



B G H S

75 YEARS STRONG







BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

75th anniversary

1929-2004

foreword

This booklet which has been published for the school's 75th Anniversary portrays the evolution of this High School from that of its parent, Burwood Public School, founded in 1871. A selection only of historical material has been used and apologies are tendered for any errors or omissions that may have occurred.

Two previous editions were published in 1979 for the 50th Anniversary and 1999 for the 70th Anniversary and we acknowledge the research and work of the Ladies Auxiliary of the time led by Mrs W Hynson, President; Mrs S Gall, Vice President and Mrs E Browne, Secretary.

FRONT COVER *Three 2nd Form Burwood Girls after a Sports Carnivale, 1939.*
Left to right – Faye Philpott (nee Williamson), Marie Bailey (nee Pitcher), Joyce Copeland (nee) Pretty.

BACK COVER *Left to right – Rosa Campbell, Emma Vickers, Katherine Hristoforidis.*
Rosa and Katherine are 2004 Prefects, Emma is the 2004 School Captain.

BELOW *'Model Bathroom' circa late 1920's.*



principal's message

For seventy-five years, Burwood Girls High School has been a centre of excellence in the education for girls.

For the first thirteen years it was known as Burwood Central Domestic Science School until 1942 when it became known as Burwood Central Home Science School. Two years later the name changed again to Burwood Home Science High School and after another thirteen years, in 1957, the name was established as we know it today, Burwood Girls High School. The following year, 1958, the school motto 'Not For Ourselves Alone' replaced the original motto 'Play the Game'.

Looking back over the last 75 years it is quite clear that this school has developed as the result of the efforts and achievements of a large number of people – past teachers, past principals, past students, and past parents have all played a significant and integral role in developing the ethos of this very special school.

A school that caters for the needs and interests of young women and a school that has a long tradition of excellence in learning.

We recently held a competition for the students to design a Burwood Girls High 75th Anniversary bumper sticker. I think the winning entry sums us up nicely...

BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH
75 YEARS OF THE BEST EDUCATION
MONEY CAN'T BUY!



I am delighted to become the eleventh principal at Burwood Girls High School and look forward to the challenges of ensuring our school remains at the cutting edge of education for girls. It is a school which has a rich cultural diversity yet a sense of unity and togetherness. We remain innovative in terms of curriculum choice, development of interpersonal skills, teamwork and use of technology.

Burwood Girls High School continues to set high standards and expectations for learning and we continue to promote lateral thinking and the belief that every young woman can achieve whatever she wants!

Mia Kumar
Principal, 2004



Burwood Domestic Science School circa 1928.

what's in a name?

In 75 years the school has had five names –

BURWOOD CENTRAL DOMESTIC SCIENCE SCHOOL	–	1929
BURWOOD CENTRAL HOME SCIENCE SCHOOL	–	1942
BURWOOD HOME SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL	–	1944
BURWOOD GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL	–	1957
BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL*	–	2002

**The last is only the loss of an apostrophe, but a change none the less.*

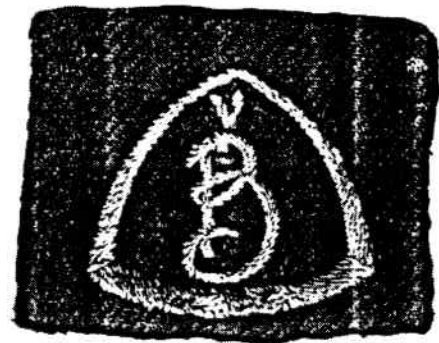
school emblems over the decades



Burwood Central Domestic Science School 1929-1941 (two versions)

Mystery crest circa 1943

Although we have no written record of a crest for Burwood Central Home Science School 1942-1943, we have photos of students dated around that time where this cloth badge was sewn on and worn on the bodice of the serge uniform. If there is anyone who can tell us anything about the origin or meaning of this crest, please contact the school.



Burwood Home Science High School
1944-1956



Burwood Girls High School
1958-present

school song

original version

TUNE 'MEN OF HARLECH'

Schoolgirls we in life's clear morning,
Treading paths of sport and learning,
Sing with school-love in us burning
Burwood! Play the Game.
On the sports field thriving,
With our lessons striving,
Play or work, we never shirk,
The best in each all giving.
Blue and Gold our Flag floats o'er us,
Symbol of the Land that bore us,
Let us raise our voice in chorus,
Burwood! Play the Game.

Eyes with eager hopes are gleaming,
All of distant goals are dreaming,
Sing as upward we go climbing
Burwood! Play the Game.
Guiding us in learning,
Right from Wrong Discerning,
To keep us true in all we do,
Our teachers all are yearning
Blue and Gold our Flag floats o'er us,
Symbol of the Land that bore us,
Let us raise our voice in chorus
Burwood! Play the Game.

When our carefree youth is over,
And life's troubles round us hover,
One phrase unsullied stands forever,
Burwood! Play the Game.
Strengthened by our Training,
All sordid things disdaining,
Pure and Good, Staunch Womanhood,
Naught our clear souls staining,
Our Flag in vision floating o'er us,
Will recall the School that loved us,
We'll sing no matter what befall us,
Burwood! Play the Game.

Words by E. Loeffler NOTE: The line 'Burwood! Play the Game' was altered with the changing of the school motto in 1958 to 'Not for Ourselves Alone'.

school song

current version

With the changing times and in line with the changing population of the school a new set of words was written in the late 1980's by an English teacher named Tim Patson. The tune remains 'Men of Harlech'

Burwood Girls from many lands
Striving with our minds and hands
Now as one we proudly stand
Not for ourselves alone.

Who knows what lies ahead?
Different paths we'll tread,
No matter what the challenges
We'll face with all our skills.

In studies or in sport, our knowledge
Working honestly with courage,
In the future we will flourish
Not for ourselves alone.

the motto

The original motto of the school was 'PLAY THE GAME' which appears to have been brought to the Burwood Domestic Science section of the school when the girls department was transferred from Burwood Superior Public School.

This remained the motto until 1958, the year the school status was elevated to that of full high school, when it was changed to the present one –

'NOT FOR OURSELVES ALONE'

in the beginning...

The financial stringency which existed after the 1914-18 war had prevented the Department of Education from supplying all the necessary accommodation throughout the State, and Burwood was one suburb where this condition existed.

During the ten years since the war, the demand for education beyond the Primary stage had increased, especially in centres with a big concentration of population. Burwood was one of these centres.

It was at first proposed to erect a new building for the Domestic Science and Intermediate High section on the same site at the Primary School, but the site was already too congested, and as there was great difficulty securing suitable adjoining land, it was decided to obtain a new site altogether.

At first a parcel of land in Queen Street, Croydon, belonging to Harold Stuart Fox, situated near Acton Street, was purchased by the Department of Education, but on further investigation a more suitable site was found at the corner of Cheltenham Road and Queen Street Croydon. On the land were two properties, one known as 'View Bank' and the other one known as 'Blenheim' and these properties were purchased and exchanged in lieu of the land already purchased from Fox Estate by the Department of Education on the 28th February 1924.

Plans for the new building were completed in June 1925, and the following October the then Minister,

Mr T D Mutch, approved the work being carried out, and the Constructor of Buildings, Public Works Department was invited to submit a price for the work.

An item in the *Daily Telegraph* on Thursday, 6th May 1926 advised that the contract for the new building had been let. Mr W Stoddart was the supervising architect. The official description of the building contained in a letter from the Departmental Statistical Officer dated 2nd June 1927 is as described in the panel below.

The new building was ready for occupation by the 31st January 1927 and in the final completion report of the 17th August 1927 the total cost of the complex was £32,658/4/3 of which the building cost £31,354/0/0.

On the 5th December, 1927 a letter from the Department of Education advised that the boys attending the Burwood Intermediate High School Section of the Queen Street building were to be removed and transferred to Summer Hill, with the opening of the Boys Intermediate High School there in 1928. This now left the building a totally Girls' Secondary School, but still under the authority of the Headmaster of Burwood Superior Public School, with Miss H M Anderson as Mistress of the Girls' department.

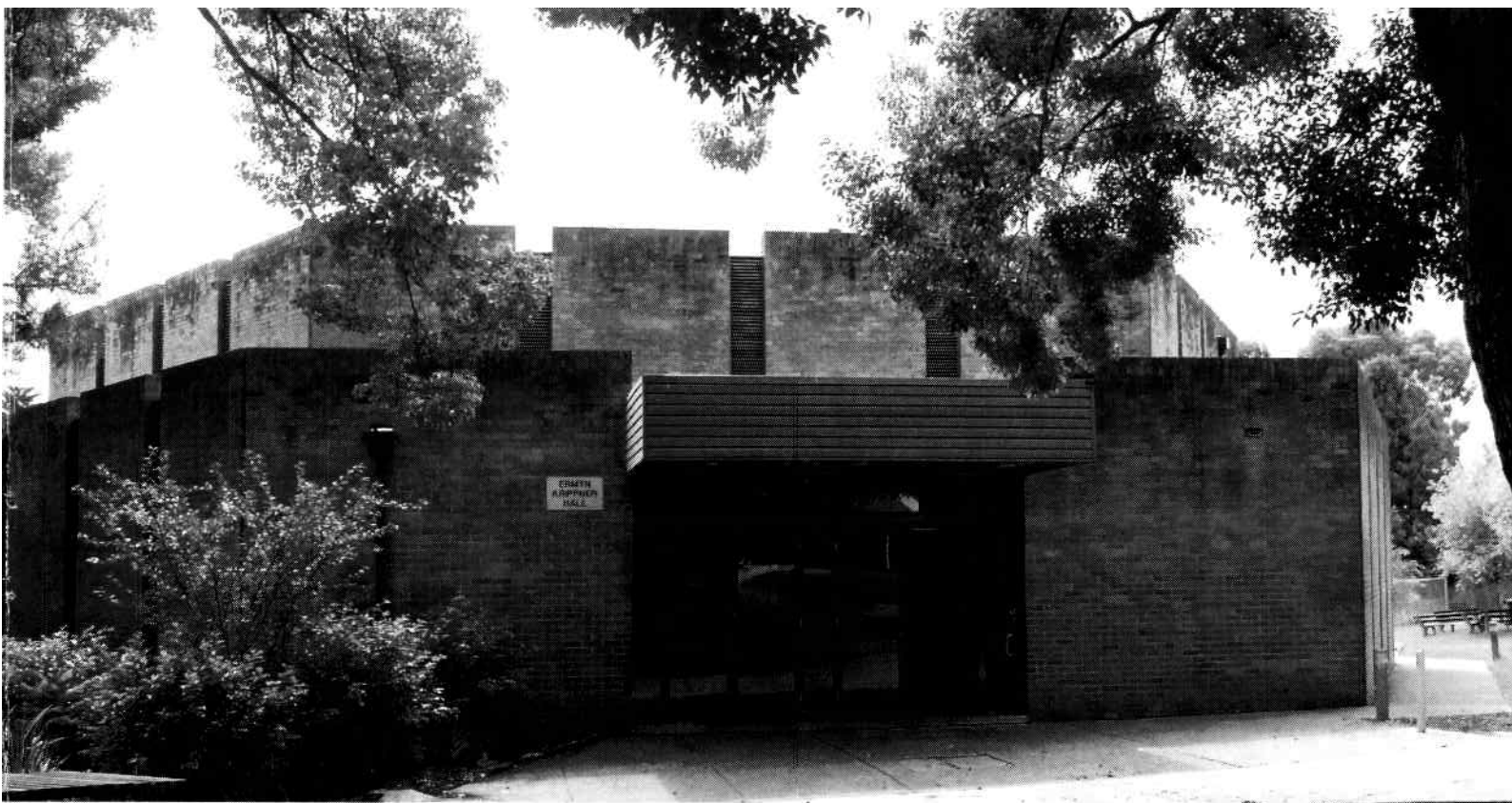
The School finally achieved its own separate and independent identity as a Secondary Girls' School, known as Burwood Central Domestic Science School, on the 1st January 1929 with the appointment of Miss H M Anderson as Principal.

