10. Song "Lullaby Low"
11. Recitation "Grandmother's Angel"
12. Pianoforte Duet
13. Sketch "The Fairy Visit"
14. Song "Rose of Tralee"
15. Recitation "The Choosing"
16. Monologue "Our Baby"
17. Duet "The Frog"
18. Recitation "Father Goes Shopping"
19. Song "The Chinaman"

INTERVAL

20. Operetta "Soot & the Fairies"
21. Recitation "The Egg"
22. Sketch "The Singapourie"
23. Recitation "Flo's Letter"
24. Sketch "The Ghost Story"
25. Pianoforte Duet
26. Nigger Minstrels

PROLOGUE by Thelma Sexton & Alex Barr
EPILOGUE by Thelma Sexton & Neville Little

Miss R. Barton
School Children
D. Gowen & M. Barton
Rose Niven
Junior Boys
J. King & Party
J. Preston
J. & B. King
H. Shapcott & Rob. Riches
J. Reed
Junior Girls
R. Reeve
A. Fullerton & J. Reed
Intermediates
J. Smith
H. Niven
H. Johnston
M. Johnston & H. Anderson
R. Barr
A. Barr & Party

M. Pike
R. Riches & Boys
J. Spencer
B. Barton & D. Gowen
M. Clarke & J. Hewitt
Senior Boys
A full house greeted the school children when the curtain rose for the concert given by them in the School of Arts on Saturday, April 1. The programme presented was of the usual very high standard and reflects great credit on Mr. F. Barton (head teacher) and Miss F. Elmes (assistant), for the very able manner in which the performers, from the tiny tots to the older children, carried out their parts. Humour was very prominent in the programme, and the very able manner in which it was put over showed that no stone had been left unturned in the production of the programme. Miss Roma Barton presided at the piano and was assisted by Miss Noel Dennis, of Brisbane, in the overtures. The programme lasted for three hours was entirely by the children. Recitations were given by Rose Niven, James Reed, Ron Reeve, Hugh Niven, John Preston, Mariel Pike and Joyce Spencer. Monologues were presented by Hugh Johnston and Rodney Barr. Humorous sketches of very high quality were presented by Bernie Barton and Dick Goveen, and the applause received was well merited. Joyce King, as a teacher of a very troublesome class, handled the position excellently. Pianoforte duets were given by Gloria Reed and Ailaa Fullerton. Bryce and Joy King, Margaret Clarke and Joyce Hewit. Each of these artists gave very pleasant renditions. Jill Smith's singing of "The Rose of Tralee" was excellent, and showed that this young lady has a voice of very fine quality and which should be heard again in the future. Margaret Johnston and Helen Anderson gave a sweet rendering of the duet "The Frog." A delightful sketch entitled "The Fairy Visit" was very well done with Margaret Clarke in the leading role supported by Margaret Johnston, Joyce Spencer, Beetsa Reed, Gervase Fullerton, Peter Brown, Lloyd Barr, Alex Barr and Leslie Jackson. Alex Barr was in the title role in a pretty Eastern song "The Chinaman," supported by a bevy of Chinese maidens comprising Joyce Spencer, Thelma Sexton, Jill Smith, Heather Shaw, Dorothea Shapcott and Margaret Clarke. The junior boys were in their glory in a noisy but effective song "The Carpenters," while the junior girls responded with a delightful Lullaby song. A very musical operetta entitled "Soot and the Fairies" with Margaret Clarke as "the Queen" and Herbert Shapcott as "Soot" was an entirely successful production of voices and the acting of the principal artists left nothing to be desired. A duologue by Herbert Shapcott and Bob Riches was splendidly done. The senior boys revealed in a very novel and humorous sketch "The Singaphone" which featured Robert Riches and Rod Barr. This item was a "scream" from start to finish, and no doubt earned the hearty applause it received. These boys followed up their success by a most spirited Nigger Minstrel show which did not fail to meet the approval of all. To Thelma Sexton and Alex Barr fell the duty of an interesting prologue, while that same lady again scored a success with Neville Little in a very nice epilogue.

Together with the various concert songs by the children the programme struck a very high note throughout, and all concerned deserve the highest of praise. The gross proceeds amounted to over £15, which was required to liquidate the debt on the new wireless receiving set which had been installed in the school.

