

# Recollection



**ST PAUL'S WOODRIDGE**

**1969 – 2019**

**St Paul's Catholic Primary School, WOODRIDGE**



*See the hand of God in all that happens.*  
Mary MacKillop, 1871







I would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Custodians of this great land.

I would like to acknowledge and respect the elders both past and present.

I would like to acknowledge, recognise and respect their culture heritage, beliefs and ongoing relationship with this land.

As we search for a better understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, we can then move towards an enriched appreciation of Australia's cultural heritage.

This in turn is fundamental for leading towards the reconciliation and development of the overall Aboriginal and Torres Strait Cultural Identity.



*Text by Stephen Chadburn,  
ATSI Cultural Worker;  
Murals by Uncle Reg and Missy Knox  
engaging all the children of St Paul's School 1999*

## *Grow Strong in the Faith, the Spirit, the Word*

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*Diversity is  
our Strength*



# Messages of Support from our Leaders in Catholic Education

*Came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (Jesus, John 10:10)*

## Archbishop Mark Coleridge



The Catholic community of the Woodridge area had a long history before the school was established fifty years ago. The Mission to Logan was the name given in 1865 to the first parish in the district which included the area from Brisbane to the New South Wales border and west to Boonah. Not until 1980 was the parish we now know made a parish in its own right. So the school came before the present parish.

Both came because of the great growth in the area as the Housing Commission built a large number of homes. Homes meant children and children meant that a school was needed. A double storey brick building rose on the present site at a cost of \$64,000. There were three classrooms on top, and the downstairs area was a chapel to hold 300 people.

In 1969 the Sisters of St. Joseph arrived to take charge of the new school which had an initial enrolment of 55 children. The Sisters travelled out from Sunnybank for four years and from Annerley for one year, until a residence was found for them in Woodridge. By 1981 the enrolment had swelled to 720: such was the growth. As we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the school, we recognise the tremendous work done by the Sisters and the great debt of gratitude we owe them.

A booklet such as this tells a story, and it is vital to do so. Yet what is found here is only the tip of an iceberg. There is much more of the story told in the lives of children and families who have been part of St Paul's School through these fifty years; and in the end it is God alone who knows that full story. These have been fifty years of grace - hard work certainly, but God's grace above all. In celebrating fifty years, we thank those who have done the hard work - the Sisters, the lay staff, parents and members of the Parish and wider community - and we thank God who has made it all possible.

+ Mark Coleridge  
Archbishop of Brisbane  
16 May 2019

*Beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things...and the peace of God will be with you. (St Paul to the Philippians 4:8)*



## Fr David Batey

### Parish Priest, St Paul's Parish



Congratulations on St Paul's School's 50th Anniversary! Our warmest greetings to all present and past students, families, carers, parishioners, friends of St Paul's and, most importantly administrators and staff members. How we stand on the broad shoulders of those who have gone before us at St Paul's!

It has been a genuine pleasure to be of service to the School and Parish over the last 17 years. My first year was a blur. Principal Sr Helen Hughes broke me into the 'dos and don'ts' of being a Parish Priest in a multicultural parish school. I shall not forget her patience and kindness. Since then, there has been a parade of proud Principals and Assistant Principals, Religious Education and Staff Members.

The common progressive thread was and is the charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The motto at St Paul's - "TO GROW IN FAITH, SPIRIT AND THE

WORD" - underpins the life of the best school in Logan.

A special thank you to our present Principal, Matt Mackinlay and APRE Cathie Caldwell, Teachers and all Staff Members.

## Miss Pam Betts

### Executive Director, Brisbane Catholic Education



Congratulations on reaching your Jubilee year! What a wonderful achievement for the staff, families, community, and most importantly, the students at St Paul's School. Your dedication to the vision of Catholic Education to teach, challenge and transform through enriching the lives and minds of our young people has made a difference to many generations.

From the time the Sisters of St Joseph arrived in 1969 with 55 students enrolled on the first day, to today's enrolment of 315 students, you have seen and led an incredible amount of change, whilst providing constant support and care to the community and to the needs of the children.

Brisbane Catholic Education is proud of all that has been achieved at St Paul's School including the establishment of the Community Partnerships Program which was as a result of the important research led by long term local advocate and community development worker, Fr Wally Dethlefs.

Great foundations have been laid and as we look to the past with gratitude, we also look to the future of St Paul's School with great hope.

*Do all you can with the means at your disposal  
and calmly leave the rest to God.*

Mary MacKillop 1891





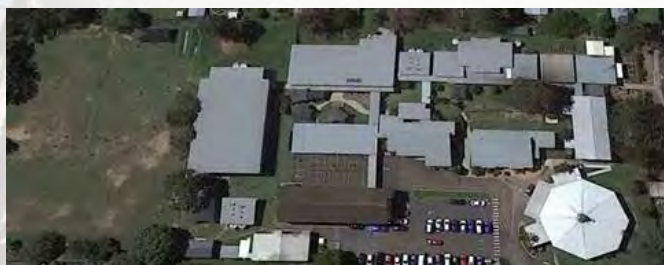
Matt Mackinlay

Principal since 2017



*50 Years of  
Growing Strong in the Faith, The Spirit and The Word*

It is with great pride and gratitude that in 2019 we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St Paul's School, Woodridge. St Paul's School has been providing quality Catholic Education in the Woodridge area since 1969 and the stories and recollections of current students, staff and parents found in this publication are interesting, entertaining and a testament to the positive impact that our school has had on generations of community members. The school has changed significantly over the years, but one thing has remained constant at St Paul's and that is the focus on educating the whole person with Christ at the centre.



There is an incredibly strong connectedness that children and adults feel when they attend or work at St Paul's and each generation leaves its mark as does the school leave its influence on them. So many people have been involved in getting us to this wonderful point in our history. The stories and accounts prepared for this book remind me that it is indeed the people who are the heart and soul

of an incredible community like St Paul's. I would like to acknowledge every student, staff member, parent and community member who has contributed to this publication and to the incredible St Paul's story so far.

I would also like to acknowledge the strong link between the St Paul's School and Parish communities and thank Fr David Batey for his leadership of these communities. Fr Dave has led our Parish community for over a decade and he has done so with integrity and a community-focused purpose.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of the Sisters of St Joseph to the life of our school. From 1969 to 2008 the Sisters have had a significant presence in every aspect of school life and all St Paul's School Principals from 1969 to 2003 have been Sisters of St Joseph. St Paul's is deeply and passionately a Josephite school and St Mary MacKillop's mantra of "Never see a need without doing something about it" is firmly in place at St Paul's. The sense of positivity and hope that is evident at St Paul's today is directly linked to the work of the Sisters of St Joseph.

I would sincerely like to thank each and every person who has contributed to the development of this St Paul's School 50th Anniversary History book. It is a testament to the positivity of our school community that so many people have dedicated their time, their thoughts and memories to this project.

I am truly grateful to all members of the 2019 staff group who work tirelessly each and every day at St Paul's to provide students and each other with an incredible level of care and support. I would like to further thank them for their contributions to this project as significant celebrations in the life of a school often mean more tasks to complete for staff. Staff have been positive and accommodating in tackling the important but extra work that has come as we celebrate our 50th Year.



I would like to acknowledge and thank Brian Moffett for all his work in preparing this 50th Anniversary publication for our school and parish communities. Brian has portrayed the history of St Paul's in the context of Woodridge's history and gathered the recollections of past and current community members. Up to now, the history of St Paul's was found in a variety of written articles but now we have a comprehensive and researched document that can be used and built upon by community members for years to come. We are truly grateful for Brian's work in preparing this publication. Brian is a retired teacher and APRE who enjoyed being a part of eight Brisbane Catholic Education communities. Brian's wife, Dorrie Moffett, is a current staff member at St Paul's School.



In 2019 it has been wonderful to reflect on the achievements and stories of the past 50 years and it has also been an ideal opportunity to pause and imagine the positive future that lies ahead for our vibrant Catholic school community.

Finally, I hope you enjoy reading this incredibly rich and interesting history of St Paul's Catholic Primary School and join with me to congratulate all those who have contributed to its proud history.

## Nicole Sadkowsky

### President, Parents and Friends Association



I have been a member of the St Paul's Parents and Friends Committee since 2015. It is with pride that I am able to represent such an amazing forward-thinking and open-minded community where dedication to the students, growth and inclusiveness is so important.

The reciprocal support and genuine care of staff, parents and students for one another is beautiful to witness and a joy to experience. The unspoken culture is to add value and support wherever people can within our community: "Can I take over from you?" "Let me know how I can help." "Let's see if we make this happen." This is done with such humbleness from the staff and with enthusiasm from parents.

At any of our PandF meetings or school assembly *Diversity is our Strength* is embraced with a key focus on the school values of Respect, Learning, Faith and Community.