"The main building is set about 40ft from and facing Queen Street, and in this section, 19 ordinary classrooms, equipped Science Room, large Sewing Room, two large Assembly Halls on the ground floor approximately 76ft by 25ft 6ins each, two smaller Assembly Halls on the first floor, Principal's, Headmistress', Male and Female Staff Rooms, Lavatories, Storerooms, Hatrooms, and lavatory accommodation for pupils are provided. Fireproof construction has been adopted for all staircases and upper floors throughout.

The Domestic Science Block is a single storey building connected to the main building by a covered way. It contains two large kitchens, large laundry, and opening off the corridor are Girls' Change Rooms, Demonstration Dining, Kitchen and Bath Rooms. Each room is lighted and ventilated on most up-to-date lines and modern furniture is installed throughout.

The design is of a well balanced Renaissance treatment, with a main central feature consisting of a large main entrance and broad treated gable.

In a separate block of buildings, provision is made for shelter sheds and closet blocks."



The Ermyrn Krippner Auditorium opened in 1980.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE GYMNASIUM

On the night of Thursday, 17th March, eight new Gymnasias were officially declared open by the Hon. RJ Heffron, MLA, at a function at Granville Secondary Technical School. Two groups of pupils from Burwood took part in the evening's programme – one group performing the Gnomes' Dance, and the other, Anitra's Dance from the 'Peer Gynt' Suite. Twelve of our Senior girls acted as Hostesses.

From the 1955 'Record'

PARENTS' AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

A Mothers' Association was formed at Burwood Home Science High School in June 1954, and it functioned successfully as such until March 1959, when at the request of the Education Department the name was changed to Burwood Girls' High School Parents' and Citizens' Association. At a subsequent meeting it was decided that one meeting in three would be held at night so that the girls' fathers could attend.

From the first BGHS School magazine 'The Log', 1960

THE SCHOOL HOUSES

Prior to 1959, the school population was divided into four Houses – North, South, East and West, but by 1959 the enrolment had increased to such an extent that it became necessary to create two new Houses. This demanded that a new set of House names should be chosen.

The happy idea of naming the Houses after some of our beautiful native trees was suggested by Mrs Lions, and a number of euphonious names given by Mrs Stead of the Teachers' College. Now six groups rally behind banners with the lovely names of Cumbora, Myall, Kayeroo, Eurabbie, Kurrajong and Yorrell.

Myall and Eurabbie houses were later dropped to leave the remaining four that we have today.

From 'The Log', 1968

ERMYN KRIPPNER AUDITORIUM

The Ermyrn Krippner Auditorium was opened on the 8th March 1980 by the Hon. WF Crabtree, MP Minister for Lands and Services representing the Hon. EL Bedford, Minister for Education. Reflecting the music of the time, piano solos were performed of 'Song for Guy' and themes from 'The Godfather', 'Love Story' and 'The Entertainer'. The Choir and the 'Recorder Consort' performed. Speeches were made by a variety of guests including Mrs Ermyrn Krippner.



school principals

<i>Principal</i>	<i>Date Appointed</i>	<i>Principal</i>	<i>Date Appointed</i>
Miss H M Anderson	1929	Mr J Hensley	1978
Miss E A Long	1934	Miss E A Peterson	1984
Miss Z Bocking	1939	Mrs N Moody	1989
Miss I Wilson	1954	Ms L Treskin	1991
Mrs E W Krippner	1961	Ms M Kumar	2002
Mrs Walla	1977		

TOP ROW

Left to right – Miss Zillah Bocking, Miss Isla Wilson, Mrs E W Krippner and Mr Jack Hensley.

BOTTOM ROW

Left to right – Miss Elaine Peterson, Mrs Nel Moody, Ms Larissa Treskin and Ms Mia Kumar.

principal's tribute

MISS HENRIETTA ANDERSON

(1929-1934)

Miss H M Anderson became the first Headmistress of Burwood Central Domestic Science School, as the School was then called, by her appointment on the 1st January 1929. Prior to that time Miss Anderson was Mistress of the Girls' Department, which included the Primary and Domestic Science sections, of Burwood Superior Public School. She is remembered by ex-students as a tall, stately woman and a strict disciplinarian, devoted to the school. This is borne out by the fact that on reaching the required retirement age, she duly reapplied to continue in the service of the school each year, complete with a doctor's certificate of competence, until she finished duty on Thursday 13th December 1934.

Funds during these years were very hard come by. As Miss Anderson did not have the luxury of a parent organisation to raise money the necessary funds were raised through fetes conducted by the teachers and girls as a school activity. The 'tuck shop' was also organised by the teachers.

Miss Anderson's last day of service with the Department of Education was finally achieved on 22nd January 1935.

MISS ELIZABETH A LONG

(1934-1939)

Assuming control at a difficult period educationally and socially, Miss Long was an older woman who retired at the end of this period.

A teacher of this period remembers her as one who did not wish to be involved with the day to day running of the school, as one who had the teachers do most of the work with the girls.

Miss Long was a woman who is described as having an air of infallible authority.

MISS ZILLAH BOCKING

(1939-1953)

By encouraging the girls to become good citizens with socially stable personalities, Miss Bocking did not concentrate on academic achievements but enabled girls to take their place in the world whether it be as teachers or other professionals, in commerce and/or homemakers. For her, a hierarchy did not exist between the moral and spiritual, manners and intellectual ability. Under Miss Bocking's administration, girls were not solely prepared for the workforce, but as citizens of an Australia of the future.

At the end of 1953, Miss Zillah Bocking, headmistress of the school since 1939, and recipient of a Coronation Medal in 1952, relinquished her duties as principal entered on six months' leave before beginning other work in the field of Education.

Miss Bocking left with the good wishes not only of the teachers and pupils of Burwood, but of many 'old girls' at home and abroad. Miss Bocking was headmistress for many years and a great many Australians came under her truly fine influence, not only pupils but young teachers to whom Miss Bocking will always be a grateful memory.

The senior pupils presented her with a marquise brooch and matching earrings and the Junior School's gift was a beautiful Chinese rosewood chair. The staff arranged an afternoon tea in the school Assembly Hall. This was attended by many friends and colleagues who came to show their affection and appreciation of one who had contributed so much to education.

The Department of Education was represented by Dr and Mrs Wyndham, Mr and Mrs Price and Miss Inwood, the Teachers College by Dr and Mrs Turner and the Teachers' Federation by Mr and Mrs Heath. On this occasion Miss Bocking was presented with a wristlet watch and a substantial cheque from her present staff and other teacher-friends. The presentation was made by the Deputy Headmistress, Miss Wallent, and several speeches were given eulogising Miss Bocking's work,

MISS ZILLAH BOCKING

(1939-1953)

continued

character and personality. The Cookery Department, always outstanding for its generosity, had a gift which was unique. Miss Bocking was asked to unveil a model of her school. This, to her delight and surprise, was a beautifully iced cake, a replica of the school complete with pigeons and cars.

Miss Bocking passed away shortly after Speech Day in 1957. During the time she had been principal she had guided the school with such ability and had so impressed her personality on it that it was often spoken of as 'Miss Bocking's School' rather than Burwood Home Science High School.

The many students and teachers who passed through the school during these years undoubtedly benefited greatly from her influence and surely owe to her memory a great debt for her determination to uphold the high ideals she fostered for the education of young women.

In the wider field of education outside the school Miss Bocking was also well known for her work as an educationalist.

MISS ISLA WILSON

(1954-1960)

Under Miss Isla Wilson the school continued to expand its links with the community and with other high schools, particularly the academic high schools. Sporting, debating and dramatic work carried on with Burwood girls holding their own against these schools.

Socially, senior dances were held in conjunction with the boys from Hurlstone Agricultural High School and third year dances supervised by the newly formed Mothers' Association.

At this time also, an Ex-Students' Association was formed to increase the corporate identity of the school assisting the girls' transition from school to adult life as well as assisting needy girls to continue at school.

MRS E W KRIPPNER

(1961-1976)

Mrs Krippner retired at the end of 1976 as the fifth Principal of Burwood Girls' High School after spending five years as the Science Mistress of the school and sixteen years as the Principal. Between the two associations with the school was a six year period as Deputy Principal of Strathfield Girls' High School.

During Mrs Krippner's association with the school, progress was steadily maintained in all aspects of education, and teacher, student and parent communication.

More significantly the Assembly Hall, which had long been a dream of the staff and pupils since the 1940's was finally constructed.

Mrs Krippner's 16 years as Principal was the longest serving period in the history of the school.

MRS WALLA

(1977)

Mrs Walla only served at Burwood for 12 months. She unfortunately had to retire due to ill health.

MR JACK HENSLEY

(1978-1983)

The only male principal of Burwood Girls' High School! A man of great ability in many areas, a man who loved the school and the girls thought the world of him because they knew he cared about them and their problems. When there were 1,150 girls in the school, Jack knew every girl by name and could tell you all about her family, etc.

He was a great orator, but as most of his stories referred to cricket and rugby, the girls usually had no idea what he was talking about – but he sounded great!

MISS ELAINE PETERSON

(1984-1988)

Known as 'Big Bird' by the girls – for the way she stood over the microphone. Elaine changed the way the school thought about itself – brought pride into what we did and gave the girls a great role model. She was a firm disciplinarian and the girls knew that they were in big trouble when she called them 'darling'.

Elaine built good relations with the community and helped establish this school as a progressive place. She retired when she felt that the changes that had to come should come from someone else. We were all touched at one time or another by her great sense of humour.

MRS NEL MOODY

(1989-1990)

Here for a short period. Her contribution was very important in putting the school on a firm financial footing and beginning the task of turning the numbers around as we were losing girls because of the falling population in the area.

MS LARISSA TRESKIN

(1991-2001)

A huge transition came with the innovative, fearless leader that arrived in 1991. She inspired, led and persuaded the students and staff to move, to change and to keep changing and challenging tradition in order to meet the needs of the youth of the day.

Larissa was an inspirational leader who let her staff be absolutely professional and so the school sailed towards the 21st century as a leader in education.

MS MIA KUMAR

(2001–)

Continuing on the work begun, Mia has improved communication with the school community and consolidated a new executive team. She has revitalised the technology infrastructure, improved the appearance of the school and supported the extension of the performing arts. She is committed to promoting the multicultural diversity of the school.

Mia is determined to make a difference.



Junior Uniform (Year 7 to Year 10), 2004.



Senior Uniform (Year 11 and Year 12), 2004.

staffing

1929 ENROLMENT 834

2004 ENROLMENT 1,026

HEADMISTRESS	Miss H M Anderson	PRINCIPAL	Ms M Kumar
1st Assistant	Miss Learmonth	Deputy	Ms C Gleave
	Miss Bardon	Deputy	Ms K O'Brien
	Miss Bragg	Head Teacher – English	Ms A St Louis
	Miss Burton	Head Teacher – Maths	Mr R Brett
	Miss Carmody	Head Teacher – Science	Mr D Allen
	Miss Stokes	Head Teacher – History	Mr T Ying
	Mrs Cooke	Head Teacher – Language	Ms W Gray
	Miss Dougherty	Head Teacher – PDHPE	Miss D Page
	Miss Dutton	Head Teacher – Social Science	Mrs P Simpson
	Miss Farr	Head Teacher – TAS	Mrs A Splittgerber
	Mrs Ireland	Head Teacher – Creative Arts	Ms M Kals
	Mrs Kendall	Head Teacher – Welfare	Ms O Maroc
	Mrs Meleters	Head Teacher – Teaching and Learning	Mr J Stubbs
	Miss Mollison		Mr R Stanton
	Miss Nichol	Teacher Librarian	Ms M Boddeus
	Miss Russell	Counsellor	Ms J Joy
	Miss Scobie	Counsellor	Ms I Benjamin
Art	Miss Beer	English	Ms M Brown
Shorthand	Mrs Trix		Mr M Cox
Cookery	Miss Bell		Ms R Hopkins
Music	Mrs Crawford		Ms K Lazos
Needlework	Miss Parr		Ms L Marx
Needlework	Miss Barnes		Ms C Montgomery
Physical Culture	Miss Stanton		Ms K Stavert
Cookery	Miss Willard		Ms A St Louis

ESL (English as a second language)

Ms R Alexandratos
Ms L Brompton
Ms J Campbell
Ms J Raynor
Ms R Sandow
Ms M Stipanovic
Mr R Brett
Mr J Cameron
Mr D Campbell
Mr P Charalambous
Ms F Diakos
Ms H Field
Ms A Fletcher
Ms L Openshaw
Ms L Warrington

Maths

OPPOSITE – CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Dedicated staff throughout the years.