Question: Just when was the Concert? March 25th or April 1st?
Mr Frank Nicklin M.L.A. presented certificates to pupils who had passed the St John’s Ambulance examination, Mr Barton being the instructor. Mr Barton was the recipient of a medallion and honorary instructor’s certificate. Every candidate gained marks ranging from 83 to 96 per cent. Successful pupils present were Margaret Johnston, Thelma Sexton, Joy King, Jean and May Milburn, Helen Anderson, Sylvia White, Jim Nielsen, Geroe Forster, Herbert Shapcott and Hugh Johnston.
Memories

1938
We were living at Caloundra in 1938, when our Dad could see a war looming in Europe. He bought 30 acres of land with an old house at Glass House Mountains. The property surrounded the State School. Eventually, the school would acquire part of this farm – including a mango tree, which grew among the pineapples.
The war years had students digging their own trenches among the pine trees. We practised racing to these holes in the ground many times. My brother Noel had a toe cut off by another lad using a mattock.
We had no uniform and went barefoot to school, except when it was too cold, we wore sandshoes. Some kids came to school riding a horse. There was a resting paddock for the horses.
Today Dad’s farm is a housing estate, and a street is named after him.

Olive Page (1939 – 45)

1943
It was wartime and we were very conscious of that. With troop trains constantly going through Glasshouse station. At night search lights lit the night sky each time an aeroplane crossed the coast. My uncles and most of the young men from the area had gone off to join the army and wrote home from such places as the Middle East, Europe, Singapore and then New Guinea. The “Comfort Funds” ladies were always knitting socks, cooking fruit cake and Anzac biscuits and sending them off. It seemed to a six year old that soldiers were always hungry and losing their socks!!
Back at school we were learning the alphabet and putting letters together to spell words. The lessons seemed to be interrupted so often with air-raid drills – the siren was a sound only heard since in movies. When the siren wailed out its mournful sound everyone quickly left their lessons and headed for the assembly point beyond the gymnasium. There the little ones met up with their assigned bigger children and ran off together to their assigned air raid trenches which were dugouts under the cover of the large pine trees.
Wasn’t the war a long way away where all the soldiers on the trains were going? Then on the 14th May that year, the hospital ship the Centaur was bombed and sunk out to sea beyond Moreton Bay. When news of this spread, the interruption to school work for the air raid drills somehow made sense.

Ethel Burgess (1943 – 1949)

1946
My father was the Head Teacher and mother became the infant teacher when the need arose. We lived in the school house and as we had come from the hot, dry, harsh landscape of western Queensland, the early morning dew was something I had not seen – this was like the Garden of Eden.
Mr Rodney Ruhle arranged for many fifes to be delivered, and I can still play
“A doggie ate a sausage ‘cos he was underfed;
The cook she saw him do it, and now the doggie’s dead”
At one stage we had more kids in the band than on morning parade.
Each class had a plot in the fenced-off vegetable garden. Walking around balancing on the fence was considered dangerous and forbidden. We did it and got two cuts each.
Academically we were strongly supported by the School Committee and many of us went on to Nambour High travelling up and back each day in a small antique steam-train which looked a lot like the one called Thomas the Tank. We played soccer in the schoolyard with two sides of unlimited numbers and you could join either side. The only way you could tell who was who was to see which way they kicked the ball.
Learning to swim was a problem. We had some outings to Glasshouse Creek – which was shallow – and if you thought you could swim the teacher would take you out to the deeper water and get you to swim back to the bank. None of us became Olympic champions.

With my mate, Noel Page, we built a grass hut behind the school but our kerosene lamp set the walls on fire and a bushfire resulted. Everything and everyone survived but it was the worst day of my early life.
I was in the scouts with Mr Huth and learned lots of bush skills. In those days a scout could carry a knife, a tomahawk, and a rope and had to “Be Prepared”. I can still enjoy sleeping in the dirt and eating damper.
The school’s annual fancy dress ball was in the School of Arts and my mother played the piano for the Grand March. First we advanced in twos, then fours, then eights. The parents all clapped and cheered and we had supper with cakes and cordial.
Once electricity was provided we had a record player and the Education Dept sent story records – I still recall the Dig Tree Story of Burke & Wills which began … “All my life I have lived on the bank of Cooper’s Creek…..”. Later, we learned to operate a 16mm projector for film shows.

Paul Routh (1946-49)
1950 - 1969

Early in 1950 all students moved back to the school grounds with the Head Teacher, Mr. Routh, back in the Senior Room and Mrs. Routh in the Junior Room. Until another room could be completed Mr. King conducted classes in the Forestry Plot when weather permitted and under the Junior Room during wet weather.