## Civic Leaders Speak About St Paul's

Silvio Trinca



**C.E.O. Logan City Council**

The late 1960s was a period of rapid housing development in Woodridge, with a large number of young families attracted to the area because of its affordability and employment opportunities. St Paul's Primary School was one of two schools to open in the area in 1969, along with Woodridge North Primary School with massive expansions at Kingston and Woodridge State Schools. The surrounding bushland was not to remain long as within ten years the School was completely surrounded by housing, placing it at the heart of a thriving community. On behalf of the Logan City Council, I wish the St Paul's School community the very best for its future endeavours.

Cameron Dick



**MLA State Member for Woodridge, Minister for State Development, Manufacturing Infrastructure and Planning**

Congratulations to St Paul's School on your 50th Jubilee. A good education is the first step on a journey that can take you anywhere you want to go in life. Since 1969, thousands of people in our community started out on that great journey with the help and support of the teachers at St Paul's.

The success of this school is reflected in the high standard of its students, and because of this, the contribution St Paul's has made to our community cannot be understated.

I congratulate everyone involved and associated with the school on reaching the golden milestone, and I wish the school community all the very best for the next 50 years and beyond.

Jim Chalmers



**MHR Rankin and Shodow Treasurer**

St Paul's is a terrific local school and its 50th Jubilee is not only an important event in its own right, but serves as a reminder of the prominent and valued role the School and its Parish plays in our local community. For half a century, St Paul's Primary School has been dedicated to educating our local kids and instilling in them the values of kindness and generosity, and service and selflessness.

The Parish, in its various forms, has been performing that vital role for our wider community for even longer, bringing together people not just of our Catholic faith, but of all faiths. I congratulate St Paul's on such a momentous occasion, and thank the School and the Parish for the contributions you continue to make to our local community.



## Words of Gratitude from Past Principals

What St Paul's meant to Principals - in their own time

**1969** *Sr John (Regina) O'Donnell, Principal 1969-1970, Miss Lee and the 55 children of St Paul's School*



**1975** *The much appreciated staff of St Paul's School with Josephites from left Sr Stella Noskoff, Sr Marguerite Liddy, Principal 1971-1975, and Sr Catherine Beecher*





## Sr Theresa Herlihy rsj

Principal 1976-1977

Congratulations from far away Ireland! It is a joy and a privilege to congratulate the whole community and to convey my sincere wishes for all God's blessings upon your celebrations. The realisation that it is 43 years since I was appointed principal not only comes as a shock but fills me with wonder at all that has happened in the intervening years! The changes are difficult for me to imagine but no doubt, the transformation that has occurred is immense.

When I came to St Paul's in 1976 the school buildings were by the standards of that time, reasonably modern and well equipped. The 1970's saw an influx of young families in the area. By 1976 St Paul's had the largest school population, of the Josephite Schools, in the Brisbane Archdiocese. I recall vast increases in numbers, particularly in the junior classes.

My abiding memory is of the great generosity, enthusiasm and spirit of "can do " of the school community. The teachers and staff worked tirelessly together so that each student was given the opportunity to reach his or her potential. An enthusiastic and supportive PandF fundraised unstintingly for equipment and the myriad of necessities for a rapidly growing school. However, even for the most dedicated staff and hard working parents who stretched their funds, the evolving technology was not devoid of upsetting glitches!

One story from those days is forever etched in my memory. We were unable to rectify a malfunctioning school alarm. Despite the professionals' best efforts, it invariably rang out its raucous shrill at 2am! By the time we hastened from our beds and drove to the school, our long suffering neighbours had had their night's sleep disturbed. To add to the futility of disturbing everyone, no intruder was in sight! One elderly gentleman was always on his back veranda to tell us, in no uncertain terms what to do with our alarm!! Unfortunately for all concerned it took far too long to restore much longed for peace and harmony. A remote control would have been a blessing. The "good old days" had their challenges too.

My dearest wish and prayer for you all is, that you may grow from strength to strength and continue to be a blessing for so many. In spirit I am with you and rejoice with you.

**1975** The much appreciated staff of St Paul's School with Josephites Sr Dominic Courtney front left, Sr Theresa Herlihy Centre, Sr Clare Voglar (front right) and Sr Stella Noskoff standing behind





## Sr Francis (Kath) Carroll rsj

Principal 1978 - 1982

I spent many years ministering to young children in the field of education. During my time in Woodridge, I witnessed the growth of St Paul's School as it grew to over 700 students, many of whom needed special care. I was Principal of the School and was supported in this ministry over the years by Sisters and lay teachers. Sr Julie O'Gorman was there in a pastoral capacity and ministered to the many students and parents who came for assistance.

As I look back on these years, I realize that St Paul's School Woodridge was the inspiration for my future work. Julie O'Gorman, in her capacity of pastoral care of students and parents, interviewed many mothers who indicated that it would be good for them to have a place of rest and relaxation where they could regain their energy in their very important work of parenting. It was this inspiration that led Julie and myself to Madonna House at Scarborough, courtesy of Monsignor Frawley and then to Mary Haven, courtesy of Fr Jim Henry. This work flourished for many years providing support, nurturance and joy to the many women who came to stay.

I also remember with great affection the de Montfort Fathers who were in charge of the Parish at that time. Fr Louis Catterall still corresponds with me. I will always remember my time in Woodridge and the many people and students I met during these years.

*1982 The much appreciated staff with Sr Francis (Kath) Carroll Centre*





## Sr Francine Caesar rsj

Principal 1983 -1987

With gratitude, I recall my time at St Paul's from 1983 to 1987. I followed Sr Kath Carroll with an enrolment that grew to 760 in 1983. St Paul's was blessed with a dedicated, committed team of teachers who were more than willing to implement educational programmes to meet the specific needs of the children at that time. During these years, St Paul's was the recipient of Federal Government funding which enabled a teacher to implement a Functional Life Skills Programme. Extra funding from Brisbane Catholic Education (hereafter BCE) supported a Transition Class for young children in need of extended time in their early years of schooling. St Paul's was blessed with a number of musically talented teachers who formed the musical group called "White Light". The talents of these teachers greatly enhanced the children's classroom learning and their participation in school liturgies. St Paul's was one of the first schools to have a full time Physical Education teacher. St Paul's Parish was led by the de Montfort Fathers who gave great support to the children's liturgical celebrations. Pastoral Care in the school was led by the APRE, Sr Patricia Mitchell RSJ (R.I.P). One important focus was the provision of a lunch programme. The multi-cultural aspect of St Paul's School began to grow during these years.

St Paul's offered great diversity, many challenges and much willingness and pastoral care to meet the educational and spiritual needs of all in its school community. I am forever grateful for the opportunity I was given to minister to the children, families and staff at St Paul's. I am grateful for the team of pastoral, dedicated teachers who willingly faced challenges and successes to educate the children to their full potential. I offer St Paul's best wishes as it continues its educational journey in the spirit of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph

*The much appreciated staff of 1987 with Sr Francine front centre*

1st Row: Kate O'Neill, Brigid Low, Toni Pennisi, Lois Longland, Sr Francine, Sr Patricia, Fr Terry Madden, Anne Lam (Cullen), Beryl Ahrens  
 2nd Row: Denise Callaway, Jean Cliff, Karen Lamb, Pat Fox, Yvonne Devlin, Helen Dale, Jon Sorohan, Diana Campbell, Betty Corney, Vanessa Strong, Marg Carwardine, Anne Antipas  
 3rd Row: Terry O'Connor, Tom Rinks, Jane Massingham, Maureen Wilson, Rick Sheehan, John Roberts, Petrea O'Dwyer  
 4th Row: Ineke van Uffelen, Mary Savage, Mary Tuddenham, John Gorman, Michael O'Sullivan, Leanne Stitchell



*Gratitude is the memory of the Heart.*

Mary MacKillop 1907





## Sr Jenny Scari rsj

Principal 1988-1991

Hello, my name is Sr Jenny Scari and I had the privilege of carrying on the Josephite educational tradition at St Paul's School Woodridge from 1988-1991. I'm very honoured to be making a written contribution to the history of St Paul's School on this important anniversary.

My time at St Paul's School was a time of transition with the de Montfort Religious Priests, Fr Madden PP, and his Order withdrawing from the Parish. The Archdiocesan priest took over with Fr Frank O'Dea PP and Fr John Conway, newly ordained, as Assistant Priest.

It was also a time when the School had an influx of El Salvadoran children due to the civil war in their home country. The children were very eager to learn and their parents were very appreciative of the help give to them by the School community.

My time as Principal was made all the easier because of the dedication of the Staff and their attentiveness to the needs of the children and their parents. The School also received wonderful support from the Parents and Friends Association and the Parish Community.

Congratulations on this milestone. Enjoy the celebrations.