Ms Sue Stone (Business Principles) 1962, three unknown teachers of 2A 1949,

Ms Openshaw (Mathematics) 1986, Mrs Kathy Bradley (English) 1985, Mrs Smith (PE) 1962,

Ms Michelle Kals (Art) 1986, Miss Matthews (PE) 1962, Mr Tom Ying (History) 1989.

CENTRE Ms Veronica Nesbitt (Business Principles) 1962.



2004 STAFF continued

Science	Mr D Allen Ms J Burkitt Ms T Christie* Mrs O Costa Mr I Hristoforidis Mrs L Thickett Mrs S Thomson* Mr J van Leeuwen	Music Learning Support Careers Director – Band Program	Ms L Clairbrook Ms Y Mak Ms J Jacques Ms M Teague Mr P Carruthers Mr G Armitage
History	Ms C Maiorana Ms A McGrath Ms J Nugent Mr T Ying	As well as the teaching staff there are a number of School Ancillary Support Staff (SASS). They are:	
LOTE (<i>Languages other than English</i>)	Mrs J Ardino* Ms K Barr Ms A De Michele Ms W Gray Ms E Man* Ms Q M Li Ms C Yeung	Office Manager Office	Mrs B Hatzis Mr B Deacon Mrs K Escolme Mrs J Miller* Mrs D Saw
PDHPE	Ms K Anderson Ms A Bereveskos Ms J Gianotti Ms B Grantham Ms V Kalogeropoulos Ms D Page	Library	Mrs A Black Mrs K Cunningham* Mrs A Thomson
Social Sciences	Ms R McQuarrie Ms E Michael Ms K Norman Ms Patrice Simpson Mr A Stewart-Thomson Mr A Waddington	Science TAS Print Room Uniform Shop General Assistant	Ms L Ang Mrs H Young Ms D Man Mrs E Browne Ms S Staines Mr J Channells
TAS (<i>Technology & Applied Studies</i>)	Ms M Hope Ms M Ibbott Ms C Jameson* Ms K Scott Ms N Slocombe Mrs A Splittgerber	* <i>Ex-students</i>	
Creative Arts	Ms C Baillie Ms E Habijanec Ms M Kals Mr J Markou Ms K Tapp		

school captains

1929	*	1948	P Bridge	1967	C Todd	1986	I Dean
1930	*	1949	J Benson	1968	M Faulkner	1987	K Pettett
1931	*	1950	B See	1969	R Tupman	1988	M D Phamhuu
1932	*	1951	A Gadd	1970	J Rose	1989	V Vatiliotis
1933	H Holliday	1952	J Carter	1971	M Allars	1990	M Parker
1934	B Napper	1953	G Griffen	1972	D Bournes	1991	K Karatasas
1935	J Wallace	1954	P Jamieson	1973	C Sammers	1992	M Cook
1936	G Guy	1955	R Churches	1974	R Howard	1993	L Truong
1937	E Cox	1956	R Pereira	1975	K Oszko	1994	K Burke
1938	E Newth	1957	O Barrett	1976	M Mackenzie	1995	T Anthony
1939	P Dawes	1958	E Myers	1977	G Norris	1996	C Moore
1940	N Jones	1959	A Millar	1978	M Ramsay	1997	S Khan
1941	H Dingle	1960	K Thornton	1979	K Stone	1998	R Salimi
1942	B Baynes	1961	A Read	1980	W Edgar	1999	A Toohey
1943	N Dempsey	1962	S Wing	1981	D Ramsey	2000	K Martin
1944	G McKenzie	1963	S Irwin	1982	L Robertson	2001	S Hartley
1945	J Shute	1964	J Carson	1983	L Watt	2002	S Jappie
1946	S Chambers	1965	J Bourke	1984	S Evans	2003	T Tong
1947	M Gibson	1966	C Todd	1985	T Dracopoulos	2004	E Vickers



* No record has been found of the school having a captain before 1933 and this could be due to the fact that that was the first year Leaving Certificate candidates were presented from the school.

today & tomorrow

HOW STUDENTS LEARN TODAY. ASPIRATIONS FOR THE NEW CENTURY

BIEP

Burwood Instrumental and Ensemble Program grew out of a Band Program initially sponsored by the Creative Arts Department into a stand alone performance education department.

Girls at Burwood learn instruments as varied as double bass and flute – in fact all wind, brass, strings and percussion as well as piano, guitar and voice. Our teachers are drawn from the professional musician/educators of Sydney. People as well known as Patricia Amphlett and Errol Buddle have been attracted to and continue working in our school. There are 20 instructors and four part-time clerical staff working in the program.

Over 300 students a week make at least two trips to the Band area, either for lessons, large ensemble rehearsals or chamber rehearsals.

The program boasts a national reputation, performing at football matches, church festivals, band festivals, on TV and on tour – over one hundred performances annually.

You may have seen our activities at the anniversary functions. I'm sure you enjoyed our performances.

Glenn Armitage

BIEP Director

CREATIVE ARTS

Creative Arts plays an important role in the school curriculum. Creative Arts subjects presently offered are Visual Arts, Music, Television Production and Photography.

Visual Arts is a popular elective subject. Students respond to their environments using a wide range of media. At Burwood Girls High School students experience painting, drawing,

photography, sculpture, graphics, ceramics, art wearables and computer generated image making using relevant computer software to manipulate still images and to edit video images. The art making process is documented in a Visual Arts Diary. Practical work is supported by study of relevant art history and art criticism. Visual Arts students at the school have had outstanding success at exhibitions such as ArtExpress over the past decade. As well, gifted and talented students in Year 11 have been selected to participate in the National Arts School's HSC Visual Arts Extension Course. In 2003/4 we had more students selected for this course than any other school in the state.

A high standard is evident in music activities across the school. HSC results in Music are consistently in the top performance bands.

In the classroom, students study a wide range of musical styles. Computers are now integrated into music classrooms, particularly focussing on the area of composition. TV Production has now moved from analogue into the digital area, using digital cameras, iMovie and professional software applications in classroom learning activities.

Technology is being increasingly integrated into Creative Arts classrooms as is evident in students' practical, research and written work.

Michelle Kals

Head Teacher – Creative Arts

ENGLISH

In English classrooms today, students are active learners. They practise reading, writing, speaking and listening, viewing and representing. Students work in small groups to share ideas, discuss issues from texts and create various written and spoken

assignments. They also work independently. Work today can involve taping an interview, writing a short story or poem, performing a play, drawing a diagram of the set design for a play or creating a video.

Today students also learn to analyse and evaluate information on the internet as well as be creative in the areas of writing and speaking.

Speaking and listening skills are enhanced by the various activities in the classrooms as well as Public Speaking groups and Debating teams within the school. Competitions with other schools are held in debating and many students enter various public speaking competitions outside school.

With the creation of the new syllabus, the study of film is a very important part of English teaching. Students learn to analyse the way images, music and film techniques enhance the narrative as well as analysing spoken language.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Many of our students speak another language at home. To cater for their needs we have highly experienced specialist teachers called ESL teachers. These teachers work side by side with teachers from different faculties to devise language rich activities to help those students practise their written and spoken skills in the English language. It is a great benefit to have two teachers in a classroom. The ESL staff work in every faculty in the school to promote the improvement of literacy across the curriculum.

Drama

The study of Drama has spread rapidly throughout the school. Students choose this elective in Year 9 through to Year 12. In this course, students learn skills of improvisation, role-play, script writing

and the analysis of performances – both professional ones and those created by their peers.

Technical skills are also taught. Students learn to use the sound and lighting equipment as well as back stage management. A large part of the course is the creation of original performances using voice and movement.

Annetta St Louis

Head Teacher – English

HISTORY

Writing on the occasion of Burwood Girls High School's 75th Anniversary, I can, with hindsight, confidently answer those questions which I posed in the 70th Anniversary souvenir booklet in 1999. How well were we going to perform in the first state-wide exam in Australian History and Civics in 2002? Answer, very well above state average. Would we become a republic with a presidential head of state? No, we remain a monarchy. Will the cause of Aboriginal reconciliation be advanced? No, it has been stalled. Will we have a new constitution with a preamble that acknowledges prior ownership of this country? Disturbingly the answer again is no. The thing about the study of History is that it doesn't give us the answers so much as it keeps us asking the questions!

In this year 2004 AD, the History Faculty hasn't quite managed to acquire the holographic projection devices which I predicted would be the big addition to our educational tool box. Walking around and inside a virtual history is still not a prospect. Communicating via the big, plasma voice recognition screens isn't here either. However, I am very pleased to report that we are on the threshold of a breakthrough on the internet. We have at last constructed a Faculty website which is linked to the BGHS home page. The staff (4) are all trained or about to be trained in the construction of ICT web quests. Four web quests are already being accessed in-school via

the intranet. Now it's in your home via the internet. We look forward to becoming more adept at aligning the curriculum with the technology that provides more imaginative ways of delivering it.

In the 70th Anniversary edition, I said that students would be able to 'download' their work to the school and we are almost there. We also plan to provide them with an on-line internet learning support facility. I can conclude now as I did then, teaching and learning in History will become 'more structured, more vivid, more intense, more packaged'...but nevertheless more fun. Watch this space!

Tom Ying

Head Teacher – History

LOTE

Languages other than English

Needless to say, the LOTE faculty at BGHS has seen many changes over the years, including our name. Australia's identity today as a multicultural society comprising diverse peoples and languages is reflected in that we are no longer seen as teaching 'Foreign' Languages as we once were. Chinese, French, Indonesian and Italian are the LOTEs we now offer on a face-to-face basis up to HSC level. At the HSC level we offer courses for Beginners, Continuers and Background Speakers, and both 2 Unit and Extension courses are available. In addition, the LOTE faculty oversees approximately 15 students studying other languages through the Open High School, and approximately 60 students studying their own community languages at Saturday School.

In 2004 the LOTE faculty comprises seven staff members, two of whom are BGHS old girls. Josephine Ardino (nee Manno) attended BGHS from 1969-70, and Evelyn Man (nee Ma) who has joined us this year, was a student here from 1965-69. A third member of the LOTE staff, Kathy Barr, is the daughter

of an old girl from the Leavers' class of 1945, Wilma Lock.

Learning a LOTE today is a far cry from past times. Gone are the days of endless verb conjugations that left us unable to actually say anything of practical use in Paris or Rome. Today the emphasis is on communication, and our students find it normal and natural to actively use the target language in class. Resources and equipment have also greatly improved, and students regularly use CDs, DVDs, computers and CD ROMS in their language learning.

It is also now quite common for students to travel and to have the experience of applying their language skills in authentic situations. Aided whenever possible by Government scholarship funding, teachers from the LOTE faculty have organised and led study tours for students during vacation time to New Caledonia, France, Italy, and Indonesia. Currently plans are in motion for a three week tour to both France and Italy in 2005.

And what will the future hold?

Certainly the combined effects of multiculturalism, technology and our ever shrinking world will see our students become increasingly citizens of the world. In this modern world the ability to speak other languages and to communicate from beyond a monocultural perspective will become necessary skills for employment in most professions and industries.

Wendy Gray

Head Teacher – LOTE

LIBRARY

Anniversaries are a time for reflection on past, present and future. With this in mind, it is interesting to look back at our School Library 62 years ago.

In the 1942 School Annual Report housed in the Library Archives we find a chapter on the Library. The School Library is of importance to a school as a source of information and recreation,

it says. No change today, even if the forms of information and recreation sometimes come via the computer.

Our Library is a large well-lit room, carpeted and comfortably furnished, with an air of dignity and taste. The Library referred to here is, of course, the rooms found on the second floor of the main building at the front of the school. This space was later found to be inadequate as school libraries became a centre for class activity. The current Library, opened in 1971, can accommodate three classes at the same time and has recently had new furniture throughout, including computer workstations for our 35 internet-linked computers. We strive to create a bright, welcoming atmosphere.