The third classroom was soon completed and the Middle Grades then moved into their new quarters.

The Government (I think) decided to subsidize the food intake of children with a small bottle of milk a day. This would not have been a bad idea if the milk had been cold. Drinking milk was bad enough, but warm milk made me puke. Not a lady-like term, but any more genteel word does not express how I felt. They gave it up after a while because it often arrived sour. Being mostly farmers' children I think everyone had access to fresh milk from Mr. Little's cows even if they didn't have some of their own.

Peggy Huth

1956 school buildings
The School of Arts reminds me about practising folk dances for the school dance. I went in the boys’ line as a pirate, with a big wooden (3 ply) cutlass that Dad had made for me. I was too tall for my partners and I think they were one boy short; the photographer said, “Come over here boy and have your photo taken!” And I said “I’m not a boy, I’m a girl and I’ll prove it to you later when I get changed”. When I saw him later he wouldn’t believe that I was the same person, and got a bit cross with me

….. Oh well, such is life

Peggy Huth

Reading lessons consisted of a Department of Education reader. The small book was to last for a year. I had always read every word within weeks. Nonetheless we spent days ‘reading’ through one story or poem at a time. All children opened their book on cue and one by one we were given turns to read - often just a line at a time. Woebetide any child who had been day-dreaming and did not know where the place was when he/she was asked to read.

Judy Gowen
1956-63

A sample of 1950's
Year 5
arithmetic

New Library at Glass House School

An announcement has been made by the Premier and Member for Landsborough (Mr Nicklin) that approval has been given by the Minister for Public Works for the provision of a new library at the Glass House Mountains State School by partitioning off part of one classroom. This will involve the re-modelling of the remainder of the classroom by incorporating the southern verandah into the classroom areas and inserting new windows. Both the classroom and library will then be re-painted internally and externally. The work will be carried out by the construction branch of the Works Department as soon as possible.

“Nambour Chronicle”
Sept. 26th, 1958 Page 4
Each summer there was the threat of bushfire. One hot dry summer the school was threatened by fire which had been burning for several days up on Ngungun Mountain. Gradually, it made its way down through the bush towards the school. The wind picked up and the gum trees on the western edge of the playground caught alight. The air was thick with smoke and there were sparks flying across the playground. Our fathers arrived in their farm trucks with 44 gallon drums of water and lots of Hessian bags. They saturated the bags and then thrashed at the flames. Some of us older girls helped take billy-cans of tea to the volunteer fire-fighters. We took off our rope petticoats, soaked them in water and put them back over the top of us to keep cool and safe. Fortunately, the school was safe, but all around the bush had been burned black.

Judy Gowen
I walked to school or rode my bicycle. The whole school assembled for parade daily after the bell rang. We sang “God Save The Queen” to a school band, comprised of fifes and a drum. Later the fifes were phased out and recorders were played. Everyday before school we were supplied with a ¼ pint of milk which we had to drink. It was delivered early in the morning and sat until 9:00am - I remember it being warm. Initially it was in a small bottle with a foil top but was later in a plastic bag/sachet - we chewed the corner off and squirted the milk into our mouth – or onto other kids when the teacher wasn’t watching. Our lunch boxes were in our school bags in the port racks on the verandah in the hot sun and quite often the ants made their way in for a feast.

The flag was raised every morning and lowered and folded away in the afternoon. A chore that was allocated to a child. Line marking the tennis courts/track events was another chore. A special gadget/trolley with wheels was used to dispense the lime. We also had to burn waste in a pit on the principal’s block of land adjacent to the school yard.

Uniforms were not compulsory, but most children did wear a uniform and parents made the effort by at least wearing the correct coloured shirt.

We played marbles in circles in the dirt, also soccer, cricket & softball. The girls played vigaro on a cricket pitch with similar rules to cricket.

Slate boards and ink wells were just phased out when I began school, but we were sometimes allowed to access them from the storeroom.

The school nurse and the school dental van came every year - events dreaded by most children.

Tuckshop did not exist but the pieman in a van visited once a week.

We walked to the School of Arts Hall to watch shows eg Punch and Judy Puppet show and once a week we travelled to Caboolture swimming pool for our swimming lessons. Bus fare was 10 cents.

Paul O’Mara (1968 - 1974)
On Saturday afternoon (April 21), a crowd estimated at over 1,000 was present to witness the Glasshouse State School’s jubilee pageant of progress which gave a unique display of the development of the district from 1906 to 1956.

