



# Durack State School

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Formerly Serviceton State School



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SERVICETON STATE SCHOOL 1959  
Formally opened October 1960



SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 1984



GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2010



# Principal's Forward

Durack State School celebrates 50 years of growth, officially opening on the 22nd October 1960 under the name of Serviceton State School. In 1984 the school celebrated its silver Jubilee, while in 2001 the school name was changed in response to a degree of confusion over the name which proved very similar to Serviceton South State School.

Researching the history of the school has proved fascinating. Reading the stories of many of the early staff and students has given me a greater understanding of where our school has come from.

Class sizes are always a concern when wanting to maximise student outcomes however the idea of having classes of 45 students and having to accommodate other classes in the absence of fellow teachers is fortunately something that staff today do not have to face – thank goodness.

The inconvenience of life on a construction site was also highlighted by former teacher Jean Bell as she spoke of the dust and noise that was associated with construction in 1961, this would be well understood by all members of staff in 2009.

It was during this time that Durack underwent significant refurbishment and rebuilding under the State Schools of Tomorrow initiative. Today the school encompasses 3 prep classes, 5 teaching blocks, a Resource Centre with computer lab, an audio visual recording room and a Family Literacy Centre. Classrooms have been designed to accommodate the needs of our students today with highly visual carpeted wall areas, withdrawal spaces, offices and interactive whiteboards. The Multipurpose Undercover Area has life size maths activities built into the flooring to engage students in oral language of maths. Pre-prep programs operate out of the parent room throughout the week.

Building the Education Revolution has added a hall and allowed for the Prep playground to be one that is engaging to our students particularly with their life size dragon - a symbol of our school.

I have enjoyed being on the staff of both Serviceton and Durack State School over the past 12 years. During this time the school has been recognised for the dedication of the staff and the community. I believe that as we move into our next 50 years that Durack will continue to grow and provide outstanding learning opportunities for students.

I wish everyone who participates in our Gala Day all the best and hope that you have the opportunity to catch up with past students and friends.

Thanks  
Beth Petersen  
Principal  
Durack State School



# Serviceton State School

The school was opened as from the commencement of the 1959 School year.

The enrolment for January, 1959, was 252 pupils. The First head teacher was: -  
Arthur Wentworth Alpen.

The enrolment for the month of September, 1960 was 581 pupils.

The staff at present (1960) consists of  
Head Teacher:

Lewis, James Edward

Teachers:

Baker, Doreen Adele

Bell, Jean Kathleen

Bell, Margaret Ester

Bright, Kathleen Mary

Hardy, Joseph Henry

Jacobi, Ronald George

Liliensteins, Brigita Edite

Mackenzie, Elizabeth May

Mitchell, Nancy Elizabeth

Perrins, Alan Leonard

Pittendreigh, Patricia Fraser

Weir, Annie Vera



Sherril Isdale presenting flowers  
at the official opening





# Maypole Dancing in the 1960's



Middleton Family dressed for maypole dancing



1965 Fete included maypole dancing

Maypoles remained in bitumen area and were removed in 2009 when school was under State Schools of Tomorrow reconstruction



# Mark Starkey Reminiscing from the 1960s

## *What the classrooms looked like.*

The classrooms had bare wooden floors, and from Grade 1 to Grade 5, the desks and seats were bolted to the floor in rows. In Grade 6 and 7 we had moveable desks with individual chairs, but they were still arranged in rows facing the blackboard.

There was no air-conditioning or heaters or ceiling fans. If it was hot, we opened the windows and louvers wide and when it was cold we closed them!

Our class sizes were sometimes quite big - up to 35 or 36 pupils, but this improved in the later years.

Also, your behaviour determined where you sat in the classroom. If you were well behaved, like me, you were allowed to sit in the back rows of the classroom, because you could be trusted. If you misbehaved, you had to sit at the front, where the teacher could keep a close eye on you. Usually, you got to keep the same seat for the whole year if you behaved.



## Rods

We learnt maths for the first 2-3 years using new-fangled educational aids called 'rods'. They were coloured wooden blocks that packed neatly into a green plastic box. Each block (or rod) represented a numerical value from one to ten and had its own colour. By putting rods together you learned how to add and subtract. Pink (4) plus yellow (5) equals blue (9). (When I googled rods recently, I saw that you can still buy them today.)