Talking is forbidden in the Library. It is hard to imagine this was ever the case, but if it was, the Library has certainly changed in this regard as group work has increased and girls engage with

each other about their learning. Every class in the school receives at least one period per week in the Library for instruction. Thankfully those days of isolated instruction in Library skills are over, and now students come to the Library as the curriculum recommends and have information skills embedded in the research tasks set by their teachers.

The Library is also the social centre of the school where guests are met and entertained. This remains true today as the Library is a venue for interschool debates, special displays of students' work, meetings with visitors from other schools and overseas, etc.

The exact shape of our Library service into the future is hard to predict. The many books in the glass door book cases have been replaced by many more new volumes that are now available on the open shelves. Our popular literature collection continues to be developed. CD ROMs and the

Internet have contributed to an abundance of information now available to students. The need to assist students to develop analytical skills to process and use this information remains an ongoing challenge for us all.

Ray Stanton

Teacher – Librarian

MATHEMATICS

Remember the days of sitting in rows, not talking, staring at your exercise book and textbook and too scared to ask a question? Remember looking at your friend and seeing her write in her book and being in trouble with the teacher for copying? Remember being told that girls were not good at Maths anyway? Then you probably will not recognise the classroom of today.

What is expected of the student of today? Discussion between students and with the teacher; asking for help



Burwood Girls High School Open Day 1970.

when required; involvement in the learning experience and striving for their best. In total taking responsibility for their own learning!

Mathematics is no longer memorising endless formulae where 90% of the time is taken up doing never ending calculations. The focus is now on problem-solving using logical progressions. It is not meaningless copying but the asking of how and why. Students' abilities are extended when needed and supported and aided when required. One of the marked changes is that of student-teacher interaction. The teacher is seen as a facilitator and not of a purveyor of all knowledge that can only be understood by a select few.

Technology raises its head! The calculator: a boon for the learning experience and a weapon of dread for parents. To not use them would be to deny all advances: the washing machine, the motor car, the computer, the Jason recliner/rocker. The challenge is to balance them with basic arithmetic skills. The new School Certificate goes some way to helping.

And the future? The telecommunications expense decreasing and its speed increasing; software improving; trained teacher numbers decreasing all lead to a larger role for technology in the learning experience. Just what that role will be is open to speculation that not even I, as a computer teacher, could guess.

So the message is... "What was, is not now and will not be."

Robert Brett

Head Teacher – Mathematics

PDHPE

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

In keeping with the rest of the school the PDHPE Department aims to help develop our students into healthy, happy, effective and well balanced young women who have the skills and

confidence to meet life's challenges.

We, in the PDHPE Department, have a special role in the physical development of our students. Therefore we need to develop the skills necessary for the girls to value their physical health and realise that, like learning, the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle is a lifelong commitment.

As in the past, Burwood Girls High still carries a proud sporting tradition, with many successes in all areas of sporting endeavour. Our girls continue to do well in all competitions in which they participate and do so with sportsmanship and a cooperative attitude. We are current Zone champions in many areas, largely due to the hard work of the Sport Organisers, the coaches and the students themselves. It is a happy situation we aim to continue well into the next century.

Health & Welfare is our other major area of input into our students' development. Our syllabus caters for issues of great importance to the adolescents of today and women of tomorrow, e.g. drugs, child protection, safety, self esteem, relationships, women's health issues, etc.

Both these areas of development (physical and mental/emotional) are likely to be of increasing importance in the early part of the new century, as the pressures on our youth increase. High youth unemployment or longer working hours – both necessitate an ability to be able to use your leisure time in a healthy and constructive way. Likewise, the social pressures of an increasingly complex society present ongoing challenges that our students will need to be able to meet and overcome to be happy and successful. Teaching resiliency skills will become increasingly important.

The PDHPE Department sees the above issues as our major challenges for the next 20 years. We value the ongoing support of both our students and their parents in our quest.

Denise Page

Head Teacher – PDHPE

SASS

School Ancillary Support Staff

The number of support staff in the school has increased over the years along with their expanding roles and responsibilities. In the beginning the 'office staff' most likely consisted of two or three women hammering away at manual typewriters and wrestling with old fashioned switchboards. Today the range of technology is enormous – computers for student records and desk top publishing, scanners, digital cameras, photocopiers, laser printers, the Internet and so on. Support staff have become more professional and some have specialised in specific areas such as TAS, Science and the Library, and a full-time position in the Print Room. The support staff are constantly updating their knowledge and looking at ways to improve efficiency and productivity and cope with the future needs of the school. Looking after approximately 1,000 students, their parents and over 80 staff is certainly a full-time job but it is rewarding and never dull – especially when there is another reunion to organise!

Bronwyn Hatzis

Senior School Assistant

SCIENCE

Science lessons at BGHS are designed to engage and challenge all students to maximise their individual talents and capabilities for lifelong learning. Students investigate phenomena over a wide range of areas from subatomic particles to cosmological events. They examine the historical and ongoing contributions of Australian scientists to international science, the impact on their lives of scientific knowledge and its application to their surroundings and communities. Students work individually and in teams in planning and conducting investigations, communicating information and understanding, and developing scientific thinking and problem-solving techniques.

The Science faculty consists of eight teachers who are very experienced and dedicated individuals who constantly engage students in a range of learning experiences to encourage students to enjoy learning and to be self-motivated, reflective, competent learners who will be able to take part in further study, work or training.

The Independent Science Research Project (ISRP) (formerly called the Research and Development Project) provides all Year 10 students with the opportunity to demonstrate their performance across a range of science skills. Each student chooses a valid problem to research, plans and carries out a valid and safe investigation, accurately records relevant data and information and draws valid conclusions. A roundtable presentation of 10-15 minutes completes this ISRP where students reflect on their science work and also their development as a learner. This program and the involvement of parents and the community continues to be highly evaluated and regarded by our school community and the wider education community.

In the senior school, the faculty offers a wide range of courses: Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science, Physics and Senior Science which provide excellent grounding for further study at university and for work.

Continuing challenges for the Science faculty include the further development of the senior courses listed above (introduced in 2000) and modifications to the Science Year 7-10 syllabus to begin in 2005. The integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) such as using computer animations and simulations, use of databases CD ROM and the internet, use of data logging equipment present a challenge to both students and teachers to develop their talents.

David Allen

Head Teacher – Science

SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Social Sciences are a dynamic field of study that are constantly changing to keep pace with the modern world. Staff are currently rewriting programs for the new syllabi to meet the needs of students in the 21st century. In fact, we seem to have been rewriting programs for the last ten years.

Of course there are some essential key elements of all courses, which are fundamental to any understanding, and they remain unchanged over the years, although our modes of teaching them are probably vastly different. Geography and Commerce remain the mainstay of the junior curriculum. Geography is compulsory and in the junior school and we cover a wide range of contemporary issues with an emphasis on Australian Geography in Stage 5, which is Years 9 and 10. Deforestation, Waste Management, Tourism and Australia's Relations with our Asian Neighbours are just some of the topics. Unfortunately, we only have one period (just over an hour) each week to cover these issues so teachers and students have to be really focused and on track to ensure that all is covered by the end of Year 10 when the students sit for their School Certificate exam in Australian Geography and Civics. The Civics component of the junior Geography course is incorporated into our normal Geography lessons and is about actively participating in our society and environment, and developing a sense of responsibility regarding the world around us.

Next year a new syllabus in Commerce will be implemented state wide and we are preparing for that now. The proposed units of study sound very exciting and in a way, reflect what we at Burwood Girls have been doing over the past few years. We investigate personal finance – a must for our young women in this consumer world – and cover all the issues that will help inform our girls about how to survive in the maelstrom of 'retail therapy'. We also will continue to set up and run our own businesses as we have been doing

with each Year 9 class every year. This is a great hands on way of learning all about types of companies, management, marketing, finance, shares, dividends and in every company so far – profit! Three different businesses operate each year out of the Year 9 Commerce classrooms, usually food oriented, which is probably why they are all so successful.

In the new course we will continue to delve into the legal and political worlds also which means we will be continuing our annual two day field study to Canberra. Perhaps some of you can remember your Year 10 Commerce trip to our nation's capital! It still is a lot of fun. There are some other really new units that we will be introducing also, like E-Commerce and for those of you who don't know what that is, look it up on the Internet!

Many of you would only remember the SS Department teaching Economics and Geography in the senior school, but we now offer five HSC examinable subjects. Economics and Geography are still with us but we also have Legal Studies, Business Studies and Society and Culture. These provide options for students with a diverse range of interests and proposed career directions.

In all our courses, we teach skills and concepts that will prepare our girls for life in the rapidly changing world of work. We employ literacy, numeracy and technology strategies in our lessons to ensure our students are well and truly equipped to deal with the real world beyond the classroom. As previously mentioned, the Social Sciences are constantly on the move. As the nature of our world changes, so do our courses.

Patrice Simpson

Head Teacher – Social Sciences

T A S

Technology and Applied Studies

TAS is not a new faculty but a faculty which has undergone considerable change in philosophy, pedagogy, skills

and tools used to achieve the outcomes of the courses.

Many would remember the faculty as the Home Economics Department. The skills base that underpinned the learning is still evident, but the philosophy underpinning the pedagogy has changed.

The new syllabus, which will be introduced in 2005, will have students in Year 7 and 8 undertake studies in the newly named subject of Technology. In primary schools students study Science and Technology but when they come to high school this divides into two subjects – Science and Technology.

Technology will focus on problem solving using the design process. It will involve the process of designing, making and evaluating and will focus on a quality product. Students will develop skills in the use of six materials based projects. These will include food, textiles, wood, plastics, electronics and graphics. In each unit computer skills will be integrated.

In Years 9 and 10 students will be able to choose electives in this faculty that will mean a specialisation of materials and technologies. Subjects which will be included are Food Technology, Textiles Technology and it is anticipated that Information and Software Technology will also be introduced. In the future, if resources and specialist teaching staff permit, Industrial Technology (wood) may also have a place at BGHS.

The senior curriculum has strengthened and includes vocational courses in Hospitality Operations, which includes the use of the commercial kitchen. HSC courses include Food Technology, Textiles and Design and Community and Family Studies.

At BGHS the technology labs are well resourced with modern, well functioning kitchens, a commercial kitchen, fully computerised sewing machines including a digital embroidery machine, computer labs with relevant software which supports learning in the classroom.

These facilities and the depth of knowledge that the experienced staff brings to the faculty has ensured that the TAS staff consistently reach above state average results in the HSC.

BGHS is also involved in mentoring other schools in their subject area, which is also a testament to the high standards achieved at the school.

Angelika Splittgerber

Head Teacher – TAS

Student Welfare

Burwood Girls High School aims to provide quality teaching and learning within a safe, caring environment to meet the emotional, social and learning needs of our students. Student welfare at BGHS is grounded in the interrelationship between effective teaching and learning, a positive school climate and parent and community involvement. Student welfare is enhanced when all members of the school community participate in the learning programs and life of the school.

Each year is guided by a Year Adviser and Assistant Year Adviser who are responsible for the wellbeing of each student. Together with the Head Teacher Welfare and the staff, the welfare and educational progress is monitored and supported so that the girls are happy, successful and fulfilled.

Olga Maroc

Head Teacher – Welfare

Teaching and Learning

Prior to my appointment to Burwood Girls High School, I held the position of District Technology Adviser in the Port Jackson District and provided technology advice and support to Burwood Girls High School and another 59 Port Jackson District schools.

I worked with Mia Kumar and the technology committee to re-develop, improve and extend the school's computer network – a project that took many months to complete and

provided staff and students with a reliable school-wide network of Internet capable computers.

My appointment as Head Teacher Teaching and Learning started in February 2004 and meant a return to teaching students after a ten year absence from the classroom. During my first term I've been teaching Year 11 and 12 Information Technology classes and a Year 7 Design and Technology class. I've enjoyed working with my students and, on reflection, I am very pleased to have made the switch from a district consultant's position to a school-based position.