The pageant was headed by the clan McKenzie Pipe Band. This was followed by a Cobb & Co. coach, generously brought to Glasshouse Mts. by Redman’s Transport Ltd. A swagman came next and then a pack horse. Then followed the various forms of transport of early days – the bullock wagon, dray, spring cart, wagonette and sulkies. Modern methods of transporting timber by motor transport were also displayed.

Floats depicting the industries of the district added a great deal of attraction. Floats were decorated by Pinus Products Ltd., Pattersons Pty. Ltd., Northgate Cannery, the Forestry Dept., the Boy Scouts and an outstanding display by the Gardner Bros. Mr L. Bell portrayed the fruit and poultry industries of the district. School children on ponies and on decorated bicycles and in cars made up a procession which, for quality would not be surpassed in many cities.

SCHOOL ROLL CALLED
At the school, Miss O’Gorman (the second teacher to teach at the school) called the roll of 1906 scholars. Four of the surviving seven first-day scholars answered the roll. They were Mr. O.P. Reed (Glasshouse Mts.), Mrs. Morgan (formerly Hare), Mr. J. Hare (Brisbane) and Mr. J Dalton (Nambour). Other scholars who attended later in 1906 also answered their names and as a gesture to Miss O’Gorman, who began teaching in 1910, some of her first-day scholars also answered their names.

EARLY PIONEERS
Among early pioneers present were Mrs W. Burgess, Mrs. Reed snr. Mr and Mrs T. McCosker, Mr and Mrs A. King and Mr and Mrs Streek.

Mr Fullerton expressed a welcome and thanked everyone who had helped to make the day such a success. Mr G.F.R. Nicklin, M.L.A. congratulated the committee on the work they had put in and the people who had made the pageant such a brilliant spectacle.

Mrs Morgan and Mr J. Dalton, two of the original first-day scholars, said how delighted they were to be present.

Mr Shapcott, a former teacher (now living in retirement at Caloundra), addressed his remarks to the children.

Mr O’Brien (the present head teacher), congratulated the pioneers on their excellent choice of a site for the school. Miss W. Smith won the prize for the best decorated bicycle. A colour film of the day’s proceedings was made to be kept in the school and a tape recording of the speeches taken.

The ball at night also brought a record crowd to see the belle and beau of the ball 1900-1910. The belle of the ball was Miss B. Buttana and the beau, Mr L. Poole.

JUBILEE CONCERT
On Tuesday night, April 17 (exactly 50 years to the day and date) a most successful jubilee concert was staged in the School of Arts. The colourful costumes, and the delightful voices of the children pleased the huge audience which filled the hall.

Before the final item Mr W. Fullerton (chairman of the School committee) congratulated the teachers and the children on the outstanding performances. Mr O’Brien (head teacher), responded and thanked all those who had assisted in any way to make the concert such a success.
Glass House Mountains State School Centenary

Glass House Mountains State School 50th. Anniversary 1956

Back L-R: Owen Reed, Thomas King, Maurice Bonney, John Dalton
Middle L-R: Owen Roberts, James Hare, Frederick Reed, Mary Burgess
Front L-R: Edith Bonney, Janet Burgess, Miss O’Gorman, Ivy Bonney, Alice Hare

Five were still present

Five of the original pupils at the Glasshouse Mountains State School, which opened in 1906, went back to school today.

The second second 34, now a forest ranger: left: Miss Gertrude O’Gorman, 74, whose first appointment as a teacher was at the Glasshouse State School in 1918 went back to school today to ring her old school bell. Five of the original class which opened in 1906 also answered her roll call.

The years between

The years between.

Miss Gertrude O’Gorman, 74, whose first appointment as a teacher was at the Glasshouse State School in 1918 went back to school today to ring her old school bell.

The five first-day students present for their 50th anniversary: Miss Gertrude O’Gorman, 74, whose first appointment as a teacher was at the Glasshouse State School in 1918.

Five of the original pupils at the Glasshouse Mountains State School, which opened in 1906, went back to school today.

The second second 34, now a forest ranger: left: Miss Gertrude O’Gorman, 74, whose first appointment as a teacher was at the Glasshouse State School in 1918 went back to school today to ring her old school bell.

Miss Gertrude O’Gorman went to Glasshouse in 1918 and she is now 74. Her sister, Miss Nellie O’Gorman, is dead. Miss O’Gorman, who arrived from the Education Department nine years ago, said today: “All those years I never looked a stick.”