## Games

There used to be toy and game crazes at school. That was when everybody wanted to play the same game, until it got banned by the teachers because people were getting hurt or taking things that weren't theirs, or there were too many fights.

I can remember crazes for hula hoops, skipping, yo-yos, and marbles and bubble gum cards. I still have a set of bubble gum cards I collected when I was in grade 6 or 7.



# Extracts from the 1984 Jubilee

*It is a great privilege to have this opportunity to be able to write a brief message on this historic occasion - the Silver Jubilee of Serviceton State School.*

*Twenty-five years have passed since the first pupils were admitted to this school. On the opening day in 1959, 189 pupils were enrolled. Over the years the enrolment passed the one thousand mark but today it stands at only 352.*

*Although I have been acting as Principal of the school for just over a month, I am no stranger to the school as I spent 1979 here as Deputy Principal. I have always been proud of my association with the school - the teaching staff, ancillary staff, parents and children.*

*Today, as in the past, the aim of the school is to provide our children with a sound primary education and I would like to acknowledge the contribution made to the development of our school by the Principals, Deputy Principals, Infant Mistresses - and the numerous class teachers and specialist teachers over the 25 year history of the school.*

*We could not have achieved what we have in the past quarter of a century without the help and dedication of our Parents and Citizens and our thanks go to them for their contribution to the development of the school.*

*I hope that this Silver Jubilee will be a memorable occasion for those who are able to attend and renew old friendships. I further hope that the next 25 years leading to the Golden Jubilee of Serviceton State School will be as rewarding as the last as we continue "FOREVER ONWARDS".*

*Jerry Whelan (Acting Principal)*



## ACTING PRINCIPAL: Mr. J. M. Whelan

Teachers:  
Mrs. J. Stevenson  
Mrs. L. Edwards  
Mr. P. Harrop  
Miss D. Collison  
Miss T. Johnson  
Miss J. Woolfe  
Miss A. Davidson  
Miss C. Finlay  
Mr. R. Bell  
Mr. J. Smith  
Miss J. Wetherspoon  
Mrs. W. Baumber  
Mr. P. Higgins  
Mr. W. Edwards  
Miss D. Maddison

Teachers on Leave:  
Mr. K. Robinson (Principal)  
Mrs. C. Baczynski  
Mrs. H. Tomkins  
Mr. S. Reeves  
Miss C. Gilligan

Ancillary Staff:  
Mr. W. Curtis  
Mrs. C. Robinson  
Mrs. M. McGillivray  
Mrs. M. Mullen  
Mrs. M. Coleman  
Mrs. L. Ferguson

Tuckshop Convenor:  
Mrs. J. Litherland

Teacher Librarian:  
Miss M. Balmanno

Remedial Teacher:  
Mrs. C. Skennerton

Physical Education:  
Mr. M. Opstelten

D.R.T.:  
Mr. G. Grant

Aides:  
Mrs. B. Stower  
Mrs. H. Bonne  
Mrs. G. Tyrnell  
Mrs. B. Wilson  
Mrs. H. Geary  
Mrs. A. Butler  
Mrs. S. Walter

Administrative Aide:  
Miss D. Field

Pre-School Teachers:  
Miss A. Woolcock  
Mrs. J. Speed

Pre-School Aides:  
Mrs. P. Ranson  
Mrs. J. Longley

Pre-School Ancillary Staff:  
Mrs. D. Giddins



1984

President: Mrs. M. Reid  
Vice President: Mrs. J. Stevenson  
Secretary: Mrs. C. Maddison  
Treasurer: Miss D. Field

## SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Giovanni Villettri  
Jodi Cumner

## HOUSE CAPTAINS

Alpha: Clare Elliott  
Todd Champs

Beta: Yasmin Blackman  
Daniel Hobson

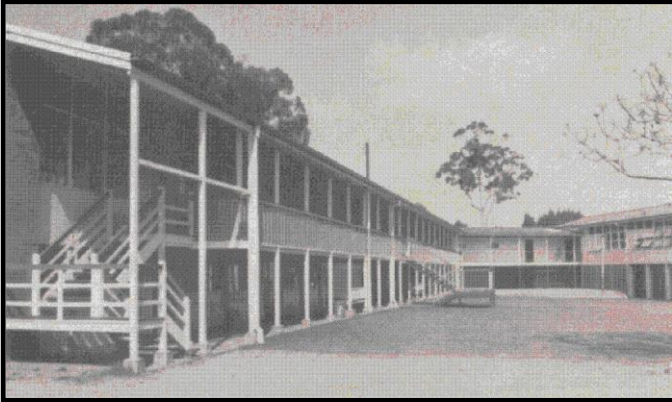
Gamma: Amanda Barnes  
Bradley Lytle





# Building change over time

## Frontage & assembly area



1970's



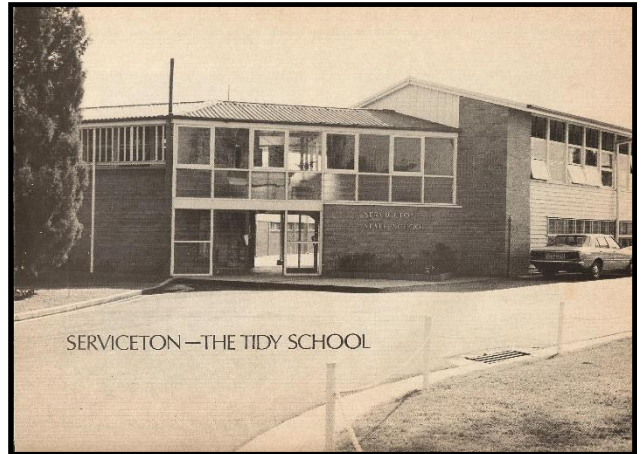
1990's



2000's



1960's



1970's



1990's



2000's



# Playgrounds through time



*Original play equipment*



*Later equipment*



*Early 2000s*

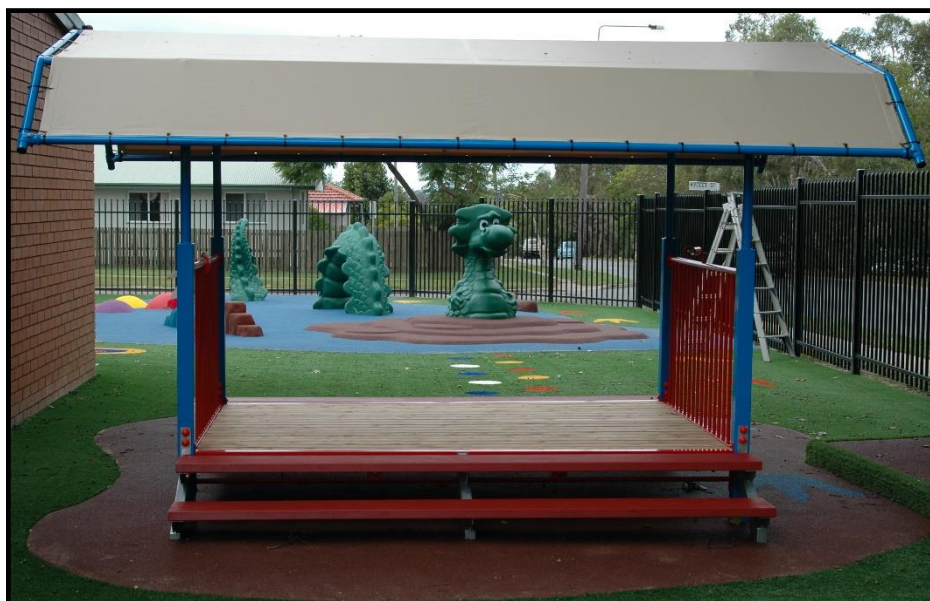




# Playgrounds in 2010



- Fitness track
- 3 Adventure playground
- The dragon
- 2 Sandpits



## Living with construction 50 years on

Extracts from letters from Jean Bell (appointed **1959**) relating life at Serviceton while under construction

6 Oct 1959

'Last week I had fifty Grade 2's. Their teacher had been away sick for a week when I arrived and they had grade 8 monitors looking after them and they had got quite out of hand...

The workmen are still working on the buildings and the teachers have been working under frightful conditions this year: not enough equipment, two classes in one room, teachers having difficulty making themselves heard above the noise of the workmen hammering and cement mixers rumbling etc.....'