*The much appreciated staff of 1991 with Sr Jenny front centre*

1st Row: Colleen Stringer, Gerri Griffin, Sr Helen Archer, Lois Longland, Sr Jenny Scari, Kath Layton, Ronnie Ryman, Sandra Nightingale

2nd Row: Ann Antipas, Joan King, Helen Dale, Terri Myers, Jo Keates, Audrey Scaroni, Pat Fox, Jeanine Gallagher

3rd Row: Loretta Young, Barry Ainslie, Josephine Rinaudo, Shaun Hegarty, Leanne Stitchell, Maureen Wilson, John Roberts.





## Sr Helen Hughes rsj

Principal 1992 - 2003

I feel enormous warmth and gratitude for the years I spent living and working in Woodridge where staff, students and parents worked together to experience the best of teaching and learning. It was a privilege to be part of this school community as we sought to respect, encourage, achieve, celebrate, support and care for one another. These qualities, at the heart of St Paul's character, are a real blessing, especially during times of sorrow or adversity.

In a world so often marked by division and fear, the unity of cultures at St Paul's is a sign of hope. I remember a visiting tradesman saying as the children arrived at school, "I've just seen the world walk through those gates" and a missionary priest remarking, "this harmony in diversity is a gift the world needs". The creation story mural by Missy and Uncle Reg Knox incorporated the hand prints of each member of the school community, embodying the values of respect for each other, our first peoples and all cultures.

I wish St Paul's every blessing in the future. May you continue to work together to be a gift of peace and harmony to each other and for the wider Logan community.

*The much appreciated staff of 1998 with Sr Helen standing far left*

1st Row: Jo Keates, Gerri Griffin, Anne Sennit, Anne Lam (Cullen), Pat Fox, Ann Antipas, Maureen Wilson, Linda Donkin

2nd Row: Mary Rendell, Sr Stella Noskoff, Beryl Ahrens

3rd Row: Sr Helen Hughes, Leanne Stitchell, John Roberts, Judy Hobson, Kim Davis, Michelle Henry, Tim Ferguson, Beryl Douglas, Terri Myers.





## Ms Anne McKenny

Principal 2004 - 2009

In late 2003, with Trevor Doyle's encouragement, I was invited for a suitability interview to be Acting Principal at St Paul's in 2004. At this time, Sr Helen was retiring from Principalship and moving to a leadership role within the Josephite Congregation. During 2004, the Provincial Leadership Team was making a momentous decision on whether to appoint a Josephite Sister to the substantive Principal role. Late in the year, word came through that a Principal vacancy would be declared and the position was advertised; I was thrilled to be appointed as the first lay Principal. At that initial meeting, I remember Sr Helen saying so clearly that to lead St Paul's School is a "gift given". From that point on, I was to discover and appreciate what a special gift this is.

For the next six years, I had the absolute privilege to thrive in this role by developing a model for shared leadership. A highlight during my time was the Full Service Schooling Project out of which developed the Community Partnerships Program. Another highlight was in the introduction of Prep. Both were fully supported by BCE. Introducing Prep was the instigator of the Building Grants Authority process for a rebuilding program for St Paul's. The physical transformation of facilities provided a learning environment worthy of the talented and appreciative children and exceptional staff who dedicated their professional expertise and personal commitment to the children and families of St Paul's. Most of all, my memories of St Paul's go to the lasting friendships made there. No matter what decade, any person who has been part of St Paul's will have experiences to treasure forever.

*The much appreciated staff of 2004 with Anne McKenny front centre*

1st Row: Chrissie Potter, Kris Tabulo, Kate Hinton, Anne McKenny, Cheryl Macaranas, Michelle Sipple, Anne Lam (Cullen)

2nd Row: Sr Lyn Stabler, Matthew Galvin, Sue Murray, Trish Beard, Anne Sennit, Beryl Douglas, Vanessa Ryan, Liz Burke, Carol Kiwi Kiwi

3rd Row: Terri Eaton, Sue Salmon, Mary Rendell, Duncan Maitland, Travis Pavitt, Katherine Anderson, Chris Paton, Scott Charles, Majella McCarthy





## Mr Chris Brown

Principal 2010

When asked which of my 30 years as a Principal was "the best", I don't hesitate to answer that it was my one year as Acting Principal at St Paul's.

Best - because from the day Principal Anne McKenny introduced me to Fr Dave Batey and the school community, I knew that this was a school with a very special character, a school where there was a sense of vocation among staff, gratitude among parents, and joyful inclusion among students.

Each day was as challenging as it was fulfilling. I was privileged to succeed Anne whose work to establish Community Partnerships as a hallmark of the school was inspirational. I was thrilled to be succeeded by Celestine Boundy whom I knew would continue Anne's work in making St Paul's an outstanding School, proud of its cultural diversity, true to its potential, and faithful to what it means to provide a genuine Catholic education.

### *The much appreciated staff of 2010 with Chris Brown front centre*

1st Row: Mandy Chapman, Connie Koch, Paul Blinkhoff, Chris Brown, Lagi Aukustino, Michelle McLeod, Danielle Baker

2nd Row: Ann Antipas, Rosemary Cochrane, Jenny Zandona, Aleeta Jacobsen, Lisa Keane, Tara Carroll, Sr Geraldine Fitzgerald, Tracy Manrin, Simone Flanderka, Kim Waugh,

3rd Row: Mary McNulty, Susan Coyne, Sue Salmon, Chantel Denneswald, Angela Lee, Annie Drake, Paula Lipscomb Peta J., Vanessa Radcliffe

4th Row: Ash C., Katherine Anderson, Travis Pavitt, Mark Davidson, Garoline Coyle, Anne Lam Cullen

Absent: Scott Charles, Helen Modong, Ujeshne Kumari, Andrea Christie, Natalija Denis-Picton, Brad Sparkes, Kevin Hicks, Trish Beard, Beryl Douglas, Terri C., R., Rick Rigby





## Mrs Celestine Boundy

Principal 2011- 2016

I am very grateful for the opportunity I was given to work with Father Dave Batey and the School community of St Paul's from 2011 to 2016. It was an honour to follow in the footsteps and carry on the legacy of the wonderful Josephites who established the school and worked so hard there for many years.

During my time, BCE provided incredible support, not only in funding but in many other ways. Of particular note was the work of the St Paul's Community Centre. I truly believe that schools like St Paul's are at the heart of who we are, not only as a Catholic Education system, but as a Church.

It was a privilege to serve the beautiful children and families of St Paul's. A lasting memory is that the worst thing we could do was to send a child home... they just loved coming to school! My aim was for the children to be safe and happy and know that they are loved by their God. All the learning will follow.

Without the incredible staff who 'walk the walk' every day, the St Paul's success story might be very different. I feel blessed to have had those six years!

*The much appreciated staff of 2014 with Celestine Boundy front centre*

1st Row: Anne Lam (Cullen), Eileen Dominguez, Paula Lipscomb, Jennifer Zandona, Susan Coyne, Celestine Boundy, Michael McInerney, Mary McAnulty, Tracy Rogerson, Eva Alcalde.

2nd Row: Benjamin Baker, Richard Rigby, Trish Beard, Louise Nicol, Anita Calandra, Natasha Poynter, Suzanne Rigby, Jon Sorohan

3rd Row: Bebhinn Farrell, Rhiannon Seymour, Justin Matthews, Adrian Van Pragg, Kevin Wood, Kim Waugh, Maria Mitchell.







# A Historical Story of Goodness, Faith, Resilience, Generosity and Humour

*Every person in every community - and certainly everyone in Woodridge and in St Paul's - has a story.*

Beginning with the original Aboriginal peoples, goodness, resilience, generosity and humour have been hallmarks of the people of Woodridge and of St Paul's. As if called by Mary MacKillop, people have lived as though inspired by the whisperings of God to their hearts.

St Paul's School was founded in 1969. From the beginning, it has always been a part of the wider community's and then of the Catholic community's hopes for their children. The spirit of St Paul's has been caught by its members in each era of its history. Staff, students, their families and parishioners – even those who have not known each other in different eras of its history – share common pride in and love for what St Paul's School and Parish have meant for them. St Paul's has been a seed bed for people's growth in faith, hope and love, in how they have grown personally and professionally, in their continuing friendships and in their vision and efforts to contribute to a culturally-rich and socially-just society.

Logan City's floral emblem, the Banksia Integrifolia, is beautiful, resilient and is good for its environment. Likewise, St Paul's has flowered with goodness, resilience and generosity for Woodridge community. Understanding the history of the peoples of this "timber reserve", from the beginning, and their goodness, resilience and generosity, makes us proud to be a part of this community.



