

Preamble

When the homes commenced policy dictated that the children should attend an ordinary state school, and arrangements were made for them to attend Parramatta North Primary School.

Establishment and Building of Burnside School

By 1919 there were 270 children in residence, most of whom were primary school children. The logistics of marching them to and from Parramatta North School each day led to the offer of Colonel James Murdoch M.L.C. a member of the Burnside Board, to build a school on the Burnside site. This was to be leased to the Department of Education with the understanding that all Burnside primary aged children would attend the school. Teachers would be provided by the Department of Education. Local children from private homes in the area would also be welcome to enrol at the school.

The premises were designed by the Architects Joseland and Gilling and the built by Jefferay and Bartleet at a cost of 10,000 pounds. The School was officially opened on 21 April, 1922 by Her Excellency Lady Forster, wife of the Governor-General.

The architect Gregory Nolan describes the building as follows:-

‘...a two storey stuccoed building with sandstone trim. The roof is a large hipped structure in terra cotta tiles and features a large fleche. It also has a prominent stepped gable over a decorative window and a semi-circular sandstone entry way.

The large hopper windows give the interior of the building a light and airy appearance. The building has overtones of Scottish baronial and Scottish revival [Architecture]’

An additional wing was added to the school and opened by the Premier on 24 March, 1924.

In 1936 the population of the homes had reached 559, most of whom attended the primary or ‘super primary’ school at Burnside and with the increasing traffic on Pennant Hills Road and Masons Drive, it was necessary to commence a safety patrol.

1951 the school building was repaired and re-painted.

In 1957 the Headmaster, Mr D. McCallum died suddenly. A plaque was erected in his honour and the library was re-named after him.

Curriculum Developments

In 1925 the decision was made to include manual and technical training to the syllabus for boys, and the following year a Domestic Training School was erected next to the Murdoch school.

In 1933 a Junior Farm School was established with an Agricultural Science teacher provided by the Department of Education. In 1936, six boys passed the Intermediate

Certificate in Agricultural subjects.

In 1937 a Manual Training teacher was appointed to the staff and workshops were erected for trade training

'Super-Primary' Education at Burnside

From the commencement of the homes the senior children were sent to Parramatta Intermediate High School, and the more academically gifted children to Parramatta High School. However, in 1930 an arrangement was made with the NSW Department of Education for intermediate level education to be available at Burnside School for which Burnside was grateful. Children of exceptional ability continued to be sent to Parramatta High School or elsewhere as appropriate.

After the Second World War there seemed to be a trend to send more children to various High Schools in Parramatta [was it a social trend to place more emphasis on secondary education??] In 1953 6 children were at Parramatta High Schools and in 1956 Marcia Lynch passed her Leaving Certificate from Parramatta Home Science School. She was the first child to pass this examination while still resident at Burnside and she proceeded to teachers' college.

In 1957 Frank Weatherall gained the Leaving Certificate from Parramatta High School and won a scholarship.

In 1961 amid other changes at Burnside it was decided to cease Super-primary education at Burnside Public School from the end of 1962, and to send the children to Cumberland High School. This maximised contact outside Burnside and led to an improvement in adjustment and social skills.

The School During World War 11

During the years 1942 to 1944 the population of the homes was evacuated to the Blue Mountains in emergency Homes at Springwood and Woodford and the Department of Education arranged to send teachers to the re-located homes. The Army occupied the homes including the school which was used for Sergeant's Quarters.

In 1944 14 students sat for the Intermediate Certificate, all were successful.

Educational Opportunities for Burnside Homes Children

Sir James Murdoch died in 1939. A legacy left by him allowed for children of ability to pursue education away from Burnside. In 1943 under this arrangement, Charles Byrnes was sent to Scots College.

In 1944 the Directors formed a fund to 'assist with the education of children after school age'.

1950 a special teacher appointed to assist the educationally disadvantaged. This was to develop by the late 1970;s into a significant programme of educational assistance to all of those who used Burnside's services.

In 1967 the headmaster reported a steady improvement in the progress of the children.

1973 one Burnside boy was dux of the school and two children won scholarships to private schools.

1974 one Burnside girls is a prefect and sportswoman of the year. A Burnside Boy Vice-Captain of the School.

1976. A Burnside boy, sportsman of the year.

1977 A Special Grant of \$16,000 from the NSW Department of Education subsidise remedial education, school excursions, outings, recreational equipment and vacation activities

Burnside Homes and the School

In 1927 Burnside donated a portrait of Colonel Murdoch to the School

Burnside assisted the School in a similar was to a Parents' and Citizens' Group providing a duplicator, library books and allowing the use of a film projector.