23 Oct 1960

'Last week most of the time after lunch (2hr) was spent going through the display for the school opening. We have been practicing in inches of dust for weeks....'

Nov 1960

'After Dr Noble had officially opened Serviceton School he was reminded by the local MP that he hadn't granted a holiday to the school, so he sent a message that we were to be granted a holiday to be taken when we chose. The holiday was held on Friday, 25th Nov after Grade 8 had sat scholarship exam..... The fancy Dress Ball was to be held on the 2nd Dec.'

24th Sept 1961

'A new wing was finished and Grade 8 moved in. Mr MacNamara is now the Head Teacher. The school is divided into 4 houses and school sports day is held in late September.....'

The joys of teaching on a construction site under State Schools of Tomorrow building initiative in **2009**

At the commencement of the building program we were given the opportunity to state all significant dates to ensure construction would not impact on such occasions. The dreaded NAPLAN testing was to occur and all works had to stop! Alas not - the pouring of the foundations for the library proceeded outside the year 7 classrooms. A demountable was craned into place next to the year 3 students under test conditions. Meanwhile Year 5 listened to metal pipes being cut all day. This was just another day on the construction site.

As the Guidance officer sat at her desk talking on the phone in a makeshift office in the corridor, the wall was removed providing her with city views. Accompanied by the harmonious sounds of circular saws.



The ongoing vibration, pounding and banging will not be missed, neither will the cramped working conditions, no connectivity and phone access.

However it was all worth it in the end.



## 26 Years On

### **Colleen Hollis Valued school and community member Parent, volunteer, P&C representative and staff member**

My family moved to Durack 26 years ago. Our two school aged children were enrolled in Serviceton State School in 1984; Christopher in grade 4 and Kylie in Preschool with another two children, Brett and Leisa set to join them when their turn came to go to school. I became involved in the Mothers Club very soon after moving to Serviceton. We were never a big group but were always very actively involved in the school, making craft items to sell at various stalls, holding cake stalls and running raffles to raise funds to improve the facilities for the children. This was a fantastic social group where Mums got together, not only to work but also to socialise with other mums.

My husband and I were both members of the P & C Association, holding the position of treasurer and secretary respectively at different times. P & C meetings used to be held in the school library of an evening. The P & C organised various fund raisers such as Lapathons, spellathons, fetes, cake stalls, and raffles. The annual highlight of the year was the Fancy Dress Ball which was always well attended by students and parents. The ball was held in the parade area between B block and C block and always started with the Grand Parade. Working Bees were held to make improvements to the grounds. Two projects I particularly recall were the building of "Anzac Cove" and erecting play ground equipment, both of which no longer exist since our recent refurbishment.

I volunteered as convenor tuckshop one day per week. A group of us took on this role, each having a designated day. We would have special items on the menu on particular days. After some time, a paid convenor was appointed. I worked as a teacher aide at various times and subsequently took on a casual AAEP role for a number of years. In 1995 I was appointed to the role of Administration Officer at Serviceton, becoming Registrar in 2001 and Business Services Manager in 2007.

I am proud of the long association I have had with Durack-Serviceton. My four children have been honoured during their times at this school starting with my oldest son who was named School Boy of the Year in 1987. This honour encompassed all aspects of a student's success at school, both academic and sporting. In 1990, a decision was made to institute school captains and to honour outstanding students with Dux and Citizenship awards. My three younger children were subsequently appointed school captain and dux in their seventh year of school with their names recorded on the Honour Board.

Serviceton/Durack has experienced ongoing growth over the years with enrolment numbers steadily increasing to the present day where we have in excess of 435 students. We have become increasingly more multi-cultural over the last 3 decades. When I was first associated with the school, a significant proportion of the students were of Vietnamese origin. Now we have students from very diverse cultural backgrounds, learning harmoniously together.

I recall that back in 1984, the assembly was held in the parade area between B and C blocks with the Principal of the time conducting the parade from the open veranda outside the administration offices (now the Special Education Offices). For many years, the students would gather in the sun for the daily/weekly assembly. Then a grant to the Gaming Benefit Fund was applied for and a large shade cover was erected over the parade ground. At around the same time, the veranda along A Block was closed in to incorporate it into the main administration area, thereby providing a decent sized foyer with a large counter rather than the small room with the stable door which was the only access the public had to the administration. The original foyer subsequently became the first aid room. Both the main administration and first aid room was demolished during the State Schools of Tomorrow Program as was B block, due in no small part to the active presence of termites in the old floor and walls of that wing.