(By courtesy of Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Licence)

## The History of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Logan City

In the area we know today as the City of Logan, Aboriginal people from the Yuggera and Yugambeh language groups belonged in family groups and lived self-sufficiently within their cultures accessing a vast range of natural resources - possibly for 20 000 years. The Gugingin family group were the northernmost mob in the Yugambeh language group living near Logan River. The Ugarapul family group within the Yuggera Language Group may have extended into what is today Logan City.

Apart from any convict escapees, the Commandant of the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement, Captain Patrick Logan, was probably the Traditional Custodians' first contact with Europeans when he explored the river in 1826.

Increasingly, the family groups were disrupted and displaced. Squatters followed the Penal Settlement's closure in 1842. Settlers leased land after 1849. After Queensland was proclaimed a Colony in 1859, German, Irish and English immigrants were attracted to Logan Agricultural Reserve, Waterford and Beaudesert. Incidences of both peaceful co-operation and violence against both parties are recorded. By the 1860s, the Colony's Native Police Force was used to quell Aboriginal peoples' resistance to non-Aboriginals' settlements.



Yugambah leader, Bilin Bilin – *Jaceky Jackey* – negotiated with white settlers so his people could continue in their lifestyles in the Logan area. With genuine respect, settlers gave him a breastplate inscribed 'Jackey Jackey, King of the Logan and Pimpama'. He died in 1901 at Deebling Creek Mission, south of Ipswich, a long way from his Yugambah land.

In 1995, Senator Neville Bonner opened the Yugambah Museum in Beenleigh. It has become a vital resource for the history, culture and the recovery of the language of the Yugambah people. The 2016 Census reported how the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Logan City has grown – from 1.6% of Logan City's population in 1996 to 3.2% of its population in 2016. In 2016, 31% of our Indigenous residents were younger than 18 years.

Today, St Paul's looks to BCE's *Molum Sabe* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy for supporting each student in his or her learning and wellbeing. *Molum* is an Aboriginal word referring to the students and *Sabe* is a Torres Strait word referring to knowledge. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Worker, Stephen Chadburn, plays a critical role supporting students person-to-person and inservicing staff. Harmony Day is a treat for all when the children delight the whole community with cultural dances and song. In 2019, St Paul's School embraced the learning of the Yugambah language in the Prep Classes with a view to extending these language studies throughout the School to Year 6.



Harmony Day 2019  
(Courtesy of St Paul's School)

## From the Margins through Miracles to St Paul's

Following the 1859 Proclamation of the Colony of Queensland, farming in Logan Agricultural Reserve, Waterford and Beenleigh attracted new settlers. The greatest natural resource of "Woodridge", as it later became known as, was its extensive reserves of quality timbers. The 1885 opening of the rail to Beenleigh attracted both timber-getters and land speculators.

In the new Colony, the whole of Queensland formed one Catholic Diocese led first by Bishop James Quinn. In 1865, the Parish which incorporated "Woodridge" extended from Brisbane to the New South Wales border and west to Boonah. It was 1875 before a priest, Fr Benedict Scortechini, resided in this Parish, in Logan Village. Irish immigrants, encouraged to come here by Bishop Quinn, farmed in the Logan Agricultural Reserve and on Henry Jordan's sugar property at Waterford. They worshipped at the Church of the Assumption built in 1864-65 on Logan Reserve Road. A school was attached. By the mid 1870s, population changes demanded both the Church and school be relocated to Waterford where the Church became known as St James but after some time the school closed.

The first urban development in "Woodridge" was a town plan for Booran surveyed in 1888. Such plans were common practice when new railway lines were opened. It embraced what is today Victoria, Bruce, Edward, Douglas, Plunkett and North Streets, Woodridge. In 1943, these blocks were still for sale – at 5 pounds each!

In 1913, timber-getter Dugald Graham developed a railway siding in this timber reserve for loading his sawmilled timber bound for Brisbane. The timber was used for house construction and also for firewood fuel, commonly used before the advent of piped natural gas in 1969. Against Mr Graham's wishes, the Railway Department named it "15 Mile Siding" (15 miles from Brisbane CBD). In 1915, Octavius Stubbs bought Mr Graham's properties, some of which he subdivided into 10 acre lots and marketed as "Woodridge" – alluding to the ironbark, gum, bloodwood and stringybark timbers growing there and the elevated land, the highest on the South Coast Line. The Railway Department recognised this name in 1917 when it built a platform for passengers using Woodridge Station and, in 1918, the Post Office recognised Woodridge as a place name.



As well as timber and small crop farming, poultry was a key industry in Woodridge. The largest poultry farm was located on the property now occupied by the Woodridge North State School. Cream from dairy farms was sent by railway to the Kingston Butter Factory.



1970 St Paul's location amid the changes (Qimagery QAP2142133)

Before Woodridge became a Parish in its own right in 1973, for some years in turn, it was a part of Yeronga, Mt Gravatt and Sunnybank Parishes. From Yeronga Parish, Fr Owen Steele came monthly to preside at Mass in the Woodridge Progress Hall. He taught children catechism from the running board of his car. While Fr Steele was a Padre at Tobruk during W.W. II, Woodridge did not have the celebration of the Mass.



*The Progress Hall, 1953, as was used for Sunday Masses  
(Courtesy of Logan Central Library and the South Coast Bulletin, 16.9.1953)*





*The Progress Hall, extended and maintained 2019  
(Courtesy of St Paul's School)*

Woodridge's population developed slowly and so also did the provision of infrastructure and facilities for the residents. Founded in 1916, the Woodridge Progress Association became an outstanding voice for the community. Local volunteers built their first hall on Railway Parade in 1916. The hall became a venue for dances and social gatherings until a cyclone damaged it in 1936. It was rebuilt by local volunteers.

The Hall has since been extended and is a well-maintained, and a valued community resource. On the initiative of the Association, Woodridge State School began in the Progress Hall itself in 1924. In 1932, Mr Boyle, a generous local sawmiller, donated one acre for the School to be built on a two acre block where Wembley Road meets Railway Parade. Before progress itself took over through eras of rapid population growth in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, the Association continued to advocate strongly the people's needs for additional schools, roads, a telephone exchange (1928), electricity (1939) town water (1963), a fire station (1965), an ambulance centre (1970) and medical facilities (Logan Hospital did not open until 1990!)

In 1959, the Trinder family donated 230 acres to the Lutheran Church; ten years later, the Trinder Park home for the aged opened. In 1963 a new railway station was built at Woodridge. In mid-1968, a second station was completed to be known as Trinder Park.

From 1950, Fr Rosenskjar was Parish Priest of St Agnes Parish which extended from Mt Gravatt to Woodridge. Mass was celebrated in the Progress Hall on Sunday mornings following a dance or film there the night before. Ivan and Marie Dwyer would be up early to prepare the Hall for Mass. The Collection was taken up in Tom Purcell's hat! With hope, parishioners planned fundraising for a Church in Woodridge. Finally, Fr Rosenskjar bought three blocks on land on the corner of Railway Parade and Stubbs Road. With the generosity and expertise of Mr Jack Tierney of Upper Mt Gravatt, a hut from the former American Army Hospital at Holland Park was moved and renovated to become St Catherine's Church, blessed and opened by Archbishop Duhig in August 1954. Grateful for their new Church, the community also grieved with the Tierney family at the death by accident of their young son, Gerard Francis, who ran in front of an oncoming car early one Saturday morning when out with his father collecting sand and gravel for the working bee that day at Woodridge.



*St Catherine's Church, Railway Parade (Courtesy of St Paul's School)*



In 1955, Woodridge was included in the new Sunnybank Parish. Fr Brosnan, the Parish Priest, bought three blocks adjoining St Catherine's Church on Railway Parade. Fr Tom Hegarty followed soon as Parish Priest bringing Sisters of St Joseph to Woodridge on Sundays to teach children catechism. There was no Catholic school and the housing boom was taking off. Throughout 1945 – 1969, 472 Housing Commission homes were built in Woodridge. By 1968, there were two Masses at Woodridge with St Catherine's Church overflowing. An influx of English migrants throughout 1973-1975 heightened demand both for the affordable homes the Housing Commission was providing and for schools. In 1974 with 1689 students, Woodridge State School was the largest primary school in Queensland. By 1977, 1547 Housing Commission homes had been built since 1945. How could the Parish respond?

## A Gift out of the Providence Bag for the Children!

The Parish did not have any money. However, the gift came through Mr Joseph Weiss who lived in Victoria St. Mr Weiss was elderly and needed care at Nazareth House, Wynnum. He had always helped the Parish and at this timely moment, he made this unsolicited gift. He donated his property to the Parish enabling it to apply to the State Government for an exchange of Mr Weiss' property as payment towards 5.5 acres in Jean St on which to build a school and Church. Through the gift of the land and with only \$4000 savings, a \$64 000 double-storey brick building was erected. St Paul's was helped by a new Archdiocesan approach whereby established school communities supported those in need.