This year sees the introduction of a number of new syllabi with an increased emphasis on using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in teaching and learning. Starting in Term 2, I will be working with teachers in all subject areas to plan and develop ICT activities that help students meet the syllabus outcomes.

Currently there is no Information Technology courses offered in the junior school. For 2005 I plan to offer the Information and Software Technology course to Year 9.

In the senior school the HSC course Information Processes and Technology and the Vocational Education and Training course Information Technology are being studied. For 2005 I plan to offer the HSC course Software Design and Development which provides greater learning challenges than the Information Processes and Technology course. Out of approximately 250 students in Years 11 and 12 only six are currently enrolled in the Information Processes and Technology course. I hope that by introducing a junior school IT course the number of senior students choosing an HSC technology course will increase over time. Perhaps we will know when I write a report for the 80th Anniversary book.

Jeff Stubbs

Head Teacher – Teaching and Learning



memories

REFLECTIONS ON THE 'GOOD OLD DAYS'



through the ages

THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS BASED ON A BOOKLET PRODUCED BY YEAR 9 HISTORY STUDENTS OF 1979 ON THE OCCASION OF THE SCHOOL'S GOLDEN JUBILEE.

- 1941** Fire drills were a common activity within the school. A bell would ring, the girls would have to escape from the building via the appropriate exits. In 1940 the girls were able to evacuate the school in one-and-a-half minutes. In 1941 the school tennis courts had been returfed and fifteen nets were donated to the school by staff members and students. An important event which occurred during the year 1941 was that the School Choir sang at the Radio Station 2GB.
- 1942** War still shadowed the world in 1942. The girls at Burwood always had regular air raid practices, fire drills and trench drills. The school girls of those years all attended first aid classes, which might become useful in those war torn days. Physical education still played an important roll at Burwood Girls. The girls had to be fit in case of an emergency crisis. In these classes eurhythmic folk dancing and general exercises were practised. Friday afternoon was devoted to school sports which were all outdoors. 'Play the Game' – the school motto was the standard for conduct both in the playing field and classroom.
- 1943** The most popular sports at Burwood Central Home Science School in 1943 were Life Saving and tennis. Life Saving took place at Enfield Baths. Our school often did well in tennis and in 1943 we again won 'The Herbert Edwards Cup'. As well as this the Hockey Cup and pennants in A and B Basketball teams were gained.
- 1944** During this year the girls at the school were taught for the first time in the school's history by a male teacher – Mr W McCann. Seventeen graduates of the school gained Teachers' College scholarships. An important change took place at the school at the beginning of 1944. Burwood Central Home Science School changed to Burwood Home Science High School. The change meant that the school had specialised teachers, teaching only one or two subjects.
- 1945** During the war years a number of the classrooms were used as a First Aid Post. Now that the war was over there were extra rooms for all the pupils, however, there was shortage of teachers. Girls from Burwood attended the first school camp this year. The camp was at Broken Bay. The girls were all very enthusiastic.
- 1946** In 1946 our school library operated on an overnight loan system. Books were borrowed after 3:30pm and had to be returned by 9:30am the next morning. Winifred Jones achieved an outstanding pass in the Leaving Certificate. As well as gaining a University Exhibition (the first to come to the school) she also won the Shakespeare Prize. In July, the junior choir broadcast a bracket of songs over Radio Station 2GB.

1947 During 1947 there was a considerable drop in pupils. A few years before there had been approximately 1,200 girls, now in 1947 there were less than 850. As a result of fewer pupils, one of the rooms for the boarders (girls from other schools) was redecorated. Room One was converted into a 'comfortable staff room' (the English staff room) and Room Three was converted into a practical science lab.

1948 This year saw the reward of the annual relationship established in 1941 between Newcastle Home Science High and Burwood Home Science High. Burwood girls visited their sister school on Sydney's Six Hour Day while Newcastle girls visited Burwood on May Day. Burwood received thirty three awards this year. It was a privilege for the School Choir to sing at Martin Place at the opening of the United Nations Appeal for Children. The highlight of the year was an exhibition held in August. It was a great success and emphasis was placed on an international exhibit.

1949 Burwood Home Science School purchased its first lockers. As the war had ended there was a big 'boom' in enrolments. The school was 'full to the brim of students'. More girls were going on to fifth form, hoping to further their education and go on to a rewarding career. Many organisations had arranged competitions asking our school to participate in activities. One of these competitions was a 'Doll Dressing competition', and one of our girls – Joan Bartlett – won the first prize. Another doll dressing competition for 'All Schools'. Again one of our girls – Valerie Leigh – won.

1950 1950 was the wettest year for 90 years, because of this there were many blackouts and leaking roofs.

1951 Sport played an important part of this year. Our school gained many places in heats in the Combined School Swimming Carnival. Two second places were gained by our girls in the finals. As part of the Commonwealth Jubilee Celebrations, 100 girls from second form joined 2,000 pupils from various schools, to celebrate the 'Life Story of Wheat', by dancing at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The girls were dressed in blue and gold, and depicted the growth of wheat from a seed into tall stalks.

1952 On 3 July, 64 girls and three staff members went to Newcastle to compete against Newcastle Home Science School for the Koala Trophy. At the end of the weekend the competition resulted in a draw. Burwood was the first visiting school to beat a home team for the Koala Trophy. The competition was the highlight of the sporting year. The Debating Club had an active year. They competed at Newcastle (for the ICT), the City of Sydney Eisteddfod; and Fort Street Boys', who shortly after, returned the visit.

1953 In June, Burwood billeted her 'sister' school which was Newcastle Home Science High. A new interest this year was a tape recorder. Hurlstone Agricultural High School became our 'brother' school, which was the highlight of the fifth year social experiences. Because of the brother school more girls decided to stay at school for five years since the brotherly activities were only allowed at senior level.

1959 Open Day began joyously in August 1959 with the opening of the new science wing. Several displays were held, with the Home Science, Science, English, Maths and other departments participating in display work which was done by the students.



1962

This year the choir, vocal quartet and recorder quintet took part in a number of activities, including the Education Week telecast – 'Song of Youth' at ATN 7. The recorder quintet made their first public performance at the Town Hall as a solo group during the Choral Concert. They were also invited to perform at the first 'All Schools' Instrumental Festival' as a solo group.

1963

The swimming season in 1963 saw approximately 400 girls attend weekly Life Saving classes at Cabarita and Enfield Baths. The 1963 Annual School Swimming Carnival was held at Enfield Baths on Tuesday 12 March. A new school record was set by 13 year old Gay Thomas and also by the Yorrell Medley Relay Team. The second major sporting event for the year was the Annual School Athletics Carnival. This was held on 9 June at Concord Oval and proved to be a very successful day.

1964

In 1964 some Textile and Design students from Burwood Girls' High School were invited to participate in a Mannequin Parade at David Jones.

TOP LEFT 5th Form 1946. BOTTOM LEFT School excursion circa 1945, including girl with 'mystery crest' on uniform. TOP RIGHT Jennifer Cooper, School Vice Captain 1964. BOTTOM RIGHT Jennifer Cooper, thirty years later, 1994.

- 1965** In 1965 Burwood started a fencing club. Burwood was privileged as not many other schools would allow fencing. The girls had special duels between the club members from different houses. They practised every week with one of their teachers, Mrs Dusan.
- 1966** Another unique year because another new sport was introduced to the school. This sport was none other than rowing. Rowing had been considered a 'boys only' sport, but our girls showed the Mosman Rowing Club what we were made of, and beat them by five lengths.
- 1967** This was a successful year for Burwood Girls' High at basketball as well as hockey and softball. The school had two softball teams selected to compete in competitions at Moore Park and Hachet as well as basketball entering one team for the competition.
- 1969** In 1969 the school experienced a change of scenery. The Annual Swimming Carnival was held at Ashfield Olympic Pool for the first time on Tuesday 11 March. One highlight on this day was a relay race between a sixth form student and a teacher, the student won. A week later a competitor of Burwood Girls' High competed in the Mid-Western Zone Swimming Carnival in which the school screamed their way to second place.
- 1970** 1970 was a very active year for Burwood Girls' High. The school council commenced this year and was a success in making many improvements to the school. The first computer club was started with the help of the Science Department. Our library building was commenced in 1970, new modern equipment was to be installed and new books bought. Burwood actually came in 2nd in the Mid-Western Zone Carnival (a bit better than coming fourth like we usually do). In the Zone Carnival Burwood came second – beaten by Homebush West.

The 'Recreation' Ground – late 1920's or early 1930's.



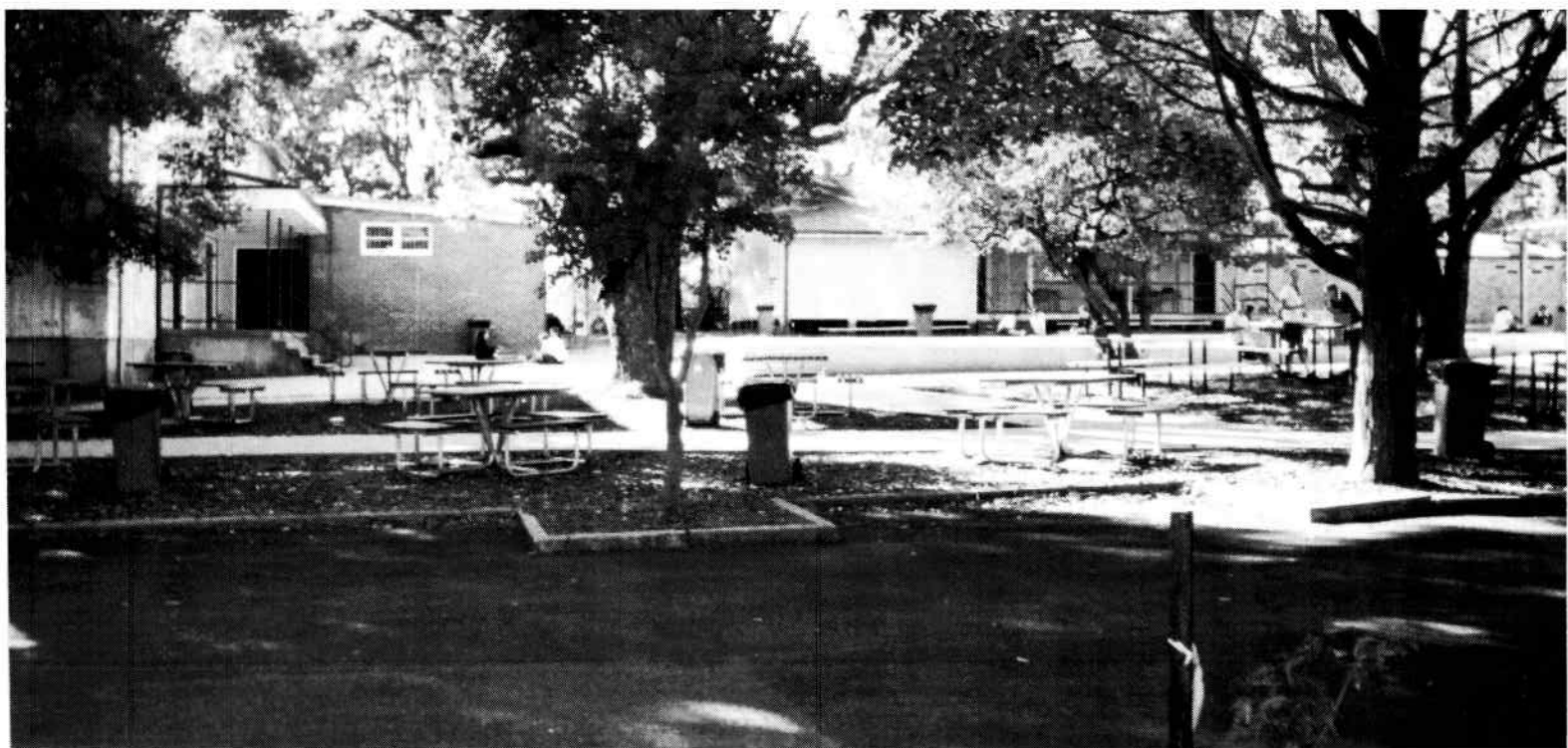
1971 The school library was completed in 1971 (a great change from the old library dating back to 1926).