Having an active role in the State Schools of Tomorrow project has been the most challenging yet fantastic experience of my working career. Today Durack State School is a beautiful brand new school yet with a sense of history and connectedness to the community, a school to be proud of.

Colleen Hollis  
Business Services Manager





## My history of the P&C.

I became Treasurer in 2000 with Merrideth Earley becoming President. Together, along with the executives and members of the P&C over the years, we have achieved a lot. The tuckshop was running at a loss and over the years, with a lot of hard work from our convenor, Karyn and her wonderful band of volunteers, we have a healthy balance in the account. We have purchased three air conditioners, a double door refrigerator and freezer along with a commercial oven and several microwave ovens. We were successful in receiving a grant in 2003 to supply a playground in the 5-7 area complete with shade and another grant to erect a large shade to be erected over the parade area. I won Volunteer of the Year for the West Moreton Area in 2005. The P&C have been successful in helping the school achieve awards for Green & Healthy Schools over a number of years.



The P&C changed the outlook for the Tuckshop a year before the Government brought in the Healthy Tuckshop Regulations with a view from some people that this wouldn't work. We have discovered this not only worked but made our school tuckshop an example for other schools asking our advice on how they can achieve the same. It has been great working with past and present members within the P&C.

We are looking forward to continuing our relationship with the school and the school community.

Roslyn Ryan



Ros Ryan was named Regional Tuck Shop Volunteer of the Year in the annual awards presented by the Qld Association of School Tuckshops and Queensland Health.





# Tallebudgera School Camp

Team work

Leadership



1967 – Students at Tallebudgera





# ACHIEVEMENTS OVER TIME

## 2003 NEITA Awards

Qld National Excellence in  
teaching Award –  
Kim Thuy La (front left)



## 2004 Pearl Duncan Scholarship

Locally trained ATAS Tutor Matthew  
Thinee (*pictured right*) receives Pearl  
Duncan Scholarship to pursue tertiary  
studies in Education



## 2004 Centre of Excellence in Indigenous Education

Durack is named a  
Centre of Excellence in  
Indigenous Education



The Principal, Jill Hole, is  
announced by EQ as a  
High Achieving Principal,  
Indigenous Education







# 2004 State Showcase Winners

## The Media Monitors Showcase Award for excellence in Inclusive Education

### Taking Time to Include

In recent years Durack State School has implemented a number of changes to improve literacy standards, while meeting the diverse education and communication needs of the students. The school has worked collaboratively with the wider community to produce its Strategic Literacy Plan and developed a number of new literacy programs. It has also facilitated a change in teacher practice and developed a resourcing plan to support the purchase and use of literacy resources.

Extract from 2004 Showcase program



# Brisbane City Council Water Wise Awards

## 2004 Water Wise Challenge Winner

The Lupton family saved 10,984 litres of water in one week.

Councillor Newman said

'the Lupton family saved the most by significantly reducing garden irrigation'.

School student, Sarah Lupton, convinced her family to put into practice several water saving behaviours her class had been studying as part of their unit study.



October 2005

Thinh Ho used the knowledge gained from Year 7 SOSE lessons and visits from the Brisbane City Council Water Wise Program to encourage his family to save water.

The Brisbane City Council named his family one of Brisbane's Top 10 Water Conscious families - and best in the South West Region of the city.

## 2005 Qld School Spectacular



Students participated in the first Qld School Spectacular at Boondall Entertainment centre, Tofu Siliva, appeared as one of only two primary school soloist singers.

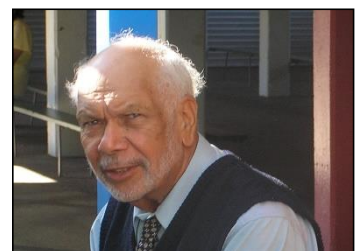


## 2005 Australian Elder of the Year - Principal of the day



Albert Holt School Elder, was honoured as Australian Elder of the Year.