In January 1969, fifty-five children were enrolled for Grades One, Two and Three. By the end of the year, 76 children were enrolled. Besides an Office and Staff Room, the new two-storey building provided seven classrooms. Three classrooms downstairs were used in the interim to accommodate 300 people at Sunday Masses. In March 1973, two years later, Archbishop O'Donnell blessed and opened the School. He spoke of education never standing still, and thanked the State Government for facilitating the land exchange and the recently-instituted financial support per child enrolled.



1968 Fr Hegarty blessing the Foundations for the School/interim Church (Courtesy of St Paul's School)



The 1969 building in 2019 (Courtesy of St Paul's School)

*My heart would sink but for the firm conviction that God's word can never fail.* Mary MacKillop





## An Application to Joh Bjelke-Petersen

B/c for your information..



Father Hegarty,  
Catholic Presbytery,  
121 Mains Road,  
SUNNYBANK.

Parliament House,

Brisbane.

19th July, 1967.

The Hon. J. Bjelke-Petersen, M.L.A.,  
Minister for Works and Housing,  
BRISBANE. Q.

Dear Mr. Bjelke-Petersen,

Application by Catholic Church, Sunnybank to  
acquire 5 acres of land from Housing Commission.

Father Hegarty of the Catholic Presbytery, 121 Mains Road, Sunnybank, has approached me for assistance in acquiring 5 acres at present held by the Housing Commission at Sunnybank as part of a larger area.

I understand that the land was previously Crown land and is situated on the western side of the Kingston Road, Portion 150V.

The Church requires this land for the purpose of establishing a primary school for Woodridge, with a convent and a church and is unable to acquire sufficient land in Broad Acres, in a satisfactory location, to suit this purpose. This land would be purchased at Broad Acre values and furthermore, the Church owns 3 acres which it is claimed is excellent Subdivision land about 1 mile from Woodridge Railway Station which is too remote for their purpose but excellent for a residential subdivision which they will give in part payment for the subject area.

I do know that there is a need for further schools in this quickly developing district and I think in view of the expansion, your Department has made in this area it would be a most reasonable step towards good town planning to meet the Church's request.

I do know the Lands Department endeavours to meet the needs of the various religious denominations by setting aside special areas when land is available, but I understand that in this instance there is no suitable Crown land and hence the request to you for assistance.

Yours faithfully,

*E.G.W. Wood*  
(E.G.W. Wood)  
Member for Logan





Sr M. Vincent, Sr John (Regina) O'Donnell and Sr Leonie Vogler with Miss Lee, centre (Teacher) and unidentified priest and parents 1969)

First Day:  
Brendan Malone,  
Mark Bennett,  
Mary Ward, Julie Farrell  
(Courtesy of St Paul's School)



## The Journey of St Paul's



### 1969 -1970 Sr M. John (Regina) O'Donnell

Principal

The first student enrolled was Eddie Kennedy, son of Mr and Mrs E. Kennedy of Kingston. 55 children were enrolled in Years 1-3 in January 1969. By the end of the year, 76 were enrolled. Sisters of St Joseph travelled daily from Sunnybank for four years and then from Annerley for one year until a residence for them in Jean St was acquired. From the beginning, how the Josephites led and joined others at the grassroots to develop the School honoured the dignity of all in the School and Parish communities. Within four years, the School would expand rapidly.

### 1971 - 1975 Sr Marguerite Liddy

Principal

In 1973, St Paul's Parish was established. Priests of the de Montfort Congregation were welcomed as the foundation pastors. Fr Irvine Leclerc, a Canadian, was the first Parish Priest. Fr. Louis Catterall, an Englishman, became Parish Priest in 1978. Fr Cyril Madden, Assistant Priest remained in the Parish until 1989. Fathers Alan Walpole and Tom Hamill also served. The priests were very practical in how they supported the School. Fr Irvine himself installed the School's first security system. Whatever was needed, Fr Catterall put his shoulder to the wheel. They welcomed the vibrant celebrations organized by the School.

In 1975 a housing commission house – 10 Jean St - had been purchased and extended to become a Convent for the Sisters. Ivan and Marie Dwyer, committed and generous parishioners, had advocated the provision of a Convent for the Sisters in the Parish. Ivan was always ready to do anything that needed to be done for the good of the Sisters. He was chairman of the Parish Council, the P and F and the Finance Committee. The Parish grieved Ivan's death after his being knocked by a car walking home from Church.



The Convent, 10 Jean St (Courtesy of St Paul's School)

Sr Marguerite put the rapidly expanding School on its feet. Throughout 1973 -1975, many English migrants came to the Housing Commission homes developed in Woodridge. By 1975, there were 495 students; by 1981, there were 720 students. Sr Marguerite always looked on the bright side of things. With few financial resources and rising enrolments, another building had to be constructed.



An accomplished musician, she prepared children for Talent Quests in the civic community and with the preparation she gave them, they often won. A very friendly, happy person, she had a great love for her family. Without fuss, she was selfless.

A teaching Principal, her cramped Office was in part of the Staff Room. Her Yr 7 class occupied an upstairs classroom. Sr Stella's class was downstairs at the back of the Church which meant effort each Friday afternoon clearing the classroom space for Mass on the weekend and back again on Monday morning for classroom use during the week. Sr Stella had suffered pneumonia; to help her, and without fuss, Sr Marguerite swapped classrooms with Sr Stella.



(Courtesy of Brad Murphy, Yr 2, 1969)

## 1976 - 1977 Sr Theresa Herlihy

Principal

When Sr Theresa Herlihy replaced Sr Marguerite in 1976, six Sisters belonged to the Woodridge Josephite community. Sr Theresa Herlihy was renowned as a gentle, quiet Irish Sister who welcomed parents and the children who loved her. Sr Theresa has returned to live in Ireland. Her greeting is included here amongst those of the former Principals.

## 1978 - 1982 Sr Francis (Kath) Carroll

Principal

Sr Francis (Kath) Carroll was a great administrator and organiser. She knew how to engage people from many places in and beyond the community in support of the School. People loved Sr Kath's zest for life - playing the drums, coaching football. In Mt Isa, she coached a boys' team. Short on numbers for the team, she enthused some Year 2 boys to join the team. At a Carnival, a teacher from another School came to check if she had a full team. She looked around for her stars only to see at least one Year 2 boy on the far side of the oval. They had obviously lost concentration or interest and had wandered off to entertain themselves.

## 1983 - 1987 Sr Francine Caesar

Principal

By 1981, 720 students were enrolled. Through 1983-1987, the student enrolment reflected a growing diversity of ethnic backgrounds including Pacific Island and Filipino cultural groups. A blessing was Federal Government grants to schools to help them respond to students' diverse needs through a Functional Life Skills Program. With Sr Francine as Principal, the students' learning and social needs were the lens through which the curriculum content was planned and implemented. The grant funded a Co-ordinator of the Program, Mrs Betty Cornay, a Physical Education teacher (one of the first in Brisbane Catholic Education Schools) and significant resources. During this time before Guidance Councillors and Pastoral Workers were placed in schools, the support offered by Centacare was highly valued. Some children were identified as needing support with lunch. Parents from both St Paul's and from Our Lady of Lourdes, Sunnybank, collaborated in providing them with this support.



(Courtesy of St Paul's School)



An innovation was the development of the Transition Class first taught by Mrs Anne Lam (Cullen). Not all the children were ready to move to Year 2.

During these years, BCE introduced system-wide professional development for teachers in the Early Literacy Curriculum (ELiC). This was the time when the Apple 2e desktop computers arrived, in the beginning one at a time in schools. In 1986, St Paul's adopted the Education in Faith Program, a child-centred Religious Education Program developed by Sr Desley Robinson RSM.

A major Parish development was the opening of St Paul's purpose-built Parish Church in 1981. With vision and careful management, parishioners planned with Fr Louis. The sale of the land in Railway Parade which Fr Rosenskjar and Fr Brosnan had bought for the Parish financed its construction. The generosity of people had always been a blessing. Both the acquisition of the land for the School and Parish, and the building of the Church itself became possible only through unsolicited generous donations of property to the Parish. The Church was intended to be a place of beauty, prayer and intimacy for the community. In 1983, a Cross, illuminated blue each night, was erected on the new Church's roof, dedicated in memory of Ivan Dwyer and his service to the community. It is still a well-known feature each night in Woodridge.

In 1986, a newly-constructed two-storey classroom block replaced demountables and other buildings which had been erected frugally and quickly to meet mounting demands in St Paul's early years. This new building was one of Bernard Rush's first architectural projects for Brisbane Catholic Education.

During Sr Francine's Principalship, some highly-talented teachers formed a band – White Light. They included Leon Capra, Denise Callaway, Laurie Dillon, Tony Hindmarsh, Tony Kitchen, Tony Shaw and Peter Shaw (Tony's brother who was teaching at St Catherine's, Wishart). They composed and recorded music which was used widely in schools as part of Religious Education. Their electric guitars, drums and vocals uplifted the Community in many lively School Masses and Celebrations.