In 1951 Mothers' Club assists school financially including providing a Christmas Party with gifts for the children.

1952 Mothers' Club buys a piano for the school. 1953 - 6 pupils at Parramatta High Schools

In 1976 Burnside made Sargood Hall and the Sportsground available for school use. This arrangement apparently ceased in the mid 1980's when the facilities were made available to another organisation.

School Population

In 1922 the school population was 430

In 1935 79 children sat for the primary final.

In 1964 100 children from the homes attended Burnside School - this was about 1/3 of the total population of the school - while for three decades the majority of the students were Burnside's.

In 1969 the school roll was 540 of which 150 were from the Homes.

Into the By the late 1970's. The average Burnside child increasingly became one in temporary care rather than a long -term resident. In the following decade trends in child care bought even greater change as the placing of primary school children into foster care rather than residential care broke the nexus between the homes and the school.

Dux

1923	Ronald Dudenay
1925	Eric Anderson
1927	Edwin King

Social

18 August, 1923 School gave its first concert at Parramatta Town Hall

14 May, 1924 The School gave its second public concert.

Murdoch Medal for Proficiency

1925	Eric Anderson
1927	Carl Wallace
1928	Charles Simon
1930	Peter Armstrong
1935	Bert McBain
1936	Leslie Thomas
1939	Reginald Lyons
1940	Leslie Macalpine
1941	James McIntyre
1942	Robert Pliskan
1943	Stanley Hahn
1944	Lawrence Barnes
1945	Keith Billingham
1947	Frank Medill
1948	Kenneth Vaughan
1949	Kevin Ritchie
1950	Ray Luck
1951	Ronald Souter
1952	George Adney
1953	Cecil Denning
1955	Angelo Buda
1956	Colin Piper
1957	William Shepherd

[Was the medal only available for the top-performing boy, or is it a co-incidence that it was always awarded to a boy? Was only available for Burnside Homes residents? The winner was not always mentioned in the annual reports. Was it sometimes not awarded?. When did it cease? More research is required.]

McIntyre Medal

1928	Hazel Healy
1930	Constance McHatton
1935	Muriel Mann
1936	Nancy Martin
1939	Patricia Bredin
1940	Olive Hooper
1941	Betty Brewer
1942	Gwen Sweetman
1943	Rachael Leggate
1944	Amy Raymond
1945	Shirley Souter
1947	Margaret Piper
1948	Isabella Bennett
1949	Noeline Gibson

1950	Shirley Gazzard
1951	Cecily Davis
1952	Gwen Brown
1953	Marie Mulvey
1955	Carmel Piper
1956	Kay Hall
1957	Lynette Alkins

[Likely to be have been only available to Homes residents, presumably to the top-performing girl. When did it cease?]

Winner of the Headmaster's Medal

1928 Ronald Mackie

[There is only one reference to this medal in the annual reports. Was the medal awarded only once].

Sporting Achievements

The following are noted in Burnside Printed Annual Reports. The list should not be considered an exhaustive one. There is sometimes no indication at which level a competition was conducted. Burnside's interest declined when the population of the school ceased to be mainly children from the Homes. Much more research is required

1925 - boys won four championships, and girls, three (unspecified)

1927 - won shields for football and swimming

1928 - won football and cricket premiers

1929 - won challenge shields for football and swimming (boys and girls)

1930 - in district competition won the swimming, rugby union, cricket and athletic shields and the Perry Cup for winning so many shields

1931 - won Football, swimming and cricket shields

1933 - won Parramatta District Shields won for cricket, swimming and athletics and the Rugby Union Shield was won for the seventh year in succession.

1934 - won Football and swimming shields and athletics and cricket teams came second. Lifesaving Classes commenced

1936 - Masterton cup for athletics and rugby union championship. Second in cricket

1938 - Won local competition in Rugby and the cricket team still undefeated

1939 - Both football teams won all of their matches and the cricket team won in local competition

1940 - two football teams and cricket team undefeated

1946 - Cricket and Football teams both second in competition

1949 - Footballers win 7st 7lb competition, awards for life saving

1950 - Rugby League 7st 7lb team came second in the Western Division, and 5st 7lb were premiers. 71 lifesaving medals were awarded.

1951 - Four rugby union teams, each gained second place in competition.
49 lifesaving awards including five bronze crosses and cups for both boys and girls for their achievement.

1954 - the 5st 7lb team won the Scullin Shield, the 6st 7lb reached the semi-final and the 8st 3lb came third in competition

1956 and 1957. Rugby League team won the state shield for second consecutive year