Uncle Albert was our Principal for a Day in Education Week in May 2005





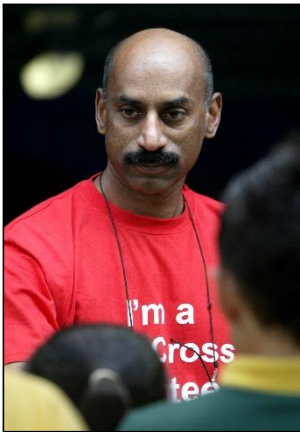
## 2006 Artforce Award

Jacqueline Tieu, My Linh Nguyen-Le and Christine Hytongue painted the TSB outside the school with the school mascot 'the dragon'.

Dragons are symbols of strength of character, courage to achieve and resilience.



## Keep Australia Beautiful Green and Healthy Awards



### 2006 Brisbane Regional awards Green and Healthy Schools Award

Individual Outstanding Accomplishment Award -  
Vim Pillay



### 2007 Brisbane Regional Green and Healthy Schools Award

Brisbane Greenest and Healthiest School.  
Spirit Award  
Individual Outstanding Accomplishment Award –  
Mrs Vivian Bonner



### 2008 Brisbane Regional Green and Healthy Schools Awards

Partnerships Award  
Health and Nutrition Award



## Queensland Multi-cultural Awards

Durack State School is Winner of the 2008  
Queensland Multicultural Award  
School Category - Primary School



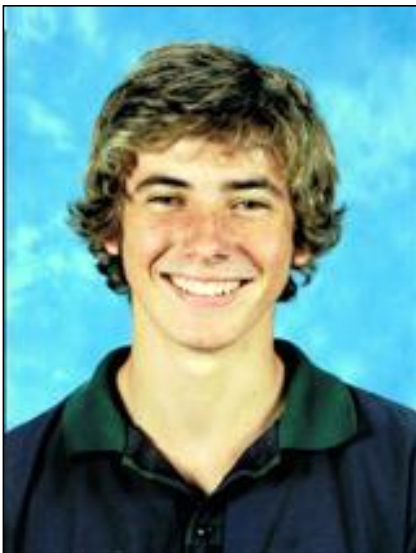
## Sporting successes of past students



Luke Page, born on the 12 January 1991, represented the school in rugby league in 2003 and went on to be a Queensland under 12, 14, 16 and 18 player. Today he plays on the Gold Coast with the Titans.

Charlie Fetoai – played for the Queensland Reds at the 'Super 14s'. Due to neck injuries Charlie is no longer playing rugby union with the Reds but remains on contract.

In 2009 Tiena Meaclem, a past student from Durack State School went on to represent Tasmania at the National Championships becoming the Australian Shot Put champion in her age group.



**Fraser Marsh** past student of Durack State and Glenala State High is playing soccer for Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa.

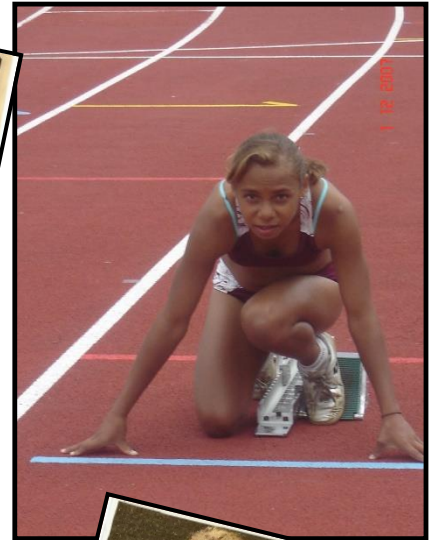
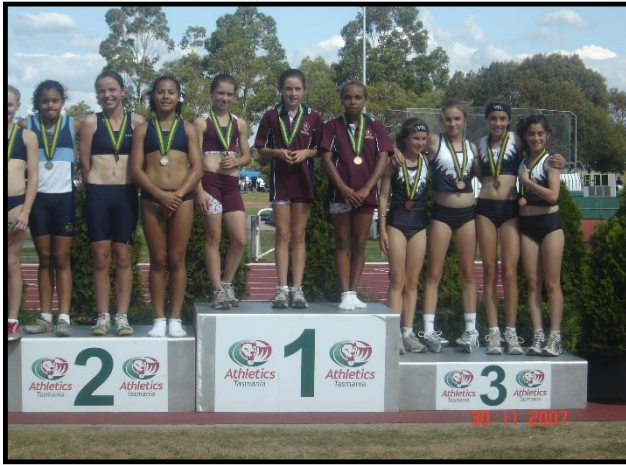




# Terri-Ann Cain

## National success story 2006-2009

Terri-Ann in 2009 became the youngest ever recipient of the National Indigenous Award for her achievement in athletics. Her award was presented at Skilled Stadium at the Gala Dinner.