An event fixed in Sr Francine's memory was the Sunday afternoon when Fr Louis Catterall saw flames rising in a corner of the Library. Thankfully, little damage was done and all was restored.



An example of the demountable classrooms which were needed. (Courtesy of St Paul's School)

## 1988 - 1991 Sr Jenny Scari

Principal

The years of Sr Jenny Scari's Principalship are remembered for ongoing system-wide professional development initiatives, the development of a Unit at St Paul's for learners with special needs, the arrival of Central American Refugee families and a response to societal concerns about Hepatitis B and AIDS.

The Commonwealth, States' and Territories' Governments ramped up their joint discussion on how co-operation needs to happen for the good of education across Australia. In 1989, they met in Hobart and produced a document called the *Hobart Declaration*. Ten years later, through their ongoing discussions, this was to be superseded.



Throughout BCE, school-based Key Teachers led staffs through English Literacy inservice programs to review both their conceptual understandings of English and their pedagogical practices. As well, at St Paul's, a Special Unit facility was developed to support up to twelve children with special needs. Personnel from BCE, including Mr Jeff Kemp, Head of Guidance, and the Sisters of St Joseph gave the project great support. These children were always included in all that happened in the School. They were integrated in mainstream classes for a part of each day and joined the Upper Years classes on camp. Learning Support teacher, Beryl Ahrens played a significant role.

Curriculum at St Paul's included sports days, bush dances, Yr 7 Thanksgiving and Farewells, Parish Multicultural Celebrations, participation in civic functions as appropriate, Celebrations of the Sacraments (transitioning to Parish-based programs), Feast Days, Project Compassion and other Gold Coin Outreach Days.

Central Americans came to Woodridge as part of the Federal Government's Humanitarian Refugee Program. Cheaper housing and agencies to support refugees were available there. St Paul's became more multicultural. ESL teachers including Brigitte Low were engaged to assist the children. Trauma-affected children needed time and assistance to heal and schools also needed time, to learn. A role for teacher John Roberts preparing children for Sports Day was to show them that the cap gun used for the start of races was not a real gun. There had been an occasion in earlier years when a cap gun was sounded to start the race – and all the trauma-affected children had dropped to the ground anxious for their safety! A delightful achievement was Central American Caroline Cano's success in winning the Logan Council's competition to rename 'Tractor Park' on the corner of Ewing Rd and Jean St. Caroline, a Year 2 student at St Paul's, proposed 'Rainbow Park'. The old tractor which stood in the park has long gone but Rainbow Park is still a landmark for all to enjoy.

In 1987, the Grim Reaper television advertisements controversially raised public awareness of AIDS. During her Principalship, Sr Jenny engaged Chris Ehler of BCE to offer parents and staff inservice on the issue.

## 1992 - 2003 Sr Helen Hughes

Principal

During the 1990s, teaching and learning at St Paul's was affected more intensely by curriculum reviews and professional development initiated by Brisbane Catholic Education and the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments. These included: the 1994 Review of the Queensland Curriculum for Schools; Outcomes Based Education and Student Performance Standards; the 1997 revised Religious Education Curriculum; and the 1999 *Adelaide Declaration* of the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments identifying national goals for schooling in the 21st Century. Following this Declaration, the Ministers of Education developed the National Assessment Program to compare student achievement data in several curriculum areas in relation to national goals. These developments affected teachers and students, and teachers' reporting to parents during the 1990s and later. The changes were steps to future developments and to continued reflection on the role of a teacher and on the student as a learner. During the 1990s, St Paul's and every Catholic School developed their own school-based English, Maths and Religious Education Programs.

A significant change in teaching and learning was the further integration of learners with special needs with other students in mainstream classes. Learners in Special Education Units were transitioned to participate in general classrooms' differentiated curriculum programs. Teachers needed ongoing professional development. Parents and professional staff needed wraparound student support meetings both to facilitate common understandings of each student's needs and to develop shared goals and plans for the benefit of the students.



All Principals, Staff Members and Fr David Batey spoke unhesitatingly of how the Staff made St Paul's such a great place to work: a place of welcome, care, with excellent learning opportunities and fun. Staff cared for one another. Many stayed, some only for a few years, enriched life-long by what they learnt for their professional journey. Each person, culture, neighbour and parish member gave something special to the community, sharing talents and making it a good place. Achievements were a group effort not because of one person.

In every era, the community has been cultivated as a sanctuary for acceptance, belonging, learning and transformation. With gratitude and mindful of all, let's honour Joan King and Ann Antipas as typical of all the unforgettable Staff Members in every era. Joan worked between the Parish Office and the School Office and Ann Antipas worked in the School Office. Both were renowned for the respect with which they welcomed people who came to Reception, no matter how people presented themselves. At one time, the Office was located including in a kitchenette while a new building of the rapidly-expanding School was being built. They loved their work and the community. Ann Antipas was known to have passed up more lucrative positions elsewhere so that she could remain at St Paul's.

With gratitude, we remember Staff Members who have died: Sr John (Regina) O'Donnell (Foundation Principal); Sr Marguerite Liddy (second Principal); and Sr Patricia Mitchell and Sr Patricia Marsh. Beryl Ahrens and Pauline Tebbut passed away while still members of staff. They both made major contributions to the education and care of children with special needs. After they died, a Memorial was set up in the Office foyer where children were able to come whenever they wanted to read the stories, look at the symbols and pray the prayers. The Memorial remained there until the children no longer needed to come to visit it. Gerri Griffin had moved to the Sunshine Coast. Her happiness and generosity to the children is remembered as a part of her enjoyment as a great teacher. Vanessa Radcliffe also died after her service at St Paul's but her passion as an Arts Teacher permeated all she did. Vanessa advocated imaginatively for Breast Cancer research long before it came upon her. On All Souls Day, we remember all who belonged to St Paul's whom we believe now rest in God – Josephite Sisters, de Montfort Priests, staff members, former students, parents and family members, parishioners and friends.

A richly symbolic feature has been the Tuckshop wall mural painted in 1999 by Reg Knox and his daughter Missy Knox, a parent at St Paul's. These images are included in this volume with the Acknowledgement of Country. Missy welcomed the children of all cultures whose painted handprints expressed belonging, ownership and pride.

Fire! On Wednesday, on 3rd March, 1993, the Year 2 classrooms were destroyed by a fire deliberately lit. At 5 am, from the Convent in Jean St, Sr Helen heard the fire engine's siren. When the siren entered Jean St and then St Paul's Drive, Sr Helen followed it quickly. She woke Sr Stella.

The thirty Staff members were happy to be phoned and came immediately. Children and staff lost important learning and personal resources. At that time, Sr Helen reported, "This is my first fire and the thing which has struck me more than anything else is the help and co-operation we have received. It is wonderful to have such a staff and community."

Sr Helen was thankful there were some spare rooms where the classes could be accommodated. By 8 am, after a busy morning's adjustment, the School was operating fairly normally. The School received



2003 (Courtesy of Albert and Logan News)



great support from BCE personnel, from other Catholic Schools and from Josephite Sisters. Later in the day, some parents reported that they did not know there had been a fire so quickly and efficiently had the School returned to normal operations. That day, Archbishop Bathersby was visiting a school in Logan. Afterwards, on his return, he called in to St Paul's to offer his friendship and support.

During the 1990s, the first laptop was delivered to St Paul's School. Sr Helen delegated teacher John Roberts to familiarise himself with the technology. John inserviced staff. Many of us at that stage could not have imagined how learning and teaching would be impacted in the years to come.

In Sr Helen's era, the staff had a great interest and strength in sport. Children participated in a touch footy program with other schools. St Paul's children were highly successful winning or as runners-up in the competition wearing proudly their yellow and brown.



2003 (Courtesy of St Paul's School)

During 1996 – 2003 with large enrolments, some Year Levels enjoyed the lunch playtime on Ewing Oval and Netball Courts behind Parklands Plaza on Ewing Road. Meanwhile in the Staff Room, a table tennis table honed the hand-eye co-ordination skills of many staff and facilitated their shared enjoyment, laughter and relaxation amid the rigours of the day.

All parents and children were welcomed and responded enthusiastically to school initiatives. For several years, Year 7 children conducted a Theatre Restaurant expressing appreciation for their parents. For their Thanksgiving Mass at the end of their primary schooling, Muslim children eagerly volunteered to participate in the Liturgical Movement during the Mass. Their happy parents supported them.

## 2004 - 2009 Ms Anne McKenny

Principal

The Sisters of St Joseph remained in Woodridge until December 2008 when they withdrew from the School and the Convent was closed. A Celebration of Thanksgiving marked this milestone and the Sisters' Farewell Message is included here.