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Golden Jubilee Commemoration
OF
GLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS
STATE SCHOOL
SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST, 1956

GLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS SCHOOL — 1906

was situated at what is now known as Mill Crossin, but was then called Campbellville. It was to this centre that Mrs. Reed, Senior, and her brothers trudged as children to attend school, as the school was on the northern side of the creek. It was necessary for the children to attract the attention of some one on the opposite bank of the creek to come across to bent them over.

The proprietors of the mill later moved the mill to Brisbane and when the railway was put through, the timber went by rail to Brisbane.

With the building of the railway in 1886, more and more families arrived. Among these were Mr. A. King, who still resides in the district, Mr. King came in 1868, with the intention of growing citrus fruit, but when drought ruined his crop, he grew pineapples. These were taken per spring cart to Brisbane and the pine sold at 5s. a case. Other early pioneers were Mr. G. Gane (1890), Mr. Johnson (1897) and the Mitehen family (1887). Years later a member of this family climbed “Cook Neck” — the first white person to do so. Early in the present century, the McCooker family came; Mr. and Mrs. T. McCooker and Mr. J. McCooker reside in the district at present.

In June, 1906, a move was called for the purpose of getting a school established in this district. The application to the Department was signed by Chas. J. Ferris, T. McCooker, W. A. Reed, W. P. Franking, E. A. Slewec, Mrs. I. Powell, A. King, W. Roberts, J. McCooker, Bertie E. Smith, W. N. Burgess, H. W. Smith, J. Atkins and T. Powell.

Some difference of opinion arose as to the site for the building, but eventually Mr. W. Burgess selected the present excellent site.

On Tuesday, April 17th, 1906, the school opened with an enrolment of nine. The first day scholarly were: Wilfred Hare, Albert Hare, James Hare, John Dalton, Arthur Reed, Owen Reed, Elynn Dalton, Lilian Dalton and Alice Hare.
1970 – 1980

As enrolments rose in the early seventies a Demountable Classroom arrived in 1972 and a Modular Classroom in 1975. The addition of a Bush House in 1978 beautified the area adjacent to these Modular Blocks.

Another ground improvement at this time was the Tree House and Adventure Playground built in 1979.

A new Toilet Block costing $36,000 was built at the School in 1978 and construction of an Office and Staff Room completed modifications of the original building in 1979.

When the School enrolment reached 151 in 1978 a sixth teacher was appointed to the teaching staff.

Visits from the School Dentist and School Health Sister continued at the School to ensure the well-being of the pupils. Visits from the Local Guidance Officer took place monthly and services such as The Queensland Arts Council, Ballet Companies, and Theatre Groups visited regularly to bring cultural events to the children.

Educational Trips and Camps were an integral part of the School curriculum and Sports Days, Interschool Sport and Social Nights were avidly supported, guaranteeing the physical and mental development of the pupils.
My parents have always reminded me of a story when I was in Grade 2. One day we had a relief teacher and at the start of the day I walked up to her and said “Hi, I am going to be very bad for you today”. The teacher replied “Are you and what is your name”? I said I was Gavin Howard and she said “Is your father’s name Colin and your mother’s Noeleen?” “Yes”, I said. “Well Gavin I know your parents very well”. I was an angel all day.

So kids remember someone always knows your parents.

Be good and have fun.

Gavin Howard (1975 – 81)
During the 1970’s the school and the town were vastly different to today. Everybody knew everybody else. Most families got involved in school activities such as sports days – both interhouse and interschool. These days are remembered as having an almost carnival atmosphere about them. Events of the day included high jump, long jump, races, ball games such as leader ball, captain ball and tunnel ball. At the end of the day fun games such as egg and spoon races, three legged races and sack races were played.

Most school events were attended by people such as Mr & Mrs Ferris, Mr & Mrs Reeves, the Pikes, the Morgans, the Fullertons, Mrs Horn and other older residents, a lot of whom had been students at the school and now their children and grandchildren are attending.

Where the Administration building now stands there was a treehouse with a slide. Everyone spent some time in that treehouse. There were also see-saws, monkey-bars, a rocker, a tunnel and pine trees.

Lunch time games included elastics, hop scotch, playing recorders or just running around in some imaginary world created in the school ground.

These memories from Lisa Tucker have been echoed by a number of students from this era.

*Vanessa Clancy (10) left of Glass House Mts State School who won the middle section of the maps contest, with her fellow pupil, Katya Spierling.*

*Brisbane Telegraph 12.9.1979*