Terri-Ann Cain deserves recognition for her National successes as a 100m, 200m and 4X 100m runner. She also represented Queensland in rugby league.

Due to these outstanding efforts, the school has named the playing field the Terri-Ann Cain oval. The official naming of the oval will be part of the 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebrations on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2010.



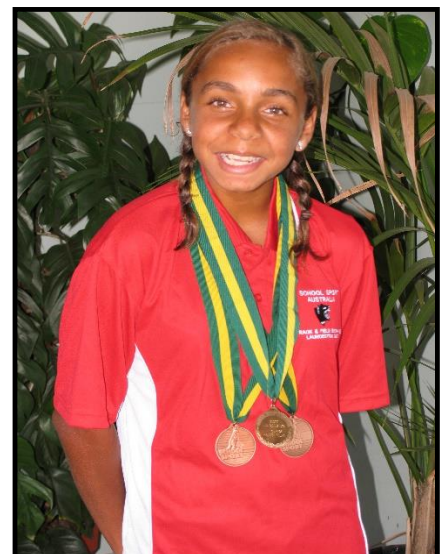
As a 9 year old Terri-Ann represented NSW in 100m at the State level

In **2006** Terri Ann came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100m and 200m while achieving a 1<sup>st</sup> in the 4 X 100m relay at the Australian Championships.

**2007** Terri-Ann placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Australian Championships.

**Terri-Ann Cain starred at the 2008 Pacific Schools Games** She completed the 100m sprint in a time of 12.20 breaking the 12 years girls Australian and Pacific School record that had been in place since 1984. In the 200m she broke the record from 1982 running a time of 25.15.

In **2009** Terri-Ann broke the Queensland record for 100m and went onto the National finals.





# Durack Home of the Dragons



The dragon has been an icon of Durack State School for many years.

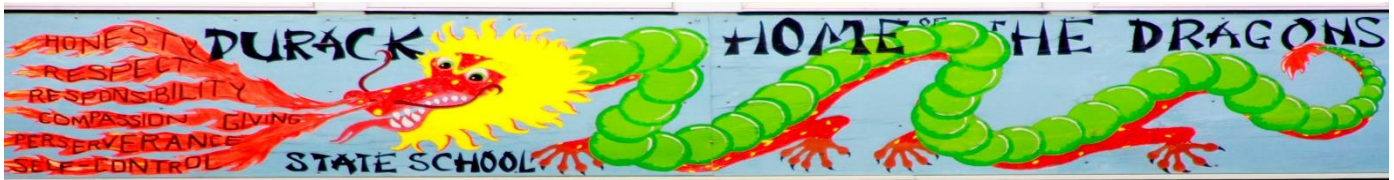
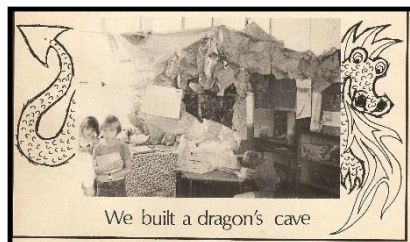
The first known recorded dragon was in the school calendar in 1978 with a photograph showing how students had constructed a dragon's cave.

Historically the dragon was chosen as it was represented in the mythology and stories from many of the different cultures present in our school. This makes it a unifying symbol around which we base our school ethos.

Dragons began appearing in art work in and around the school, including on the electrical box on Inala Avenue. The Tuckshop was named the 'Drag-on-Inn'. Murals containing dragons now promote the belief that 'Durack Dragons are safe, respectful learners'

In supporting our school as 'The Home of the Dragons' there are rooms aptly named 'The Den' and 'The Lair', news travels home in 'The Dragon Flier' and one of our school playgrounds is overlooked by our newest Dragon, which is the third only of its kind in Australia.

The Dragon symbolizes the strength and pride we encourage in our community and provides a strong sense of identity and belonging for all those connected with our School.