The major projects during Anne McKenny's Principalship were the development of the Community Partnerships Program, a Building Program and the Learning Agenda as part of whole School Improvement. In 2004, following the closure of Maryfields School, Kingston, extensive research into full service schooling began as one response through which BCE could express a preferred option for the poor and marginalised in Logan. How could BCE support communities which have great strengths but also significant needs? In 2005, under David Hutton's Executive Directorship, Denise Ryan, a former Principal, undertook an Action Research Project on the merits of a community-linked model for full-service schooling at St Paul's. The Full Service Schooling Project at St Paul's was supported by a reference group which included Diane Goosem (Director B.C.E.), Jeff Kemp (B.C.E. Head of Guidance), Fr Wally Dethlefs (researcher and author of *Making Room for Us* 2003 and *Little People Have Problems Report* 2004), Trevor Doyle (Area Supervisor), Sue Diggles (Senior Education Officer Student Protection), Fr David Batey (Parish Priest), Sr Lyn Stabler (Pastoral Worker) and Anne McKenny (Principal). Critical friends from Griffith University also came on board.



Denise Ryan's research led to nine recommendations; all were accepted by BCE's Leadership Team. A School Community Worker, Mark Davidson, and a School Cultural Worker, Scott Charles, were employed to develop a process model with Fr Wally's mentoring to support families and students. Chantel Dennewald was their Administrative Assistant. A Community Centre was established, resources were acquired and the beginning of a vibrant and dynamic model for community development began. Above-schedule staffing and recruitment flexibility was secured for growing the St Paul's staff's responsiveness to identified needs in the changing context.

The Introduction of Prep in 2006 enabled St Paul's to introduce a Pre-School Program in 2005. Funding for Queensland's Introduction of Prep kickstarted a building and renovation program throughout the whole School. This was boosted further by the Federal Government's *Building the Education Revolution* Grants. Anne McKenny recalls with deep gratitude the support provided by the Building Grants Authority. St Paul's had no capacity to contribute the hundreds of thousands of dollars as was the usual practice. Developed during this period were the new Prep Classrooms, the Administration Area, new classrooms for Years 1 and 2 including learning spaces for New Arrival students, new amenities and the refurbishment of rooms in the School's original double storey building. Amidst the machinery and fascination with building works, the students and teachers were also focussing on positive behaviour for learning and whole school literacy practices.

Concerns about schooling in Australia continued to ramp up at the Federal Government level. It led to practical developments which continue to impact upon teaching and learning at St Paul's today. The *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* (2008) superseded both the *Adelaide Declaration* (1999) and the *Hobart Declaration* (1989). It advocated two goals for young Australians: firstly, that Australian schooling promote equity and excellence; and secondly, that all young Australians become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens. This document guided the development of ACARA - the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. ACARA developed the Australian Curriculum, the National Assessment Programs including NAPLAN and the My School website for reporting to parents. In 2008, for the first time, the same NAPLAN (National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy) tests were conducted for all students in Years 3,5,7 and 9 throughout Australia. Learning and teaching at St Paul's has continued to be shaped by these developments, by ongoing Governmental reviews of them, and by Brisbane Catholic Education's responses and initiatives flowing from them.

St Paul's learning agenda had a strengths-based approach and focussed on curriculum areas where the students could really shine such as The Arts, Studies of Society and Environment and Religious Education. The school's Indigenous students wrote, directed and

starred in a movie portraying the history of Indigenous culture in Australia. The Community Partnership Program support strengthened the pride the children held for themselves, their culture, their faith and as citizens in their local community. There were

also a pretty handy mixed gender Rugby League side and a Saturday morning Cricket team - both coached and supported by dedicated teachers and a community volunteer. It was a busy time.



(Courtesy of St Paul's School)



(Courtesy of St Paul's School)



In this era, the Choir also enhanced celebrations of culture. Conducted by Jane Bernays, the Choir won Gold at Eisteddfods and were guest artists, dressed in national dress, at the Queensland Trucking Association Awards Dinner at the Hilton Hotel. Moved by the Choir's rendition of songs from the Torres Strait and Africa, the gathering listened in utter

silence and then responded with deafening applause.

The Honourable John Mickel, Minister for Transport was present. Two years later when

Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, he invited the Choir to sing at the Launch of the Premier's Christmas Appeal.



(Courtesy of St Paul's School)



2008 St Paul's Choir wins Gold at Queensland Catholic Colleges Music Festival yet again!  
(Courtesy of St Paul's School)

In 2009, looking ahead to the Canonization of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop on 17 October, 2010, Scott Charles, Cultural Worker in the Community Partnerships Program, developed with the children the mural on the wall of the original building. It is an interpretation of Mary MacKillop's values and practices in the light of people's needs today.

The multicultural character of the community was celebrated richly in gatherings, such as the Multicultural Day Mass, Harmony Day, and in every day interactions. People were able to express themselves in their own cultures of origin and contribute their own foods, music, choirs, art and symbols.

## 2010 Mr Chris Brown

Principal

2010 saw the opening of the redeveloped Resource Centre and Staff facilities. As well, parents were able to drop off and pick up their children in the new efficient and safe zone set in operation in Burrigan Street at the back of the School. After years of Principalship in BCE schools and service in London's East End, Chris Brown came to St Paul's to serve as Principal during 2010. He was overwhelmed by how good St Paul's was. The dedication of the teachers and the parents' trust and faith in the School's care for the children inspired him. The Staff demonstrated their commitment to their roles as vocations, not just as jobs. Chris also remembers valuing Fr David Batey's presence and partnership working for the good of all in the School and Parish Community. In 2010, School education was still front-page news as the *My School* website began to publish information about every school in Australia, including its financial resources, the background of its student cohort and NAPLAN results since 2008.

## 2011 - 2016 Ms Celestine Boundy

Principal

Towards the end of 2011, a review of the St Paul's Community Partnerships Program took place. The review consulted widely and led to a new direction. Community Hubs Australia invited St Paul's to apply for the establishment of a Hub - a centre to help migrant and refugee women, and their 0 - 5 year old children access a broad range of services and to prepare both the children and their parents for schooling. New programs were introduced and links to the wider community were forged.

Out of isolation in their homes, women have come to engage in learning and in the community addressing their present needs and aspirations. Their very young children are coming to Prep with improved English language development. Parents have been helped to understand better Australia's





(Courtesy of St Paul's School)

education system and its implications for them. Over the years, the Centre has become an integral part of the fabric of the St Paul's and wider Woodridge community. The Reflections of four parents including Teraz pictured here can be read as part of the Timeline's 3rd Era texts.

Jon Sorohan is the Community Partnerships Program Co-ordinator overseeing the Centre and connecting with families, staff and children daily. Michelle Sorohan, Community Hub Leader, supports women and 0 - 5 yrs children who are the focus of the Hub Program. Ted Brooks supports children in Prep - Year 6 in their engagement

in mainstream and alternative programs within and beyond classrooms in School life.

St Paul's continued to respond to the realisation of the recommendations of the 2008 *Melbourne Declaration* (2008). In 2014, St Paul's commenced formal implementation of the Australian Curriculum after some years preparing staff and the community for this.

In 2013, a new Archdiocesan Religious Education Program was launched responding to a revision of concepts underpinning the Religion Curriculum and the integration of the Religion Curriculum and the Religious Life of the School.

The Mary MacKillop Prayer Space whose garden, symbols and labyrinth exude stillness and prayer in the midst of everyone's busyness was developed by Cathie Caldwell APRE in 2016.

Celestine Boundy spoke of the Mary MacKillop Charism as foundational to the character of St Paul's and as a sacred responsibility to nurture. It was a different lens to look through to wisdom, dignity and goodness. Two Josephite Sisters who were long-serving throughout times of transition were Srs Stella Noskoff as APRE and Lyn Stabler as Pastoral Worker. Both Sisters were always with the children and the Staff close to what was going and were wellsprings of wisdom, discernment and humour which Principals and many called upon.



(Courtesy of St Paul's School)

In 2013, the School competed in Wakikiri in Logan, a song and dance competition. The various cultures within the school were given the opportunity to showcase their cultural dances. While an African dance group had been formed previously, many cultural dance groups have continued from that year. The dance groups have become a part of school celebrations.

In 2015, the Equity Fund was introduced as a BCE initiative driven by Paul Allen, Director of BCE's South Centre. Funds became available to allow St Paul's, in line with its Annual Strategic Renewal Plan, to action maintenance and the beautification of the School, to purchase much needed digital software and hardware, and other resources, and to hire additional staff.

In 2015 the tragic circumstances of the conflict in Syria affected the Woodridge community through an influx of Syrian refugees. This factor as well as the success of the St Paul's Community Hub playgroup and pre-Prep programme led to an increase in school enrolments.