1972 Student council had accomplished many things during 1972. Many musical performances were arranged for the parents. The number of books in the library was increased. The students were successful in debates against other schools. The mannequin parade was successful with many girls modelling the various clothes they had made. The chess club was formed in 1972 and many girls participated in this field. Art students took part in ceramics, etc. An experiment was conducted on the behaviour of mice by the science club.

1974 In 1974 Burwood Girls' High had many activities and clubs which were popular with the girls. The school also had an entirely volunteer choir which participated in concerts held at the Opera House. Two teachers from our school were honoured by being in the Royal Opening of the Opera House. Speech Night was held at Strathfield Girls' High as we had not yet our own school hall.

1975 This year the school received new movie-making equipment. Establishment of photographic facilities in the school, example, the dark room equipment for developing black and white photographs and also cameras were available for the general use of pupils. New equipment was bought for the Textiles and Design, including an Elna Press and two Baby Locks. The School Carnival was successful except for the 500 girls who came down with a strange disease, which mysteriously cured itself the next day. Passers-by could be excused for thinking that Burwood Girls' High School had finally gone co-ed. Not so, we're afraid. Seniors had, however, been granted the privilege of some winter warmth and comfort with the introduction of pants into their official winter uniform. First to fourth forms, still sporting the same box pleats as they did when my mother attended the school, took every opportunity to tell us, and anybody else who would listen, how unfair it was that they could not be in the new fashions too.

Today's playground.



THEN...



NOW...



that was then...

THE FOLLOWING ANECDOTES ARE EXCERPTS FROM SOME OF THE MANY LETTERS SENT IN DURING THE MONTHS LEADING TO THIS 75TH ANNIVERSARY.

"It wasn't a high school when I was there – it was Domestic Science. We went from the old school in Conder Street to the new school in 1927. I was in 8th class and went into 9th class where I left a fortnight before my birthday as I had a job to go to and had to have permission to leave. Mrs Ireland was our class teacher, Miss Bray for shorthand and Miss Beer our art teacher and Miss Parr for sewing."

Phyllis Sharman (nee Ralph)

"I use to ride to school in a horse and buggy from home in West Pennant Hills to Pennant Hills and then catch the train to Burwood."

Mavis Small

"In 9th class (now Year 9) for PE we had eurhythmics occasionally. One exercise we did out in the playground, to the music of an old gramophone, I think it was 'Capella', we did 'The Burial of a Bird'. We had to pretend we had a dead bird in one hand and as we slowly danced we had to stroke the dead bird. At first you can imagine how we all giggled, but the teacher, a Miss Stanton, was so cross. She said it was supposed to be a solemn occasion."

Girls today would be very amused at our PE uniform – white blouse, black knee length bloomers, black stockings and white sand shoes. I still laugh at the thought of those hideous bloomers."

Eirene Weiss (nee Moore) – 1926-1929

"Sometimes during class, the girls at the front would draw pictures or write funny messages on the backs of their legs and stick them out into the aisles to make the rest of us behind them laugh – hoping to get us into trouble. They sometimes succeeded!"

Edna Barton (nee Morris) – 1929-1931

"I was not a very bright student but still have a few memories of those days – our Head Mistress was Miss Anderson, a very stern and severe person. We were all scared of her – when we were eligible to sit for the Intermediate Certificate we had to pay 10 shillings for the entrance fee...when I took it to Miss Anderson she said "I don't want you to sit for the exam as you bring the school average down" – when I told my father he was furious and insisted I sit, much to her disapproval – but I passed all B's, but I got there and quite a few much brighter girls failed."

Our PE teacher, Miss Conner (I think) – very strict and very good, but if you didn't keep your lines straight she would give you a whack on your back that would send you flying into the next row – it was a case of "Head up, shoulders back and chin in."

Brenda Roberts (nee Lucas) – 1931-1933

"The one highlight I can remember was a visit by the Governor, Sir Phillip Game, for whom we had to give a display of our physical and rhythmic exercise out on the lovely playground."

Mary Alty (nee Howard) – 1933

"After being a dismal failure in 2nd year at school, it was an unforgettable boost to my morale when at the end of 3rd year I was awarded the Cookery Teachers' Association bursary for the highest Intermediate Certificate pass in the State."

Florence Jones – 1937-1939

"I remembered learning typing and that the teacher had a cane which could reach to the back of the classroom. This was smacked down loudly near anyone who dared look at the typewriter keys."

Norma Bacon (nee Nicholls) – 1938-1940

"I was a pupil at Burwood from 1940-1945 and (to my astonishment) was one of those elected as prefect in 1945. Winifred Johns was the School Captain and of course we were most fortunate in having Zillah Bocking as Headmistress. Her standards were high and I believe she made a lasting impression on her students. Her memory was phenomenal and when, sometime about 1947, she visited the school where I was a student teacher, she said "This is one of my girls". Since I was not an individual of outstanding beauty or intellect, I was impressed."

Betty McKenzie-Tubb – 1940-45

"The Duke of Gloucester visited Sydney in 1938 to mark the occasion of Australia's 150th anniversary of British colonisation. The Duke attended a school demonstration of folk dancing held in the Sydney showground arena – filled to capacity with girls from high schools all over Sydney, clothed in groups of pastel coloured dresses, all dancing in unison. After many months of intensive practice Burwood Girls' took part. I was delighted to be a member of the folk dancing group. Subsequently the Sword Dance, in particular, became synonymous with Burwood Girls' and we did many demonstrations of this dance... this was the only organised activity of my high school years and the highlight of all my school days."

Alicia Harison

"I remember the preparations for the annual Ball. We learned to do the various types of waltzes around the playing field – the whole school, with the PE teacher (I just can't remember her name. We loved her but were terrified of her) yelling at us, and not hesitating to whack us if we did not try hard enough! And the 'aerobic' (which were graceful and pretty – not like today's) with the same PE teacher – same effects – but we tried all the harder!"

Shirley Smith (nee Allen) – 1937-1942

"When I attended Burwood I lived at Gladesville, and caught the 7:10am bus to Meadowbank, then a train to Burwood, then walked to school. In those days we had a train concession fare of 1 shilling for the term, refundable on expiry. The curriculum over the years changes but you may be interested to know the subjects undertaken by me (doing the Commercial

Course) were English, Spelling, Writing, History, Mental and Written Arithmetic, Economics, Accountancy, Typing, Shorthand, Art, Needlework, and Physiology. As students we had more contact with our Deputy Headmistress than our Headmistress Miss E A Long, who diligently signed our Term Reports."

Olive Jardine (nee McNeil)

"One event which is memorable for me occurred in August 1939 when I was in Form 3. The school had a Fancy Dress Ball and eight of us went as 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' – I was 'Dopey' and we had enormous fun trying to copy their antics... I also recall the air raid trenches and one particular morning the siren went off. Some keen students raced ahead and promptly jumped in the trench, unfortunately they were half full of muddy water from rainfall the night before – what a sight!"

Myfanwy Nesbitt (nee Shapland) 1938-1940

"Miss Zillah Bocking was Head Mistress. Miss Tanzer made Physiology a joy to learn – she had a wonderful sense of humour which helped us deal with dissecting frogs, sheep brains, bullocks hearts etc. I loved the subject. Miss French was our very strict History teacher – I hated the subject."

Joan Gregor (nee Dauncey) – 1939-1941

"To get to Burwood was tops in those days and everyone hoped to go there. The teaching was great. Miss Dyer was my English teacher and even to this day I remember my English Rules."

Jean Ridley (nee Bevan) – 1939-1942

"Hat, tie, blazer and gloves were worn in public every school day & was strictly enforced. Only one uniform summer & winter... We grew proud of our uniform & although there were many darns in stockings & tunics etc. it taught us to present ourselves in a dignified manner..."

Doreen Muldoon – 1940-1942

"I think my three years at Burwood were probably amongst the happiest of my life. The war didn't seem to touch us... My education at Burwood fitted me for my life and was a wonderful groundwork on which to build..."

Alice Cherry (nee Grenenger) – 1940-1942

THEN...



NOW...



THEN...



NOW...



"Most of us had not seen each other for 50 years until we met in your library. We were excited, so I hope we were not too difficult to guide around. Over lunch we discovered that 11 of the 19 present had become teachers. We ranged from Infants to TAFE in a variety of subjects. Every single one of us was impressed with your school, the happy atmosphere and the involvement of the girls. It represents modern, progressive education at its best. Education is certainly alive and well at Burwood."

Marion Sharpe (nee Scott) – Class of '43

"It was during the war, I remember stale bread being soaked in hand basins. This was being prepared to make rissoles consisting mainly of bread and onions, but how good they smelt when sold at recess!"

June Barrett (nee Wilson) – 1943

"Weekly assemblies were held in the hall. Girls were marched in to music played by the music teacher. Staff were seated along the wall and when all was ready and NOT BEFORE, the Principal would enter the hall, leading the flag bearer with the Australian flag, Captain and Vice Captain. The National Anthem was sung, the Oath of Allegiance sworn and the flag saluted...during the whole assembly, because there were no chairs, all girls had to sit on their suitcases, usually the good old Globite that lasted one all our school days. As you can imagine this was very uncomfortable but one was made more uncomfortable by being spoken to for not sitting still!!!"

Lorraine Clark (nee Anderson) – 1940-1945

"During the years the school was heavily involved in raising funds for War Bonds. One such venture was a 'Talent Quest'. Every girl in every year class was involved initially. Eventually each Year presented their three best entries, judged by the students (and parents) paying for votes and the finals were held at the picture theatre in Burwood with the whole school plus parents and friends attending...this was a huge financial success."

Our Headmistress, Miss Bocking was a wonderful, progressive teacher. She introduced work experience for the girls who were doing a Commercial Course where we acted as her receptionist/secretary from time to time."

Ona Duncan (nee Newson)

"Returning from holidays in 1942 we discovered new open cut air raid trenches had been dug down near the brick pit. Being over inquisitive, a few others and myself decided to have a closer look by entering down the roughly dug slope. I lost my footing and hurtled head first into the trench. In so doing I hurt a finger which pained considerably but the bell sounded, I raced to lines and immediately fainted. Taken to sick bay, my swollen finger was firmly strapped and I was sent to report the episode to our Headmistress, Miss Bocking. Needless to say all sorts of disciplines ran through my mind as obviously I had been quite out of line entering the trench to 'sticky beak'. To my amazement, with charm and dignity Miss Bocking patted me gently on the head and announced..."My dear – you are our first trench casualty". I melted!"

Beryl Mann (nee Ashdown) – 1941-1945

"During the 2nd World War, trenches were cut in the playground and we had to practise filing into them and put our tunics over our heads. This was to be camouflage in case of an air attack. If you didn't have the regulation navy bloomers on you were in trouble!"

Ailsa Cree – 1942-1944

"On the morning of the 15th August 1945, a school assembly was suddenly called. All staff and students gathered in the hall, and Miss Bocking made the announcement that the war was over and that peace had been declared!!! There was a mix of high emotion from the teachers; the pupils were not so affected. Miss Bocking then announced that school for the day was suspended and we should all go home to celebrate. Hooray!!! Those unfortunate girls in the 5th form had just commenced their trial Leaving Certificate exams, and remained in school, whilst the rest of us struggled onto the overcrowded trains and buses and did indeed go home. Everybody in Australia got an 'early mark that day'..."

Our Physical Education mistress was Miss Connor...a severe lady, who spent her time rocketing around like an out of control missile. Her passion was sport; her distaste was for girls not inclined to vigorous exercise, she always carried a rod or ruler to chastise the lazy."

Each year the captains and prefects were invited (commanded!) to afternoon tea at the home of Miss

Bocking. Attired in our best clothes, we sat in her lounge room eating small cakes and delicacies, always with our ankles crossed and knees together. It was all a bit nerve wracking being in the presence of this majestic lady."

Jeanette Williamson (nee Cooper) – c.1946

"Any deviation in uniform or homework not completed resulted in a detention after school. Really strict in those days! Fountain pens were mainly used, ballpoint pens (biros) were expensive and banned until 1950, as we would become sloppy writers if we used them. How times have changed!"