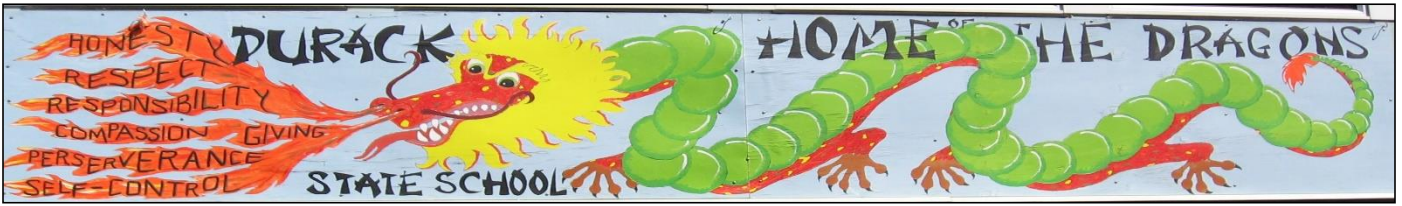


# Construction under State Schools of Tomorrow 2009





# A touch of poetry – State Schools of Tomorrow



Though our school was full of Dragons with their Dragon strength and Pride  
The classrooms were quite squashy and the buildings were quite tired.  
The gardens looked fantastic but that was just because of Joe  
But the rest it needed something-now what we did not know.

But someone in the Government had quite a bright idea  
They had a 'rebuild vision' and the mission was quite clear.  
Let's take some schools in Queensland and Durack it was one  
And see if with some funding-some improvements can be done.



And so it was two years ago in some departmental section  
This great idea of spending grew with the tenacity of infection.  
The project it got larger and no doubt much to the treasurer's sorrow  
The Government launched the project –"State Schools of Tomorrow"



They decided that a paint job and new carpet here and there  
Some tables for the children and some new designer chairs  
Was not enough to bring on change for the learning of the kids  
So they called for many tenders and in came all the bids.



The winning bid for Durack came from a company called Northbuild  
And when at last it finished we were absolutely thrilled.  
But I do digress some mention must be made of how it went,  
Because there certainly were times when it did not feel Heaven sent.

The school became a worksite and with it came the dust,  
The noise and inconvenience, some demolition was a must.  
It seemed that it would never end with buildings crashing round  
And even during NAPLAN the most amazing sounds.



There were few paths to walk on, there were no phones in each room.  
The office may have been located up there on the moon.  
The principal was busy in her hard hat and her boots  
Always with her head down-with the DET man in cahoots!!

Each Friday on the 'walkthrough' with Geoff and co in tow  
To examine each week's progress Principal and BSM would go.  
And each and every detail they scrutinized with rigour  
Sometimes the links to schooling-the builders couldn't figure.



And teachers wore out lots of shoes marching through the rubble  
 And there were all these brand new spots for some kids to find trouble.  
 To walk to Prep you had to have some water and cut lunch  
 Lucky for the project-we are such a resilient bunch.

But now it's some months later and the dozers have all gone.  
 In each and every room, a smartboard is switched on.  
 The lights are automatic and turn off when we all go  
 The rooms are really spacious and we've room to learn and grow.

Our teachers have a staffroom - befitting their profession  
 There's conference rooms in which to hold quiet private sessions.  
 The office where the parents come is bright and new and spacious  
 And we've filled it full of staff who are welcoming and loquacious.

The undercover area has this interactive floor  
 And Mrs Slingby's office has an interesting lime green door.  
 There's a Dragon in the playground, there's Dragons everywhere  
 There's a dragon in the office sitting in her dark blue chair!!

The library is fantastic with a large computer room  
 And even filming space-we still need a camera with a zoom.  
 The gardens still look great and that's still because of Joe  
 He has a brand new shed or two and some new grass that doesn't grow.

So all in all our school has changed and this year it turned fifty.  
 We thank our government spenders-in the end they were not thrifty.  
 Nothing was spared to build for us a school of which we're proud  
 We even have these speakers that are very clear and loud.

We would like to thank our guests, especially the Minister.  
 And all the project leaders, from the builders to those who administer  
 We thank you for the money that has seen our school rebuilt  
 Our State School of Tomorrow-Dragons all Gold Gilt.



Tracey Slingsby  
 Deputy Principal  
 Durack State School