## 2017 - Mr Matt Mackinlay

### Principal

St Paul's has always been a place of welcome for refugee and newly arrived students and families from across the world. At the end of 2016 we continued to welcome a steady influx of refugees from Syria and Iraq and enrolments for the start of 2017 pushed over 300. The St Paul's staff worked hard to support the large number of students who arrived with no or minimal English. During this time we also continued to enrol students from South East Asia, Africa and Polynesia. Local families from the Woodridge area also continued to enrol at St Paul's. To support our refugee and new arrival families, specialist EALD teachers and bilingual school officers were employed.

Since 2017, St Paul's staff have continued to develop an understanding of a recontextualised approach to Religious Education and the Religious Life of the School. Further initiatives in these vital aspects of St Paul's life include: implementation of story-telling in RE, the embedding of Catholic Perspectives across all curriculum areas, the improvement of religious iconography across the school, the development of learning progressions in RE and the embedding of Relationships and Sexuality Education curriculum. During the staff professional learning days at the start of 2019 and in preparation for the Jubilee celebrations, St Paul's School staff journeyed to Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney to explore the Josephite charism and history of our school. This was a brilliant experience for our staff to literally walk in the footsteps of the Sisters of St Joseph and to further enhance the connection to the life and work of St Mary MacKillop.

At the start of 2017 St Paul's participated in the Accelerate Literacy Learning Project to support the School's implementation of system-wide practices to further enhance student progress. This project worked to deprivatise classrooms and brought a common language to pedagogical practices across the school. Education Officers from Brisbane Catholic Education worked with staff to support the implementation of effective and expected practices. The enhanced use of data to inform teaching practice and the implementation of Review and Response monitoring meetings, Learning Walks and Talks, short planning cycles, uniform planning templates and language experience practices worked to focus our pedagogical practices. We continue to embed these initiatives and others into our professional work at St Paul's.

At St Paul's we continue to recognise the unique resources required to support students who are new to learning English and as a result we continue to focus on developing Oral Language skills and using specific pedagogical practices to support EALD (English as Additional Language or Dialect) students. St Paul's has a proud tradition of supporting these students.

In 2017, to support the rejuvenated focus on data to inform the teaching practices and to track student growth, a designated "planning room" (aka Data Room) was built at the back of the staff room. This room enabled staff to have a designated space to view student learning data and to plan collaboratively with easy access to library and planning resources.



(Courtesy of St Paul's School)

*Mary MacKillop, the daughter of immigrants, exhibited the best of Australian-ness, genuine openness to others, hospitality to strangers, generosity to the needy, justice to those unfairly treated, perseverance in adversity and kindness and support in suffering. St John Paul II*



Since 2017 efforts and resources have gone in to developing the behaviour support processes of the school and PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) became the focus of our behaviour support practices. Notably the St Paul's Way behaviour matrix, REFERR process and Zones of Regulation processes were developed. These processes acknowledged the interrelatedness of student behaviour, wellbeing, trauma and their impact on learning. To support the PB4L practices an alternative learning space known as the "Green Room" was established and a "Take 5" room was also developed. The front office area was renovated to accommodate these spaces.

In this era the St Paul's School Community Hub has gone from strength to strength with a wide range of programs and initiatives designed to support the students and families of St Paul's and the wider Woodridge community. Some of the programs currently on offer include; English classes, playgroup, Pre-Prep Program, Breakfast Club, Homework Club, Sewing classes, Work skills programs, Health Checks and screening. Community Hub staff work tirelessly to connect families in need to services and organisations in our community. In 2018 Jon Sorohan was acknowledged for his work in our Community Hub by winning the Spirit of Catholic Education Award for his services to the community and the Catholic Education in the Brisbane Archdiocese. This was a well-deserved and wonderful achievement for Jon acknowledging his incredible service at St Paul's through the Community Hub and the incredible work of the wider Hub team including Michelle Sorohan (Community Hub Leader) and Ted Brooks (Community Hub worker). The Community Hub is an incredible and vital part of the St Paul's School community that should be cherished, nurtured and developed to continue to provide care and support for our St Paul's families.



(Courtesy of St Paul's School)

2017 saw the installation of toilets in the Prep area and a series of covered walkways around the school. In 2019 we began the Revitalisation Project with the complete removal of asbestos from the Community Hub and C block. The redevelopment of the Community Hub was a wonderful opportunity to rejuvenate the Hub space and it gave us the opportunity to enhance the space to best support our community. Our Hub space now includes features such as dedicated meeting rooms with AV resources, toilet and baby change facilities, landscaping and improved storage capacity. With the support of Brisbane Catholic Education we have been able to build an incredible Community Hub space that will go on supporting our students and families well into the future.

In this era, Harmony Day has continued to be a wonderful community event to highlight the diversity of our school. Our cultural dance groups have developed from our Harmony Day event and these groups are regularly performing at other schools and events in the Brisbane Catholic Education community. We currently have eight cultural dance groups with students from Prep to Year 6 participating in these groups. We have Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander, Burmese, African, Arabic, Aussie Bush, Irish, Pacifica and Tamil dance groups at St Paul's.

At St Paul's we continue to embed practices that honour and support the culture of our First Nations People. Our annual NAIDOC dinner is a wonderful community event that continues to grow to



recognise the achievements of our ATSI students and our staff as they continue to support and grow our community's understanding of First Nation Cultures. At the NAIDOC dinner this year, we introduced the Nyeumbayan Award to be awarded to a St Paul's staff or community member who works diligently promoting and supporting our St Paul's students in their quest to learn and discover more about the cultures of our First Nations People. Nyeumbayan is a Yugumbeh word that means "to teach" or "to guide". This Year, Mr Steve Chadburn was presented with the annual award.

To further our understanding and respect for First Nations Languages, in 2019, a Yugumbeh language program has been introduced into our Prep classes. The plan is to grow Yugumbeh language studies through the school over the coming years.

In 2019 we have been preparing for and celebrating our Jubilee. This has been a wonderful opportunity for our school and parish communities to look back at the incredible journey that has brought us to this point. Preparing for our jubilee has enabled us to think deeply about what our school represents and how, in these complex global times, we need to continue to work together to support the students and families in our care.

St Paul's is an incredibly vibrant and at times complex school where each and every person is welcomed and respected. We have all been given a gift to work and learn at St Paul's and with God's help we will continue to build and grow our wonderful St Paul's community. We know that "We are but travellers here" and we are working to leave the school so that it continues to grow strong in the faith, the Spirit and the Word for the next 50 years and beyond.



(Courtesy of St Paul's School)

FOR FURTHER INTEREST, PLEASE NOTE:

Logan Central Library Local Studies Collection, Wilbur St, Logan Central, has rich resources to help us learn very many details of Logan City's history including Mary Howell's Ridge to Ridge: Recollections from Woodridge to Park Ridge (2006) Logan City Council.

*Be kind to the poor foreigners. Remember that I was a foreigner once, and as such, was never laughed at, nor unkindly treated.*

Mary MacKillop





## A Tribute from the Josephites at their Farewell

Mary MacKillop arrived in Brisbane on New Year's Eve in 1869 and so began the presence of the Sisters of St Joseph with the people of Queensland - a presence characterized by a desire to relieve suffering and bring hope, to work with the local people in ordinary ways to create communities of welcome, acceptance and opportunity.

One hundred years later, in 1969, the Sisters accepted the invitation to lead the Catholic educational ministry in Logan City and established St Paul's School. The efforts of the founding Priests, Parishioners, Sisters and Staff laid the foundations for an open, welcoming Community that continues to flourish at St Paul's today.

We pray that the spirit of Mary MacKillop continue to be alive in the hearts of this Community as you live the Gospel story and be authentic witnesses of Christ's love within Logan City.

*'Mary MacKillop embodied all that is best in Australia and its people: genuine openness to others, hospitality to strangers, generosity to the needy, perseverance in the face of adversity, kindness and support to the suffering.'*

*'Think of Mary MacKillop and learn from her to be a gift of love and compassion for one another, for all Australians and for the world.'* (Pope John Paul II, 1995)

As we bid farewell to the people of St Paul's Parish, School and the community of Logan City, our hearts are full of gratitude for the memories shared as we have been 'Companions on the journey, breaking bread and sharing life'.



Sisters of St Joseph, St Paul's, Woodridge  
30th November, 2008

Front from left:

Sr Stella Noskoff, Sr Helen Hughes,  
Sr Lyn Stabler, Sr Jenny Scari

Behind from left:

Sr Patricia Marsh, Sr Joan Burke,  
Sr Kath (Francis) Carroll,  
Sr Marguerite Liddy, Sr Francine Caesar,  
Sr Dymphna Callaghan,  
Sr Anna Maria Kelleher

*Believe the whisperings of  
God to your own heart.*

Mary MacKillop 1865