Margaret Woods (nee Pooley) – 1947-1950

"My own daughter could not believe that we had to kneel down and have our uniforms measured – no further than three inches above the ground, when kneeling."

Dorothy Fellowes – 1948-1950

"I remember in 1948 in First Year I was accused of talking in class, but I felt strongly that that was not so. All the pupils were told to use the word 'condemn' in a sentence so I wrote "Mrs Asker (our teacher) should not condemn anyone without a fair hearing" The result was that each afternoon at 3.30pm I called upon the Headmistress Miss Bocking, a fairly strict lady.

Some years ago I started a library in our village... and a couple joined, a Barbara and Parry Bocking! His aunt was – you guessed it – Miss Zillah Bocking!"

Faye Oakley (nee Sutton) – 1948-1951

"We didn't have a summer uniform and had felt hats. We had to wear hats and gloves to school and home again... we were not allowed to wear petticoats and my mother made one for me and at assembly I put my hand up for something and my slip showed – I went to detention.

Our Head Mistress Miss Bocking was always well dressed, she reminded me of the Queen Mother."

Margaret Walker (nee Davidson) – 1949-1951

"I remember vividly the morning a special assembly was called my Headmistress, Miss Bocking. She had seen a student wave goodbye to a friend the previous afternoon from the window of our double decker bus. This, she believed to be, was unladylike and quite unnecessary, as they would see one another the next day! From that day on no one ever forgot to wear their hat or gloves and certainly never wave from the bus.

Over the years I have designed some great fashion styles – which I sew myself and must give credit to my initial teaching of needlework at Burwood. I look back on my years at this school with great pride – attributing my innovation and ambition and my very successful art career to my teaching at Burwood Girls' High."

Wendy Terrens (nee Moore) – 1949-1951

"I lived at Kurrajong – left home each morning at 6:00-6:30am to go to Burwood (the other Domestic Science school for 4th and 5th years was Newcastle). I did my homework on Strathfield Station as I couldn't get a train home to Kurrajong until 6:00pm, arriving home at 9:00pm."

Dorothy Ship (nee Ley)

"Zillah Bocking was an absolute inspiration and we received wonderful instruction from her. The years I spent at Burwood High were the most important years of my life."

Helen Lewis (nee Bowie) – 1950-1952

"By 1953, and in our fourth year at Burwood, a group of us decided that we didn't want to spend another summer in a heavy navy serge tunic and thick black stockings. We designed a summer uniform and much to our amazement the suggestion was accepted – with modifications. The tunic was replaced with a navy dress and the black stockings replaced by thick light brown ones. A hat and gloves were still mandatory but at least Burwood had its first summer uniform."

Jan Hennessy (nee Hughes) – 1950-1954

"Zillah Bocking was our Headmistress the first year I was there (1953). She used to hold assembly before school and woe betide any girl who did not have the correct uniform (winter – box pleated tunic and white shirt and tie, blazer and school badge), velour hat and GLOVES!

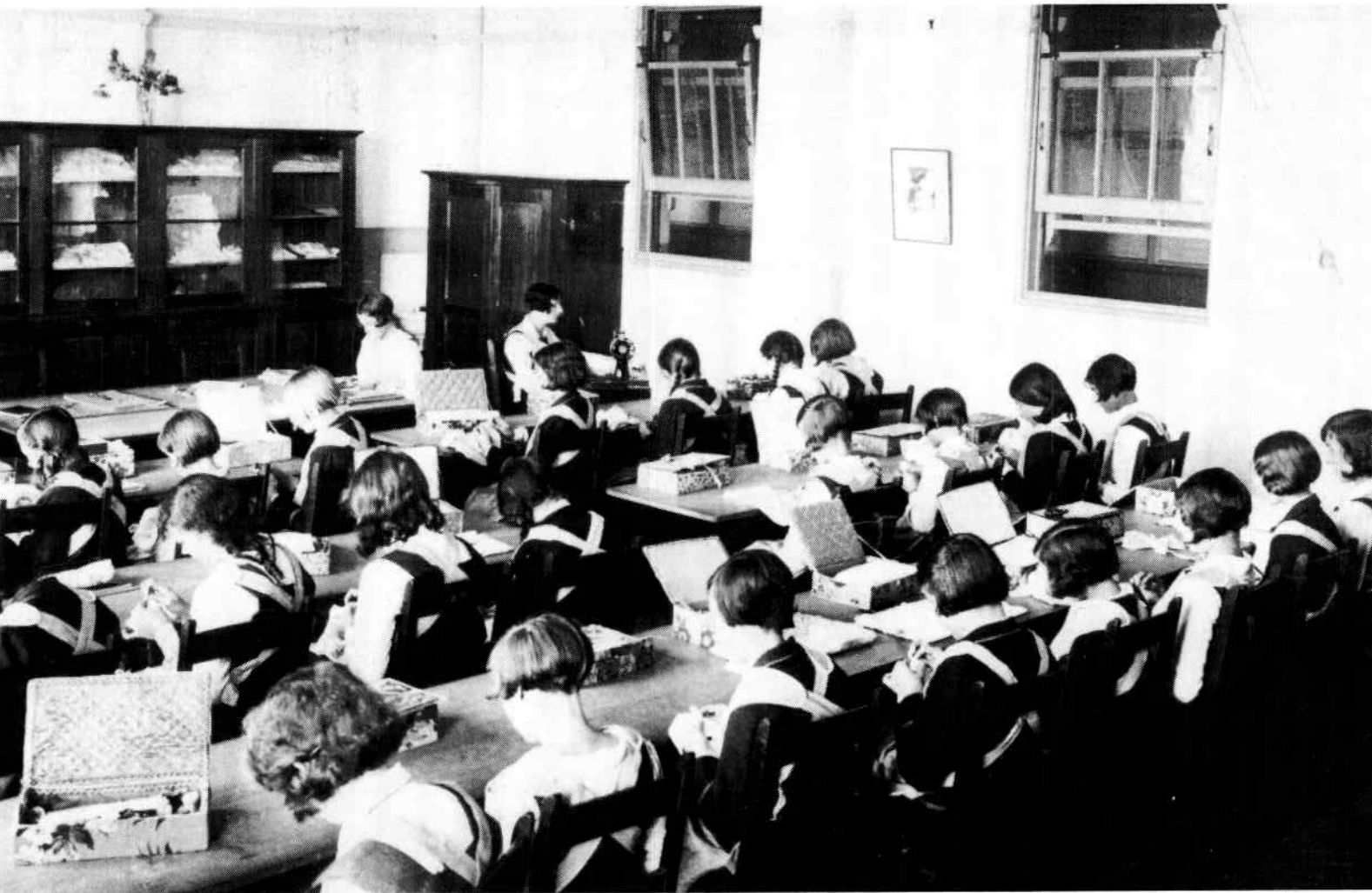


THEN...



NOW...

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The School Motto then was 'Play the Game' and our school song was sung to the tune of 'Men of Harlech'. The younger girls wore white socks in summer, navy in winter, and senior girls stockings. She used to stand at the top of the stairs at the back of the school and discuss the latest in discipline, etc, for the school. Everyone feared her and no-one wanted to get into her bad books.

The sewing mistress, Miss Pope, was a very strict teacher, but had a soft heart underneath.

Each year after the girls had finished their garments, they had to show them off in a parade to parents, etc.

This particular year, I asked Miss Pope if we could possibly be tutored by a model so that the girls would be able to show off their garments in a professional way.

Fortunately for us, Claudette Woodley, the younger sister of Pat Woodley, who had a modelling school (always in competition with June Dally-Watkins Modelling School) was in our year, and we asked her if her sister would mind coming to the school and teaching us how to walk, etc.

She agreed, and for the first time, we had a proper Fashion Parade, and it was a great success, and it made us all feel so important and elegant, thanks to Pat Woodley.

Before we had a Gym we had no change rooms to get into our sports uniform. We had to change into our gear in the playground!

Miss Farrell was our English teacher, and she taught all of us to love Shakespeare! Miss Farrell (who always had lipstick on the end of her pointer finger) used to act out all the characters in front of the class, and had us in hysterics when we were studying *Midsummer Night's Dream* – one minute she was Puck flying across the room, the next Titania – she made it all seem real!

She also despised anyone with hair falling over her face, and used to carry around a pack of bobby pins, and if she spied the escaping hair used to put her hands on either side of her head, and say 'Mooley Cow' and wiggle her pointer fingers and descend on the poor girl and drag her hair back off her face with a bobby pin! Imagine a teacher doing that today!"

Beth King (nee Mackel) – 1950-1954

"I attended Burwood Home Science High School from 1951 to 1953 and remember my class teacher was Miss Valerie Martin and the headmistress Zillah Bocking. ("Don't wear your uniform belts too tight – you'll attract unwanted attention to your bust.") – whispered – ("Who says it's unwanted?") On the day before the Intermediate Examinations I contracted German measles (at school) and was most upset!! However, the headmistress assured me that I would be judged on my year's work which, fortunately, had been good. So, I didn't feel very unwell with the measles and didn't have to sit for the exams."

Jean Hines (nee Stephens) – 1951-1953

"Miss Watts made us eat the vegetable soup we had just cooked – or so she thought. Pity the brown paper bag burst en route to the kitchen tidy. I still can't cook!"

Bev Taylor (nee Jensen) 1951-1955

"In 5th Year at Burwood I well remember two incidents in Home Economics. Miss Olive Watts, Head of Department, was our teacher...(1) Christobel Rae and I had made Chocolate Blancmange and accidentally added salt instead of sugar. What a ghastly taste! Miss Watts inquired if we were enjoying this 'delicious' dessert – "Oh yes Miss Watts", holding our breath as she tasted it!!! (2) Filleted fish – eating our efforts – Miss Watts stated that for every bone found in the fish meant five marks off... little did she know our cooking uniform pockets were full of bones!!!"

Stephanie Sweeny (nee Liddell) – 1951-1955

"I remember one day in third year (1955) at Burwood High, Judy and I had arranged to go into town after school to a radio station to be part of the audience for a programme called 'Rumpus Room'. Unfortunately the whole class was put on detention and no amount of pleading would our form teacher allow us to leave at 3:30pm. Luckily, the detention room had a back door that exited at the top of a flight of stairs. So after stashing our school bags outside this door at the top of the stairs the other girls managed to divert the teacher's attention and Judy and I crawled on hands and knees out the back door, grabbed our bags and raced to the railway station in time to catch the 'through train' into town and arrive in time for 'Rumpus Room'! We were never discovered."

Roslyn Finch (nee Hewitt) & Judy Nolan (nee McKenna)

"Mr Condon (Art teacher), threw chalk at me once for talking too much. He locked me in the art room for the same reason one day, he must have forgotten about me, so after a while I simply climbed out of the window, with a little help from my friends."

Roslyn Finch (nee Hewitt) – 1953-1955

"Our Biology teacher, Miss Adlem, an elderly spinster who was supposed to tell us all about the 'birds and the bees' but she never did and some of us left school still not knowing how! My friend, Margaret Sinclair, was in a different class and they got to hear the WHOLE story but they were sworn to secrecy. I think they had the gorgeous Miss Williams, who was young and modern and wore fashionable clothes – we all loved her. Once, when a cat had her kittens under a seat on our school bus on the way to school Miss Williams helped us rescue and care for the mother and babies... and then there was our English teacher, a tall woman who used to sit on the front of her desk and cross her legs and we would be fascinated to see that instead of wearing stockings she painted her legs!"

Clyne Bridgeman (nee Cox) – 1954-1956

"In 1959 the Athletics Team was sent to Narrabeen Athletics Camp to prepare for the CHS Athletics. We all got sick at the camp and couldn't compete."

Merril Forster (nee Daniels) – 1955-1959

"I remember a sign on the staff room on Muck Up day – 'Bread is the staff of life, but the life of this staff is just one big loaf'... Afternoon tea at the home of Miss Isla Wilson, our Headmistress, was a treat for prefects in 5th Year. While there we all needed to visit the bathroom, because rumours said that it was carpeted, and yes, they were true, we all saw it in person."

Jacki Napier – 1956-1960

"I remember my class, one time, being given after school detention. Our 'home room' was one of the portables at the end of the main building. We all went, dutifully, to our home room after the bell, but by the time the teacher arrived the room was empty as everyone had climbed out the windows and gone home."

Janice Miller (nee Barton) – 1957-1959

"The year we did our HSC – man landed on the moon. Our trials were started earlier on that day to allow us to watch the landing on TV. Mrs Krippner was our Principal and a delight to us all. BGHS was never the same after the Easy Beats visited!"

Nur Jehan Alam (nee Sahu-Khan) – 1964-1969

"I remember our Maths teacher Mrs Rickard, dozing off many a time during Maths and we would smile and look at each other, whilst writing the work from the board or text!"

Kay McMaster (nee Sellwood) – 1968-1971

"I was a Music Elective student in Year 9-10 (1971-1972) and we were required to be a part of the school choir (regardless of singing ability). Many of us were musicians, not singers, and hated this part of the elective. Mrs Hastings, the Music teacher, was adamant – we sang! One year, probably 1972, it was decided that the choir would put on a Nativity production. This meant you had to be a shepherd if you preferred to stay anonymous. The performances were at lunchtime in the far music room – the tiered room. We hated doing this so two of us (one being the future school captain) decided that the play needed an animal – a cow. We made a costume from sheets and painted cow markings on it and a cardboard head (quite professional). No-one knew about our plan and we waited until the play had started to make our entrance. We mooed on in giggles and laughs and of course quite disrupted the play. Mrs Hastings couldn't do a thing as she was on the piano. We spent a lovely time swaying and mooing to The Little Drummer Boy – we even sang a bit under our sheet. Mrs Hastings banned our repeat performance until she realised the crowds of students were there to see us – as it was charity, she had to let us perform again. To be honest one performance was enough – it was damn hot under that sheet in November!"

Christina Jameson (nee Whaite) – 1969-1974

"I remember the rooms where I sat to learn maths, English, geography, Indonesian, science and my favourite, the home science section. Memories flood back about those gym bloomers and of course the hand sewing samples. When I was telling my daughter about our day, she remarked that she hadn't realised my sewing needle holder was so old!"

Anne Boyton (nee Bacon) – 1969-1973

"I remember arriving in 1969, a momentous year when mankind walked on the moon. We were allowed to sit in the classroom and listen to the landing, some of us even had the privilege to watch it on a television. There are so many memories, being the first senior class to use the new science labs, having access to audio equipment in the new library, wearing bloomers in PE that were two sizes too big, petitioning the SRC to be allowed to wear flesh toned stockings rather than black in winter, wearing hat gloves to and from school, throwing our hats up in the air when the end of term bell went and being kept in for 10 minutes for doing so. The memories can go on forever and now there are new ones with a new era at the same school as I'm now at Burwood as a teacher."

Thekla Christie (nee Johns) – 1969-1974

"I think it was 1977 (my 4th year) and Science (I think it was Science) got a little easier to handle with the dashing and charming (well he was then & probably still is) Mr Gig. The girls would swoon and bat their eyes at him and he would just smile underneath that moustache of his."

Jan Taplin (nee Musson) – 1974-1977

"Mrs Hendy was always called 'Trendy Hendy' with her range of brightly coloured clothes and her Stag Triumph car. Mr Winterbottom was very easily embarrassed especially when trying to teach sex education to our IOA Science. He gave up in the end – because he thought we knew it all!"

Katrina Lane (nee Hill) – 1979-1984

"One of the highlights of my school life was playing waterpolo for Burwood Girls High from Year 7-Year 12, and I represented North Sydney Region in waterpolo from 1980-1981, which then renamed to Central

Metropolitan and I played representative waterpolo in that team from 1982-1985. I represented NSW in the NSW Combined High School team from 1981-1985. I also received two Zone Blues in 1984-1985, which is not a common achievement."

Jo-Anne Keeler (nee Herps) – 1980-1985

"Everyone used to find amazing, the dedication and determination that a lot of the girls who had come to Australia from China, Vietnam and various other countries showed towards their studies. During my senior years I got to talk to a few of the girls about where they had come from and their family histories, etc. I was horrified to hear some of the stories of the experiences that their families had endured to try and provide their children with better futures... long, disease-ridden boats trips, sharks, pirates and much, much worse. Those girls considered attending BGHS and learning in general, an honour and a privilege... something that I think a lot of us took for granted."

On a lighter note... my Home Science partner and I used to secretly throw lumps of butter into the water in the other girls washing-up bowls so that we would win for the 'cleanest' equipment at the end of class!"

Jo Charters (nee Miller) – 1981-1986

"One year our History teacher's name was Mrs Heffernan (we think!). During one particularly slow class we decided to have a bit of a laugh. I had a pen that doubled as a water pistol and we started spraying it in the air and up at the roof. Mrs Heffernan (after being hit by a few stray drops falling from the ceiling) soon stopped the class to look to the heavens and announce "Girls, I think it's going to rain!" A weather girl she ain't!"

Julie Wilcox (nee Robinson) – 1981-1986

"I look back over a happy teaching career of more than 38 years, and find no greater satisfaction than in my experience of BGHS I remain very proud of a school that succeeds in nurturing the abilities of its students in all their differing needs and capacities, and does this with happiness and grace."

Elaine Peterson, Principal – 1984-1989



BURWOOD GIRLS' FROM MANY LANDS...



this is now...

FROM THE CLASS OF 2004

“Stay Gold’

Memories of Happiness

Memories of Pain

Memories of Assignments

Memories of Gain

With each and every one of us, we will choose which memories to remember and to hold close to our hearts. Mine, if I had to choose, would be the way Carolyn and I became friends. We sat in the back of Ms Openshaw’s math class and our first words were ‘ouch’. She hit me! After that we were closer than ever.”

Brooke Black

“Burwood Girls High isn’t just about sitting in a classroom. My best memory is of when the Senior Concert Band went on tour around outback NSW in November 2001, with Lightning Ridge our main destination. Not only were we lucky enough to have unusually cool weather, the experience was unforgettable. We spent five days travelling by coach stopping at central schools and playing for them. It was so good because we were able to travel while playing music to appreciative audiences and hopefully making some lives a little different.”

Helen Campbell

“The Jindabyne Ski Camp in Year 11 will be something that will always stay with me. The lead up was intense – what clothes to bring, whether or not to take school work (I opted not to), how everything would fit into my suitcase (lots of cramming and sitting on cases), and the room arrangements (who sleeps in whose room). The camp was five days long – two days of group activities (problem solving, ropes courses etc.), and then ‘hitting the slopes’ for three days of skiing!! I made new friends, saw my old friends in a new light, and have never ached so much in my life (that’s from skiing when you’re not used to it!). Finally graduating off the beginners slope was an unbelievable rush of nervous excitement and pride. The best week of my life!

The Annual Burwood Girls High School Fashion Parade was another memorable event. No, I was not a particularly good seamstress, or model, but being part of the backstage crew was interesting and ball of fun. While I was on the lighting crew I met students from other years, learnt a lot about the lighting stuff (I knew nothing when I began), as well as developing my people skills (it is not a good time to check a lighting program when the person you need to talk to is fuming at my ears, or running around frantically). Twice I felt the anticipation leading up, the angst during rehearsals, the tension on the night and the overwhelming sense of accomplishment and exhilaration at the end.”

Katherine Hristoforidis

“Even though I haven’t been in Burwood Girls High for long, my memories so far are enough for me to cherish. The warmth of sisterhood when I’m feeling down – everyone supporting me when I’m performing on stage. So far, I thank God that I entered Burwood Girls because of what you’ve given me will always reside in me forever. Thank you for having me.”

Anne Leota

“The one thing that I will take away from my time at Burwood is the memory of the people I spent my high school years with. There is a community at Burwood Girls High School that will be very difficult to match. Smiles, support and sensitivity that greets you with every step within corridors. A memory that will stay with me for eternity.”

Olimpia Pawlowski

“I remember a comment made by a visitor to the school that “at Burwood, the girls are encouraged to do well for themselves, while at other schools students are only encouraged to do well for their school.” I thought this accurately summed up what our school is all about.”

Emma Vickers

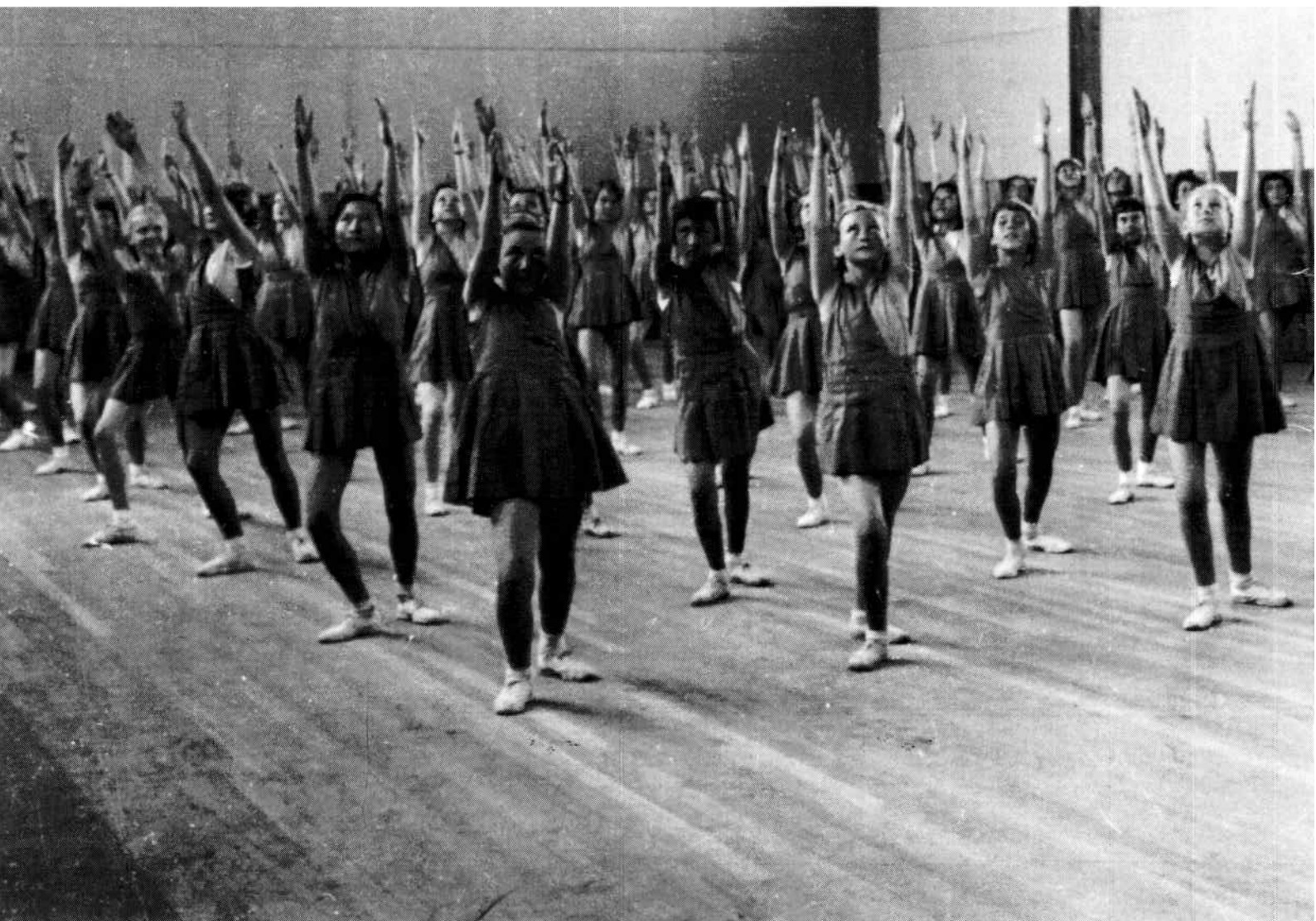
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thank you

To all those Burwood 'old girls' who donated their memories, in both picture and written form, without whom this would not be half as informative or entertaining.

BELOW Gymnastics 1954.







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